

# School Talk

---

Guest Writer Beth Hellpap

January 28, 2012

Music Teacher – Grades Kindergarten through 3

Thanks for the invite to write an article for the school talk section in the paper. I couldn't pass up the opportunity to share with the public the question Board Members Liz O'Donnell and Sally Owen asked, "Why do you like teaching?" So you asked for it, here it goes.

Why do I love teaching, you ask? Have a glimpse in the life of Beth Hellpap, the elementary music teacher at Columbus Elementary School, and you too would love to teach. What other professional can say he or she influences the lives of 345 children on a daily basis, or see the face of a child light up when he or she listens to Beethoven for the first time. Who else gets to hear the beautiful sounds of silence when the quarter rest is taught in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. I have the privilege to introduce to children the classics of the *Sound of Music*, *Peter and the Wolf*, and *The Nutcracker*. I see the success in the eyes of a child as he or she sings for an audience of over 1,000. I may face bumps in the road when being an educator. With the ongoing budget cuts and curriculum requirements made by people who have never taught a day in their lives...well, yes, it is trying. And, sure, I am paid less than my private sector family and friends who have half the degrees than I. But to this I reply, my cubicle is a huge, beautiful room full of music making, I will never be outsourced by another country, nor will I be replaced by a machine. I won't because I make a difference. I care. I am an educator.