

# Second Grade at Small World Academy— An Adventure Class

I would like to share my personal experience and observations about a very special person, my son's second grade teacher, Mrs. Karen Stone at World Academy in Nashua.

Mrs. Stone has been teaching for 22 years and is a true advocate for her students. She is the Elementary Department Head, and overseer of many after school programs such as Lego League, Brickapalooza, Continental Math and the after school homework class. But, before I continue with all my gratitude to this simply remarkable teacher, I must mention the vibrant, charismatic, paraprofessional in the classroom, Mrs. Barbara Carey. Mrs. Carey has been a paraprofessional for 24 years and is no silent partner in the classroom. She knows the daily drills all too well and keeps the students on their learning track. Together Mrs. Stone and Mrs. Carey are a dynamic duo!

This small tribute, barely touches upon the first rate education my son has received from his teacher Mrs. Stone. She is truly passionate about teaching and we are one of the lucky families to have her in our daily life. If there are any concerns or issues, she is there before the day is over working out a resolution with us. She is compassionate, patient, positive, supportive and a visionary. Above all, Mrs. Stone teaches beyond the textbook.

Her first field trip was to an elderly home. The class, all dressed in their Halloween costumes, sang their hearts out before, during and after their trip. It was a win-win for all that day.

During the study of colonial times my son came home with a feather, it was a quill pen, and he had wrote as they did in colonial times. And what interesting stories he shared with us at home.

The students also studied endangered animals. Of course, it wasn't just enough to read and write about their animals, Mrs. Stone had her students become the animal by having a fun afternoon of face painting. At dismissal the school foyer



Just an outstanding teacher—and school's recently celebrated teacher appreciation day—in a full week on left is Mrs. Stone and Right Mrs. Carey (paraprofessional).

was full of endangered animals and mostly all were in full fledged character. I brought a roaring tiger home from school that day.

Mrs. Stone as a visionary can transform her classroom into any topic overnight. During Thanksgiving week the students became bakers. The classroom was equipped with mixers, hot plates, all sorts of ingredients, pie shells as they literally began to prepare for the big day. Cornbread, brownies, apple pie and so much more were made, baked and served right before their eyes. On their Thanksgiving day, I entered the classroom to see a mile long lavishly decorated table with handmade turkey napkin holders from the students and 19 Indian feathered friends gathered around. One by one each student shared what they were thankful for. Not a student missed, not a detail left out, it was a family of friends.

Most recently, in preparation for making and wrapping mummies, Mrs. Stone's classroom turned into a museum. Strips of linen were drying on a wooden clothes rack and peeled apples, tagged with each student's name, were hanging

from a maze of odd shaped wire hangers and clothes pins. All was perfectly planned with direct sunlight shining in. And before you could get a good glimpse out the window there were 19 unusual looking handcrafted animal head jars (Egyptian canopic jars) made by the students lined up staring at you.

The classroom, now bustling at the four walls, transformed even more with Egyptian nostalgia. There were mathematically calculated

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