

# Centennial Award - Judy Stark (Citation)

The NBTA Centennial Award is the highest honour bestowed by the New Brunswick Teachers' Association. Established in Canada's Centennial Year 1967, the Award is presented each year to an individual in recognition of having made a significant contribution to education in New Brunswick.

This year, we honour Petिटcodiac Regional School teacher Judy Stark.

*Intelligent... knowledgeable... informed... opinionated... passionate... humble... motherly... She could make a stand-up comic want to sit down.*

*Her teaching is filled with meaningful information, colourful anecdotes, and real life illustrations that keep her students absolutely mesmerized. I know of teachers who have actually stood outside her door to hear her lesson for the day.*

*When her retirement was announced, one student suggested that the school should be renamed in her honour.*

Her passion for teaching biology has never waned since the day she first entered the classroom 35 years ago. From the time her class begins until the moment it ends, she creates connections between theory and real-life situations that leave her students talking about her lesson, and making it the topic of the day. In her efforts to keep university-bound students striving for excellence, Miss Stark does not forget about the ones who will soon be going into the workforce. To them she gives the practical knowledge to grasp the basic functions of their own bodies, to understand current health issues and their implications for daily living, and to comprehend advice given by their family doctors. She sets high expectations of her students in a way that is encouraging and attainable. She has inspired hundreds of students into careers relating to science and engineering, and many others have taken up teaching in the hopes of providing

students with an education that will rival "Miss Stark's class."

One teacher, who arrived at PRS as a result of cuts at another school in-

across the hall from Miss Stark.

Judy Stark inspires students outside of her classroom as well. Her passion for downhill skiing has caused many students to take up the sport. She has been the organizer of countless ski trips and excursions, and has also volunteered many hours in support of basketball and volleyball teams.

Although she is a recipient of the NBTA Branch 0216 Award of Excellence, and has been nominated for Premier's Award for Excellence in Education, perhaps a more notable recognition has taken place in her own school. Judy Stark has been voted



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tended to transfer back to her original school as soon as possible, but she had the fortune to be assigned a classroom directly across the hall from Miss Stark. Little did she realize "the profound impact on her teaching career and personal life" her colleague would have. Seven years have passed, and she is still

School Favourite Teacher, each year in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, so far.

**In the words of former students:**

*Her stories, precise and logical language, humour, classroom management and presence hooked me each and every day as a student. I never wanted to miss a word that came out of her mouth.*

*She made her classes so enjoyable that we wanted to listen. We thrived to know more and to hear the many stories she told to help us better grasp the concept of what she was teaching.*

*I can only hope that someday my own children will be blessed to have a teacher like Miss Judy Stark.*

*I am currently completing my Masters Degree in Biology and I still keep a copy of my Grade 12 biology notes. This is partially for nostalgic reasons, but also in part because she did such an exceptional job covering and summarizing the basics that they are still useful.*

**For having such a lasting effect on her students and colleagues, and inspiring so many to take up the challenge of teaching or careers in the sciences, Judy Stark, is the Recipient of the 2010 NBTA Centennial Award.**