



Nomination Essay for Diane Healy
Submitted by: Lisa Brown, Classroom Parent

Diane Healy is a Super Teacher at J.B. Watkins Elementary School. Mrs. Healy brings creativity, a love for kids and many special opportunities to her first grade classroom. Every child is “the Expert” for a week. The Expert spends one week researching a topic of their choice. At the end of the week, the child presents an Expert Report to the class. These reports must be the child’s work and the children are very proud of their accomplishment.

Mrs. Healy also has a Class Mayor each week. The Class Mayor gets a special desk for the week and some important responsibilities. On Friday, the Mayor hosts a Town Meeting. The Mayor’s parents become teachers and share something of interest with the children. This year, the kids have learned about various topics including plants and gardening, the Virginia Blood Service, and playing hand chimes. Town Meetings expand the children’s learning beyond the classroom and involve parents in their child’s learning!

On a recent afternoon in Mrs. Healy’s class, the children had a great surprise. Mrs. Healy secretly invited the children’s grandmothers to visit their school. The grandmothers passed out chocolate chip cookies to the children and took turns sharing about what school was like when they were younger.

Mrs. Healy has taken the initiative to compile special enrichment packets during her teaching career. These enrichment packets offer math, writing and spelling

exercises. For kids needing an extra challenge, Mrs. Healy sends home a weekly enrichment packet. The kids enjoy these packets, and they are carefully put together to enhance the children's learning. Mrs. Healy takes the time to review the completed packets and returns them to the children with special comments, stickers, and encouraging words. Mrs. Healy is a Super Teacher and is deserving of the Virginia Lottery's Super Teacher Award.