

Top Nguyen

Bridgeport Elementary, Valencia, CA

Intermediate Elementary Education

6th Grade



2005 Honorees



“It is the primary responsibility of every educator to give all students the opportunity to see their potential and to shine their light. Many say that teachers light the spark in a child’s life, but I say the light was always there; we only needed to give it a forum in which to shine. For any class-

room to be unique or innovative, there must be a sense of ownership on the part of the student and a desire to impart life’s lessons on the part of the teacher. Curriculum can be taught by any adult willing to share, but teaching is more than that. It is the sharing of one’s life through lessons that can only come from the heart. Students need to see the world through not only their eyes, but that of others. With the world in such turmoil, it is crucial that today’s youth learn to embrace their sense of self and celebrate the differences all around.”

“Sharing my own experiences helps students connect and bond with me. My beliefs about learning are deeply embedded in my culture and experiences. I was born in the war-torn country of Cambodia... As a family, we escaped the mine fields of this blood-soaked country for a foreign land known simply as the country of opportunity. Little did I know that I would not only experience the best life had to offer on the soil of freedom, but that I would also face discrimination and persecution within conflicting, dual cultures.”

– Top Nguyen

“Children are excited to be in Mrs. Nguyen’s class! From the very first day my daughter brimmed with excitement when she spoke about her days in class! Mrs. Nguyen stirred their imagination about every subject. She challenged the children to think about the larger world. Creative social studies activities, taught through the history of art, brought ancient civilizations and world society to life. Mrs. Nguyen reinforced the idea of helping people less fortunate. Her own diverse background and her openness about sharing her family’s struggles instilled in my daughter the need and desire to think beyond the community in which she lives. My daughter blossomed as a student and a person during the year she spent with Mrs. Nguyen. Today she often talks about how she can help others, and maybe as an adult, she would like to do aid work in a foreign country. There are many lessons to learn in school, but this type of teaching can really change the world!”

– Teri Vogelsang, parent of former student

Other Highlights:

Student Council Advisor

Newspaper Advisor

Math Field Day Advisor

Masters in Education, Azusa Pacific University

Member, California Teacher’s Association

Years Teaching: 6

Average Class Size: 33

Classes Taught Per Day: n/a

School’s Percent of ESL Students: 3.5

School Type: Public, Suburban

Type of Class: Self-contained