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COMMUNITY

Teacher of the Month

Denyes' JK teacher Miss Tadic honoured

By Stephanie Thiessen
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Going to school for the first time can be scary. It was for four-year-old Kylie Arch, who was understandably worried the night before the big day.

"She didn't know anyone, and didn't know how her teacher would be," said her mom, Dawn.

But when she got home from her first day of junior kindergarten at J.M. Denyes Public School, Kylie was surprisingly excited, Arch said, and ready to go back the next day.

"At first she didn't want to go. Then she didn't want to come home," Arch said.

Over the next few weeks, Kylie made a smooth transition and actually didn't seem to miss her mom at all — which is a difficulty Arch hadn't anticipated, she said, laughing.

It quickly became clear the reason for Kylie's enthusiasm was her teacher, Elena Tadic.

"She has a way with them," Arch said simply.

The Champion selected Tadic as November's Teacher of the Month after receiving a sweet e-mail from Kylie, nominating her for the honour.

Loves her teacher

"We have so much fun with her that I don't even miss my mommy when I'm at school," Kylie wrote. "When I'm not at school I pretend I'm Miss Tadic and I teach my dollies the songs that we learned with Miss Tadic."

This is Tadic's second year teaching, and her first year at J.M. Denyes. She also teaches junior kindergarten at E.W. Foster Public School.

The beginning of a school year is always an exciting yet nerve-racking time for teachers as well as students, Tadic said. "They're meeting 20 new people, and so am I."

And let's not forget the parents. Tadic has to reassure them as well as the students at the start of the year, she said, chuckling.

Tadic has some creative ways to help kids who find themselves missing their parents during the day. One of these is the hugs and kisses wall. If a child is upset, he or she is invited to go to the wall and draw some Xs and Os for their parents. "It seems to really soothe

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KYLIE ARCH

them. They know they're doing something nice for their mom and dad," Tadic said.

Besides a brief desire as a kid to be an actress, Tadic said she always knew she wanted to be a teacher working with young kids.

"I think it's really important to foster a love of learning at a young age," she said, adding she has fond memories of her own year in kindergarten.

Caring nature came early

Tadic said she's always had a nurturing side, and remembers helping fellow students even when she was in kindergarten, such as a little boy in a wheelchair she befriended.

Although kids start to learn their ABCs in junior kindergarten, they also learn social skills, which is just as important.

"A huge part of junior kindergarten is learning how to socialize and learning how to manage themselves," Tadic said.

Her job as a teacher is to "create a safe, nurturing environment," she said, adding being a teacher requires unconditional love and patience.

Creativity is also a must, in order to appeal to children with different learning styles, she said.

A big advantage of the job — on par with the satisfaction she gets knowing her students are happy and enjoy coming to school — is the entertainment the children constantly seem to provide.

"I can sit back (and watch them) and get a good chuckle," Tadic said, laughing.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.



BELOVED TEACHER: Elena Tadic sits with JK student Kylie Arch, who nominated her as The Champion's Teacher of the Month.

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Programming Schedule — Tuesday, November 7 - Monday, November 13, 2006

Tuesday, November 7		Wednesday, November 8		Thursday, November 9		Friday, November 10		Saturday, November 11		Sunday, November 12		Monday, November 13	
8:00am - Noon	Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - Noon	Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - Noon	Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - Noon	Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 11:30am	Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 6:00pm	Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00am - 1:00pm	Plugged In! EXTRA
Noon	Municipal Election 2006: Candidate Statements	Noon	Municipal Election 2006: Candidate Statements	Noon	Swap Talk (Replay)	Noon	Municipal Election 2006: Candidate Statements	11:30am	The War Amps: The Year of the Veteran	10:30am	TVC Sports: JrA Hockey - Streetsville vs Burlington	1:00pm	The War Amps: Watch & Warn - Canada's Home Front Aircraft Detection Corps
1:00pm	SportsZONE Live (Replay)	1:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Milton Candidates Debate	1:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Guelph/Eramosa Debate	1:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Milton Candidates Debate	12:30pm	The War Amps: The Blue Puttees	1:00pm - 5:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Candidate Statements	2:00pm - 8:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Live Election Results
2:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Candidate Statements	4:00pm - 6:00pm	Plugged In! EXTRA	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Plugged In! EXTRA	3:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Guelph/Eramosa Debate	2:30pm	The War Amps: A Vimy Veteran Remembers	5:00pm	Plugged In! EXTRA	8:00pm - 11:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Live Election Results
3:00pm - 6:30pm	Plugged In! EXTRA	6:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Candidate Statements	6:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Milton Candidates Debate	6:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Regional Chair Debate	3:00pm	Halton Naval Veterans Remembrance Day Service	6:00pm	The War Amps: Watch & Warn - Canada's Home Front Aircraft Detection Corps	11:00pm - Midnight	Plugged In! EXTRA
6:30pm	Optimist TV Bingo (Live)	7:00pm	Simply Halton	8:00pm	Plugged In!	7:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Regional Chair Debate	3:30pm - 5:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Candidate Statements	7:00pm - Midnight	Plugged In! EXTRA		
7:30pm	Municipal Election 2006: Candidate Statements	8:00pm	Swap Talk	8:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Regional Chair Debate	8:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Regional Chair Debate	5:00pm	Plugged In! EXTRA				
8:00pm	Auto Experts (Live)	9:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Guelph/Eramosa Debate	10:00pm - Midnight	Plugged In! EXTRA	10:00pm - Midnight	Plugged In! EXTRA	6:00pm - 10:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Candidate Statements				
9:00pm	Municipal Election 2006: Milton Candidates Debate	11:00pm - Midnight	Plugged In! EXTRA					10:00pm - Midnight	Plugged In! EXTRA				