



### January 2018 Teacher Spotlight: Sue Minneci

Sue spent much of her youth and early adulthood pursuing individual goals in both sports as well as other career paths. "Despite many wonderful experiences and successes, I felt as though something was missing. In my efforts to fill this gap, I took a job as an aide to the speech and language pathologist at the Stowe Elementary School, and realized that I loved working with kids, and better yet, that I loved helping people," commented Sue.

She shared one of her best memories as a teacher. "I was taking my kindergarten class on a field trip and passed out clipboards with the letters of the alphabet and a space after each letter for the students to use as a word search. As they looked around at the many advertisements within the interior of our public buses, one little boy exclaimed, "There are WORDS everywhere!" The concept of print became real and tangible to that student that day, and he became much more motivated to learn the letters and the sounds of the alphabet from that day on."

"Although I work with some of the youngest students in our district, I feel like it is very important to start them out right, and to teach them that school is like their 2nd family, to love learning and to not be afraid to try."

Sue is the recipient of a PCEF Teacher Grant for an initiative called Wild Wonders, which brings live animal visits into the classroom. "Two of our English Language Arts units focus on the study of the seasons and weather. We are able to tailor our Wild Wonders visits into three categories: hibernation, adaptation and migration. This is just one example of how important PCEF is to creating direct learning experiences that our students benefit from that they would not normally have access to."

"PCEF allows us a chance to think outside the box, and to go the extra step it takes sometimes to make learning fun, hands-on, exciting and, therefore, memorable. In my experiences as a teacher, these are the ingredients that capture children's interests and can turn them into life long learners who love school."