

As educators and support staff within New Garden Elementary School, you've become expert **ducks**: Calm on the surface, but always paddling like the dickens underneath.



As **teachers**, there are so many things- too many things- to think about: from lesson plans to classroom routines to behavior management to differentiated learning to culturally relevant pedagogy to scientific inquiry to laboratory skills.

As **paraeducators**, we focus on the students: who needs extra help, what kind of help will they need, how will I provide it?

As **support staff**, we are focused on the health and well-being of our students. Who is sick, and who is well? Who is having a great day; who needs additional support? Who might be overlooked; how can we reach out to them?

As **office staff**, we support the school at the front lines, greeting parents and students, answering calls and questions, ensuring that every class is covered, and everyone is where they ought to be.

As **maintenance and custodial staff**, we focus on keeping the building running, ensuring that everything is working properly, that the rooms are safe and clean.

We run mental marathons trying to sort through all of the things we want to focus on in a particular week.

In celebration of all that you do, please accept this tiny duck as a reminder that we know how much work you are putting into each and every day!

Each duck is labeled with a number. Throughout the next 30 days, we'll be having spontaneous drawings for prizes, using the duck numbers. So, keep the duck where you can see him, and know that I know just how hard you are working.

Thank you for all you do!

Elizabeth