



Tressa Baker

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Tressa Baker

SCHOOL: Green Park Elementary

Position: 2nd Grade Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 5 years

Q. What are some of the projects you are working on this time of year?

A. We are working on two-digit addition and subtraction and beginning a new science unit that features balancing and weighing. We will be doing many interactive and hands-on activities with our science unit by using balance beams.

Q. Why is it important for students to develop a strong foundation in math at this age?

A. I think it is really important we make sure that at the beginning levels of elementary school students have all of the building blocks in place so they have a solid foundation as they move forward with their education. We work really hard to identify where those holes might be and use skill groups to fill the gaps.

Q. Why are math groups important for improving student achievement?

A. We look at their early assessment scores and group them in skill groups with other children needing the same instruction. It is our way to differentiate the instruction. If a student needs help or remediation in a certain area, then we can pull back and slow down to meet their needs. This assures that all students are developing the skills they will need to be successful in middle school.

Q. Why is this an exciting time for students to be in school?

A. When I went to school there was only one way to do a problem to reach the answer. Now we have great conversations in our math groups about different ways to come up with the same answer.

I always tell my students how lucky they are to be in school. I tell them how exciting it is that they are able to come up with five strategies for the same answer. There is not just one way to find the answer anymore.

Over 

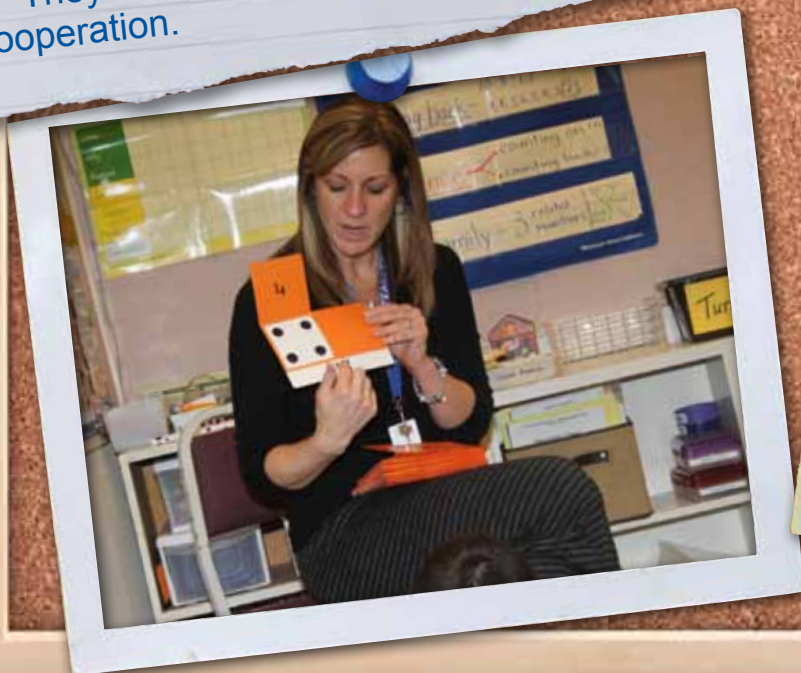
MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM  
TRESSA'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM TRESSA...

If a student is having a hard time understanding a concept, I will have a Peer Buddy talk to them about it. Students have an easy time relating to one another and it helps them by discussing it. They are working together and showing cooperation.

I grew up in Walla Walla and attended Assumption, DeSales, WWCC and WSU. I worked for Junior Achievement for three years and discovered I wanted to be a teacher.



My husband and I lived in the Seattle area for 15 years. We have a daughter who is a fourth grader at Green Park. My husband is a contractor in Walla Walla and I am an avid cyclist.