

Kristine Foster

Eta

It is not in Kristine's nature to "toot her own horn", but she shared much about her career. She has just done her job to the best of her ability throughout the years, and has tried to make learning a fun, creative and challenging endeavor for her students during those years. As do most teachers, she's put in long hours and expended a great deal of energy - not for her personal gain or recognition, but for children.

She's proud of the fact that she's been an educator for 32 years now. Along the way she has taught special education at the high school and elementary levels (7 years), first, second and third grades (21 years), and is now a Title I Reading teacher (4 years).

In 2006, she had the honor of being named Teacher-of-the-Year for Yavapai County.

In her years as a Title I teacher, she has been the chairman of a committee that organized and carried out four Family Reading Nights each school year. These have related to the themes of Family Reading Campouts - Pajama Nights, Dr. Seuss' Birthday, Zoo Night and Earth Day. Families are invited to come, bring a sleeping bag, pillows, stuffed animals and books and read together for a portion of the time. Some of the nights have involved guest readers, plays, singing around a "campfire" with a visit from Smokey Bear, and others involved a craft. All of them involved refreshments related to the theme!

In addition to her regular teaching duties, she has, for the past two school years, been the director of her school's Goldmine After-School Program, which provides homework assistance, academic assistance and enrichment classes or "clubs" for students. In this capacity she, with lots of cooperation and innovation from the teachers involved, has formulated a varied schedule of classes for K-2 and 3-5 students to enjoy. Classes are taught by certified teachers and other fingerprinted individuals in the education field. Kristine administers the program, handles registrations, hiring and time slips and works to secure grants and tax credit donations for the program. The students meet right after school in the gym, take roll and have the chance to purchase a snack, then head off to classes. They have offered such classes as: Legos, Mad Scientists, Robotics, a mallet class using ORFF instruments,