
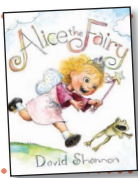




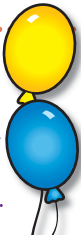


Teacher Talk

Teachers are part of a nationwide community. Read on to find fun facts about a few of your **first-grade** colleagues!

	<p>Lisa Mountcasel Elizabeth Scott Elementary Chesterfield, VA</p>	<p>Tammy Gerace Freeland Elementary & Middle School Freeland, PA</p>	<p>Shellie Miller Cessna Elementary Wichita, KS</p>	<p>Jennifer Willis Oneco Elementary Bradenton, FL</p>
How many years have you taught?	22	4	14	7
How many students do you have in your class?	23—13 boys, 10 girls	24—14 boys, 10 girls	20—9 boys, 11 girls	20—10 boys, 10 girls
What book do you look forward to reading with your students each year?	Night in the Country by Cynthia Rylant	Oh, the Places You'll Go! by Dr. Seuss 	A Bad Case of Stripes by David Shannon	Alice the Fairy by David Shannon 
Is teaching exactly what you thought it would be? What have you learned?	It's much harder and much more rewarding. The most important thing I've learned is to be flexible. 	Teaching is what I expected and so much more! There is no more rewarding career than being an educator.	I feel there are more demands put on teachers every year, and it makes it hard to focus on teaching! I have learned so much in classroom management over the years.	The actual teaching part of my job is everything I hoped it would be. Learning the other duties of a teacher were a bit more daunting.
I promote kindness in my classroom by...	...modeling expected behavior. We also start each day with a morning meeting that helps build community.	...instilling and modeling strong values from the first day of school. The high expectations of kindness, respect, and working together are the foundations for building strong character that can last a lifetime!	...teaching students the Golden Rule. 	...modeling it every minute, every day. Kindness needs to be taught and retaught.
What do you love about teaching first grade?	I love the natural curiosity and excitement of first graders. I also love to see them grow, especially as readers. 	Every moment is a teachable moment! Also, to see students come into first grade not knowing how to read and watching them grow into great readers is an amazing process!	They still love school and their teacher! 	Every day I have a reason to smile and laugh. My kids bring their best, and it warms my heart. Plus they are SO funny!
What is your best tip for a successful class party ?	Be organized! Keep notes about what worked from past parties. Then enlist help from parents. Assign specific tasks and have a backup plan.	Get everyone involved and make it fun while still having a learning experience.	Send notes home about the party WELL in advance!	Be flexible! It isn't about your dream party; it's about celebrating the students' accomplishments. 

Would you like to be featured in "Teacher Talk"? We'd love to include you!
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