

# Stouffville teacher hopes to instil a zest for life

By BLAINE KANEKO  
When Marie Lloyd walks through the foyer of Whitchurch-Highlands Public School, she's at home.

The veteran teacher has a genuine passion for her work and for those around her.

It's her zest for life she hopes encourages her pupils.

"I hope to offer my students a love for life," says the 51-year-old Stouffville resident. "I want to give them a thirst for knowledge and teach them to respect other people. If they enjoy school, hopefully they'll enjoy life."

Marie has been a teacher at Whitchurch-Highlands since 1974, having taught and been principal at Hillcrest Public School, Pine Orchard, and Brown's Hill.

Her teaching days at the latter school is a testament to her caring approach to teaching.

It was at Brown's Hill, a predominantly poor neighborhood school, she started her teaching one year after completing high school.

As an 18-year-old novice teacher, Marie offered not only the occasional morsel to a hungry student, but more importantly, she offered friendship and understanding. It was a lesson that wasn't forgotten.

Marie still gets a call from one of her students and even attended the student's wedding.

"I can't stand by and just watch students without caring," admits the Teachers' College graduate. "I like to help people but I believe they have to strive and stand on their own two feet."

In 1959 Marie gave up teaching for motherhood. For

eight years the Toronto native traded blackboards and chalk dust for baby bottles and diapers, raising three daughters before returning to teaching.

Since 1974 Marie has been an integral part of her students' academic and personal development.

It was under Marie's auspices Whitchurch-Highlands became a formidable influence at the annual Markham Fair, having won various art divisions for four years running.

"I hope taking the students to the Fair helps them be more involved with their community," says Marie. "It gives them an opportunity to see how and what they can achieve. The Fair's contest makes them feel proud and gives them a feeling of accomplishment and school spirit."

Outside school life Marie enjoys folk art, weaving, music, outdoors and travel, but nothing gives her more pleasure than being with her students.

"I hope the youngsters remember me as a friend, someone who could understand their problems and help them get ahead and be happy," Marie says. "I hope they enjoyed the year they spent with me and learned something new."

"I've always enjoyed working with the students. I get the most enjoyment being in class with them."

"I don't know what I would do with myself if I wasn't teaching," Marie concluded.



Marie Lloyd is a veteran teaching with a passion for her profession. Her favorite lesson? A zest for life.

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