



# COMMUNITY

## Teacher of the Month

# Mrs. Gimple strives to make learning fun

J.M. Denyes instructor  
a big hit with students

By Melanie Hennessey  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

“I was once told that there is always a teacher that will affect and change our lives and I believe that Mrs. Gimple is that teacher for me.”

That's what J.M. Denyes Public School student Jamie Mitchell had to say about her grade 4 teacher, Amy Gimple — words that not only serve as a testament to the educator's abilities but also helped earn her the position as Teacher of the Month in The Champion's March contest.

The woman who has been teaching at the local school for about six years said it was a “huge surprise” to find out that Jamie had nominated her.

“It's very touching to know you've made a difference like that with somebody,” she said.

But it shouldn't come as too much of a shock that her students think the world of her, given her philosophies about working with pupils in the classroom.

“My goal is to make learning fun for them,” she explained. “The most important part for me is they're enjoying themselves.”

While she may still be relatively new to the school scene, Gimple said she has known since she was in grade one that she wanted to be a teacher.

“I had really great teachers all the way through school, and I think that's really inspired me,” she said.

In fact, these former teachers had such an impact on her that she brings some of their activities into her own lessons.

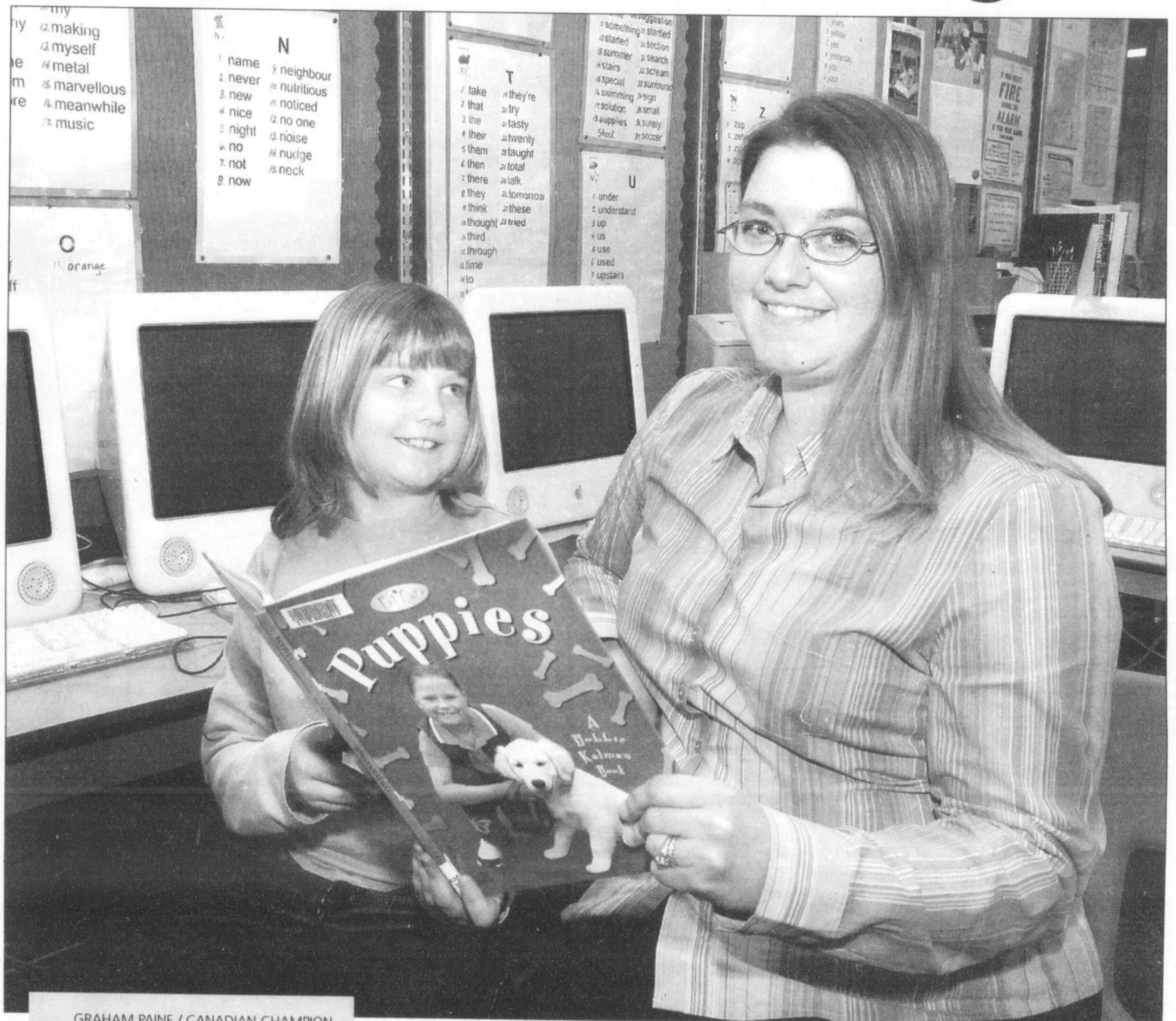
For example, she said at Christmas, she has had her students bring in Canadian Tire money so that they can purchase things for a needy family.

“The kids have a hand in picking the items out,” she said, noting she'd draw three or four names of students who'd help choose the gifts.

But Gimple's own initiatives are also a big hit with her students, such as when she bought each child a book geared to their own interests for Christmas.

“She knows what each child in her class' interests and hobbies are,” said Jamie in her nomination letter.

“She is the type of teacher that really seems to enjoy what she does and shows an interest in every child she teaches and makes each of us feel special.”



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION  
**BELOVED TEACHER:** J.M. Denyes student Jamie Mitchell looks to her fourth grade teacher, Amy Gimple, as the two share one of Jamie's favourite books. Mitchell nominated Gimple as The Champion's Teacher of the Month for March.

Jamie's mom, Kim Mitchell, concurred with her daughter.

“She's just so in touch with them,” she said. “She shows an interest in what they're interested in. She's really special.”

Gimple explained she wanted to get her students books because, “When they're this

young, they all like to read, but they don't read as often as they could.”

“I wanted to let them know there are books out there that are interesting,” she noted.

She said she gave some of the students the first book in a series, and now some of them have gone out to look for more from the same collection.

Gimple also runs a ‘Reading Challenge’ each year in her classroom, where the students have to read 50 books as a class. Once her pupils reach that mark, they all receive an incentive, such as no homework.

“It makes them work as a group,” she said.

When asked how she knows that what

she's doing in the classroom is working, Gimple said the best indications are when the children are smiling at school and showing improvements in their work.

But even after Gimple's students have moved on to other grades, it's still clear that she's had an impact on them.

“I do have some students who come back to visit,” she noted. “You realize you made a difference for the kids when they want to talk to you outside of being a teacher.”

For Mitchell, there are only two words that come to mind to sum up her thoughts on Gimple — “absolutely amazing.”

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**Programming Schedule – Tuesday, March 7- Monday, March 13, 2006**

Tuesday, March 7	Wednesday, March 8	Thursday, March 9	Friday, March 10	Saturday, March 11	Sunday, March 12	Monday, March 13
1:00pm TVCogeco Sports (Replay)	1:00pm Halton Hills Council Feb 20 2006	12:00pm Swap Talk (Replay)	1:00pm Halton Hills Council Mar 7 2006	4:00pm TVC Sports: TBA	10:30am TVC Sports: TBA	1:00pm Halton Hills Council Mar 7 2006
5:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	4:00pm – 6:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	1:00pm Milton Council Feb 27 2006	4:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	6:30pm – Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA	6:00pm Halton Hills Council Mar 7 2006	4:00pm – 8:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA
6:00pm – 8:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	6:00pm The Bottom Line	3:00pm – 6:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	5:00pm Georgetown Hockey Heritage Awards		9:00pm Georgetown Hockey Heritage Awards	8:00pm Georgetown Hockey Heritage Awards
8:00pm Auto Experts (Live)	6:30pm – 8:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	6:00pm Living Healthy	7:30pm TVC Sports: AHL Hockey - Manitoba vs Hamilton (Live)		11:30pm – Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA	10:30pm – Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA
9:00pm Halton Hills Council Feb 20 2006	8:00pm Swap Talk (Live)	7:00pm The Bottom Line				
	9:00pm Milton Council Feb 27 2006	7:30pm – 9:00pm Plugged In! EXTRA	10:30pm – Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA			
	11:00pm – Midnight Plugged In! EXTRA	9:00pm Halton Hills Council Mar 7 2006				