

Legend of Learning- Jennifer McDonald



Congratulations to Jennifer McDonald, our Legend of Learning for September 2019. Jenn is a kind, compassionate, and caring Library Media Specialist at Grimshaw Elementary. Jenn has gone above and beyond by fostering a love for literacy throughout our school community. Jenn was nominated by a multitude of students and staff at Grimshaw Elementary.

One of the individuals who nominated Ms. McDonald shared:

Jennifer McDonald embodies our mission statement and the LaFayette vision by going above and beyond each and every day for students and staff. She always puts students first, educates using creativity/innovation, promotes self-respect, and has a strong commitment to our local community.

Jenn is a strong leader and takes initiative to be involved with many clubs and extra-curricular activities. For example, she is the head of many committees and clubs for our staff and students. She is our Social Studies curriculum coordinator, head of Student Council, Harry Potter Club, Technology Club, Battle of the Books coordinator, and presents on Professional development days. She also is the head of technology for our school play, offers resources to all staff during our monthly staff meetings, and is our go-to person for any questions we have on resources or technology.

Jennifer McDonald equips our school and district with the knowledge and innovation of new technology. She is up to date with the latest technology and resources. She uses DonorsChoose.org, BOCES, and grants for new resources. Jenn has brought several new ideas to our school this year that our students and staff have loved! She brought the Battle of the Books competition to our school for the first time and was able to inspire

numerous children to join a team and take the challenge. Our two teams advanced to the BOCES regional competition where we took first and second place! Jenn brought the “One Book, One School” program to our school this year and set up a committee to choose the book. With the “South Pole Pig” being the final selection, each student in our school got a copy of the book. She coordinated several volunteers, including members of our staff, administration, and board of education members to record themselves reading the chapters and she made a YouTube channel so all of our students could follow along with the readings. To spark their interest in the book, she brought in a live pig named Honey, and scheduled visits with each class. There were trivia questions each day and prizes to be won. At the end of the experience she hosted a Grimshaw Family Literacy Night, where families built and raced cardboard sleds, similar to the dog sled racing that occurred in the story. She also encouraged our students to explore different genres of books by creating a March Madness bracket, pulling books from all different genres that explored different cultures. Our classes were very engaged in many of the selections she chose and the books brought up many wonderful conversations. As a result, the children are now able to see themselves in the books and are choosing culturally diverse selections on their own!

In short, Jenn is a well-deserving candidate of this award and role model to both students and staff on what it means to be a Lancer and to show Lancer Pride!

Please join me in congratulating Jennifer McDonald as the Legend of Learning for September 2019.

Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence!

You can help recognize LaFayette staff members who:

- Help to advance the mission and vision of the district
- Go above and beyond
- Demonstrate that they put our students first
- Support student learning
- Treat students and others with dignity, respect, and compassion
- Embrace creativity and innovation

Nominate a staff member today through an online survey which is available on our website or by clicking [here](#)