



A lasting impression

Former educators made a difference for Mohr

BY JOHN HAUER

For the Daily Call
editorial@dailycall.com

PIQUA — As with many teachers, Martie Mohr who teaches second grade at Favorite Hill Primary School was influenced by quality educators when she was growing up. “My first- and fourth-grade teachers made a lasting impression on me,” she said. “I knew I wanted to be a teacher just like them.”

Mohr graduated from Piqua High School in 1981, which was the first class to graduate from the new building. She was very busy at PHS as a member of the Science

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MIKE ULLERY/
STAFF PHOTO

Favorite Hill teacher Martie Mohr shares a laugh with students Kamdyn Scott, left, and Devin Young, as they work on their cursive writing skills last week.



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Club, National Honor Society and the Spanish Club. She was a varsity cheerleader for football and basketball, and she ran track for the Indians. Mohr played clarinet in the band, sang in the choir, and performed in the school musicals. And, she was activities editor of the school yearbook.

After high school, Mohr enrolled at Ohio University and earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1985. She received a master's degree in curriculum and supervision from Wright State University in 1992.

"Shelby Adams, my first-grade teacher at South Street, and Ron Brisker, my fourth-grade teacher, had a huge impact on me," Mohr said. "I have tried to model myself after both these successful educators. They always cared about me, and I stayed in contact with them through my high school and college years. I continue to run into Mr. Brisker at school functions."

Mohr started her teaching career with Sidney City Schools. "I was hired by Gary Reed who grew up in Piqua," Mohr said. "He helped me immensely through my first years." She taught third grade for 12 years, then, came to Piqua City Schools in 1997. "We lived in Piqua, and I wanted to be on the same schedule as my son who was in first grade at the time," she said.

Her Piqua career began at South Street as a second grade teacher. "It was a little weird because I was teaching second-grade in the exact room where I had been a second-grade student," she said. "It still had the same mirror on the wall, and I can remember looking in that mirror and seeing my reflection as a second-grader, and now, I saw a teacher."

When South Street closed two years later, Mohr transferred to second-grade at Favorite Hill. She is in her 15th year with Piqua City Schools. "Jane Peck helped me a lot when I came to Piqua," Mohr said. "We have taught together at both South Street and Favorite Hill. She led me along and showed me how to get by when resources and materi-

als were scarce."

Mohr is proud of the efforts of Favorite Hill's second grade team: herself, Peck, Pam Wynne, Lindsey Penrod, and Alyson Subler. "We work well together for the benefit of each student," Mohr said. The team has incorporated the latest in technology in their classrooms. "We utilize Smartboards, Smart Slates, laptops, and we test and evaluate our students with the latest technology. It's amazing how quickly we can gather results and data on students," she said. "The second-graders are very tech savvy and catch on easily."

Mohr is enjoying co-teaching with Brittany Sword. "I like having another teacher in the classroom," Mohr said. "Brittany and I plan and work well together. We are able to provide more individualized and small group lessons and activities."

Mohr has served as a mentor to three first-year teachers, sharing her knowledge and experience. She has also been a cooperating teacher for three student teachers. She has worked with the Teacher Academy at the Upper valley Career Center.

Outside the classroom, Mohr has worked on numerous committees including the Calendar Committee, Safety Committee, various curriculum committees, and the Labor Management Committee. She helped coordinate the Family Nights at Favorite Hill, and she volunteered with the Football Moms Club for several years.

At home, Mohr enjoys working in the yard and reading. "I read two or three books a week," she said. She and her husband Mike who works as a district sales manager for Jackson Tube have been married 25 years. They have two sons. Jake, 21, is a Firefighter/EMT. He is currently enrolled at Shawnee State pursuing an Emergency Medical Services degree. Mac, soon-to-be 18, is a senior at Piqua High School and will attend the University of Cincinnati in Information Technology. The family spends most warm weather weekends at Grand Lake St. Marys swimming, boating, and being with friends.