

2018-2019 ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT LISA FORCELLINA



Rookie of the Year Lisa Forcellino pictured with Memorial School Principal Andy Gonzalez left and Assistant Principal Brandy Gadoury (right)

The 2018 Rookie Teacher of the Year is Lisa Forcellina, Kindergarten Teacher at Memorial School – First Grade Teacher for the upcoming school year.

This recognition, now in its third year, is meant to honor any employee of the school district who has been employed three years or less, but in that short time has distinguished themselves as an excellent teacher or staff member. This year, there were many notable nominations and we are proud to recognize Lisa.

Lisa is described by her nominators as “a compassionate, playful, professional, talented teacher, and learner who brings many valuable attributes to her classroom, team, school and global communities. She is a champion of **ALL** children and an extraordinary teacher poised to model the very best of teaching, learning, caring, and teaming for East Hampton Public Schools as we all strive to achieve our collective goal of excellence.”

Lisa has sky-high expectations for herself as a reflective learner, collaborative team member, active community member, and conscientious global citizen. She is relentless in her quest to

determine the ideal combination of instructional strategies and motivational techniques to promote academic and social/emotional growth. Her creative instructional designs make the work look fun and easy, and yet a closer look reveals the complexity and care with which she crafts and differentiates her classroom environment and each lesson to meet both student needs and curricular expectations.

A family took the opportunity to express just how much Lisa's constant communication has meant to them.

"Hi Lisa, I just wanted to take a moment to thank you and let you know how much we appreciate all you do for Emma and all the kids on a daily basis! Kindergarten is a huge transition for both the student and parents, and your caring nature really helped ease the transition...I really appreciate your daily email updates, and I love seeing the pictures of the kids having fun throughout the day...I just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate you today and every day!"

Additionally, another parent offered the following:

"My daughter's teacher, Lisa Forcellina, is beyond amazing. I cannot say enough positive things about her. She is enthusiastic, thorough, caring and communicative. She is truly a great asset to everyone she encounters"

When Lisa is not teaching kindergartners to be confident readers, writers, and mathematicians, she is inspiring civic action and kindness by solving real-world problems through community service. In December, Lisa led an enormously successful student driven, school-wide toy drive in support of the Hartford Hurricane Relief Center's efforts to help displaced families. Many families at the center were able to experience the joys of Christmas morning as a result of this drive. In June, Lisa collaborated with kindergarten teammates to raise awareness and funds in support of UNICEF's Clean Water Campaign through a very engaging Jog-a-thon and recycling experience. The amount of \$660 was donated to the UNICEF Tap Water Project for people all over the world in need of clean water! The donation will provide clean water to 44 kids for an entire year!

In summary, Lisa is an amazing role model! Her passion and grit have a positive impact on both children and adults and distinguish her as an inspiring new teacher and *the* 2018 Rookie of the Year!