

# 2006 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year

## Suzanne Wintle

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## Topics for Consultation

- Differentiated Instruction
- Mentors and New Teacher Induction Program
- Classroom Management Strategies
- Parent/Teacher Communications
- Qualities of an Effective Teacher
- Peer Coaching Protocol

## Former Teachers of the Year

2005	Nancy Tyler-Schoen, Franklin	1981	Margaret Campbell, Longmeadow
2004	Melinda Pellerin-Duck, Springfield	1980	Marta Valdes, Boston
2003	Jeffrey Ryan, Reading	1979	Rita Croteau, Worcester
2002	Dawn McNair, Newton	1978	Olive Craigwell, Boston
2001	Marianne Moran, Methuen	1977	Martin Badoian, Canton
2000	David Lussier, Andover	1976	Barbara Boschert, Worcester
1999	Bruce Penniman, Amherst *	1975	no selection
1998	Mary Ginley, Longmeadow	1974	Thais Waldron, Reading *
1997	Leonard Swanton, Lexington	1973	Marcia Hayes, Boston
1996	Kathleen Sherman, Falmouth	1972	Marcia Fowler, Ipswich
1995	Jerry Howland, Boston *	1971	Robert Anastas, Framingham
1994	Virginia Freyermuth, Duxbury	1970	Lucille Thimblin, Tantasqua Reg.
1993	Steven Levy, Lexington	1969	Ruth Doorly, Westwood
1992	Ronald Adams, Quincy	1968	Neil Fitzgerald, New Bedford
1991	Charles Sposato, Framingham	1967	John Moulton, Brookline *
1990	Molly Murphy, Brookline	1966	Leah Benway, Southwick
1989	Marjorie Montgomery, Newton	1965	Vivian Little, Hampden-Wilbraham
1988	James McDermott, Worcester	1964	Edna Penwarden, Arlington
1987	Margot Desjardins, Westport	1963	no selection
1986	Donna Viveiros, Fall River	1962	Lottie Perry, Norton
1985	Francis Smith, Wayland	1961	no selection
1984	Cathleen Hughes, Scituate	1960	Edward Frude, Shelburne Falls *
1983	Donald Pottle, Shrewsbury		
1982	Joseph Kelly, Lexington		

\* National Teacher of the Year Finalist

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Florence Sawyer School  
Nashoba Regional School District



# 2006 Massachusetts TEACHER of the YEAR



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 22, 2005

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 7 finalists, and recommended a candidate for my consideration for this year's honor.

I wish to thank the following corporations and organizations for supporting the 2006 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Program: the Boston Celtics; eInstruction Corp.; Immersive Education Ltd.; Massachusetts Teachers Association; SMART Technologies, Inc.; Teacher Leadership Academy; and Verizon.

I am proud to present the 2006 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, **Suzanne Wintle** of the Florence Sawyer School in the Nashoba Regional School District. We wish her much energy and happiness in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

David P. Driscoll  
Commissioner of Education

## Meet the 2006 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year



Suzanne  
Wintle

Florence Sawyer School  
Nashoba Regional School District

"I will never give you a problem to solve that you do not possess the skills to accomplish. That's not to say that you won't be challenged by what I ask you to do. But with effort and using the skills you have learned, you can solve the problem." This is the pledge that Suzanne Wintle makes to her students each year. She believes that a critical part of her job as a third grade teacher is to act as a cheerleader for her students, supporting their efforts to achieve.

Education has evolved since Suzanne started teaching in Omaha, Nebraska. Phrases like Differentiated Instruction, Community Service Learning, and Common Planning Time did not exist in 1970. As education has grown and evolved, Suzanne has continued to learn. Graduate classes, workshops, and weeklong seminars are all a standard part of her professional experience. A dynamic summer program at the University of Connecticut, *Confratute* has had a major influence on Suzanne's teaching as well as the educational focus for the Florence Sawyer School. The Nashoba Regional School District's focus on "Personalized Learning for All" has supported Suzanne and other teachers in the district in designing lessons and units that recognize a variety of learners according to learning styles and interests, as well as ability.

Suzanne is a facilitator for the Sawyer School Study Group. This group of teachers meets regularly to read and discuss new educational publications. The study group recently read Robert Marzano's book *Classroom Instruction That Works*. His research on effort led to a school wide focus on encouraging and recognizing student effort.

In addition to teaching third grade, Suzanne is the District Mentor Program Coordinator. She is responsible for training new mentors as well as leading workshops that help support beginning teachers in her district. She has co-taught a graduate class in Mentoring Beginning Teachers and a series of monthly new teacher seminars called Teachers Networking Together.

As a member of several District Curriculum Task Forces, Suzanne works with other teachers to develop curriculum, identify needed resources for teachers, and generally support the efforts of teachers in the classroom. She is also a member of the District Professional Development Committee. This group is responsible for defining professional development activities for teachers in the district.

William Butler Yeats said, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." To light the fire of learning in children there must first be the same fire in the teachers in their classrooms. Life-long learners never let that fire go out.