

# Victor Valley College

## Press Release

Contact: Bill Greulich at 760-245-4271, Ext. 2225 or at [bill.greulich@vvc.edu](mailto:bill.greulich@vvc.edu)

For Immediate Release

February 29, 2011

### **Second Grade Rancho Verde Elementary Teacher Honored by “Teachers R Heroes”**

Second Grade Rancho Verde Elementary Teacher Honored by Teachers R Heroes  
Rancho Verde Elementary school's award ceremony is a special event for both students and parents. The ceremony usually identifies and honors students for leadership, school involvement and achievement. This particular day another honor was added to the agenda of the assembly. To the delight and some tears of everyone in attendance, Barbara Cirincione, a second grade teacher was selected as the newest recipient of Teachers R Heroes. Mrs. Cirincione fulfilled all the requirements of this student assembly due to her leadership, involvement, and community achievement.

The parent nominator wrote, "Mrs Cirincione is a classroom teacher who truly 'leads by example,' and is worthy of recognition as a HERO! She has taught at Rancho Verde for eighteen years and yet continues to volunteer extra effort, time and out-of-pocket personal money to help her students' achieve success.

Most importantly, she refuses to accept anything less than the best from her students. Some of her incoming second graders test at pre-Kindergarten reading and math levels. She amazes me with her ability to meet each of them at the level they have previously achieved, and then helps them to advance. She doesn't just teach from the one-size-fits-all textbook. It's as though she has 20-plus lesson plans to make sure that each student has the opportunity to achieve success and develop real self-esteem. She sounds her happiest when she reports that one of her challenged students shouts-out... This is easy. I get it! I can read! It happened three times this past semester.

Outside her regular classroom activities, Mrs. Cirincione started and continues to coordinate a school 'Literature Faire. (The Faire is a carnival-like celebration of literature through fun, 'crafty' booth displays and projects that involve all students and classrooms in the school.) This Faire requires a couple of weeks of 18-hour days on her par.. Additionally, she helps create and

coordinate the Faire, and her class creates and hosts a booth, while maintain their regular classroom learning schedule.

Mrs. Cirincione also coordinates the school-wide GATE program that identifies and encourages Gifted and Talented students. The GATE Coordinator used to be a paid position, but with statewide budget cut she volunteered to do the work

Furthermore, Mrs. Cirincione mentors new teachers at her school. She even uses her holiday time to help train first-year teacher.

She also has a keen ability to find, apply-for, and win grants to enable all of the second grade classes at Rancho Verde to continue to enjoy educational field trips twice-a-year. That requires several hours of research and creative writing. She says, 'It's for the kids.'

My parents were teachers and I understand that all teachers spend personal money to enhance their classrooms and motivate their students, but Mrs. Cirincione is the first I've met that spends more than \$2,000 of her own money each year.

It is a privilege to nominate Mrs. C for the hero recognition that she deserves.

The "Teachers are Heroes" program is sponsored by Victor Valley College and Eldorado Broadcasting. School participation is coordinated through San Bernardino County Schools. Participating businesses and agencies include Little Caesars Pizza, La Casita Restaurants, Vitelli's Deli, Reed Foods, Victorville Speed Wash, Ultra Star Theaters, Horace Mann-Robert Stephanian, Supervisor Brad Mizelfelt and the Daily Press.

Teacher nominations may be submitted in the form of 500 words-or-less essays to [www.KATCOUNTRY1007.com](http://www.KATCOUNTRY1007.com), [www.Y102FM.com](http://www.Y102FM.com), [www.TheFox106.com](http://www.TheFox106.com), [www.Talk960.com](http://www.Talk960.com), or [www.vvc.edu](http://www.vvc.edu), or [www.vvc.edu](http://www.vvc.edu). Nominations may also be sent by mail to Victor Valley College, Teachers are Heroes, 18422 Bear Valley Road, Victorville, CA 92395, attention Dr. Lori Kildal