

# John B. Winn Elementary School



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April 17, 2004

Ameri-Corps Tutor Director

Dear Ms. Sheryl Prater:

As this school year comes to a close, I would like to reflect on the numerous contributions of the Ameri-Corps Tutors on our campus. The John B. Winn Elementary School is a neighborhood school of approximately 630 students dispersed among PreK to 5th grades. Our student population is 49% Hispanic, 50% African American, and 1% Caucasian.

This being my 18th year of teaching and my 5th year at Winn, I have seen many volunteer and community school support programs, and our Ameri-Corps Tutors have been an indispensable component on our campus.

The Kindergarten Team, comprised of 3 English speaking and 2 Spanish speaking (bi-lingual) classes, is challenged by 22 students in the English speaking classes with no consistent parent or volunteer or staff support. Our Ameri-Corps tutors, *Mendy Meuer* and *Libby Williams* have made a huge difference though one-on-one-tutoring with many of our "neediest" students. Many of our students did not attend any Pre-K or any structured day care setting and lack many social and academic skills upon which the AISD kindergarten curriculum is based. With such large classes, the "extra" support has been crucial. Planning for these children is evident in their daily time with all our students, as well as lots of patience, flexibility, and infectious energy! Additionally, the Ameri-Corps Tutors facilitate the Century 21 after-school program which provides additional academic and social skills for 130 children and organize several parents' nights throughout the year.

As popular support for public education ebbs and flows, this unique opportunity for young adults to "serve their country" through school involvement, community programs, and parent education is a bright beacon in the field of educating our future. I fervently hope this program will continue to be a "Winn-Winn" experience for all that your program embraces.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Pamela S. Henry in cursive.

Pamela S. Henry  
Kindergarten Team Leader  
Campus-Wide Lead Mentor  
John B. Winn Elementary  
Austin Independent School District