

# *Celebration of Excellence*

## *Employee of the Month*

### **CIS – Perla Mendoza**

**College attended:** I have not gone to college for the full term. I did go to a college in Mexico, but not in the states. I am a Teacher aid.

**Years in education:** This is my 3rd year at CIS working with Mr. Driver in Math and Science.

**Who is your greatest supporter/inspiration?**

My husband has supported me since I took this amazing job, as well as my parents, sister and many friends and family. Mr. Driver has also been a big part of my growth for the past two years and has been an inspiration in and out of class not only with his peers, but also with our students.

**Why did you choose to become an educator?**

Well I always thought that I would be a teacher since most of my family is and has been in education all of their lives: aunts uncles and now cousins. Also, I decided to one day become a teacher because of my ESL teacher in the 5th grade. She dedicated her life to us. When she was with us, she was the sweetest the kindest and most hard working woman I have ever met. She taught us always to keep trying, to aim high to reach the highest mountain, and never ever give up. We as bilingual kids had the future in our hands and we could do whatever we wanted to. Since then I decided that I wanted to be like her, to make a difference in the kids of our future.

**What makes a good teacher?**

A person who puts students and their needs first, and who will go beyond their hours of work to make and take time to show a student how to do or work something. Someone that will not only become that student's teacher but also their friend.

**A career in education means constant growth. What is one area in which you wish to improve?**

I want to find not just one way, but many to engage students to learn, so they can be more involved in their studies and school. We have now lots and lots of students that have a set mind to be ok with just a passing grade. I want to be able to help them aim high and become someone in life.

**What do you love about CISD?**

What I most love about CISD is that we have some of the best teachers working here. I know that at Intermediate many of our teachers are ALL about our kids and their futures, I have learned from the best at my campus and I am very thankful for each and every one of them, and hope to keep learning so we as a TEAM (CIS) can teach to the best of our ability.

**From around campus:**

“She is always here early and will stay late to help out in anyway she can. All of the kids in the 5th grade know and respect her. She is a blast to work with and is a very valuable asset on our campus.”

“She is always going out of her to help anyone she can. She tries to make each day the best she can for her students.”

