

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Comal ISD recognizes Substitutes of the Year

Some of Comal ISD's unsung heroes received a nice surprise recently, as the district recognized 25 Substitutes of the Year at the June school board meeting.

The Substitutes of the Year received a certificate and were congratulated by superintendent Dr. Marc Walker and members of the school board.



"It was great; I think they truly appreciated it," said Sonia Hernandez, Comal ISD substitute specialist. "We have some awesome substitutes. One of the common traits of the winners is they always seem to be there when we need them, even in last-minute and emergency situations."

Principals at every Comal ISD campus selected a Substitute of the Year based on criteria like attendance, professional judgment, enthusiasm, teaching qualities, and classroom management and organization.

Geoffery Young, a retired Navy lieutenant, said it was an added bonus being acknowledged for a job he truly enjoys. He was selected by Smithson Valley Middle principal Michael Keranan.

"I felt really appreciated," Young said. "It's always nice to be recognized, especially when you're doing something you love."

Katherine Bradshaw, who was chosen for her substitute work at both Comal and Morningside elementary schools, was also excited about the honor.

“I was flattered,” Bradshaw said. “There are so many wonderful substitutes in the district that are deserving of this award, but I do feel very honored.”

Bob Presley, Comal ISD assistant to the superintendent, lent a hand in the Substitute of the Year program.

“What I’ve noticed about Comal ISD is that Sonia Hernandez has the substitute program so well organized,” Presley said. “That’s a big reason we have a group of around 300 to choose from district wide, many of which have teaching certificates. It’s a wonderful thing to be able to pick from so many well-qualified substitutes, and the ones we recognized are the cream of the crop.”

In addition to Young and Bradshaw, the other 2009-10 Comal ISD Substitutes of the Year are: Cathy-Jo Thompson (Arlon Seay Elementary), Paulette Little (Bill Brown Elementary), Suanne Coffey (Canyon High), Jerri Willis (Canyon Lake High), David Hanus (Canyon Middle), Holly Rickard (Church Hill Middle), Laverne Johnson (Comal Discipline Center), Cindy Bennett (Freiheit Elementary), Anna Williams (Goodwin Frazier Elementary), Julie Gambrell (Hoffmann Lane Elementary), Amie Jurica (Johnson Ranch Elementary), Annette Martinez (Life Program), Renae Poss (Specht Elementary), Leon Gomez (Memorial High), Joseph Sweat (Memorial High), Sherri Kissell (Mountain Valley Middle), Pamela Cone (Oak Creek Elementary), Cathy Sondergaard (Rahe Bulverde Elementary), Melanie Bland (Rebecca Creek Elementary), Angela Cowart (Smithson Valley High), Beth Cooper (Spring Branch Middle), Karen Schulze (Startzville Elementary), Shannon Mamalakis (Timberwood Park Elementary).

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IN PHOTO: Katherine Bradshaw shakes hands with Comal ISD school board treasurer Donna Holmes as board president Carol Kendall Keller and vice president Frank Baker look on. Bradshaw was honored as one of Comal ISD’s 25 Substitutes of the Year at the June Board of Trustees meeting.