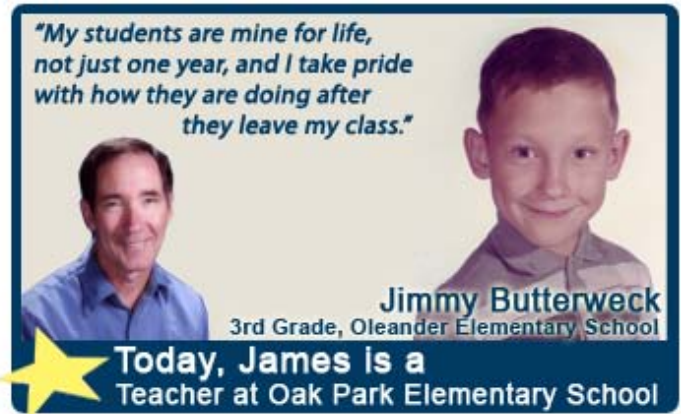




Fontana STAR

James Butterweck

shares how he is inspired



Profile in Excellence:		James Butterweck, Teacher
FUSD Schools Attended:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poplar Elementary School (Kindergarten) • Oleander Elementary School (1st through 6th grade) • Fontana Junior High School • Fontana High School. <p><i>I have been associated with Fontana Schools in one way or another since the Kennedy Administration.</i></p>	
Higher Education:	<i>I graduated from UC Riverside in 1979 and earned a Masters Degree from Azusa Pacific.</i>	
FUSD Career Experiences:	<i>I spent 13 years teaching at Oleander Elementary School and the last 17 years at Oak Park Elementary School. It was very exciting to teach at the elementary school that I attended.!</i>	
Who were the FUSD staff that affected you most as a student?	<i>I had two second grade teachers at Oleander who had a terrific influence on me. Mrs. Matthews was so positive about everything we learned, and Mrs. Kerr eventually became a teaching partner. They are two of the classiest people I have ever met.</i>	
What did you dream of growing-up to be as a child that would lead you to your work with FUSD?	<i>When I was in fourth grade, I remember walking in my door and telling my mom that I wanted to teach elementary school. She told me that if that is what I really wanted, I should go for it.</i>	
Since you've joined FUSD as staff, what experience(s) have you been most proud of?	<i>Seeing my students grow into fine and responsible adults. Since there are no inspirational movies about elementary teachers, it is great to hear from past students and the successes they are enjoying. It is nice to know I might have had a small part in their success.</i>	
What keeps you up at night about your work for FUSD?	<i>I just want my students to be the best they can be, every day.</i>	
What do you think is the biggest misconception the public has about our work?	<i>Most people don't realize how much time and effort is put in outside the school day and during our vacations. I have had the good fortune to work with many truly outstanding people at both Oleander and Oak park. They put in a tremendous effort to prepare the students to do well when they get to my class. Without them, the students are not prepared for higher grades. It is very much a team effort.</i>	

<p>What can the community do to strengthen public education?</p>	<p><i>It would be great if all parents would read and talk with, not at, their children every day. It is great to see a child that is very inquisitive and excited about learning. School should be a destination that will open the doors to life rather than a place they have to go to for six hours a day.</i></p>
<p>What inspires you to give your very best for the students of FUSD?</p>	<p><i>I have always been pretty self-motivated. I want to improve as a teacher every day. My students are mine for life, not just one year, and I take pride with how they are doing after they leave my class.</i></p>
<p>What might staff or students be surprised to learn about you?</p>	<p><i>I was a PTA President when I was 19 years old. Also, I have done stats for our local high school football teams (I have a very understanding wife) and coached girls basketball for twenty-three years.</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. 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.