

Teacher inspires kids to write

By Becky Kelbaugh

SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC

The Scottsdale Unified School District is highlighting Laguna Elementary School second-grade teacher Sandra Muller.

Here's what parent Catherine Griffin had to say about her:

After meeting Mrs. Muller, a second-grade teacher at Laguna Elementary, you may finally buy that puppy you've been promising your child, or write that novel you've been pondering. She has such a personal love for animals and for teaching students how to become better writers that it's contagious. Muller combines her love for animals with her love for teaching. The results are amazing. Her students are engaged, interested and excited about learning.

"If learning is fun for students, then they will enjoy school and grasp concepts

more easily," Muller says.

Muller kicks off the school year with a unit titled "Who Let the Dogs Out," where students write about a favorite pet. She also conducts a daily writer's work-

shop ... You can't help notice the 6-foot superhero "Letter Man" in her classroom. This cardboard cut-

out is a tool used to teach proper letter format and is plain fun for the students to look at. Muller's students, past and present, adore her. Before school begins, you will see a small group outside her room. These students are not just from her current class, but also students who have moved on to third and fourth grades as well. They are waiting to say hello to Muller and of course, Hammy, the class hamster, and Splash, the new class fish. This is a true testament of her impact on students.

Number of years teaching: 10.
Number of years at district: 10.
Number of years at Laguna: 9.

**TEACHER
OF THE WEEK**



Sandra Muller

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