

Carolyn Leake: Finding the Light Amidst Darkness

Kindergarten teacher, Carolyn Leake, has worked for North Penn since 2000, first in the extended school care program, followed by substitute teaching, and then full-time as a teacher. She is now in her 12th year teaching Kindergarten. Carolyn's colleague, Kristen Muth, comments that Carolyn is an advocate for all students, "especially students with a variety of needs. She does everything in her power to ensure success for all of her students. Carolyn goes above and beyond to meet her students' needs whether it is attending lengthy meetings, spending extra time communicating with support personnel, rearranging her room, and creating plans for her various learners."

Carolyn shares that, "I am married to my high-school sweetheart, Billy, and we have two wonderful children, Murphy and Callie. Murphy was born with significant health needs and delays which allowed me walk in the shoes of some of our families. I have a much better understanding of the challenges families of fragile children face every day and can even offer some tips I have learned as a parent to a child with needs. Unfortunately, Murphy passed away from his health issues, but the lessons he taught me live on every day in my classroom. Callie is a very happy and healthy 18 month old girl that brings complete joy into our home."



Carolyn continues, "We all have a story/adversity that we have had and needed to overcome. By lighting the candle, we find a way to use that life lesson to better ourselves and those around us rather than letting it hold us back in the darkness. Every child that walks into my classroom does so with a story that can either be seen as a challenge or an asset. I try my best to find the asset that they have and utilize it in our classroom community to help everyone grow as a person."