

Mrs. J's 411

Tracey Wallace
Receives Teacher
Award

Sales Tax Holiday

August 17-19, 2007

Furlich R. July Arrington

Texas shoppers get a break from state and local sales taxes on August 17, 18, and 19th, the state's annual tax holiday. It was moved from the first weekend in August because school started later this year. The law exempts most clothing and footwear priced under \$100 from sales and use taxes, which could save shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. Backpacks under \$100 and used by elementary and secondary students are also exempt. A backpack is a pack with straps one wears on the back. The new exemption during the sales tax holiday includes backpacks with wheels, provided they can also be worn on the back like a traditional backpack, and messenger bags. The exemption does not include items that are reasonably defined as luggage, briefcases, athletic/duffle/gym bags, computer bags, purses or framed backpacks. Ten or fewer backpacks can be purchased tax-free at one time without providing an exemption certificate to the seller.

The big day is almost here. For those of you will soon occupy a seat in the classroom, here is a little something for you. Each day you will do your best and you won't do any less. Always do your homework and try on

Jacksonville, TX. - Tracey Wallace, former Jacksonville ISD Teacher and Administrator recently received a plaque and special recognition made as an East Side Elementary classroom teacher. Each year, Baylor University's graduating class of teachers, submits an essay about their most memorable teacher. One essay is chosen from the elementary level and one for secondary level. Ashley Minton's essay was chosen for the elementary level. Ashley is a former Jacksonville ISD student who was taught by Ms. Wallace as a third grade student.

A special reception was held to honor the Baylor student submitting the essay and the teacher written about in the essay. Ms. Wallace, her children, mother, sisters, and neices went to Baylor for the evening. She was awarded a plaque and asked to share some thoughts with the future teachers. It was a very special evening.

Ashley is the daughter of Gary Minton of Jacksonville. She will remain at Baylor one more year to earn her Masters Degree in Education. "I feel blessed to have had the skills, the abilities and spirit to be the kind of teacher who touched student's lives in such a great way," Ms. Wallace said. Read Ashley's essay below.

Most Memorable Teacher

If you could travel back in time about 15 years, and peek inside the door of Mrs. Wallace's third

grade classroom at East Side Elementary, you would find me sitting in a classroom full of anxious students having the most exciting learning experiences. You would hear laughter and eagerness in the students' voices. You would see excitement on their faces, and something about that classroom would feel different. Mrs. Wallace might be in the front of the room singing the weekly spelling words, or who knows, she might be showing off her toe touch to get us excited for the TAAS test. Whatever is happening, you can be assured that it is fun and that the students are learning. This is just the kind of classroom it was.

Mrs. Wallace was by far my favorite and best teacher. She had a way of engaging us in learning and teaching us how to make learning fun. There was never a dull moment in her class! Every student at the school knew Mrs. Wallace, and they all envied those of us who were lucky enough to have her as our teacher. I remember so many details about her class. We did meaningful projects such as writing and "publishing" our own books. We made them into hardcover children's books that we placed in offices and waiting rooms all over the community. We did numerous dramas and plays that we presented to the other students. We did learning centers and games, and every activity we did seemed fun.

I absolutely loved third grade, and you could tell Mrs. Wallace loved teaching it. She had a wonderful way of keeping our attention! She did whatever it took. On Fridays for our spelling tests, she would sing the words and the sentences instead of just saying them. We couldn't wait each week to hear if she would use our name in the sentence she sang!

When we learned our multiplication facts, we learned them by songs. The tens were very special. We had to wait a long time to get to them, but when we did it was so fun. We learned how to square dance, and we danced while we chanted our tens facts. She also loved to challenge us, and I specifically remember learning long division before anyone else in the school was introduced to it. We were so excited that we could do it, and she was excited to teach us! She was such a special teacher to me in third grade, but looking back over the past few years, I realized just how special she was.

I have known for as long as I can remember that I wanted to become a teacher one day, and when I think about the kind of teacher I want to become, I automatically think of Mrs. Wallace. She is the kind of person who cared enough about us to create lessons that were fun and engaging. She wanted us to learn, and she did whatever it took to do that.



See me today and get the discounts
and service you deserve.



Austin Young, Agent
400 N Main Street
Rusk, TX 75785-1332
Bus: 903-683-5486
austin.young.jku@statefarm.com



LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, STATE FARM IS THERE.®

statefarm.com®

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company - Bloomington, IL