



Unified School District 470

119 West Washington
PO Box 1028
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005-1028

September 4, 2002

Jefferson Elementary PE department receives Wal-Mart grant; Barbour wins Teacher of the Year award

The physical education department at Jefferson Elementary School recently received a \$500 grant from Wal-Mart to purchase PE equipment.

Richard Solovic from Wal-Mart presented the check to Dana Atwell, PE itinerant, who accepted the check along with Patty Foster's third grade class.

Atwell applied for the grant and found out the grant was approved Aug. 16.

"I was totally excited [when I found we were going to receive the money]," she said. "We can put equipment in each child's hand, I thought to myself."

She said that the school's limited budget and the fact that equipment is so expensive makes it hard to purchase adequate equipment.

Pam Barbour, fifth grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary, received the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year award for Arkansas City.

"I was very honored to receive this award," she said. "It is nice to know that I am really making a difference in the lives of my students."

One of Barbour's students and his family nominated her for the award.

"He (the student who nominated Barbour) was a student who was new to our school last year," she said. "He was truly a blessing in my classroom. I saw him blossom throughout the year. At the first of the year, we could hardly get him to sit still long enough to read a chapter, and by the end of the year, he couldn't wait for time to read."

Barbour, who has been teaching for nine years, said that she decided to become a teacher because she has always wanted to work with children.

"I had many fantastic teachers as I was growing up in USD 470, so I can think of a lot of role models [who influenced my decision to become a teacher.] I started out as a substitute teacher for USD 470 and decided that teaching was definitely what I wanted to do," she said.

Barbour and her husband Kirby have two children, Mitch and Mindy, and live in Arkansas City.

"Every day I spend with [my family] I am thankful for all of the blessings in my life," she said.

For more information: Kristen Martinez, Director of Public Relations

USD 470 Arkansas City
119 West Washington Avenue
Arkansas City, KS 67005-1028
Phone: 620-441-2000
Fax: 620-441-2009
E-mail: kmartinez@arkcity.com