

PATRICIA GREER

- o Principal at Eaton since 1978
- o Acting Principal 1975-1978
- o Teacher at Eaton 1972-1975

Several things make John Eaton special. One thing is the student population. There is such a mix of kids in this school...varying economic and social backgrounds....many countries....many languages. I think all of those things go into making this student population special....one that really represents the real world. I think kids will leave John Eaton able to deal with all kinds of people because they spent six years in an elementary school where they had contact with different types of people. And every kid in the city really does not get that experience in the D.C. public schools.

Another thing that makes John Eaton very special is the teachers who really care about kids. Sometimes schools forget what they are really about. To me, schools are only here because there are children that need them. The teachers and I try very hard to make this a place where we know the focus is really kids.

Of course, the third ingredient is the parents. The parents support this school with time and care....for children and for the academic program in the school. They spend many volunteer hours fund-raising. They are supportive of the school system and provide additional activities they really want their kids to have. They don't just say they want them. They work.

The renovation is my dream come true. We were allowed the opportunity to select an architect, and to have student, faculty, and community input. We had many, many, many planning meetings to decide how this building was going to look. I used to sit in some of those meetings and think it was all an exercise and would never happen, because actually it was on the drawing board for twelve years.

John Eaton is a place that I love dearly. If I could choose a place to be, I would choose a school like John Eaton. It has many good friends and supporters. Eaton kids do come back. They stay in touch.