

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR**

**The Most Influential Educator Who  
Made A Difference In My Life**

**Peggy Grant**

I nominate Mrs. Peggy Grant who was my 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Circle Center Intermediate School because she passed on to me her enthusiasm for life. I know I may have been just another student to her, but I will never forget her and all the things she has taught me. Of course, I learned math, history, and other facts and figures that prepared me for the future. But she also taught me many things that I will carry with me forever. She emphasized the importance of always giving a complete effort, which she did in her own life. We always had to point out our "careless errors" from our other errors to see the difference made when you try your hardest. She treated each of us like a friend instead of just one of her many students. She shared with us her great enthusiasm through her funny stories about her family, and, of course, her adorable dogs. She made her classroom a place everyone wanted to be. Mrs. Grant was a great example of someone who loved life and everything around her, and she taught me to do the same. I just wanted to let you know, Mrs. Grant, how much you have inspired me to cherish life and be the best I can be. Thank you!

Hannah Pierce  
Class of '01

## My Most Memorable Teacher

By Allison Landers

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Fifth grade was the year I dreaded. I anxiously counted down the days before I would be the new girl at school. I feared making new friends and was worried that I would not fit in. The minute I met Mrs. Grant my fears diminished. Upbeat, positive and full of energy are the first words that come to mind. Mrs. Grant towered over me, with curly blonde hair, a big smile and caring eyes, and at that moment, I knew I would be just fine. I was so entranced by her enthusiasm for teaching, her love for her students and her positive energy I completely forgot about being nervous. Her classroom was a safe haven. She emphasized there were no such thing as stupid questions, she would not tolerate teasing and she expected each of us to take learning seriously. My fifth grade year at Yorkville Intermediate School is one of my most treasured, vivid memories. In her classroom I made lasting friendships and discovered my own desire to be a teacher. Although it was over ten years ago, it still feels like yesterday. My fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Grant, deserves all the credit. She taught me lessons that year I still carry with me today.

From an early age I was an over-achiever. On the first math test I took in Mrs. Grant's class I received a D. I cried and cried and cried. I was devastated. I had never received such a low grade. Mrs. Grant asked me one simple question, "Did you learn something from this?" "Well yes" I replied, and began muttering about expanded form. She calmly reminded me that we had many more tests to take that year, and all she cared about was what I learned from the experience.

*Lesson one: There is no such thing as failure as long as you learn something from it.*



Mrs. Grant was always full of stories. She shared with us her stories about her dogs, about her husband, but mostly, about her improvement projects at home. She was always up to something...repainting her living room, gardening, or organizing. The story that left an impact on me was her comical rendition of how she installed lighting under her kitchen cabinets one weekend. She would go on and on about how much work it was and all the mistakes she made, but in the end, she did it. I remember talking to my girlfriends at recess about how inspiring it was that she did it all by herself.

*Lesson two: You never know what you can accomplish, until you try.*

The most valuable lesson Mrs. Grant taught during my fifth grade year had nothing to do with science, math, or language arts. It had nothing to do with grades, nor academics. She taught me the most important lesson I have ever learned through her kind words, her humor, and her undivided interest in our lives. She taught me that being a teacher is more important than teaching. Instead, it is about showing students firsthand how to live life and how to appreciate learning. She modeled how to be a caring, thoughtful, and entertaining educator. When I visualize her classroom my heart glows. I can still feel her love and the safety I felt in her classroom. She made me feel smart, competent, and capable of conquering anything that stepped in my way.

*Lesson three: People will not remember what you say, but instead, how you make them feel.*