

Teacher from page A1

ourselves and there was a slide show for Rita."

Adams recalled how excited she was when she first learned of both awards. The appearance of Farmington Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield provided an unexpected signal, and children sang a congratulatory song in honor of the district award.

"I was speechless," she said. Adams received a crown and a white, starred sash to wear all day after she learned about the Oakland County award.

"We were having a birthday celebration for some teachers in the staff lounge," Adams said. "They called down that the party was ready to start. I walked in and there was Dr. Bob again. He had balloons and purple tulips."

Adams feels her strength lies in her classroom and her relationships with the children, "exposing them to fun ways to learn."

When she returned to teaching in 1991 after taking a hiatus to

stay home with her young family, she discovered much of what she taught in the first grade was now being taught in kindergarten.

"The children nowadays receive a much stronger emphasis on early literacy and more exposure to words, text and books," she said. "The children are coming better prepared because of preschool experiences. Years ago, kindergarten was their first group experience. Kindergarten is such an exciting year because you see so much growth in the students. At that age, they all love school and that helps. The parents are all supportive and want to be involved."

Adams later helped to develop a new report card for kindergarten, narrowing the focus on what was assessed, to make it more meaningful for students and parents.

The report card was first used throughout the district in the 2000-2001 school year. "It was piloted two years before that,"

Adams said.

Students who have long since left the district remember Adams, too. Two weeks ago, she received an e-mail about her awards from a man who was her student in 1976 and now works at Ford Motor Company.

"He saw it in the (district) flyer they sent to the community," Adams said. "He saw it and he congratulated me."

Adams has taught kindergarten at Beechview Elementary since 1997. She also taught at both Flanders Elementary and Our Lady of Sorrows School.

"I love being in the district," Adams said. "We are all supportive of each other. The children always come first."

Adams holds a bachelors of science degree in elementary education from Eastern Michigan University. She and her husband Richard have three sons, Michael, 21, Patrick, 19, and Brian, 15. The family lives in Farmington.

Doughty from page A1

Doughty moved up the lesson unit in the school year because Sayuri's family, who came to this country because of her father's work transfer, expects to eventually return to Japan.

"She will teach origami next week," Doughty said. "She's better at it than I am."

Sayuri will also eventually teach her classmates how to write their names in Japanese. Doughty, who's been on staff for eight years at Dunckel Middle School teaches geography and current events, is scheduled to receive a southeast Michigan regional award for her work at the Michigan Association of Middle School Education (MAMSE) 2002 Awards Banquet at Zucaro's Country House in Chesterfield Township tonight (Thursday, March 14).

She was also a semi-finalist for the WDIV Outstanding Teacher Awards Program this year. "Claudia Doughty is the person in our school who everyone looks up to," said Sharon Cooper, assistant principal of Dunckel Middle School in Farmington Hills. "Students seek her out for a smile, a kind word, encouragement and academic help. Yearly, parents make an overwhelming number of requests to have students in her classes and her fellow teachers look to her for leadership, advice and creative ideas."

"She is truly a model teacher. She is an advocate for students, a supporter for change and a compassionate colleague. In her own quiet way, she has impacted the lives of many, both children and adults. She is a mentor, a motivator, a mother, a teacher, a leader and an outstanding human being."

Doughty is team leader for the seventh grade teachers and encourages setting clear goals that create meaningful, real-life opportunities for the students.

She serves on several building



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRINKLEY

One on one: Teacher Claudia Doughty answers a question for Sarah Jessop.

teams and is the staff representative for the Parent Advisory Group.

Her district level commitments include Leadership Academy and Social Studies chair.

"She's one of my favorites," said Alante Beatty, one of Doughty's students. "She's respectful, helpful and caring."

Getting students involved in the community is important to Doughty. She initiated an intergenerational program at Dunckel. Seventh graders interview senior citizens and invite them into the classroom.

Her students also collect new and gently-used books for Headstart, a pre-school program.

For the first time this year, her seventh graders will make "Boo-Boo Bunnies" for pediatric cancer patients at Henry Ford Hospital.

"It's made out of a washcloth and held together by a rubber band," she said. "By twisting it and turning it, it can hold an ice cube for boo-boos or it can be given to kids to comfort them. It's inexpensive. We bought 600 washcloths for \$100. The parent group supported us on it and gave us some of the funding for it."

Students also made banners and Valentines, which were taken to Veterans Hospital in Detroit.

Doughty teamed up with Alyssa Cooper, a Peace Corps volunteer in Madagascar, Africa, to establish pen pals on another continent in the World-Wide Classroom program. Alyssa is Sharon Cooper's daughter.

Doughty was instrumental in bringing content-based French geography to Dunckel, integrating the language curriculum with her social studies classes. A portion of the class — the assignments and projects — are taught in French. Parents decide through a lottery whether they want their children in this class.

Doughty holds a masters degree in education administration from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and a bachelor of arts degree in social studies and education from Oakland University.

She and her husband, Clark, live in Farmington Hills. They have two children, Brian, a 2001 North Farmington High School graduate, who now attends the University of Michigan, and Christopher, a sophomore at North Farmington High School.

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