

Lewisville | Flower Mound



Best in class

Sherry McCord of The Colony honored as Teacher of the Year **11**

SPRUCING UP



Cleanup events mark springtime in area **6**

SOUNDING OFF

Residents offer tips to survive storms **15**

NEIL SPERRY



Shrub strategy helps overcome setbacks **13**



LAKECITIES BALLET THEATRE
KELLY LANNIN – ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

INSIGHTS ON DANCE

A journey of understanding!



**APRIL 13TH AND 14TH
7:30 PM**

✦ MEDICAL CENTER of LEWISVILLE
GRAND THEATER

FOR TICKET INFORMATION
WWW.LAKECITIESBALLET.ORG 972-317-7987



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Post your stories and photos to our website, neighborsgo.com, for a chance to see them in an upcoming print edition.

ON THE COVER

Teacher Sherry McCord instructs Hayden Rozier at Mary Immaculate School. The third-grade teacher from The Colony was chosen as Teacher of the Year for the school in Farmers Branch. Read her story on **Page 11**.

Photo submitted by ROSEMARY MARTINEZ



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CORRECTIONS

Neighborsgo welcomes your comments about information that might require correction or clarification. You can submit your comments to Tommy Cummings by calling 214-977-8042 or emailing tcummings@neighborsgo.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Storms provide an opportunity to help

Most of the time, I use this space to share information or background on a story that appears in the print edition of *neighborsgo*. Sometimes, the Editor's Note issues a call to action.

This week, this space serves both purposes. Last week's storms and tornadoes spread damage throughout North Texas. Although most families in **Southern Denton County** were spared major damage, residents of the area have good reason to fear severe weather. They've suffered the effects in the past and stand prepared for future danger.

Others in North Texas were not so lucky, but they're fortunate to have gracious and giving neighbors.

A package on **Page 10** details some of the outpouring of assistance that swept through the area seemingly as quickly as the storms did. Among those pitching in were volunteers from **Prestonwood Baptist Church**, who reached out to storm victims in Lancaster. A story by contributor **Tyra Damm** details that effort.

Also part of the package is information on how area residents can help out victims. Area agencies, such as The Salvation Army Lewisville Center and Christian Community Action of Lewisville, were not



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called in for relief efforts this time. Administrators at both organizations know from past experience that bad weather can have a crippling effect on the area at any time and have an action plan ready.

Preparedness is the topic of this week's Sounding Off question on **Page 15**. Respondents to this week's question explained how they keep their families prepared for potentially dangerous weather.

Sounding Off, a recent addition to *neighborsgo*, has proven to be another way for the community to connect. If you're not familiar with Sounding Off, we email a question each week to a group of readers and ask their input on varied topics. They're not bound to reply to every question, and the field is not limited. If you'd like to be added to the list to receive the weekly Sounding Off question, visit dalasnews.com/voices and let us know.

We'd like to hear from you, and so would your neighbors.

A lesson in education

Quality education is like sunshine — everyone's in favor of it. For students of **Sherry McCord** of **The Colony**, every day is bright.

McCord, a third-grade teacher at **Mary Immaculate Catholic School**, was chosen as the school's teacher of the year. The award was voted on by her peers, but her students give their input in the story on **Page 11**.

Rosemary Martinez, the school's director of communications, alerted us to the honor and posted the story and photos to neighborsgo.com. Because McCord's family has such strong ties to the school, Rosemary provided a family photo too.

At *neighborsgo*, we realize the importance of education, and the people who help provide that to your children. If you know of an educator or administrator deserving of notice, post a story or photo to neighborsgo.com and you might see it in a print edition.

Bob Kowalski is the Lewisville/Flower Mound neighborsgo editor and can be reached at 214-977-8487.

COMING APRIL 20

Parents' Guide to Summer

Get a jump on summer by checking the listings of Dallas-area camps and classes in next week's *neighborsgo*. If you want to get the word out about a summer camp or a Vacation Bible School, post it to neighborsgo.com and you could see them in an upcoming edition.

A personality for educating

Sherry McCord of The Colony selected as teacher of the year

By ROSEMARY MARTINEZ
Contributor

Sherry McCord has come a long way even though she's in the same school she attended years ago.

McCord, a third-grade teacher from The Colony, has been chosen by her peers as Teacher of the Year for Mary Immaculate Catholic School in Farmers Branch.

Her third-grade students were quick to explain their excitement upon hearing the news.

"I am proud and happy for Mrs. McCord," said Julie Seigler of Farmers Branch. "She is really kind and patient. She makes us laugh — when we make our zeros (in math), she calls them 'magic zeros' and puts smiley faces in them!"

Kylie Dobbs of Coppell also spoke of her teacher's sense of humor, explaining how McCord talks in funny voices when she reads a story.

Hayden Rozier, also a Coppell resident, lent further evidence. "She was teaching us Mimio Studios," Hayden said. "Then the projector turned off behind her and she didn't know it. We all laughed when she found out."

McCord's serious side was mentioned as well.

"She is nicely strict and teaches us not to talk or get in any trouble," said Adam Norkett of Flower Mound. "And if I get upset with the math problems I am working on, she helps me out."

Coppell resident Millie Kerr echoed his sentiments.

"She helps us with stuff we need help with, like when I hurt my hand," she said. "She is also very smart and kind."

A 1981 alumna of Mary Immaculate Catholic School, McCord returned to MIS as a teacher 22 years ago, teaching third grade after graduating from the University of North Texas.

"Mary Immaculate has a special place in my heart," she said. "As a student I gained a love for God and learning. Teaching at MIS allows me to hopefully pass on to my students that same love."



Photos submitted by ROSEMARY MARTINEZ

Third-grader Millie Kerr gets assistance from Sherry McCord.



Third-graders pose with Sherry McCord, chosen as Teacher of the Year

"I feel like Mary Immaculate School is my second home and family."

McCord and her husband, Mike, have three children who graduated from or are currently at Mary Immaculate: Sara, now

an honors junior at The Colony High School; Katie, an eighth-grader; and Ryan, who is in the fifth grade.

McCord will represent Mary Immaculate Catholic School at the Diocese of Dal-

MORE INFO

To be considered for the Teacher of the Year award, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- A teacher in Catholic schools at least 10 years
- A teacher with a clear, integrated philosophy of Catholic education
- A teacher held in high regard by peers, students and parents
- An individual or institution member of the National Catholic Educational Association

Mary Immaculate School, 14032 Dennis Lane in Farmers Branch, provides education from kindergarten through eighth grade. The school serves a diverse student population from northwest Dallas County and southern Denton County, and welcome families from all faith backgrounds. For more information, visit mischool.org.



Sherry (clockwise from top left), Katie, Mike, Sara and Ryan McCord.

las Teacher of the Year Banquet in May.

Rosemary Martinez contributes to neighborsgo on behalf of Mary Immaculate Catholic School.