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Two Washington Educators Earn Top Marks as “Teacher of the Year”

Ivar's and Kidd Valley Restaurants awarded Lana Sumner of Broadview Thomson K-8 and Sergio Jara-Kessi of McDonald International School winners of the 2015 contest

SEATTLE – June 18, 2015 – For the past 12 years, Ivar's and Kidd Valley Restaurants have called on Washington students to submit nominations detailing why their classroom leader should be recognized as “Teacher of the Year” and, every year entries pour in telling inspiring tales of creative teaching and mentoring. This year was no exception, and both local restaurants are pleased to announce Lana Sumner of Broadview Thomson K-8 and Sergio Jara-Kessi of McDonald International School as the grand prize winners.

In separate award ceremonies earlier this June, each teacher was presented with their winning prize package: \$500 to put toward the purchase of class supplies, a commemorative plaque and the official title of “Teacher of the Year.” Each classmate of the nominating students received a tasty and educational treat in the form of an Ivar's or Kidd Valley Kids Meal voucher and free admission tickets to the Pacific Science Center.

Fifth-grade student, Ava Fitzenrider, nominated Mrs. Sumner for the guidance and encouragement she gives her students, while still creating fun programming, like a science field trip to Bitter Lake, go kart building, and interactive geometry games. Mrs. Sumner also gives her students the tools to problem solve, inviting them to contribute to the year's handbook and classroom rules, and by holding weekly class meetings.

Mr. Jara-Kessi (aka “Profe Sergio”) was nominated by his third-grade student, Noora Butorac, for his teachings in science, math and Spanish. Mr. Jara-Kassi pulls out all the stops to engage the kids, whether he's telling math jokes, or singing and dancing about a lesson plan for the day. His classroom experiments on electricity, blending learning with fun, have made Noora want to become a scientist. He's also been known to purchase classroom supplies and bring them in on his own (Noora has spotted him!), so there's no doubt the prize will be put to good use.

Ivar's and Kidd Valley also awarded two teachers each the first place prizes of a \$150 gift card for class supplies.

Ivar's first place winners:

- Kelleen Stubblefield: Second Grade, Apollo Elementary (Issaquah)
- Enrique Mora: Fifth Grade, Marvista Elementary (Highline)

Kidd Valley first place winners:

- Shawn Kenyon: Seventh Grade, Eckstein Middle School (Seattle)
- Barbara Liburdy: Third Grade, Arrowhead Elementary (Northshore)

Fifteen teachers each also received second place honors which included a \$25 Ivar's or Kidd Valley gift card.

Ivar's second place winners:

- Julie Frei: Fourth Grade, Lockwood Elementary (Northshore)
- Michele Freitas: Second Grade, Picnic Point Elementary (Mukilteo)
- Steve Mayer: Fifth Grade, Mark Twain Elementary (Federal Way)
- Mari Knowles: Fourth Grade, Mountlake Terrace Elementary (Edmonds)
- Ruth Kenney: Third Grade, Terrace Park School (Edmonds)
- Michelle McLaughlin: Third Grade, Sierra Heights Elementary (Renton)
- Robin Cheyney: Fourth Grade, Bertschi School (Private/Seattle)
- Terrie Wagner: Second Grade, Cottage Lake Elementary (Northshore)
- Tessa Heyer: First Grade, Apollo Elementary (Issaquah)
- James Bournes: Fifth Grade, Beverly Park Elementary (Highline)
- Bethany Hansen: Third Grade, Armin Jahr Elementary (Bremerton)
- Sheila Powell: Fourth Grade, Graham Elementary (Bethel)
- Allison Spray: Seventh – Ninth Grade, Glacier View Junior High (Puyallup)
- Edward Alverran: Fifth Grade, Hamlin Robinson School (Private/Seattle)
- Steve Hansen, KC Hansen, Jessica Thomashow: Kindergarten, Greenlake Elementary (Seattle)

Kidd Valley second place winners:

- Lelia Yerxa: Second/Third Grade, University Child Development School (Private/Seattle)
- Marletta Iwasyk: Kindergarten, Orca K-8 (Seattle)
- Shereen Allen: Fourth/Fifth Grade, Cascade K-8 (Shoreline)
- Sandra Brown-Potter: Third Grade, The Evergreen School (Private/Shoreline)
- Linda LaPonte: Fifth Grade, Shelton View Elementary (Northshore)
- Kit Norman: Second Grade, Sacajawea Elementary (Seattle)
- Lynette Friesen: Third Grade, Ardmore Elementary (Bellevue)
- Lauren Flood: Fourth Grade, Sherwood Forest Elementary (Bellevue)
- Veronique Hageman: First/Second Grade, Community School (Lake Washington)
- Julia Stewart: Kindergarten, Arrowhead Elementary (Northshore)
- Cathy Neir: First Grade, Robert Frost Elementary (Lake Washington)
- Patrick Gray: Sixth – Eighth Grade, Hazel Wolf K-8 (Seattle)
- Tia Birmingham: Seventh/Eighth Grade, Assumption St. Bridget (Private/Seattle)

- Marcy Wynhoff: Second Grade, Wedgewood Elementary (Seattle)
- Zoe Manzo: Fifth Grade, Sand Point Elementary (Seattle)

About Ivar's

Ivar's Seafood Restaurants began on Seattle's waterfront in 1938. Today, there are 23 Ivar's fast casual Seafood Bars and three full-service restaurants: Ivar's Acres of Clams, Ivar's Salmon House and Ivar's Mukilteo Landing. Ivar's Seafood, Soup and Sauce Company markets and sells its award-winning soups, chowders and sauces both nationally and internationally. The company also operates regional stadium concessions including Safeco Field, CenturyLink Field, Alaska Airlines Arena, Husky Stadium and Cheney Stadium. Learn more at www.lvars.com or Follow Ivar's on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#) or [Instagram](#).

About Kidd Valley

Kidd Valley has earned a following throughout Seattle and the Eastside for its made-to-order burgers, old fashioned, hand-mixed shakes which often feature seasonal ingredients, Kidd Meals, and mouthwatering side dishes such as fresh sweet onion rings, sweet potato fries, Grounders World Famous Garlic Fries and signature fried mushrooms. Kidd Valley began in 1975 in Seattle's University District. Today, Kidd Valley has seven retail locations throughout Western Washington plus multiple stadium locations throughout western Washington. For more, please visit www.KiddValley.com.

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