



## Austin Creek Elementary School

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It is with great pleasure that I announce Angie Duncan as Rincon Valley's Teacher of the month. Angie has been a valued member of our staff for 19 years, during that time she has grown from a newly minted educator to the experienced and dedicated professional we see standing before us today.

Since the moment Angie joined the Austin Creek Team, Angie has been dedicated to her students, supportive of our staff and school community, and the consummate professional at all times. Angie sets the bar high and then encourages others to follow.

Over the past five years I've watched Angie take greater and greater leadership roles as she has moved from being the new kid on the block to a seasoned and highly respected veteran. For the past two years Angie has been involved in our CEL, Center for Educational Leadership, work which is focused on increasing capacity in teacher instruction, student engagement, and student learning.

This year, Austin Creek is using CEL and a walkthrough model to look at instruction and student learning. This is powerful, risk taking work. To do it well, you have to be open to hear the observations and advice of others and to give your teammates the same level of respectful feedback. Jamie Dufrense put it best when she shared; "Angie is a selfless team player doing whatever she can to support her team. She is also the best kind of leader - a leader who leads by example and who listens to all ideas."

Angie isn't just a supportive and collaborative educator in the CEL setting. Collaboration and support are ingrained in everything Angie does. She consistently supports her grade level partners, contributes to staff meetings, adds to district wide conversations. Angie isn't afraid to share her experience, knowledge, and perspective with others. When Angie talks, teachers listen.

Angie brings this same thoughtful approach when working with her students and parent community. Every year Angie takes a new group of students and parents, gets

to know them, their needs, how to best meet and challenge each student, and how to communicate with each family. Angie searches for and brings out the best in each child, she will accept nothing less. Every year, Angie's goal is to challenge each child to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. She truly believes that it is her job to nurture and teach the whole child. "She is like a light that children are drawn to, she finds the good in every child. I am in awe of how excited they get when they see her- yelling her name and running towards her to throw their arms around her, and these aren't kids who are even in her class!" *Susan Guggiana*

It's true Angie loves her job. And that isn't all there is to Angie Duncan. She also love, love, loves her family! I still remember attending a girls basketball game last year at Sequoia where Angie was "under cover" and cheering for both the Hawks and the Big Trees as her niece was on the team.

While Angie works really hard at her job she is also an excellent model for work-life balance for the rest of us to follow. To balance her week and school year Angie can be found working out and taking classes to advance her learning. During break times Angie is often traveling with family. Some favorite family vacation spots are Hawaii and Montana while Copenhagen recently made the list.

As her principal and member of the Austin Creek community, I look forward to what Angie is going to do next. I know that whatever this will be, it will be awesome, incredible, and a benefit to everyone who knows and loves her.

Congratulations Angie!!