

# Personal touch

*Continued from page 1*

School for seven years, and her dedication to teaching resulted in her recent Teacher of the Year nomination, for which Wilson said she is honored to be recognized. Wilson also acknowledged her coworkers and said that it is a team effort.

“There’s five third grade teachers ... and we work together pretty well, we take turns planning different things,” Wilson said. “If there’s something my kids are struggling with, I might go to another teacher and say, ‘What can I do?’ or ‘What have you done before?’ or if I’m out one day because my own children are sick, they’ll come over and pull my stuff to get my kids ready so it really is a team effort. You can’t do this job without having people helping you out, it’s too much and you really couldn’t.”

Though Wilson uses traditional forms of teaching, she said some of her methods may be unorthodox and a change from when she was in school.

“We do a lot of group work too so we might have a whole group lesson for math, for example, and then do something with partners and then break up into groups,” Wilson said, “and during that time, I’ll walk around and check in with my different groups so that’s a little bit different from even when we were in school, it was very much ‘This is the information, here’s a sheet to do it.’”

Wilson also uses a self-rating system of her lessons: she gives them a question at the end to see if they grasped what they were taught, and when students turn their answers in, she can discern whether they understood the lesson. Wilson said doing this is good for her students as it allows them to reflect on their own learning and to see whether they need help or not. She also talked about how she keeps her students engaged.

“We do a lot of collaborative work,” Wilson said. “because you hang out with third graders for 30 minutes, you’ll see that their attention’s done after ten minutes, so you kind of have to keep them on their toes, get them up and moving or else they’re gonna be zoned out.”

Though Wilson is certified to teach kindergarten through sixth grade, she said she has been a third-grade teacher for all her years at Wells and she prefers teaching that grade.

“I’ve been teaching third grade all my years and I really like it, I like this age group,” Wilson said, “They’re young enough where you don’t really have the attitude



TEACHING IS A LABOR OF LOVE. SUSAN WILSON, WHO TEACHES AT WELLS ELEMENTARY FINDS THAT LABOR COMES EASY TO HER. HER CONNECTION TO HER STUDENTS EXTENDS TO HER PARENTS HAS INSPIRED HER COLLEAGUES TO NOMINATE HER AS TEACHER OF THE YEAR.



SUSAN WILSON REVIEWS A WORKSHEET WITH A GROUP OF HER THIRD GRADERS.

quite yet, but they’re old enough where you’re not tying shoes and wiping snot. You can have conversations with them that are meaningful ... so I like third grade.”

*TERRIFIC TEACHERS IS AN EIGHT PART SERIES HIGHLIGHT SOME THE BEST TEACHERS IN EASTERN CHESTERFIELD.*

**SPRING**  
**fest**

**Saturday, April 22**  
**8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

*Vendors, Crafters, Yard Sellers,  
Concessions and Brunswick Stew*  
To reserve space and Brunswick Stew  
call (804) 275-2325

**Beulah**  
United Methodist Church  
6930 Hopkins Road | Richmond, VA 23234  
804-275-2325

**EXPLORE OUR COMMUNITY**  
**inside & out**

**Senior Living OPEN HOUSE**

**Saturday, April 1 and**  
**Saturday, April 29**  
**from 11 AM to 2 PM**

Indulge in delectable desserts  
and chocolate assortments  
**Free event. No RSVP required!**

  
**Dunlop House**  
Assisted Living & Memory Care

804-520-0050 • DunlopHouse.com  
235 Dunlop Farms Boulevard  
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

 Coordinated Services Management, Inc. - Professional Management of Retirement Communities since 1981 