

Barbara Lehde deRubertis, January 1957

2014 Distinguished Alumni Award

Barbara was the Salutatorian of her January 1957 class at Highland Park High School. Not only was she among the brightest in her class, but also the most involved. She was secretary of the class, secretary of the National Honor Society, a member of Lads and Lassies and in the senior play. She graduated cum laude from the University of Colorado Boulder in 1961 and received a Ford Foundation Fellowship to do graduate work at Kansas State University

For more than 30 years Barbara provided inspiration to the Cashmere Washington school district as an elementary and middle school teacher. For nineteen of those years she was the teacher librarian at Vale Elementary School where, under her guidance and leadership, the Vale library became a model for other schools around the state.

Her love of books, coupled with her passion for teaching, led Barbara to become a distinguished author of children's books. Barbara's amazing insight into what stimulates and excites young children comes from her years of teaching experience both in the United States and abroad. She is the author of over 50 children's books, with her series *Animal Antics A to Z* receiving a prestigious *Learning Magazine* Teachers Choice Award in 2011 and a Teachers' Choice Award for the Family in 2012.

Barbara is married to consulting engineer Kim deRubertis. Together they live in a century-old home and oversee 25 acres of cherry and pear orchards. Their gardens produce a variety of other fruits, nuts, vegetables and flowers. They have two sons, Corbin and Ben. Barbara is deeply involved in the cultural leadership of her Eastern Washington community. She is on the board of directors for Icicle Creek Center for the Arts and is an active member of Cashmere Rotary, PEO, the Cashmere Museum and a Seattle Children's Hospital Guild, just to name a few. She also continues to volunteer at Vale Elementary School.