To: Members of the Mount Caesar School Community
From: Bridey Bellemare, Executive Director, New Hampshire Association of School Principals
Re: A Special Award for your Principal and your Community
Date: April 14, 2021

It is my distinct pleasure to announce that your Principal, Mrs. Melissa Suarez, has been selected, by our organization, as New Hampshire’s Elementary Principal of the Year for 2021-22.

Members of the selection committee stated, “Missy’s dedication to excellence was apparent through the conversations we had with all community stakeholders. Through the collective voice of students, staff, parents, and Superintendent, it was glaringly evident that Missy always does what is best for her school. She fosters these working relationships through shared leadership as well as through open, honest, and transparent communication. The individuals we interviewed spoke very highly of her communication style both as one who is speaking and one who is listening. She clearly holds herself to a very high standard, and as a result, her staff and students want to do well by her.”

Additionally, the committee was impressed with Missy’s idea to implement the Kindergarten Blitz program in her community. One committee member said, “This was a highlight for me…to inspire her staff and motivate them to take personal time to go out into the community and make personal contact with every Kindergarten student is truly commendable. We often hear of these programs as best practices; however, we don’t always hear them becoming a reality. For Missy to have successfully implemented this program in her school speaks volumes to her relationship with her staff and the surrounding community. For the staff to trust her in doing this and for parents to trust and allow staff into their homes shows that people are ready to follow her leadership.”

Missy’s students shared that “Mrs. Suarez helps us a lot…she loves this school and she loves all our hearts. She rules the school so well and if you are blue, she says, “are you ok?” She teaches us lots of new words that we talk about like kindness, honesty, patience, and how to relax with your family.” Missy’s staff shared that “She is an amazing person and administrator. If every school in the state had a ‘Missy’ well…we’d have a pretty amazing state! We respect that she holds high expectations for herself, which makes you want to do your best. She has a nice way of sharing positive feedback, as well as ways you can improve…she does this with the kids too.”

When the committee asked the parent panel why they felt Missy should win this award, one parent said, “Why shouldn’t she? She treats everyone with so much respect…doesn’t matter who you are, or where you’re from…she goes to any length to make sure all students succeed. And when it comes to communication with parents, she ensures we’re all on the same page…not even same chapter. Same page…same line.” Another parent shared, “she’s so kind, patient and understanding…she held my boy who has autism in her arms and calmed and comforted him so we were able to participate in our child’s IEP meeting.”

Superintendent Lisa Witte said, “Missy is a fantastic educational leader…she is so well-rounded. Kids flock to her when they see her and she knows each one of them by name. She makes it a point to be approachable…she does a great job of building community in her school. She is one of the best leaders I’ve seen when it comes to getting information out about all of the good things happening in her school. She is a confident, experienced leader possessing good judgement. She listens to feedback from her constituents and acts accordingly. She has a really great way of appealing to people even when delivering news to someone that they may not want to hear. This is a skill set Missy possesses that not all leaders do. She plays to people’s strengths to help them to succeed and be better.”
As this year’s NH Elementary Principal of the Year (POY), Missy will be recognized in front of her peers and family members during a modified ceremony hosted by the NH EDies this June. Additionally, this May, NHASP will be hosting a private formal dinner event for all of this year’s POY award recipients. Missy will be recognized for her outstanding accomplishment among this cohort of leaders. It is our hope that your community will also find a special way to recognize Missy for this exceptional achievement.

Congratulations, Missy! We are proud to have you representing the best of school leadership in the state of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Bridey Bellemare,
Executive Director