

From the Principal's Desk

Congratulations to Bates Middle *Teacher of the Year* nominee Heather Carter!

Heather Carter is the kind of educator we aspire to be. As a science teacher at Bates Middle, she serves as a model for facilitating relationships, practicing effective pedagogy, and serving as an instructional leader. As a teacher, Ms. Carter approaches instruction with the intent to grow each and every one of her students. To that end, she incorporates strategies that will allow students to access concepts and express their understandings in varied ways. She does not shy away from complex scientific literacy; she created multiple frameworks that encourage all students to read and write like scientists. Ms. Carter also embraces the arts as a universal means of acquiring and internalizing scientific concepts. Walking in her classroom at any given moment will result in seeing so many things happening: discourse, structure, inquiry, investigation, reflection, and engagement. Heather incorporates strategies from our professional development opportunities that will best support our school and district goals. Most recently, Ms. Carter has employed the use of Universal Thinking Verb icons to further support student understanding of not just the activities they will be doing, but what kinds of thinking they will be engaging in throughout the lesson. Additionally, she and her grade 6 science team members are also actively engaged in the *Mission 14/Student Spaceflight Experiment Proposal*, in which student scientists collaborate and create proposals to persuade officials to send their experiments to the International Space Station. Relationship building is at the heart of education, and Ms. Carter's commitment to her students is unshakeable. She believes in their ability to learn, and from the first day of school she fosters an environment that is welcoming and productive. You will see her greeting students individually as they enter class, participating in community circles and advisory lessons, conferencing with students, talking with students about science and everything else that is important to them, and helping our students traverse the minefields of middle school. Ms. Carter is also a capable and respected leader in our school. She has been involved in the PBIS program at Our school, both as a committee chairperson and as a coach. She is one of our grade six team leaders, and she juggles these multiple commitments with skill and an admirable level of organization. Heather Carter is an intentional, reflective, and humanistic educator. She is also a wonderful human being, and we at Bates are all proud to call her our teacher of the year.

Mr. DeRoo

Ms. Hicks

Ms. Haislip