

## “Kudos for Enfield Educators”

Between December 8<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup>, the Enfield Foundation for Excellence in Education (EFEE) extended a Facebook invitation to our community to post about a teacher in the schools who made an impact on their child. The nominees were entered into a random drawing to win one of four \$25 Barnes and Noble Gift Cards. Our winners were announced on December 19<sup>th</sup>: Charlotte Zenzick (Eli Whitney School), Denice Boffi (Nathan Hale School), Sean Crane (Enfield High School) and Adam Behling (JFK Middle School). We would like to pass along the kind words these community members shared about some of our phenomenal educators!

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Lindsay Jamgo I would like to nominate **Mrs. Horn** at *Stowe*, where my son is in her integrated preschool class. This is obviously year one of school for our youngest, which is always a bittersweet thing for a parent. To add to it - we've been through a LOT with him from a medical standpoint, so to say we're very protective is putting it lightly. We had the pleasure of meeting Mary in the spring as we began his transition of early intervention services and we've come to learn that we were - hands down - given the best teacher for our son. Jace is a charmer and there aren't very many people he doesn't love but he took to Mary fast and hard. I'm pretty sure he's her #1 fan... and I'm certain that she is his favorite part of his day. She has a heart of gold and it's obvious to all who are lucky enough to have kiddos in her class that she truly loves and cares for the children. Enfield should be extremely grateful to have her. ♡

Cassie May Clements I would like to nominate **Mrs. Cooper** from *Henry Barnard*. She is an amazing teacher who really cares about each and every one of her students. She always makes sure to meet her kids where they are and work with them so they can reach their full potential! My son is so excited to go to school every day and is growing not only as a student but as a person because of the awesome job Mrs. Cooper does every day!

Cassie May Clements I would like to nominate **Mrs. Mitchell** from *Henry Barnard*. I could not have picked a better teacher for my daughter this year. Mrs. Mitchell loves her kids so much and they feel loved every day at school with her. I have already seen such growth in my daughter from handwriting to math to reading and her confidence in herself, because she has a teacher who comes to school every day excited to teach. She creates an environment in the classroom where each child has room to learn, grow, and explore. We are so lucky to have her at Henry Barnard!!!

Rebecca Paul Bocwinski I nominate **Mrs. Lajoie** kindergarten teacher at *Nathan Hale School*. Mrs. Lajoie is a wonderful educator who is kind, patient, and caring. She makes learning fun and exciting for her kindergarten class.

Lori James Rankin I would like to nominate **Ms. Valley** from *HMS*. As a first year parent to a kindergartener, she put all my fears to rest. She is so involved and invested with these kids and it doesn't stop when school is over. She continually goes above and beyond to make sure that the kids are understanding and is there for any parent questions. She makes learning fun and exciting!

Scott Ryder Did the same for our family 4 years ago! She is great!

Gretchen Ide I would like to nominate **Erin Hayes**, Special Ed. @ *JFK*. She is a real, organized, down-to-earth educator that also manages the Drama Club! I appreciate her so much 😊😊

Katie Putnam I would like to nominate **Mrs. Klapproth** from *Enfield Street School*. She is the kindergarten teacher and is so sweet and attentive. She is well organized and believes in communication with her students' parents. She is a fantastic teacher!

Carolyn Fournier McCaffrey I nominate **Mrs. McKinney**, third grade teacher at *Saint Martha School*. She is a fantastic teacher. She makes learning fun for the kids and they are getting a great education. One project she does with the kids each year is a wax museum. The students learn about someone from the past, then dress like that person for the wax museum. When someone presses their "button" the student talks as the famous person, describing facts of their life. Fun project and educational!

Kim Francis Simpson I would like to nominate **Sherry Winans**. She is a 5th grade teacher at *Prudence Crandall*. Her energy and enthusiasm for her class to be the best is contagious. She is an amazing woman!

Gretchen Ide I nominate **Cathy Carroll**, kindergarten @ *Nathan Hale*. She is a phenomenal, warm, loving teacher that manages to teach children that often need so much more (which they get from Cathy!). ❤️❤️☐

Kari Monteforte I would like to nominate **Mrs. Jessica Pomeroy** from *Henry Barnard's* Kindergarten team. Although I wish I could nominate all staff at Henry Barnard for their passion, dedication, patience and love for learning... Mrs. Pomeroy is top of the line. I always say there's a special place in heaven for Kindergarten teachers. Jessica's patience and love for each and every student is impeccable. She treats each of them as the individual that they are. She encourages them, loves them like her own, knows how to be firm with them but also knows when to break down and just be silly, too. She's a phenomenal Pete the Cat reader and knows how to break it down. She has completely changed my son from a shy, withdrawn, school-hating 5 year old, to a now confident, loving, 6 year old reader, learner and awesome friend. She will always hold a special place in the Monte's hearts ❤️❤️☐

Tammy Babbitt I would like to nominate **Janice Cerrato** from *Parkman School*. Her classroom is such a positive, loving and nurturing environment for all the children and her goofy antics really connect with the children, hold their attention and make learning fun. I am blessed to have two daughter go through her room. We will never forget her. ❤️

Cindy Hanna My daughter had **Mrs. Cerrato** a couple of years ago and she is absolutely amazing. Enfield has many wonderful teachers and Mrs. Cerrato is one of the best.

Darlene Molina I would love to nominate **Mr. Ruppucci** from *EHS* the love and hard work he shows his students in band is more than one can explain. To teach over a hundred students at one time is truly something to watch.

Allyson Haller Duffin I would like to nominate **Mr. Behling** at *JFK Middle School*. He has helped my son navigate the tricky middle school years and has been a friend to him and someone that he can turn to.

Jennifer Godlewsky Stone **Melissa Nuccio** - *Eli Whitney School*. Mrs. Nuccio has made our daughter, Emma's transition to her new school a positive experience. Emma comes home every day excited about school.

Stacy Hardy Godin I would like to nominate **Mary Horn**, *Stowe Early Learning Center*. My son is in her integrated preschool program. It is an amazing feeling knowing your 4 year old is in good hands, with a teacher who wants nothing but the best for your child. Mrs. Horn is such a kind heart and you can tell she loves and has a genuine investment in each of her students. She is so patient with our son who had a tough transition into school. We are so appreciative of all of her hard work!

Catherine Plourde Smith I would like to nominate **Mrs. Nichol** from *Enfield Street School*. While I could easily pick ANY Enfield Schools teacher because they are all fabulous in their own ways, Mrs. Nichol stands out because of the caring and guidance she shows my son, even when he has moved on to the next grade. She speaks softly and tells him how great he is and how he is missed. I never had to argue with him about going to school when he was in her class (that speaks volumes!)

Suza Cooper Thoelen I would like to nominate **Mrs. Kennedy** at *Nathan Hale*. Both of my boys have been fortunate to have her as their teacher. She instilled a love of books and a love of writing in her students. My older son still writes with such voice, and I know it's because of Mrs. Kennedy's teaching. She took something that was hard for him and made it his favorite pastime. She also sends home daily emails with talking points for parents to use when talking with their kids about the learning going on in the classroom. She's amazing!

Linnie Leander I'd like to nominate **Ms. Tercasio** at *Nathan Hale*. She's an amazing teacher with the patience of a Saint. Her smile and positive attitude are passed right on to her students and everyone around her. Our daughter has really made such a huge difference in her class this year. All her teachers have been amazing at Hale, but this year has been absolutely incredible. Our daughters love and level of reading has increased dramatically. Teachers never get enough credit.

Lindsey Bruce I would like to nominate **Danielle Klapproth** - grade K *Enfield Street School*. Mrs. Klapproth is very approachable by both parents and students, and is always in a positive mood. She plans many great lessons and activities that my daughter talks about at night at home. This year has gotten off to a great start for my daughter and it is very much a result of her great teacher. 😊)

Tammy Babbitt My older daughter would like to nominate **Adam Behling** from *JFK* because he is a really nice teacher and is patient and willing to adjust his lessons so that every student can learn in a way they understand.

Shawn Moore I'd like to nominate **Mrs. Rossetti** from *Hazardville Memorial*. She has an excitement for teaching and strives to push her students both academically and personally to become the best they can be

Trish Neild Barry **Ralph Patterson**- it doesn't matter what school he is teaching music in. He has been teaching since I was a kid, and while I didn't go to public school, I had him as a teacher during the summers for musical theatre camp. I was so happy when my daughter then had him as a teacher for music in *Nathan Hale*. I believe he may be at *Hazardville Memorial* now. He is timeless. And his love of music and sharing music with children is awe inspiring.

Jessica Boudreau I would like to nominate **Miss Passetto** at *Nathan Hale*. Miss Passetto joined our school this year and she is a wonderful addition to the outstanding team at *Nathan Hale*. Our Kindergartners are thriving, learning and growing because of her hard work!

Nicole Behling Helmer I would like to nominate **Mrs. Ruggiero** at *Henry Barnard*. My daughter loves her and she has been so patient, nice, and helpful! My daughter loves going to school and because of Mrs. Ruggiero, she is loving first grade and loving to read!!!

Kimberley Spencer I would like to nominate **Mrs. Kosa** at *Little Angels Preschool*. While ALL of the teachers at *Little Angels* are amazing, Mrs. Kosa was our girls' first teacher, and has started them on an amazing path to being excited about school! She's the most patient, caring, and kind person ever!

Jenn Elizabeth S I'd like to nominate **Mrs. Ferrick** at *St. Martha's School*. She is a wonderful teacher that has created a positive and nurturing environment for my son and the other kids to learn in. She completely understand that our children need the opportunity move around a bit during the day in order to keep their attention and focus. Just a great teacher!

Tracey Herrington Hoover I would like to nominate **Mrs. Wood** from *Stowe Early Learning Center*. She has had both of my children for pre-school and she is so patient and kind. We are very lucky that our daughter can have such a positive role model to learn from each day.

Tracey Herrington Hoover I would like to nominate **Barbara Hallak** from *Hazardville Memorial School*. She is my son's first grade teacher. Mrs. Hallak is responsive to the various needs of her students and she cares about all of them.

Elizabeth Lapalme-French I would like to nominate **Mrs. Beiler** from *Enfield Montessori School*. This year she moved from assistant to teacher and has done a great job with her new pk-k students. She has made my daughter's first few months nothing but positive!

Colleen Rodriguez **Mrs. Sawn Henry Barnard!** My daughter comes home every day with a smile and talks our ear off about her exciting day in room 21! Thanks for always going above and beyond it truly makes a difference in my child! My family has been beyond pleased with all of the staff at Henry Barnard! 🧑🏫🧑🏫🧑🏫🧑🏫🧑🏫🧑🏫

Rebecca Morris I would like to nominate **Lisa Jordan** at *Enfield Montessori School*. She is a wonderful person and teacher extraordinaire! So glad both my daughters got to be in her class!

Lisa Grimes Batchelor I would like to nominate **Mr. Behling** from *JFK*. His approach to teaching is great!

Shawn Moore I'd love to nominate **Mrs. Wisnesky** at *Hazardville Memorial*...she is kind and patient and makes 1st grade exciting!

Melany Anderson I'd like to nominate **Mrs. Bruce** at *Prudence Crandall*. She makes school and learning fun for the kids!

Nancy Lara My son nominates **Miss Almeida** at *HMS* because she is really friendly, helpful, and she makes learning fun.

Zachary Zannoni I would like to nominate **Courtney Collins** from *Enfield High School*. I currently have Mrs. Collins this year for Modern World History and her in depth knowledge about the topic and the great ability to answer a wide array of questions from topics relating to what's at hand and questions about other time periods we do not spend much time on.

Andrea Scalia Smyth I would like to nominate **Ms. Zenzick** at *Eli Whitney*. My daughter has her for 5th grade and she truly enjoys her class. She tells me all the time how much she likes her teacher, and that is so important to me. Ms. Zenzick is so patient and kind, and really helps my daughter to be a better student.

Wendy Aldrich Veilleux I would like to nominate **Mr. Crane** at *EHS*. He teaches history in such a memorable way and really helps kids learn and remember. My son has had him two years in a row and has enjoyed him very much!

Jennefer Ryan I would like to nominate the **ENTIRE** *Nathan Hale Elementary Staff*. Through these very difficult, and emotionally draining months with their school's future on the chopping block, they have continued on showing no signs of strife by providing a positive, upbeat and safe learning environment for our youngest of elementary schoolers.

Trish Neild Barry **Kara Puttick** at *Eli Whitney School*. She has made our daughter, Alex's 4th grade so special, with such a positive environment. She makes learning fun for all of the kids.

Melanie Dube I would like to nominate **Mrs. Venoutsos** from *Hazardville Memorial School*. She is so patient and kind with each of her students and the kids absolutely love her!! My son loves first grade and can't wait to go to school every day!!

Trish Neild Barry **Mrs. O'Connor**- *Nathan Hale*, has such a positive classroom. She has taken the time to learn so much about my son.. and it means the world to know that he is with someone each day who cares so much.

Lizz Bouley I would like to nominate **Mrs. Russell** from *Enfield Montessori School*. She is new to the school this year, but she already knows my son well and he is loving third grade with her. The school is in a new building this year with new class structures and lots of changes. It is wonderful to have teachers like Mrs. Russell who dive right in and can guide our kids happily through such major transitions.

Lori Bosco I would like to nominate **Mr. Crane**, a history teacher at *EHS*. He not only puts his all into his classes, with unique and interesting projects to really challenge students to apply their knowledge he has a great AP pass rate as well. On top of that he puts in a ton of his own time running the Youth Vote debates and helping with Model UN. I have had two kids that have had him and he really cares about his students and goes above and beyond for them!!

Kelly Woods Bowles Agree! **Mr. Crane** is wonderful

Diana Martin I'd like to nominate **Judi Stolar** at *Eli Whitney*. Both my sons have had her now and she has made a huge difference in both of their educations. The structure, excitement and fun that Ms. Stolar brought to the classroom increased my sons' interest in school and made for a memorable year for both. We were extremely lucky that my youngest son had her last year when we had additional challenges, because she was so helpful, encouraging and inventive. He still talks about her a year later. Thank you!

From the Bemisses: We would like to nominate our children's Kindergarten teachers. All three have inspired the children to love learning and love school. My son runs to Hazardville in the morning most mornings, because he can't wait to get to Kindergarten! The three teachers (all *Hazardville Memorial*) are **Mrs. Jaclyn Valley**, **Mrs. Barbara Hallak**, and **Mrs. Christine Nuzzolo**. We can't thank them enough for the foundational excellence and nurturing they are providing.

Ryan Williams Cuscovitch I would like to nominate 2 teachers at *Hazardville Memorial*. **Lisa Foy-Dupuis** is a kindergarten teacher at HMS. She is wonderful and kind. She uncovers each child's individual strengths and helps move them forward at their own individual pace. I would also like to nominate **Mary Almeida**, a first grade teacher at HMS. She is young and fresh and keeps the kids on their toes. She truly makes learning fun every day and my son loves being in her class!!

Lauren Dowell Andrews Also nominating **Jessica Pomeroy**! From one teacher to another...I KNOW how much it takes to make it through each day, with a smile on your face. Hang in there, Jess! Only 7 more school days until your much deserved break! 😊)

Ana Troya I would like to nominate **Mrs. Wisnesky** a 1st grade teacher from *Hazardville Memorial*! She made first grade an amazing experience for my daughter! She is kind and patient and encourages her students to love reading, writing and learning! She goes on and beyond to help all children and their families feel welcome and comfortable in her classroom! My daughter misses her every day!!

Jennifer Nutter Marone 🍎🍎📖📖 **Sheree Winans**📖📖🍎🍎 5th Grade ~ *Prudence Crandall*. Words can't describe how amazing Mrs. Winans truly is. My son is currently in her class. He's struggled immensely every year, including his preschool years. I prayed he would have her as a teacher, and thank God my prayers were answered. This is the first year my son LOVES school! He has never felt this way! As a Mom, I would worry everyday if I was going to receive a call from the school. I could go on and on about the ways this year has brought out the best in my son. Sheree is a model teacher for all in the education field. The qualities she demonstrates are of someone who truly gives her all to every student who walks through her door. I'm blessed to still be close to my 5th grade teacher... I have a feeling my son will want the same with Mrs. Winans. Thank you for the opportunity to nominate her. ❤️❤️

Lauren Dowell Andrews I'd like to nominate **Mandi Ruggiero Herzig** from *Here Wee Grow*. She is amazing - even if I loathe glitter because of her projects 😊;) Both my girls have had the privilege of having her for PK and she has a special place in our hearts ❤️❤️  
xoxo

Mandi Ruggiero Herzig Aw! My eyes teared up! Love those girls - even if Kaylee is too big of a kindergartener to hug me anymore! It's a privilege and pretty special to be a part of their school beginnings. ❤️❤️ You [**Lauren Andrews**, *Enfield Street School*] are pretty amazing too!

Jaime Boucher- Beebe I would like to nominate **Maureen Wesloski** - *Enfield High School*. I am blessed to have Mrs. Wesloski tutor my chronically ill son who is too sick to attend school. She has been his tutor for the past 4 school years and she goes above and beyond the duties of a teacher. Mrs. Wesloski has educated herself in my child's condition and she has become an advocate for him. We wouldn't be where we are today without Mrs. Wesloski. ❤️

Megan Budd I would like to nominate 3 teachers from *Hazardville Memorial*. **Ms. Valley**, her dedication to her students goes far beyond the classroom. Her love for her job and helping to grow these little people is infectious. My son was in her class 2 years ago and we still talk to her all the time and never miss a visit to get one of those smiles. Kudos to all Hazardville staff and teachers. Being a teacher is so much more than teaching. I feel so comfortable knowing my son is in the hands of HMS staff every day. **Mrs. Venoutsos** made my son's transition to first grade painless, she loves what she does and it shows every day. **Mrs. Rossetti** has such a passion for making kids succeed and appreciates the little things about each child and their personality.

Ally Murray I would like to nominate **Mrs. Weir** 1st grade at *Enfield Street*. Mrs. Weir is a true gem. She has an abundance of patience. She is pumped with enthusiasm every day! Mrs. Weir focuses on making her class a family and caring for one another. My daughter is so incredibly lucky to have her.

Jessica Currier Gomez I would like to nominate 1st grade teacher **Mrs. Mitchell** from *Henry Barnard*. My daughter absolutely loves her and can't stop talking about her and all they do in class day after day. She has helped Ryleigh to improve in her reading and encourages her to do her best each day. She communicates with parents through numerous avenues and is always there for us when we need her. Thank you Mrs. Mitchell for being an amazing teacher for our little girl and for all your students! Andrea Walpurgis couldn't agree more...she's the BEST!!

Ashlee Littlejohn I would love to nominate **Mrs. Smith** at *Head Start*! This is my daughter's second year with her and she has helped my daughter bloom!! The difference between when she started Head Start til now is such a huge difference!! Phenomenal teacher!

Casey Rondini LaPlante I would like to nominate **Jennifer Scully** at *ESS*! My daughter is lucky to have such a creative, organized, and dedicated teacher in 1st grade! Her classroom is Pinterest-worthy and she truly cares about her students!

Melissa Jenne Benvenuto I would like to nominate **Mary Almeida** at *Hazardville Memorial*. She's my son's first grade teacher. My son always tells me how nice she is and that she's fun too. He's doing so well and I know it's all because of her.

Elizabeth Szewczyk I would like to nominate **Denice Boffi**. I believe she teaches at *Nathan Hale*. I met Denice over 25 years ago when she was the building T A at Norfeldt school in West Hartford. It didn't take long for me to know Denice had what it took to be an extraordinary teacher. I was proud to write her a letter of recommendation that landed her a job in Enfield. Through the years, Denice has proven again and again that teaching comes from the heart as much as from the head. Even after a serious illness, she continued to give her best. As a lifelong resident of Enfield, I hear about the hard work our teachers put in far beyond their required time. Denice is at the top of this list. Teachers are rarely recognized for excellence with something to treat just themselves. Denice deserves this award.

Rachelle Kowalski Tirrell I would like to nominate **Sheree Winans**, 5th grade teacher at *Prudence Crandall*. Mrs. Winans was my daughter's teacher 2 years ago and she is one of the most caring, wonderful teachers ever! My son goes there now and really hopes he gets her next year...she's that great! She treated the children like they were one big family and it made for a wonderful experience for the kids. Two years later my 7th grade daughter asks to go into school to see her at the end of the day.

Danielle Ragon **Mrs. Malehorn**, she is at *Enfield Street School* rm.16. She has been the best boost of confidence my daughter needed this year. My daughter is shy and unsure of herself at times. She is now confident enough that she is raising her hand in class to answer questions and partake in classroom activities. I am truly blessed for this teacher for giving my daughter the confidence she needed and the push to do her best every day. She is also interacting with her classmates much more, it is so nice to see. Okay so maybe I have said a few more words but I truly love this teacher and I believe my daughter was placed there for a reason.

Jennifer Clark **Mrs. Lisa Dupuis**, Kindergarten teacher at *HMS*. She has a passion for her job along with being unique in her ways.