

# Educator Recipients



**Katie Brink**

**Katie Brink** has been the visual arts teacher at Lake Oswego High School for the past 19 years. As co-advisor of Lake Oswego High School's National Art Honor Society, she teaches the importance of giving back to the community through the arts. Students are given opportunities to raise money for local charities as well as to display their work in exhibits and attend educational art events. Katie has also been actively involved with the Lake Oswego Festival of the Arts. As a steering committee member for 15 years and now as a

volunteer, she continues to connect her art students to the community. Katie also is committed to the importance of art education in the elementary schools and has been a volunteer and coordinator for the Art Literacy program at Our Lady of the Lake School.



**Nicole Merino**

**Nicole Merino** is well known for promoting positive social connections and fostering a sense of belonging for the children of Forest Hills Elementary School. She has been involved with Forest Hills in one way or another for 21 years. In the first 11 years, as a parent, she was the PTO Co-President, Volunteer Coordinator, Rummage Sale Co-Chair, Room Parent, and Foundation Co-Captain, among other volunteer jobs. Subsequent to those efforts, she went to work as a school secretary. When she's not doing that job, Nicole finds ways to connect

families, students, and school. She initiates and organizes kindergarten playdates in the summer. When new students move into Forest Hills, Nicole frequently organizes opportunities for them to make friends before coming to school. All of this connects families and fosters friendships with students and parents.