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Annunciation school names day for its techology teacher

April 25, 2007

By Michele du Vair Special to The Beacon News

AURORA -- More than 300 students and faculty gathered Tuesday for a fun-filled, first-ever celebration at Annunciation Elementary School.

No, it wasn't a fun fair or an outdoor education class. It was a tribute to one of their own -- technology coordinator and teacher Jackie d'Escoto.

D'Escoto was instrumental in securing more than \$10,000 for technology improvements through an Illinois State Board of Education grant called Enhancing Education Through Technology.

She developed the technology

Accelerated Reader Program and started a Technology Team for

middle-schoolers. She also installs software, trains Annunciation staff,

repairs computers and somehow still finds time to teach kids.

"She has done so much for this

school," said Karen Wollwert,

principal at Annunciation. "She

never says no to any project that

any teacher comes up with, no

matter how complex or lengthy."

In honor of her dedication, school

staff officially proclaimed Tuesday

Annunciation School. The festivities

assembly that truly caught d'Escoto by surprise -- so much so that she

had to be led by the arm halfway up

to the podium. There she received

"Mrs. D'Escoto makes her students dream, excel, solve problems,

minds," said Anthony Wegman, 10.

Following the assembly, students

containing an image of the beloved

teacher taped to a toothpick. Some

brought in chocolate for d'Escoto,

knowing that is her favorite food.

D'Escoto, whose own children

technology at DeVry University.

She consulted for Arthur Andersen

and Safety Kleen before accepting the position at Annunciation six

attend Annunciation, studied

were given "d'Escoto cupcakes"

create, love technology, open

flowers, a plaque and handmade

"Jackie d'Escoto Day" at

cards from students.

"Thanks for all you do.'

began with an unannounced

curriculum for fourth- through eighth-graders, expanded the

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Students from Annunciation BVM Catholic School congratulate technology coordinator and teacher Jackie d'Escoto during a surprise ceremony in her honor in the school gym. Tuesday was declared "Jackie d'Escoto Day" to recognize her efforts in bringing technology programs to the Aurora school. photos by HEATHER EIDSON/

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER





Annuclation technology coordinator and teacher Jackie d'Escoto is shocked at learning that Tuesday was named in her honor. She developed technology curriculum, expanded the Accelerated Reader Program, added computer centers in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, and started the Internet-based Teacher Ease program.

years ago.

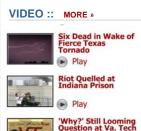
"She could be working somewhere else making a lot more money, but she chose to be here because she enjoys being with the kids," said Patricia Fremgen, technology aid at Annunciation. "She's under the tables. She's hooking up wires. She always has an answer, and if she doesn't have an answer, she'll find one."

Throughout the day's events, d'Escoto remained appreciative, yet humble.

"This was very thoughtful, but very unnecessary," she said. "I love doing computers, and I'm so glad they love it, too."

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