



For Immediate Release: **October 2, 2008**

“Teacher of the Year 2008” awarded to Franklin Teacher

Ms. Susan Weidman, a first grade teacher at The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School, was joined by her class and her associates, to receive Wal-Mart’s distinguished recognition as “2008 Teacher of the Year.” The Bellingham branch of Wal-Mart, represented by their store manager and their “Good Works” coordinator, presented Ms. Weidman with a generous gift certificate and presented the charter school, with a check for one thousand dollars.

This Wal-Mart tradition is decades old and every branch in the nation partakes in a community wide tradition of recognizing the teachers who make a difference. Out of all the submissions to the Bellingham Wal-Mart, a spokesperson from the store said, “BFCCPS’s teacher received the most meaningful praise by her students.” Some of the quotes about her were, “ Ms. Weidman is a gift. She knows how to connect with her students and parents... I wish I had her as my teacher when I was a child.” One of her 1st grade students wrote, “She (Ms. Weidman) came to my birthday party and came to my Destination Imagination competition on a week end and she makes school fun.”

Ms. Weidman, who has taught first graders at the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School for six years and is a graduate of Framingham State Collage, joined the kids in the celebration of her honor, with apple juice and cookies.

BACKGROUNDER: The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School (BFCCPS) was founded in 1995 and currently enrolls 417, K-8 Massachusetts students. Using state of the art instructional strategies, the classical BFCCPS education offers Theater Arts, Fine Arts, nationally recognized French, Latin, Instrumental Music and Choral programs, as well as a core curriculum that is aligned with Massachusetts Frameworks. This free public school achieves impressive results by embracing a unique philosophy of developing both the mind and the character of its student body; they recognize the vital role of parents, they teach the full scope of classical studies and encourage social responsibility.

Photos available

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