



Jackie Martinez

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Jackie Martinez

SCHOOL: Sharpstein Elementary School

GRADES: 4th Grade

SUBJECT: Science, Social Studies, L/A (Spanish only)

Q. What are your students learning in class?

A. We just finished a unit on electricity. They are building cardboard houses and are asked to light every room using batteries, wire, paper clips and tape.

Q. Why does this hands-on learning activity work?

A. Just look at them, they are all engaged. It shows me what they can do and what they have learned. Kids enjoy it and it's great watching kids have fun at school.

Q. In your class you only speak Spanish. How has the dual language program enhanced learning?

A. These students have been in the dual language program since kindergarten. Most of my kids understand everything I'm saying. They are able to perform academically in a second language and that's impressive at any age, but these students are just nine and 10 years old.

Q. How has the dual language program enhanced cultural relationships?

A. The segregation piece is eliminated. They are paired with a buddy all day. They sit together at lunch and play together outside. They have learned to depend on each other to be successful in school. They truly enjoy and respect each other.

Q. How has the new and improved building supported your teaching strategies?

A. We have wireless computers so we can have 30 students on computers without having to leave my classroom. We could not do that in the old building. It's more conducive to learning and technology. It's comfortable and beautiful.

## COMMENTS FROM SHARPSTEIN PRINCIPAL LAURE QUARESMA:

"Jackie is passionate about reaching every student. She is a model teacher for GLAD strategies and language acquisition.

Over



## MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM JACKIE MARTINEZ'S CLASS:



### COMMENTS: FROM JACKIE MARTINEZ

"There is a sequence for learning a new language. First is listening and speaking, then reading and the last is writing. Many of the native English speaking students are in the listening and speaking phase. About half of them are reading the language and about 25 percent are writing."

"We use 'Word Walls' as a learning resource. Everything that's on the wall the students have created themselves. It makes the space theirs."

**Jackie Martinez**



### COMMENTS FROM CRYSTAL:

"In the morning we go with Mrs. Gilbert to learn math and poetry in English. After lunch we go with Mrs. Martinez to learn in Spanish. School is fun."

(Top Left) **Crystal Madrigel**

