

**Teacher Feature: Rebekah
Nakano, Rochester Primary**

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Rebekah Nakano

Rochester Primary, Kindergarten

How long have you been teaching?

This is my 7th year teaching kindergarten! All seven years have been at Rochester Primary School! Before that, I coached gymnastics in Tumwater!

What inspires you the most in regards to teaching?

Kindergarten is a pivotal year for kids! It is the beginning of a long trek through the public school system to graduation. Kindergarten teachers possess the unique opportunity to develop a love of learning in students and a bond with the families in our school system that, when done well, will resonate throughout their student career! I get to spend each day making a difference in the lives of families in this community. Kids may not remember what we did each day in kindergarten as they get older, but they will remember how they felt about going to my class. That's what inspires me and motivates me to be a better teacher than the day before.



Do you have a mantra or quote you are always telling your students?

I try to teach my kids that there is no black and white in learning. If you don't know something now, it doesn't mean that you can't learn it. It just means you don't know how to do it yet. You can learn anything you put your mind to.

"Mrs. Nakano is a really nice kindergarten teacher and I loved having her as my teacher. She was so fun to have as a teacher and I wish she could be my teacher every year. Mrs. Nakano always made me feel happy and excited to learn."

~ Aiden V., nominator

What is one fun thing you did this past summer?

This past summer, I took a road trip with my 10-year-old, 6-year-old, 3-year-old and husband to Santa Barbara for my brother's wedding! We stayed in a cabin, went swimming and participated in a talent show! It was non-stop fun and family for six days!



Is there anything else you would like to add?

I don't teach alone! I am incredibly lucky to have wonderful fellow Kindergarten teachers to collaborate with, exceptional special services support and amazing educational assistants who have dedicated their careers to helping kids to succeed along with me! I also am fortunate to have a class of supportive parents and volunteers! It takes a village to teach a child!



"I get to spend each day making a difference in the lives of families in this community."

-Mrs. Nakano

Can you share one or two funny stories you have had one of your students tell you?

When we were talking about upcoming events while doing calendar, I told children that the weekend was getting closer and asked what kids were doing. One eager kid could hardly contain herself! I called on her and she said, 'Mrs. Nakano, we get to go to the carnivore this weekend!' It took me a second to realize the school carnival was what getting her excited!

One year, I had a new kid join my class in the spring. During a lesson, I had to get something from a container off a high shelf. Without thinking, I climbed on the counter to grab it. The new kid gasped and yelled out to be careful. His neighbor, unphased, leaned over to him and whispered, "Don't worry, she went to teacher school for this."

We want to hear about your favorite teacher! Nominate them and they may be featured in a future issue of SWW Family.

Send in nominations for your favorite teacher, student, class or coach.

Mail to 321 N. Pearl, Centralia, WA 98531 or email

jviall@swwfamily.com. If you email us and we don't reply we haven't received your message. Please give us a call at 807-8217.

Name of teacher/school or coach/team & sport:

Name of child nominating: _____

Name of parent & phone #: _____

Email: _____

Please include a few sentences on why you think your teacher, student, class, or coach should be featured. If you have a picture of your teacher, student, class, or coach, please send it in too! We may contact you to learn more.



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