

Ms. Lisman began her teaching career at Smith Elementary in the August, 2007. She had recently completed her Master's degree at Texas Tech. It did not take long to see what a talented teacher she was going to be. As a Reading Recovery teacher, Ms. Lisman's mom had, and continues to have, a significant impact on her growth as a teacher. They regularly discuss reading strategies together.

A visit to Ms. Lisman's classroom demonstrates why she is such a successful teacher. Her hands-on approach to learning in all areas engages her students in a consistent manner. She is the perfect example of a teacher that facilitates learning. She works with small groups, moves through the room to work with kids at their desks, and questions kids in an open-ended manner. Probably the most amazing attribute of her instruction, is the level of thinking she gets from the students. Through questioning, text to text and text to self connections, and making inferences, her students develop deeper understandings.

Ms. Lisman connects well with her kids. One can find her attending athletic events for her students, hugging students, working one-on-one with students, and having constant contact with her parents. She constantly asks students to make "connections" during the lesson. Her students have been known to do the same thing outside the classroom. During a recent lunch with the principal, one of her students, commenting on another student's story about a dog, said "I can make a connection. My cousin has a dog named jet." It is obvious her students learn and do not forget.

Ms. Lisman's leadership capabilities are blossoming. She took the lead in coordinating and implementing a "Young Author's Day" on our campus. Ms. Lisman is one of those teachers that a principal sends other teachers to observe. A fifth grade teacher who is working on her Master's degree had an assignment to observe two teachers and compare them. The principal sent her to Ms. Lisman's room. The fifth grade teacher returned to say that she was stunned at what she observed. She indicated one would never know that this was a 2nd year teacher. Her questioning alone left the fifth grade teacher speechless.

The campus is not the only place that recognizes Ms. Lisman's talent. Frisco ISD has asked Ms. Lisman to be a presenter as a "model classroom" for all beginning and new to Frisco teachers. There are only 2 other first grade teachers selected for this in the district. By observing her room, new teachers will be set for success during the new year. In addition, Ms. Lisman will be involved in campus and district presentations during the upcoming year.

Ms. Lisman is the kind of teacher a principal dreams of hiring. It is a sure bet that Ms. Lisman has a bright future and will greatly impact kids for years to come. In the movie, Mr. Holland's Opus, Richard Dreyfuss plays a beloved high school music teacher. At his surprise retirement gathering, one of his former students recognizes the significant impact he has had on hundreds of students by saying "We are the notes of your opus." Ms. Lisman is that teacher. I have no doubt students will always remember their first grade teacher, Ms. Lisman, as their favorite!