

Press Release: Stafford Public Schools' 2017 Paraprofessional of the Year

May 31, 2016

Dr. Patricia Collin, Superintendent of Schools, announced Mrs. Phyllis Lindsay as Stafford's Paraprofessional of the Year at the Board of Education's Annual Celebration of Excellence on May 23, 2016.

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council established the Connecticut Paraprofessional of the Year Program, which was later renamed the Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Program. The purpose of the program is the following: *to recognize the important role of the paraeducator in supporting student achievement.* Through this program, each school district is allowed to nominate one paraeducator for this award, *who has demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication in the performance of his/her job, thereby earning the respect and admiration of students, teachers, administrators, coworkers and parents.*

After collectively reviewing the nominations from each building administrator, the selection committee noted the following: A valued and respected member of the Staffordville School community, Phyllis is positive, enthusiastic and dedicated. Prior to serving at this school as the media center paraeducator four years ago, she served as a special education paraeducator and childcare assistant in the Family Resource Center at West Stafford School since February 2009. Phyllis meets regularly with students of all grade levels, engaging them in literacy activities, teaching them how to use the library and assisting with book check out. She regularly collaborates with classroom teachers to compliment classroom activities and composes songs to help children understand library concepts and the parts of a book. Phyllis supports students in computer lab, promoting the development of technology skills. She positively impacts the climate and culture of SVS.

In addition to organizing the school's book fairs twice each year, Mrs. Lindsay volunteers her time at evening and weekend events, such as family literacy night, and works with the Stafford Public Library staff so children become aware of its summer reading programs and learn how to apply for a library card. She also provides support to students through Programs After School in Stafford (P.A.S.S.) and during our summer school programs. She is an active member of the Staffordville Parent Teacher Organization (P.T.O.) and Stafford Middle School Parent Teacher Association (P.T.A.).

Phyllis submitted her application to the CSDE for Connecticut Paraeducator of the Year, which will be announced during the Annual Statewide Paraeducators of the Year Conference. The CT Paraeducator will also become a member of the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council and represent our State at the National Resource Center for Paraeducators (NRCP) Conference.

@ 06/01/16