

# Kimberlee Austin, Patricia Lefford & Melissa Yost

Washington Middle School, Jamestown, NY

Interdisciplinary Team Education

5th Grade



2005 Honorees



From left: Ms. Austin, Mrs. Yost, and Mrs. Lefford

**“Team teaching is** a wonderful situation because although we have the same basic philosophy of education, we are able to bring different talents to the table. Patty, a veteran teacher, is able to see the enrichment activities that excite the higher achievers in the room; Melissa, a newly tenured consultant teacher, is able to modify and differentiate for those with learning difficulties; Kim, duly certified with elementary and special education expertise, has the creativity to blend things into a stimulating learning adventure for all.”

“One example of a collaborative unit is our study of Weather. We peak the students’ interest by having a local meteorologist from a television news station visit and being part of a remote live weather broadcast for the news. Also as part of the unit, our 5th graders are put into groups and rotate through stations where they make their own wind vanes, barometers, and anemometers. They then use these instruments to study daily weather in our area and record the data in their weather journals...As a culminating activity, small groups of students are responsible for giving a weather report based on information gathered from various

sources we have exposed them to. Throughout this unit, students are actively involved and excited about learning. They don’t realize that reading and writing skills have been integrated into the lessons along with note taking and research skills as well.” – *Kim Austin, Patty Lefford, Melissa Yost*

**“This group of teachers** made learning fun for the children and that gave encouragement to each child, which in turn made the children strive to do the best of their abilities... They are always caring and encouraging to do the best they can and not to let other people tell them differently. The ways in which they taught the children made my son always eager to go to school and he hated to stay home even when he was sick. They were always very willing to go the extra mile for the children whether it was coming in early or staying late to give the children any help they might have needed.” – *Elizabeth Mitchell, parent of former student*

#### Other Highlights:

Austin and Lefford:

Cable 8 Apple of the Week Award

Lefford: Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year

Austin: Member of Kappa Delta Pi

Yost: Graduated Summa Cum Laude from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Exemplar Coaches

Hosted Family Math Nights

Cooperating Teachers for Fredonia State University

Chautauqua County Teachers Grant Recipients

Members, Jamestown Teachers Union

Members, National Education Association

**Years Teaching:** 14, 17 & 4, respectively

**Average Class Size:** 20

**Classes Taught Per Day:** 6

**School’s Percent of ESL Students:** 5

**School Type:** Public, Medium-Small City

**Type of Class:** Inclusion