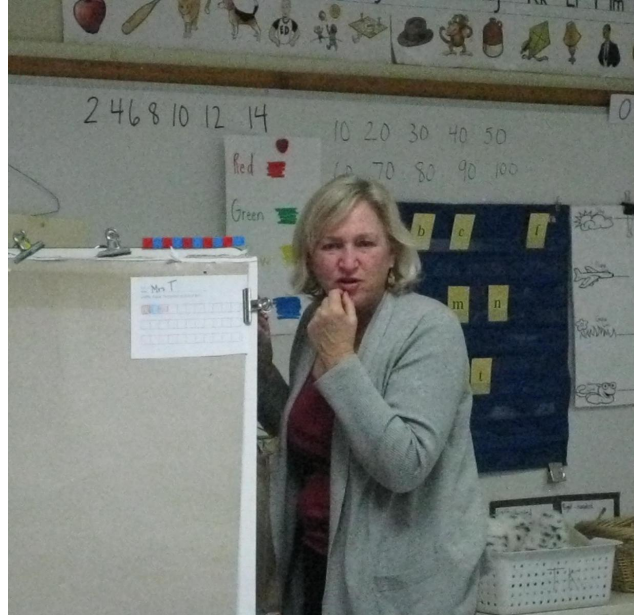


## Showcasing Excellence: Suzy Tenenbaum, Flynn Elementary

*with reporting by UVM student Victoria Lombard*

When I walked into Mrs. Tenenbaum's room, I felt like a giant compared to the little chairs, low tables, and backpack hooks that rose just above my waist. Cozy, homey, and inviting were words that immediately popped into mind. I was surrounded by Kindergartners full of energy and curiosity. Watching Mrs. Tenenbaum create a fun, exciting environment, I experienced the joy of teaching.



The way Mrs. Tenenbaum arranged her classroom was flawless. Interesting play stations, instructional spaces, a story corner and listening areas were organized so students would get the most out of the day. Student drawings of "Our Hopes and Dreams for Kindergarten" lined the walls.

It was amazing to see how Mrs. Tenenbaum kept the attention of her 5 and 6 year olds. Music filled the room as Mrs. Tenenbaum led the students in a song connected to their studies. Students clapped, slapped, stomped, and snapped in different patterns. After the song ended, Mrs. Tenenbaum began their math lesson. As they discussed patterns, the kids were respectful, interested and enthusiastic. They participated either by raising their hands, all together if it was a group question, or by sign language. Then it was "choice time" and students got to pick their activity. Letting students select what they want to do is vital because it gets them excited about learning.



Mrs. Tenenbaum designs her lessons with her students' interests in mind. She

values helping children learn through play. After eleven years of teaching, Mrs. Tenenbaum's favorite activity is reading aloud. She loves the community feeling when reading to all her kids. Her greatest joy comes from watching her students' grow and develop their abilities. Mrs. Tenenbaum builds upon the enthusiasm her students have toward learning to make each lesson better than the next. It was Mrs. Tenenbaum's dream to be a teacher since she was in first grade. To this day, she loves every moment

of teaching.