

Vicky Donaldson was named Williams Elementary School's campus teacher of the year, and her daughter Ashley Donaldson was named WoodCreek Elementary School's first-year teacher of the year

*At the conclusion of every school year, Katy ISD honors one outstanding teacher from each campus. These honorees demonstrate excellence and leadership among their peers and are dedicated to helping each of their students reach their academic goals.*

# KATY'S TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

*Celebrating Katy ISD Educators Who Go Above & Beyond*

Written by Mary Hogan & Photography by Suzi Issa



Ashley Donaldson grew up attending Katy ISD schools



Vicky Donaldson knew from a young age that she wanted to be a teacher

Each year, Katy welcomes more and more families because of its wonderful school district, full of dedicated and caring educators who help students shine academically. This year, a mother and daughter stood side by side as they were recognized for their excellent work as kindergarten teachers. Vicky Donaldson was named campus teacher of the year for Williams Elementary School, and her daughter Ashley Donaldson was named first-year teacher of the year at WoodCreek Elementary School, as well as being nominated for the district-wide first-year teacher of the year award.

## Mom & Daughter Legacy

Ashley grew up in Katy ISD and is one of many Katy educators who returned to teach in her beloved hometown. "I have known for years that I wanted to work in the Katy school district," she shares. "They have always worked very hard to provide high-quality education. I like to set high standards for myself and push myself to be the best I can, and I thought Katy ISD would be a great place to do just that."

Like other Katy parents and teachers, Vicky is proud to be part of Katy ISD because of the quality of education it offers. "My children both graduated from Katy ISD high schools, and I have been so pleased with how well prepared they were for the college experience," she says.

## Sharing a Love of Education

Both Vicky and Ashley love that they are able to share their teaching experiences and tips for success. "It is so much fun to be teachers together, and Ashley is so inspiring to me," shares Vicky. "She is so energetic, eager, and enthusiastic, and I learn from her every day. She has taught me many things – new technology, new and better ways of teaching, wonderful new ideas she has thought of or found"

Ashley says it is wonderful teaching in Katy ISD with her mom and shares that she can always go to her for advice or words of wisdom. "She is there to help me know how to word an email to a parent or to provide suggestions in dealing with a challenging student or

situation," Ashley says. "She is also there to bring me back down to earth when my excited, over-achieving self gets the best of me. She helps me focus on what is really important and understand that I can't do every project, lesson, and idea that I dream up or come across."

Both also share a love of children and say that making a difference in their lives every day is what matters most. "My favorite thing about teaching is the kids, of course!" says Ashley. "I love their smiles and hugs every day. I love that they are thrilled with everything we do and are so hungry for knowledge. They are blind toward differences and stereotypes, they find the best in everyone, and they love unconditionally."

## Dreams of Becoming Teachers

Ashley grew up wanting to be a teacher, and Vicky says she has been teaching others for as long as she can remember. "Growing up, many hours were spent playing school with my younger sister, who is also a teacher now," shares Vicky. "While I was in high school, I had the opportunity to work with a kindergarten class during the school day, and I fell in love with kindergartners immediately. From that point on, there was no other choice for me – I knew that's what I wanted to do, and I've been doing it ever since!"

Throughout all Vicky's years of teaching, she made a positive impression on her daughter and served as Ashley's inspiration for becoming an educator. "I think the main reason I wanted to become a teacher is because I was fortunate enough to grow up watching and learning from a master teacher," Ashley says. "It was obvious my mom loved her job and enjoyed it every day, and I wanted a career like that. She was my motivation and inspiration to enter the teaching field." Now both mother and daughter have become an inspiration to so many other Katy ISD teachers. The difference they make can be seen in the smiles on their students' faces and the proud ah-ha moments that happen in their classrooms every day.





Katy ISD and the Katy Chamber of Commerce recently honored local teachers of the year, with guest speaker Jim "Mattress Mac" McIngvale

## CONGRATULATIONS TO KATY ISD'S 2010-2011 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR!

### Elementary

Alexander – Tess Alfonsin  
 Bear Creek – Reagan Harris  
 Cimarron – Donna Lanier  
 Creech – Debi Roseborough  
 Exley – Carole Blanton  
 Fielder – Debbie Ellis  
 Franz – Alice Dobbs  
 Golbow – Linda Vaz-Cook  
 Griffin – Kimberly Bojko  
 Hayes – Camille Reese  
 Holland – Ann Knight  
 Hutsell – Maria Elena Lackey  
 Katy – Suzanne Welch  
 Kilpatrick – Thomas D'Andrea  
 King – Tessie Chambers  
 Mayde Creek – Christy Williams  
 McRoberts – Amanda Resendez  
 Memorial Pkwy. – Jessica Estes  
 Morton Ranch – Dusti Luna  
 Nottingham – Leslie Young  
 Pattison – Stacie Chmielewski

Rhoads – Kara Taylor  
 Rylander – Sharon Glass  
 Schmalz – Irma Hanco  
 Stanley – Rebecca Ann Anton  
 Stephens – Sayda Reyna Chapa  
 Sundown – Angelique Ramon  
 W. Memorial – Adrienne Davitz  
 Williams – Vicky Donaldson  
 Winborn – Denise M. Harrell  
 Wolfe – Shaney Bradford  
 WoodCreek – Barbara Fischer

### Junior High

Beck – Jonathan Shum  
 Beckendorff – Stacie Washington  
 Cardiff – Aaron DiVirgilio  
 Cinco Ranch – Ted Sanders  
 Katy – Amanda McDaniel  
 Mayde Creek – Horacio Gonzalez  
 McDonald – Marleny Alvarado  
 McMeans – Delma Andress

Memorial Pkwy. – Cathy Huvar  
 Morton Ranch – Sara Proodian  
 West Memorial – Clare Alford  
 WoodCreek – Kara Landgrebe

### High School

Cinco Ranch – George Garner  
 Katy – Laura Williams  
 Mayde Creek – Lydia Dennis  
 Miller Career and Technology Center – Jack Degelia  
 Morton Ranch – Jim Janczak  
 Opportunity Awareness Center – Karen Richards  
 Raines – Amy Martinez  
 Seven Lakes – Shannon Carter  
 Taylor – Melissa Marvin

### District-Wide

Elementary  
 Kimberly Bojko of Griffin  
 Elementary School

### Secondary

Amy Martinez of Raines High School

### First-Year

Elementary  
 Jordan Stubbs of Creech  
 Elementary

### Secondary

Robin Barnes of McDonald  
 Junior High

Congratulations to all of Katy ISD's outstanding teachers, and thanks for helping to make the community great! **KM**

*MARY HOGAN enjoys being associate editor of Katy Magazine and still remembers how her favorite teachers made a huge impact in her life.*