## Outstanding teacher has humor down to science

Power Middle School science and math teacher Dale Green re-fuses to be the butt of jokes. He's

uses to be the butt of jokes. He's usually on the front end of them. Here's a Green specialty. What is osmosis? Responds the teacher with Amazing Carnac-like repartee: "What the man said when he came down from the mountain with two tablets . . I-az-moses."

kida as he can to make learning fun.

That's part of the reason he was selected both the Farmington Public Schools and Newsweek-WDIV-TV Oakland County middle school teacher of the year. Green and other winners will be honored in a special banquet in May at the Roostertail.

Green is overwhelmed and surprised with the double-dip ac-

\*\*Ail I wanted to do was to teach kids the best could.' School and Middlebelt Elementary before moving onto East Middles School where he taught for 10

Dale Green Power Middle School science, math teacher

colade. He didn't enter teaching 26 years ago to become a highly decorated educator, though.

"All I wanted to do was to teach kids the best I could," Green said.
That means becoming a friend or confident. Sometimes it calls for picking the kid who doesn't have his hand up, or taking two minutes of time to find out an increast—anything to draw them into the learning fray.

"My favorite thing about watching him teach is that kids will give 100 percent of themselves because they want to please him," said Power principal Loura Miner. "He's kind of magic."

Green makes them laugh and

Green makes them laugh and makes them wonder. The osmosis joke, for instance,

helps them remember the word. More than likely, they'll also crack open a science book to find what it really means. (According to the dictionary, osmosis is the movement of a sol-

osmosts is the movement of a some went through a semipermeable membrane into a solution of high-er concentration that tends to equalize the concentrations of so-lute on the two sides of the mem-

lute on the two sides of the membrane.)
"Basically, I try to assist klds in learning and let them know I'm behind them, helping them to learn rather than in front of them demanding that they learn," Green said. "At this age group, you have to be an ally for them." Green has come to that conclusion through 26 years teaching in the Farmington district. He started at Ten Mile Elementary

ry before moving onto East Middie School where he taught for 10
years.

He's been at Power Middle
School for 15 years. His wife of 26
years, Karen, also teaches at Power. They have a son, 15.

There was a time when the
teacher of the year was more intereated in playing notes than
taking them. Green wanted to become a professional musician as a
saxophone player.

Then, recalled Green: "A voice
inside me said, 'Get real.'"
Instead of his muse, he followed his instincts and became a
teacher.

He still plays the sax. In fact,
he has the instrument tucked
away in a classroom closet.

Once in awhile, Green thinks
about pulling it out for an impromptu concert.

"It might scare them a little
hit," he said.

Besides, Green has learned
there are more rewards in teaching kids how to toot their own
horn.



Science with humor: Dale Green teaches life science class with a touch of humor as he crowns student Kamino Draghici with the help of Michelle Kirsch.

## Educator adds spice, sauce to 'specialty'

The study of minerals and solar systems wasn't her cup of tea.

So, there's more than a twist of irony to the Wood Creek Elementary teacher drawing her third-graders gleefully, like a magnet in a neil factory, to science.

"I didn't like it (as a student)," Waters said. "That's why it's my specialty."

Specially.

Waters goes out of her way to spice up the subject, going beyond the traditional mineral chart and microscope methods of teaching. She developed a classroom project where kids made their own bathecue sauce. The recipe was later bottled and sold with proceeds going to Farmington Neighborhood House.

Her students have turned the classroom into a tropical rain forest, including sound effects. Student-made jelly fish dangle from the ceiling, the result of an ongoing study of oceans.

"Both of my kids love science because of her," said parent Kim Fraser, whose two children, Mi-chael and Melissa, have been in Waters' classroom. "They do all kinds of hands-on projects. We have crystals she (Meliasa) brought home sitting in our win-dow."

The old saying, you've got to have art hits home at Harrison High School. The person drumm-ing the message is William Har-mon, Farmington Public Schools High School Teacher of the Year. Harmon has been in the Farm-ington district since 1966, previ-cusly serving as a teacher in the Detroit Public Schools for five

students' creativity

Such creativity has led Waters to be selected as both the Farmington Public Schools Elementary Teacher of the Year and the Newsweek-WDIV Oakland County Outstanding Elementary Teacher of the Year. She will be honored in May along with other winners in a special ceremony rebroadcast on WDIV.

The double honor is a remarkable achievement, especially considering Waters has only been teaching 41/2 years.

Then again, she was reared in something of a school house. Her father Horace Waters was a long-time principal at Redford Union High; her mother Marcia is a kindergarten teacher.

"For awhile, I said 'no wey I'd ever go into education," Waters said. "As I got older, I realized that was my calling. I found I worked well with children."

Waters grew up in Farmington Hills, attending Alameda, O.E. Dunckel and North Farmington where she graduated in 1934. She received her bachelor's and mas-ter's degrees from Michigan State.

Her teaching career had another curve ball of irony: Waters replaced her first-grade teacher when she was hired.

"She took one look at me and said it was time to retire," Waters said. Waters being a product of



Asking advice: Becky Waters' Wood Creek Elementary third-graders, includ-ing Dustin Babler (left) and Marcus McComb, seek her help in building a coral

> IT'S YOUR NIGHT

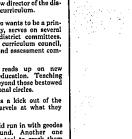
Farmington schools makes teacher of the year honors even more of a thrill. She's received congratulations from people around the district, including her eighth-grade English teacher Estralee Michaelson who is now director of the district's health curriculum.

Waters, who wants to be a principal someday, serves on several school and district committees. She's on the curriculum council, frameworks and essessment committees.

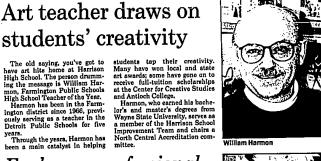
She also reads up on new trends in education. Teaching rewards go beyond those bestowed from educational circles.

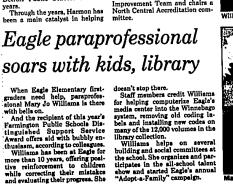
Waters gets a kick out of the kids. She marvels at what they

"I had a kid run in with geodes he had found. Another one brought in a tool to crack them open," Waters said. "They took what they've learned outside into their world and brought it back into the classroom."









with bells on.

And the recipient of this year's Farmington Public Schools Distinguished Support Service Award offers aid with bubbly enthusiasm, according to collesques. Williams has been at Eagle for more than 10 years, offering positive reinforcement to children while correcting their mistakes and evaluating their progress. She



TO SHINE... **PROM '94** You'll look and feel so beautiful in this dress for your special night. White sequins and lace, scalloped, off-the-shoulder lamour satin top with a long black slim crepe lavie skirt. From Roberta. Sizes 3-13, \$138. Made in the USA. Miss J Jacobson's

ANN ARBOR • BIRMINGHAM • DEARBORN • GROSSE POINTE • LIVONIA • ROCHESTER Shop Monday, Tursday, Wednesday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Ann Arbon Sunday noon to 6 p.m. Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard, VISA® and American Express.