



Nilda Williams

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Nilda Williams

SCHOOL: Edison Elementary

Position: 2nd grade dual language

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 16 years

Q. How does your science lesson on butterflies help students learn additional skills?

A. We are doing a science project on butterflies. Students are integrating reading, writing and science and later on will combine an art lesson by creating a caterpillar. Student will get their own live caterpillars to observe. They will study their life cycle and parts. Once the caterpillars transform into butterflies, the students will set them free.

Q. What is your role in the dual language program?

A. I teach the Spanish portion of the dual language program: science, social studies, health, reading, and writing. Kay Barga is my partner teacher. She is a great partner. We also have started integrating Martin Telstad's English only class into some of our dual language activities. This helps us build a stronger school community. Every three months we split the three classes into thirds and teach different subjects. This helps bring the students together so no one is left out. Our goal is to make the entire second grade one class.

Q. Is the dual language program working?

A. My students have been in the dual language program since kindergarten. They have had Spanish for three years. I have noticed the students are more oral this year with their Spanish speaking skills. I am seeing them make outstanding gains.

Q. What are some of the other benefits of this program?

A. Students will be bilingual and bicultural. They will develop tolerance and respect for each other's culture. I have witnessed students playing together at recess, eating lunch together, and becoming more social thanks to the dual language program. I taught ESL and Bilingual programs prior to teaching in the dual language program. It seemed like the students were always separated. The dual language program has been positive for our school.

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
NILDA'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM NILDA...

I feel awesome to be part of the dual language program. I will stay here as long as I can. The kids have a great opportunity and I am happy to be part of the Edison staff and the dual language program.

My mom never went to school and never learned to read. I decided long ago I was going to make a difference in someone's life.



I became a teacher because of my mom. I get to see how much the children are learning and I feel like I've been a part of their success. It feels great to be a teacher.