

Educator Finalist



Melinda McDonald

Melinda (Mel) McDonald has been an elementary Physical Education teacher for 26 years. She began her career in Scottsdale, AZ and has been with LOSD for the past 21 years. Mel is a talented and dedicated physical education teacher. However, it is her generous spirit and helpful actions that inspired her principal to nominate her for this recognition. Mel consistently goes above and beyond her job to help the students, staff, and families at Forest Hills Elementary. When not teaching

in the gym, she is often supporting groups with math projects or reading with individual students.

Mel organizes an amazing field day for all students each spring. She includes Indiana Jones themed experiences for all students. The field day takes weeks to organize. During comprehensive distance learning, Mel set up obstacle courses throughout the school's neighborhoods so that students and adults could enjoy and get active throughout the shutdown. In addition, Mel volunteers to help set up and organize the school carnival, PTO auctions, food drives, dances, and many more events associated with Forest Hills.

Mel says, "I love observing kids learning through play, seeing them work together to solve problems and the best is hearing kids say, 'I got it!' after practicing a new skill."

Mel is truly loved by all members of the Forest Hills community.