Baudry includes flexibility in student learning incentives

By Karma Champagne

As a 25-year educator, Stephanie Baudry knows the importance of flexibility if students are to advance and reap the benefits of a quality education.

But when Baudry speaks of flexibility, she makes it clear that she is not referring only to the student. Each day she practices flexibility as a teacher — always eager to change her teaching style to accommodate the learning capabilities of a student.

BAUDRY HAS created a comfort zone for her second grade students at Jeanerette Elementary School. Her willingness to try different approaches and make improvements to insure student learning has distinguished her as an outstanding teacher among her peers.

Baudry, who was Iberia Parish Outstanding Elementary School Teacher for 1996 and

Stephanie Baudry offers help to students

recently named Outstanding Educator by the Jeanerette Chamber of Commerce, does not strive just for academic growth in her students. As Baudry arrives at school each morning, she knows that it is important to work also toward building emotional and social growth of all her students.

Each child is made to feel special in a certain way and the classroom quickly takes on an atmosphere of a stimulating learning environment.

"I WORK to enhance the self esteem of each child and the entire group by letting them know that they are important and can do what is expected of them," said Baudry.

Although Baudry speaks humbly of the awards that were bestowed upon her, she is still quick to point out that there is no better accomplishment that being recognized by members of her own community.

"I'm humbled by this award. As a teacher of 25 years, it means a lot to me to be recognized by my own community," she said.

Baudry encourages peer tutoring and cooperative learning to aid the students in academic and social development.

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"Sometimes an unusual approach is needed to get the children involved and motivated in the learning process. This may require putting away the textbooks, pushing back the desk and gathering the children around me for a brainstorming session," she said.

BAUDRY believes that if she is to be successful as a teacher, she needs to foster parent involvement. She strengthens the bond between home and school by maintaining an open door policy where parents are encouraged to visit the classroom.

In order for a community to survive, Baudry knows that every community member must be willing to give in whatever capacity they can. Baudry has been actively involved in the Jeanerette community for a number of years.

She is a 14 year member of Entre Nous Club and has participated in numerous community activities. She has a strong commitment to St. John Evangelist Church where she has served as a C.C.D. instructor and serves on a committee to host an educator’s mass.

Baudry is a member of the Associate Professional Educators of Louisiana (APEL). She also serves as the second grade department head at JES, Grade 2 C.A.T. Testing Coordinator, MS Read-a-thon chairman, coordinator of Maison Blanche Daily Advertiser Spelling Bee, coordinator of the Louisiana Superintendent’s Writing Award and member of the Title I Schoolwide Steering Committee. Baudry also piloted the Word Wise Phonics Program in 1995.