

Teachers Make a Difference

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Teachers who make a difference

Maria Gorman



*NSTU president Shelley Morse presents Maria Gorman with her **Teachers Make a Difference** award certificate on April 5. They are shown (l-r) with Carleton Consolidated School NSTU rep Mark Thornton, principal Jane Sweeney, and Yarmouth Local president Rollie Hannem.*

personality and truly cares about each child and their well-being as if they were her very own. We absolutely love her!"

While Gorman was recognized for her teaching at Plymouth School, it's clear that she will continue to strive and make a difference for her students' lives. She was also recognized for going the extra mile in understanding and learning about her students' learning challenges.

She was not familiar with the *Teachers Make a Difference* program when she found out that she was nominated, and the chosen recipient for her school board. "It was quite humbling to be nominated and recognized," she says. Teachers work so hard on a daily basis, hoping we're making a difference in the lives of our students. It was a wonderful feeling knowing that I do have an impact on my students, and that they (and their families) appreciate my passion for teaching."

On April 5, Gorman was recognized for her award at a school assembly in front of the entire student body. Her husband and son were also in attendance for her presentation.

"I think this is a fabulous initiative," she says. "Most teachers work incredibly hard to ensure we're delivering the best education possible to our students, and a simple thank you means the world to any of us. It's a wonderful motivator to try harder, and a great relief knowing you've chosen the right career path."

Gorman was also presented with her \$300 cheque for her school, which she will be giving to help support the school's breakfast program.

"Encouraging families to recognize the dedication and effort teachers put in on a daily basis is very important," she concludes. "It truly shows us that what we do every day counts!"

Maria Gorman has been teaching for less than a decade, but has already made a long-lasting impression on her students and their parents.

Gorman is one of 10 recipients of this school year's *Teachers Make a Difference* awards. Gorman, a member of the Yarmouth Local, who currently teaches at Carleton Consolidated Elementary School, is the Tri-County Regional School Board recipient.

Teaching since 2008, Gorman has worked mainly at the elementary level, and is currently the Grade 1-2 teacher at her school. "During my teenage years I babysat and worked regularly with children. Throughout university I ran our local YMCA Summer Day Camp, so I knew I was passionate about working with children."

That passion is something that has clearly come through for her students and their families. This is what her nominator wrote in the *Teachers Make a Difference* award submission.

"Mrs. Gorman truly goes above and beyond. She is an inspiration. She is up for any challenge and has time for all of the children. Nobody is left behind or left out. She has a very warm

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