

“2013-2014 MA TEACHER OF THE YEAR”



Johnson School has three core values: We take care of ourselves. We take care of each other. We take care of the environment. This year under the guidance and direction of Kristen Blake, Second Grade teacher, our Grade Two team of teachers and students created the “Go Green Jaguar Team.” This team started a school lunch tray recycling program for our school. To help others understand the need for recycling, students collected data on how many trays we used as a school community each day (120 trays). Then they figured out how many trays were used, on average, over the course of the year = 20,520 polystyrene trays. Students taught our school community about polystyrene and how it takes up to one million years to decompose according to a study done by Cleveland State University. Due to their research and clear presentation to the school, we now recycle our school lunch trays through ReFoam It. Each class has a student dedicated to wiping down the trays and stacking them for delivery to the recycling center. It was a simple idea that took like wildfire. We are now talking to other schools in the district to encourage them to begin a similar process at their school. Without the forward thinking and genuine enthusiasm of Kristen Blake and her eager students this project would not be the success it is today. They deserve to be celebrated for their commitment to “take care of the environment.”

Due to distance and demands of the closing school year Ms. Blake was unable to attend the conference.

We are pleased to be awarding Ms. Blake with the “2013-2014 MA Teacher of the Year” Award.