

Clinton Township teacher receives educational excellence award

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Janet Frye, art teacher at Erie Elementary School in Clinton Township, chats with Michigan State basketball coach Tom Izzo after he presented her with the Michigan Lottery's Excellence in Education award (Submitted photo)

A Macomb County teacher known for her creative lessons that encourage students to explore their imaginations and express themselves with art, has been honored with an Excellence in Education award from the Michigan Lottery.

Janet Frye, art teacher for 15 years at Erie Elementary School in Clinton Township, part of the Chippewa Valley Schools, said her love of art and children attracted her to a career in education.

"Students need to be motivated to use their imaginations!" she said. "There's nothing better than watching students light up with excitement as they see the results of their own creative efforts in the art room."

The Michigan Lottery established the Excellence in Education award program in 2014 to recognize outstanding public school educators across the state during the school year. Winners of the weekly award receive a plaque, a \$500 cash prize and a \$500 grant to their classroom, school or school district. One of the weekly winners will be selected as the Educator of the Year and **will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.**

Excellence in Education award nominees are evaluated in the categories of excellence, dedication, inspiration, leadership and effectiveness.

The nomination of Frye states: "Janet is always looking to enhance her lessons using technology. She has created numerous instructional videos to explain artist techniques used for particular lesson plans. These lessons are filled with history and literature to tie into the subject matter. Janet also creates and produces our daily announcements and many other fun and exciting videos for our school.

"She is an extraordinary mentor to college students and new teachers our buildings and often mentors new elementary art teachers in the district. Janet's fun and vibrant personality is contagious. Her 'can do' attitude pushes all of us to be the best we can be."

Frye earned two degrees from Wayne State University: A bachelor of arts in education and a master of arts in art education and art therapy.

For the Excellence in Education awards program, the Lottery teamed up with Michigan State University basketball coach Tom Izzo. Izzo met recently with Frye at the Breslin Center and presented her with the award.