

POPE JOHN PAUL II

CATHOLIC ACADEMY

*2010 Yawkey Award for
Teaching Excellence Winners*



Ms. Jane Breen, Grade 4

Neponset Campus

Ms. Jane Breen has been teaching in Dorchester since 1970. She began teaching at St. Ann's in 1971. She embraced the transition to Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy two years ago and has continued to teach with enthusiasm and conviction as a pillar of strength. She is described as "well-prepared, pleasant, cooperative, and supportive...someone who clearly cares about her students and whom the faculty is lucky to have."

Ms. Breen's commitment to Catholic education has made a difference in the lives of all students who have been blessed to be in her classroom. Parents describe her faith and mission-driven ethics as a "beacon of hope" to all. Beyond academics, Ms. Breen inspires her students to follow their dreams. One of her former students decided in Ms. Breen's 4th grade class that she wanted to become a teacher, and now she teaches at Neponset with her!

Ms. Breen's dedication to her students, parish, and school make her an ideal candidate for this award. Ms. Breen epitomizes what Pope John Paul II wanted for our youth, "...a brighter future built in the love and values of Christianity."



Mrs. Sheila Deitsch, Grade 7

Lower Mills Campus

An educator in the Archdiocese of Boston for twenty-eight years, Mrs. Deitsch has provided her students with the best possible educational experience at a variety of levels and subject areas. Her students grow, learn, and excel in her classroom.

In addition to her excellence in the classroom, Mrs. Deitsch's creative talents are immeasurable. She often spends her free time assisting her colleagues with their assignment to prepare Masses.

These Masses frequently contain liturgical dance, which has become Mrs. Deitsch's specialty. This year, as in past years, Sheila and her eighth grade students created an exceptional Lenten liturgical dance program called "His Last Days", which they performed for the Academy, their families, and the Sisters of Charity at Mount Saint Vincent in Wellesley. Mrs. Deitsch's dedication to her students, colleagues, faith, and family make her a natural candidate for the Yawkey Award for Teaching Excellence.



Ms. Michelle Edwards, Grade 8

Mattapan Campus

Ms. Edwards is most known on the Mattapan Campus for her kindness and compassion. Her students know that she expects much from them, but she also takes strides to make sure that no student ever feels alienated or left behind. One student remarked that Ms. Edwards "loves her job, as well as her students, with all her heart." She passes her love of education and determination to succeed along to her students at the Mattapan Campus, who have discovered the joy of reading and literature, which Ms. Edwards holds so dear.

Ms. Edwards joined the PJPII staff in September 2008 after teaching 8th Grade at Mission Grammar School. She embodies the saying that "Good things come in small packages!"

Ms. Eileen Frain, Grade 8

Dorchester Central Campus

Ms. Frain first began at Saint Mark's School in 1978. She commented that she planned to stay for only three years. However, she loved the environment and the school so much that she has been there continuously for 32 years! Ms. Frain is loved by her students and the DC community for her compassion and dedication to their success.

She stays each afternoon to assist, tutor, or counsel any student who needs extra help. Her students' respect for her is obvious. Earlier this

year, Ms. Frain wanted to take her students on a field trip using public transportation and purchased all tickets for the students herself.

Ms. Frain attends every school event and serves as the teacher representative to the Dorchester Central PTO. She has taught multiple grades over the years. She holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts Boston and has participated in numerous professional development activities including programs at Regis College and Boston College. The Neponset Campus Community will welcome Ms. Frain next year as the "new" fifth grade teacher!

Ms. Lauren Patts, Grade 1

Columbia Campus

Ms. Patts has been a Grade 1 teacher for four years. Her love of teaching and compassion for children is evident in all that she does. Her impact on the PJPII community is not only evident in her classroom, but throughout the entire school.

In her classroom, Ms. Patts is engaging, enthusiastic, and energetic with her students. Her care and concern is evident. She recognizes each student as an individual and makes each child feel like an

important part of the class. Her interest in each student's individual growth, both spiritually and academically, comes naturally. Ms. Patts brings out the best in her students. Through her example, the students are receiving an education above and beyond simple academics. She challenges her students and the entire PJPII community to look beyond their personal needs and to look at the larger community. She believes students should use their own gifts to bring the love of Jesus to all.

