



# RETIREE SHOWCASE TOM MCFALL



**MR. MCFALL**



As the school year comes to a close, we acknowledge Tom McFall, a distinguished retiree who has dedicated 32 years to teaching at Chautauqua Central and Chautauqua Lake Central Schools. Mr. McFall traversed through 4th, 5th, and 6th grades, leaving an indelible mark on countless students over the years. His inspiration to become an educator stemmed from fond memories of assisting his father with beginner hockey clinics, igniting a passion for working with children. Throughout his tenure, Mr. McFall's commitment to education has been unwavering, shaping young minds and fostering a love for mathematics. As he embarks on this new chapter of retirement, Mr. McFall's legacy will endure, remembered fondly by generations of students whose lives he touched.

Mr. McFall's academic journey began at the State University of New York, College at Oswego, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree with a Minor in Coaching. Continuing his pursuit of education, he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, from the State University of New York, College at Fredonia and secured his first job in 1992. When reflecting on his career, Mr. McFall emphasized that the greatest joy derived from his job was the connection he forged with his students. One cherished memory is the time spent visiting the Genesee Country Museum with his classes. His ability to establish a positive rapport with students from various levels was his favorite aspect of teaching. Mrs. Lundgren, Elementary Principal, states, "Mr. McFall is very invested in the lives of students; he puts in the time to get to know them as individuals, thereby making daily learning more meaningful."

Mr. McFall's passion for teaching math is evident in his favorite fun fact: the joy of sharing math every day and expressing his enthusiasm for the subject. Among his treasured memories, Mr. McFall fondly recalls the creative Halloween costumes crafted by Shari Tennies. When posed with the hypothetical teaching a different subject, Mr. McFall humorously ruled out ELA, expressing a preference for Social Studies. Reflecting on his career aspirations, Mr. McFall revealed a childhood dream of becoming a professional hockey player, yet ultimately found his true calling in teaching. Over the years, Mr. McFall noted what has changed the most, "besides the color of his hair" was a noticeable increase in patience with his students and a growing confidence in teaching complex concepts.

Colleague and former student, Logan Betts shares that “life truly does come full circle! Tom McFall has made such a huge impact on my life through his teaching and camaraderie. I have had the honor of being one of his students, coworkers, and finally one of his team members. His impact on our school community has been nothing short of remarkable and I wish him the best on his retirement and next chapter in life”.



Retired teacher, Shari Tennies also shared her heartfelt sentiments for Tom. “I have been so lucky to have worked alongside Tom for 18 years teaching fifth grade! There are so many attributes I appreciate about Tom and have prioritized a few. I thank Tom for his calm demeanor with the students and staff alongside his quiet leadership style. I appreciated the mornings before “the rush”, where Tom was a solid sounding board for ideas. And ..... Tom sure knows how to have fun! He was always willing to help out with guest roles in the musicals, assemblies, and concerts. He also loved dressing up for Halloween, especially if it involved him wearing tights. He has been Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, John Travolta, Mr. Potato Head, a bowling ball, many others, and last but not least a costume that even fooled a guest teacher. Tom will be missed by so many, including the younger students that have yet to be in his classroom, but already know and love Mr. Micky”!

Colleague and friend, Kim Mages echoed the sentiments highlighting the camaraderie and support that defines the collaborative teaching style that Tom modeled. “Tom McFall has always been a favorite teacher among the students at CLCS. His philosophy has been "Work Hard, Play Hard". He carried that motto in his everyday lessons. He made all students feel special. It didn't matter if he greeted his students at the door with a fist bump, in the hall with a joke or a quick conversation, or providing additional help to the student who was struggling. Tom has clearly enjoyed teaching and anyone who has worked with him has experienced his energy and passion for teaching. He will be missed by students and staff”.

Tom’s parting message serves as a reminder to all educators to “enjoy the process and don’t worry so much about all of the fluff and just focus on the kids”. As he bids farewell to his students he reminds them “Get your homework done!” In his well-deserved retirement, Tom eagerly anticipates cherishing moments with his family, especially with the arrival of his new grandchild expected in November. Alongside family bonding, Tom plans to indulge in his passions for travel and all things hockey-related. With each adventure and puck drop, he’ll savor the newfound time to pursue his interests and create lasting memories. Through his dedication and commitment, Tom leaves behind a legacy that will continue to influence generations of students for years to come.

