



Ruth Freedman-Finch **Los Alamitos Unified School District's** **Teacher of the Year!**

Congratulations to Ruth Freedman-Finch, the Los Alamitos Unified School District's Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Freedman-Finch is an exceptional teacher and colleague and goes above and beyond to improve the lives of children. Her passion for young people inspires her excellent work and dedication to the teaching profession.

She began her teaching career in Wichita, Kansas, where she created a dual language school, and then she worked in Saddleback Unified as a 2/3 Combo teacher. Fortunately for us, she was hired to teach at Weaver in 2000 and has been with us ever since. At Weaver, she has taught grades two and three, a 3/4 combo, and for the past eight years, a 2/3 combo. She has been a Cotsen fellow, a master teacher, a BTSA mentor, and a constant learner and collaborator. She has a passion for reading, writing,

and math, and came to us with a love of Junior Great Books. She has been trained in Writer's Workshop, Thinking Maps, Depth and Complexity, and CGI, and she implements all of these with outstanding skill and expertise. She has presented professional development for Los Al Connects, Cotsen, and numerous districts throughout California. She opens her room to anyone who wants to come in, gladly shares her resources, and is thrilled to work with others. She said, "The people I teach with are simply amazing. Each of them help me to elevate my own practices."

Ruth graduated from UCSB and majored in art and minored in art history, received her teaching credential from Cal State Dominguez Hills, and received a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Wichita State University. She has been married to her husband, James, for 25 years after meeting the weekend he returned from Desert Storm. They are raising three amazing young men, one at Long Beach State, one at LAHS, and one at Weaver. She says that her boys have flourished in Los Al, and true to her extremely positive attitude, she is grateful.

Ruth was surprised and humbled by this recognition. She said, "Los Alamitos has been my family. It is filled with the people I admire and value most in this world." Please join us in congratulating our Teacher of the Year!