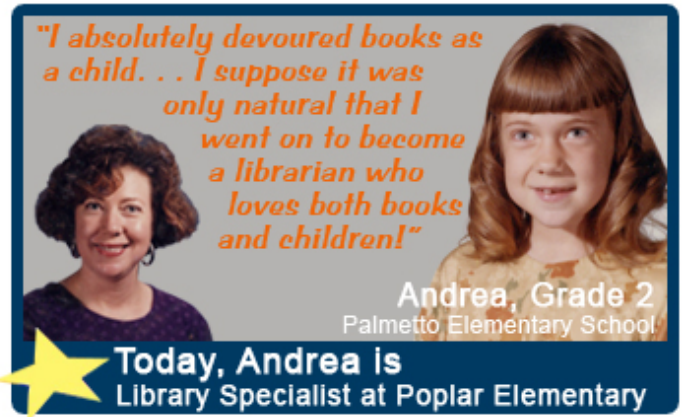




**Andrea Eitelman**

*shares how she is inspired*



Profile in Excellence: <b>Andrea Eitelman, Library Specialist – Poplar ES</b>	
<b>FUSD Schools Attended:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Palmetto Elementary School</li> <li>Fontana Jr. High School</li> <li>Fontana High School</li> </ul>
<b>Higher Education:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chaffey Community College – AA Degree</li> <li>Cal State University, San Bernardino – BA in English</li> </ul>
<b>FUSD Career Experiences:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kindergarten Instructional Aide, West Randall ES (1984-89)</li> <li>Library Specialist, Poplar ES (1989 to Present)</li> </ul>
<b>Who were the FUSD staff that affected you most as a student?</b>	<p><i>Mrs. McHugh, Grades 3-4 – I think she really enjoyed teaching!</i></p> <p><i>Mrs. Henrichsen, Grade 6 – She was such a fun teacher! She got all of us involved in the presidential election that year, she read wonderful books to us, and she had a sleepover at her house for the girls in her class.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Peavy, Choral Music/Drama in Jr. High – He made us work hard and he was also a funny guy!</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Dison, Fohi English – He made reading and writing interesting and fun, and gave great feedback to my essays.</i></p> <p><i>Mrs. Joslyn, Fohi Choral Music &amp; Operettas – She was a friend for 3 years, and she introduced me to different types of choral music. She definitely loved music and her students.</i></p> <p><i>Mrs. Wiegman, Fohi Drama/Operettas – She was tough on us and really demanded a professional performance, but we loved her for it and really learned so much from her.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Eitelman (my Dad), Fohi Instrumental Music – He was such an inspiration with his love of music and dedication to the school and students with the many, many long hours that his job required (football halftime shows, operettas, parades, and concerts). He never gave up on his students, and he entertained them with his corny jokes and puns!</i></p>
<b>What did you dream of growing-up to be as a child that would lead you to your work with FUSD?</b>	<p><i>I used to dream of being an actress, which of course didn't happen, but I absolutely devoured books as a child! My parents would allow me to buy any books I wanted when I brought home the monthly book order form, and I also liked to write my own stories. I suppose it was only natural that I later majored in English Literature and Composition and then went on to become a librarian who loves both books and children!</i></p>

<p><b>Since you've joined FUSD as staff, what experience(s) have you been most proud of?</b></p>	<p><i>I guess I'm proud of the Poplar library – the seasonal and holiday decorations, the posters, the pillows, the baskets of riddles, the stuffed animals, and just the positive comments I receive about its inviting atmosphere. I enjoy going to the bookstore to buy the books the kids have requested, and to see them get excited when I show them what I've purchased! It's also lots of fun to see the children really enjoy a story I've read to them.</i></p>
<p><b>What keeps you up at night about your work for FUSD?</b></p>	<p><i>I always wish my library could be bigger and full of lots more books!!!</i></p>
<p><b>What do you think is the biggest misconception the public has about our work?</b></p>	<p><i>I would guess that the public thinks a librarian sits around most of the day doing little or nothing, just waiting for a patron to walk up with a question, but that certainly is not the case with the FUSD Library staff. A big chunk of my times involves ordering, processing and distributing library books, textbooks and teacher materials, but I also spend a lot of time working with students during recess and class visits, trying to find a subject and a book that will interest them. I listen when they tell me about a book they've read and loved, and then I think about which books I might like to buy that would keep that interest going.</i></p>
<p><b>What can the community do to strengthen public education?</b></p>	<p><i>Donate books, donate your time, volunteer to read to a class or to help a teacher. Parents, take your child's education seriously and get involved in his or her learning.</i></p>
<p><b>What inspires you to give your very best for the students of FUSD?</b></p>	<p><i>The Poplar teachers and staff are the greatest people to work with, and we have a lot of team spirit. I think we all motivate each other, and love the kids and want to see them succeed. I know that years ago when I tried my hand at a job that had nothing to do with kids and school, I found out immediately how much I missed it all, and I was very happy to come back where I belong!</i></p>
<p><b>What might staff or students be surprised to learn about you?</b></p>	<p><i>I'm really a pretty silly person when I'm most comfortable! I love God, classical music, the central coast, singing, reading, drawing and traveling. I'm absolutely CRAZY about animals and I'm very involved with animal rescue (actually, I think probably most of the kids and staff already know about this last one). I hate grocery shopping, shelving books, and having to tell a student I don't have a book he or she wants.</i></p>

If you know of a "Fontana Star," particularly one who was an FUSD alumnus, you can nominate him or her to be featured by emailing [webmaster@fUSD.net](mailto:webmaster@fUSD.net). Please provide your name, the name of the individual being nominated, contact information for both of you and a brief description as to why you think the individual qualifies as a Fontana Star.