



# RETIREE SHOWCASE SHARI TENNIES



## MRS. TENNIES

- 38 years teaching with 37 of those years serving Chautauqua Central and Chautauqua Lake Central Schools
- Taught Pre-K, 5th and 6th grades
- Enjoyed teaching all subjects but finds science and social studies most interesting



Today we bid a sincere farewell to another one of our distinguished retirees, Shari Tennies, Elementary 5th Grade Science Teacher. Mrs. Tennies has taught Pre-K, 5th and 6th grades throughout her 38-year tenure, with 37 of those years serving Chautauqua Central and Chautauqua Lake Central Schools. Mrs. Tennies attributes her desire to become a teacher to the time spent with her nieces and nephews at a young age.

Mrs. Tennies began her educational journey at the State University College at Buffalo before going on to complete a Masters of Science in Education from SUNY Fredonia. Looking back, Mrs. Tennies took joy in seeing different student personalities and varied learning styles develop in her classrooms. When asked what she considered to be the best part of her job, she shared, "my favorite part of teaching has been reading aloud to my students." She adds that the hands-on activities in science were a highlight, as well as her trips to the Genesee Country Museum and Village.

Through her exceptionally warm and encouraging rapport, Mrs. Tennies has been able to give her students time to grow as learners and to enjoy science. She has enjoyed teaching all subjects but finds science and social studies most interesting because there are so many ways to make the subjects engaging for her students. She enjoyed staying connected to students as they got older through chaperoning events and Ski Club. She noted that the highlight of her career has been watching so many former students grow up to be good people and great parents!

Elementary Principal, Megan Lundgren, shared "Shari is at the core of our strong school community...it's hard to picture this place without her. Her dedication to students and the teaching profession is inspiring. Shari commits a great deal of time to her profession; she's often one of the last to leave, and is here on weekends and during the summer. Staff and students love Mrs. Tennies, not only because of her enthusiasm, but because of her positive nature and great sense of humor. While this place won't be the same without her, I'm thrilled that Shari will have more time to devote to her family, friends and many hobbies. A sincere thanks and congratulations to you, Shari!"

Colleague, Kim Mages shared that Mrs. Tennies' "dedication to teaching has no limits. Her energy, passion and knowledge are endless. She has used compassion, laughter, and honesty when working with students and staff from the beginning of her career until the end. She has truly had a lasting effect on each student and colleague whose paths have crossed with hers. It has been an honor to work and learn from her. Shari will be greatly missed as a friend, co-worker, and teacher."



Tom McFall, another esteemed colleague shared, “I have had the pleasure of working with Shari Tennies for over 31 years! I started working with Shari in December of 1992 at the Turner building for the former Chautauqua Central School. I knew right from the get-go that she was a unique and special person and teacher!! I thought right away that she was the epitome of a science teacher. She loved her profession as a teacher, and more importantly, she loved her students unconditionally. Her disposition and demeanor with the students and fellow colleagues was second to none. I worked closely with Shari for 18 years, after I moved from 4th grade to join the 5th grade team. Working with Shari and Kim Mages on the 5th grade team was definitely a highlight of my teaching career. I always enjoyed hearing 4th grade students talk about the excitement they had about becoming a 5th grade student, and Shari was a major reason why they looked forward to 5th grade! One of the attributes of Shari that I really enjoyed was her passion for each and every student she encountered. She always had the student's best interest as her first thought. Another thing that she is well known for was the 'Halloween costumes that EVERYONE looked forward to seeing! She usually created the costumes on her own, and they were always a huge hit with the students and staff!’ In speaking with Shari, her favorite memory was dressing up for Halloween each year.

Another favorite was that she always had creatures (rats, cockroaches, geckos, spiders...whatever) in her classroom. The students loved having the unique creatures in her room. Working with Shari has been a special part of my life. Knowing she was there on a daily basis made coming to work that much easier. I would like to congratulate Shari on her distinguished teaching career at Chautauqua Central School and Chautauqua Lake Central School. She will be missed dearly!! I know she will keep herself, and Jim, busy during her retirement! Enjoy the fruits of your labor and enjoy your time being a friend, wife, mother and grandmother to everyone that loves you! It won't be the same here in the elementary, but we have MANY memories to reflect upon when your name comes up!! "



Shari’s parting wisdom for a young teacher includes, “If you have any extra time, do more!” Her suggestions for students include, “When work is difficult, that is good. It helps you to develop a strong work ethic.” In her retirement, Shari looks forward to spending time with family and friends and serving as a substitute at CLCS. That will enable her to come back and experience her favorite lunch, ICE CREAM! Her advice to her successor is, “make science fun and leave students yearning for more.” That being noted, her favorite fun fact to teach is that insects are a great source of food for humans! Thank you Shari and best wishes as you begin your retirement!

