

Everett: Faith, look ahead, push forward



Jennifer Everett works with her class at High Street School this past week.

MIKE ULLERY/STAFF PHOTO



BY JOHN HAUER

For the Daily Call
editorial@dailycall.com

PIQUA — Jennifer Everett is a third-grade teacher at High Street Primary School. Her outlook on life and teaching is the same simple truth — Have faith, look at what's in front of you and keep pushing forward.

Everett graduated from Miami East High School in 1989. She was a cheerleader, was a member of the Flag Corp, and played piano for many school activities such as choir. She was active in her church and in 4-H. "I have always lived in the country and been involved with horses," she said. "Even today, we live

on a farm just outside of Fletcher where we raise goats."

After high school, Everett attended Edison Community College for a year, then, transferred to Urbana University to major in Elementary Education, earning her bachelor's degree in 1997. "I choose Urbana. It was, and still is, a beautiful and quaint campus," she said. "Urbana featured small classes and quality teaching." Later, Everett received a master's degree in Teacher Leadership from Wright State University.

"I decided to get into teaching because it feeds my creative spirit," she said. "I also love the silly stuff that kids

See Faith/Page 2

Faith

Continued from page 1

do." Everett recalls a very brief conversation with a professor she had at Edison. "He stopped me in my tracks one day and made the comment 'you need to become a teacher', and it really made sense when I thought about it."

Everett credits her seventh-grade teacher Tom Brown with helping her. "Mr. Brown taught me to stand tall and speak with authority," she said. He taught me the Gettysburg Address and the famous poem In Flanders Field." Everett's long-time piano teacher Brenda Vetter was also a huge influence. "She taught me a great deal about expression and putting my soul into playing the piano and to not just play the notes," Everett said. "She told me to put my all in anything I do."

In 1998, Everett was hired by Piqua City Schools to be a long term

sub in third grade at High Street. A series of staff changes resulted in Everett being promoted to Unified Arts teacher (music and art) at High Street. She taught this for three years, then, moved to 2nd grade for eight years, then, moved to her current position as a 3rd grade teacher. Everett has been with Piqua City Schools for 15 years.

In 2000, when Everett was teaching second grade, she started a recycling program at High Street. "One of my student's grandparents worked at Wright Patterson Air Force Base," she said. "He brought in a team of people to teach kids about recycling and saving the environment." A 'waste audit' was conducted to determine how many pounds of paper and cardboard was being thrown away. WPAFB donated blue tubs so each room could begin recycling paper products. "To this day, the High Street stu-

dents take the blue tubs down to a special recycling spot," Everett said. "It saves money, and more importantly, it teaches kids about recycling."

Everett has earned her Master Teacher status. Master Teacher is recognized by the state of Ohio. This is a compilation of a specific set of guidelines that show a teacher's skills and mastery of the teaching profession. "Teaching is like a marathon," she said. "It's a lot of work and it can be a huge struggle, but it's worth it when you reach the finish line."

Outside the classroom, Everett has served on many committees including the Race To The Top committee, the committees supporting Grade Level Decisions, and the Technology committee. "The greatest area of change that I have noticed is in the area of technology," she said. "Piqua City Schools has an excellent technology department,

and our students show a great deal of confidence when using."

At home, Everett enjoys spending time with family and friends, volunteering in the community, and going camping. She has been married to her husband Curtis for 21 years. They have two daughters. Ashley will be graduating soon from Edison with a degree in Marketing and Design. Abby is a senior at Miami East High School and plans to attend Urbana to become a teacher.

Jennifer and her family have been very active in their church Grace United Methodist and have gone on mission trips to assist with the Hurricane Katrina damage. Their team effort as a family has supported Jennifer as a teacher, and Curtis has attended field trips and assisted in many school projects for High Street. "It's a team effort inside and outside of school," Jennifer said.