

Kindergarten Teacher Retires after 36 Years at KDS

Kindergarten teacher Deedee Eller is retiring after 36 years in the classroom at KDS DAR Elementary. Mrs. Eller started her career at KDS in August 1982, and by the close of the first year, she loved the school and community so much that she turned down a job offer from the school where she grew up and graduated.



Known for her fun and imaginative teaching methods, one activity Mrs. Eller is well known for is her class' search for the Gingerbread Man. Each year, on the first day of the school year, Mrs. Eller planned this class activity intended to give her new students a tour of the elementary school and introduce them to the staff. Together, she and her class made a gingerbread man, then visited the lunchroom kitchen to bake it. When they returned to their classroom to wait for the gingerbread to bake, they receive word that he has run

away. So, Mrs. Eller and the children looked throughout the school for him, visiting the office, the library, the nurse, the counselor, and other key staff, but find no trace of their gingerbread man. After the long and busy tour of the elementary school, they return to their classroom to find their fully cooked gingerbread man waiting for them. This great activity helped the kindergarteners get to know their surroundings as well as the principal, teachers and other people who were going to be part of their school family.

Because she has been teaching in the same school for 36 years, Mrs. Eller said that she has taught children of the children she first taught. Teaching their children makes her feel both young and old at the same time.

For about 20 years, Mrs. Eller was fortunate to have the help of a volunteer named Mrs. Langston, who

came to help her during the first hectic week of each school year. Mrs. Eller says that she plans to be the "Mrs. Langston" for the other KDS kindergarten teachers next year.

Deedee and her husband, who is also retired, hope to do some traveling together. The parents of three sons who were students at KDS, the Ellers are excited to be able to spend more time with their family. They are especially looking forward to spending more time with their one grandson who will begin kindergarten in Atlanta when school begins again in August.

Deedee feels that one of the most helpful programs at KDS is the Adopt-A-Class program. She would like to thank the Huntsville Chapter for their support of her classroom since the program began in 2003. She says their love and concern have afforded her students many opportunities they might not have had without this wonderful program.

Everyone at KDS would like to wish Mrs. Eller a wonderful retirement!

