

**April 21, 2011**

## **Middle Ridge Elementary School Special Education Teacher Earns 11-Alive Class Act Award**

Wednesday proved to be an exciting day for students in Ms. Marnie Seber's Severe and Profound Special Education Class at Middle Ridge Elementary School. Shortly after lunch, 11-Alive TV's education reporter, Donna Lowry stopped by to present Ms. Seber with a Class Act Award!

According to Ms. Lowry, the special needs teacher is one of only 31 teachers out of more than 300 nominated to receive the award. Ms. Seber was nominated by Adam and Sharon Troche, whose six-year old son, Andre is a student in Ms. Seber's class.

"This is his first year in school and it was very hard to let him go," said Mrs. Troche. "But when I saw how Ms. Seber responds to the students' needs—she's very patient and very loving—I was more relaxed. When Andre comes home he always has a big smile on his face."



**11-Alive Education Reporter, Donna Lowry (r) presented Ms. Marnie Seber (l) with a Class Act Award for Teaching Excellence.**



**Adam and Sharon Troche, and their son Andre, a student in Ms. Seber's class, pose for a picture with Ms. Lowry.**

Ms. Seber said she was, "surprised and shocked" when she was told she was named one of 11-Alive's Class Act teachers. In fact, she didn't believe her principal, Alan Satterfield when he informed her that 11-Alive had called with the news.

"I thought he was playing a joke on me," said Seber, "because I had played one on him earlier in the week."

Ms. Seber began her teaching career in North Carolina in 1991. She joined Newton County Schools in 2001 as a severe and profound teacher

at Veterans Memorial Middle School and in 2004 was named the schools' Teacher of the Year. This is her fourth year teaching at Middle Ridge Elementary.

According to Seber, she knew early on that she wanted to be a teacher and she knows she made the right choice when she decided to work with special needs students.

“I get a sense of accomplishment when I see them reach a milestone,” said Seber. “And with these students, reaching a milestone can take a long time.”

In fact, both she and Satterfield noted that just last week, they got to see one of those milestones take place when a young girl in Seber’s class took her very first steps.

“We had put her in different positions for two years and she took her first just steps last week,” said Seber. “We were all so excited. I took her down the hall so everyone in the office could see her.”

“These are the type of teachers we are looking for,” said Lowry, who noted that this is 11-Alive’s tenth year recognizing teaching excellence through the Class Act awards. “Class Act is about those teachers who go above and beyond.”

“We are just so lucky to have her,” said Satterfield. “She does such a good job and still maintains a high expectation for her students.”

In addition to the award, Ms. Seber earned a \$50 gift card from The School Box and will be invited to a special breakfast at 11-Alive on May 2, as part of National Teacher Appreciation Week. The television profile of Ms. Seber and her class will be broadcast on 11-Alive this Monday, April 25 during the 6:30 AM news hour and again on the noon news. It will also air during the 10 PM news on 11-Alive’s sister station, WATL.



Students in Marnie Seber's class read a story on the Active Board while the camera rolled. Donna Lowry's segment on Ms. Seber and her class will air on 11-Alive this Monday, April 25.

\*\*\*