

2002 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS

Beverly A. Liberty

Milton Bradley Elementary School – Springfield

Virginia Dukes Marconi

Plymouth Community Intermediate School – Plymouth

Linda A. Scollins

Charles J. Prescott Elementary School – Norwood

Wendy Frances Simeone

Carver High School – Carver

Karin Miller Taylor

Solomon Lewenberg Middle School – Boston

SEMIFINALISTS

Maureen P. Boino

Pittsfield High School – Pittsfield

Lori Hodin

Swampscott High School – Swampscott

Bud Jennings

Methuen High School – Methuen

Susan Kelley

Cameron Middle School - Framingham

Melinda J. Learning

Esten Elementary School – Rockland

Peggy Moody-Olegario

Cameron Middle School – Framingham

Margaret Riddle

Bridge Street School – Northampton

Susanne Rubenstein

Wachusett Regional High School – Wachusett Regional
School District

Carol Lee Siriani

Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School - Cambridge

Former MA Teachers of the Year

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|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 2001 | Marianne Moran, Methuen | 1980 | Marta Valdes, Boston |
| 2000 | David Lussier, Andover | 1979 | Rita Croteau, Worcester |
| 1999 | Bruce Penniman, Amherst * | 1978 | Olive Craigwell, Boston |
| 1998 | Mary Ginley, Longmeadow | 1977 | Martin Badoian, Canton |
| 1997 | Leonard Swanton, Lexington | 1976 | Barbara Boschert, Worcester |
| 1996 | Kathleen Sherman, Falmouth | 1975 | no selection |
| 1995 | Jerry Howland, Boston * | 1974 | Thais Waldron, Reading * |
| 1994 | Virginia Freyermuth, Duxbury | 1973 | Marcia Hayes, Boston |
| 1993 | Steven Levy, Lexington | 1972 | Marcia Fowler, Ipswich |
| 1992 | Ronald Adams, Quincy | 1971 | Robert Anastas, Framingham |
| 1991 | Charles Sposato, Framingham | 1970 | Lucille Thimblin, Tantasqua Reg. |
| 1990 | Molly Murphy, Brookline | 1969 | Ruth Doorly, Westwood |
| 1989 | Marjorie Montgomery, Newton | 1968 | Neil Fitzgerald, New Bedford |
| 1988 | James McDermott, Worcester | 1967 | John Moulton, Brookline * |
| 1987 | Margot Desjardins, Westport | 1966 | Leah Benway, Southwick |
| 1986 | Donna Viveiros, Fall River | 1965 | Vivian Little, Hampden-Wilbraham |
| 1985 | Francis Smith, Wayland | 1964 | Edna Penwarden, Arlington |
| 1984 | Cathleen Hughes, Scituate | 1963 | no selection |
| 1983 | Donald Pottle, Shrewsbury | 1962 | Lottie Perry, Norton |
| 1982 | Joseph Kelly, Lexington | 1961 | no selection |
| 1981 | Margaret Campbell, Longmeadow | 1960 | Edward Frude, Shelburne Falls * |



Dawn McNair with her first teachers – her parents, James and Isalene McNair

For more information on the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Program, please contact:

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www.doe.mass.edu

Dawn McNair

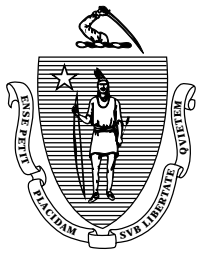
First Grade Teacher
Bowen Elementary School
Newton, Massachusetts

The 2002 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year

June 21, 2001



a program sponsored by the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Education



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Education

350 Main Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148

June, 2001

Dear Friends,

Teaching is both an art and science; the most difficult, most rewarding and most important of careers. While all classroom teachers should be recognized on a daily basis, the National Teacher of the Year Program is the oldest and most prestigious awards program that focuses public attention annually on excellence in teaching. Since 1952, the national program (co-sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers and Scholastic Inc.) has recognized and honored the contributions of classroom teachers by granting one outstanding teacher a year's paid sabbatical. During that year, the teacher travels the nation and meets with a wide variety of audiences to address educational issues.

The Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Program is administered by the Massachusetts Department of Education. Each year the program honors a Massachusetts teacher who exemplifies fine teaching in the Commonwealth. The purpose of the program is to select a teacher who is worthy of speaking for and energizing the teaching profession, and representing the positive contributions of all teachers statewide. The Massachusetts Teacher of the Year automatically becomes the state's candidate for the National Teacher of the Year Program.

The selection process for the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year begins early in the calendar year, with a call for nominations. An independent panel of experts, including past Teachers of the Year, reviewed written applications, interviewed six finalists, and made recommendations of the top candidates for my consideration for this year's honor.

I wish to thank the following corporations and organizations for supporting the 2002 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Program: AlphaSmart, Inc.; the Boston Celtics; J.L. Hammett Company; Massachusetts Teachers Association; NEC Technologies, Visual Systems Division; SMARTer Kids Foundation; SMART Technologies, Inc.; Tom Snyder Productions; UMASS/Boston Field Center for Teaching and Learning; Verizon; and Verizon Wireless.

I am proud to present the 2002 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, Dawn E. McNair of Bowen Elementary School in the Newton Public School District. We wish her much energy and success in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

Meet the 2002 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year

Dawn E. McNair

First Grade Teacher • Bowen Elementary School
Newton, Massachusetts



A seasoned veteran who has taught elementary school for eighteen years, Dawn McNair remains as passionate today about teaching as she was when she first entered a classroom. Dawn has taught first grade in Newton Public Schools for the past fourteen years, and second grade for four years prior in a private school setting in Chestnut Hill. In doing so, she has fulfilled her dream of creating a classroom that encourages innovative ideas, and teaches young minds to read and appreciate literature in a diverse, multicultural environment.

Dawn McNair has worked tirelessly to improve literacy in the classroom, and believes that multiculturalism and diversity are the keys to success for many of our children. In 1998, Dawn led a literature workshop and presented an elementary school writer's workshop program in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Dawn has also implemented and leads volunteer weekly tutorial services and a monthly book club with third grade students in the Boston Public Schools system.

As a leader within Bowen School, Dawn has served on the Teacher Assistant Team, Anti-Racism Committee, a Teacher Representative on the School Council, a Social Competency School Leader, and on the Newton Public Schools Negotiating Team. She also served as Head Teacher in the Newton Public Schools SPACE summer program for eight years.

In 1991, Dawn was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, an international community service organization. Over this past year, Dawn oversaw a nationwide program, with her chapter, which fills shoe boxes with school supplies to send to children in Africa. For the past ten years she has volunteered at Sage House, a local shelter, and coordinated monthly craft projects for children ranging from the ages of two up to sixteen. As current Vice President of her chapter, she serves as program coordinator, organizes sponsorship and participates in the Breast Cancer and Multiple Sclerosis Walks. Dawn helps run the ON TRACK program that tutors at risk students from the third grade until they graduate in the sixth grade, and presents at local and regional conferences.

From 1988-1990, Dawn served as an elected member of the Board of Directors for Boston College Alumni Association. During her tenure on the board, she was there at the inception of the Second Helping Program which provides food to shelters and soup kitchens in the greater Boston areas and has aided many families in need.

Dawn graduated from Boston College in 1982 with a B.A. in Elementary Education with a concentration in Early Childhood studies. She went on to earn her M.Ed. in 1983 specializing as a Consulting Teacher of Reading, and has done additional post-graduate studies at Lesley College.

Topics for Consultation

Dawn will be available on a limited basis to meet with school districts and teacher preparation programs. She looks forward to infusing teachers across our Commonwealth with the passion and continuing excitement she feels about teaching. Here are some topics for consultation:

Diversity in Literature within the Classroom:
Celebrating Cultural Differences

Connecting Literature and Writing for Emerging Writers

Early Literacy Starts at Home:
Make and Keep the Connection

Welcoming New Teachers to the Profession

Strategic Parent Volunteer Involvement

Insider's Strategies for an Organized
Home-School Connection



contact information

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