

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Press Release

~~~~~**IMPORTANT**~~~~~

Released by: Farmington Board of Education/Kathleen C. Greider, Supt.

Release date: August 24, 2016

**FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ANNOUNCES  
2017 TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

(For immediate release: Farmington Public Schools-August 24, 2016)



Kathleen C. Greider, Superintendent of Schools, and the Farmington Board of Education are proud to announce the 2017 Teacher of the Year for the Farmington Public Schools. Mrs. Melissa Dale, second grade teacher, has been selected as the 2017 Farmington Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Dale has served as a dedicated teacher in the Farmington Public Schools for 20 years where she has taught second grade at Union School and served as a Math Resource Teacher Team Leader. During her time in Farmington, she has earned the respect and admiration of her students, colleagues, school principals and the parents of her many students.

Mrs. Dale is committed to the success of every child. She works closely with her grade level colleagues to collaboratively review student data, share best practices, and develop highly engaging lessons. In Mrs. Dale's classroom, young learners are encouraged to explore their interests, ask questions, work together and share their ideas in an environment of trust and support. To Mrs. Dale, every child has unique gifts and strengths to be nurtured.

Superintendent Greider states, "Mrs. Dale is highly respected by her colleagues, students and families. She is not only an extremely skilled teacher, but she establishes strong, lasting relationships with her students and families. When you enter Mrs. Dale's classroom, learning is engaging and joyful and students readily lead their own learning across all subject areas. She is

an innovator and a collaborator when it comes to her grade level's and school's improvement efforts."

Board of Education Chair, Christopher Fagan, commented: "Mrs. Dale is an extraordinary educator who has contributed to the success of countless students. She is an exemplar of a Farmington teacher and the Board of Education is most proud to name her Farmington's 2017 Teacher of the Year."

On being recognized as Farmington's Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Dale said, "I am honored to be chosen as Farmington's Teacher of the Year. At the same time I am humbled because as an individual teacher, all my success is due to every person I have ever worked with. So, I would like to recognize all the amazing teachers, staff, and administrators that make me better at what I do every day and all of my students that inspire me. I am thankful to work in a district where we collaborate with parents and students to improve our teaching and increase student learning. I am blessed to be in this remarkable profession that is dedicated to children and developing their brightest future."

Mrs. Caitlin Eckler, Principal Union School, states, "Melissa's classroom is a model of peaceful learning and high expectations for all students. She challenges students to work their hardest and produce their best work while simultaneously making them feel important and cared about. Our fast-paced, quickly changing world demands a great deal from our education system and its teachers. Young children need to feel valued and learn the self-regulation skills that will allow them to become lifelong learners. Parents need teachers to be partners and guides in the educational and child-rearing processes. Teachers must be able to work together in collaborative teams to innovate and implement new instructional strategies while maintaining a clear focus on what is best for children. In her daily practice, Melissa embodies all of these things. She is an exemplary educator and person."

### **Brief Bio:**

Mrs. Dale is a graduate of the University of Redlands where she was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education. She earned a Master of Science Degree in Reading and Education at California State University of San Bernardino. Melissa has worked in a variety of settings in primary education. She began her career in 1982 as a fourth and fifth grade teacher in the Fontana Unified School District in California. She went on to teach first grade at Bear Valley Unified School District in Big Bear City, California. She then taught first grade at Ansbach American Elementary School in Ansbach, Germany for the Department of Defense Dependents' Schools where she won the Presidential Award for Teachers of Mathematics. Melissa also taught fourth grade at Spring Glen Elementary Magnet School in Kent, Washington. Since joining the Farmington Public Schools, Melissa has been a member of the Union School staff as a second grade teacher since 1997. Over the years, she has served on many committees including math resource team, curriculum writing, and team leader.

Melissa enjoys spending time with her husband, Mark, their two children Carly and Jake, and their new daughter-in-law Nicole. She is proud that they have all earned their Bachelor of Arts degree in the past few years. Their family enjoys traveling, and has completed three cross-country road trips. These trips have taken them to all of the lower 48 states. Melissa loves spending time outside, hiking, camping, and going to the beach with a good book.