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# Meet Mrs. Keiran

## Instructor recalls Pleasant Hill's history

By Becky Hammar

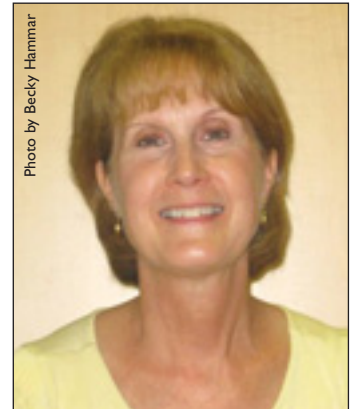


Photo by Becky Hammar

For the past 30 years, Marta Keiran has been a second grade teacher at Pleasant Hill Elementary.

Although hundreds of students have passed through her classrooms during her years of teaching, her goal has remained the same.

"My goal is each day to go over and spend time with them," Keiran says. "We talk about the old times. When I was a kid, the mobile library would come to our school once a week. And if you didn't bring your book back, you weren't able to go inside the trailer."

Other things have changed over the years, however, beginning with her perception of the drive to work.

Keiran says that when she first started driving to Pleasant Hill Elementary from her home in the Beaverdale area, it seemed like a long trip.

"I felt like I as going on a mini vacation, and I might need to pack a bag," she laughs.

When Keiran began teaching, her class would walk to the Pleasant Hill Mobile Library once a week, she says.

The community has undergone some major changes, too.

Marta Keiran teaches second grade at Pleasant Hill Elementary.

"The Pleasant Hill business district — the buildings north of the current Hy-Vee — was just a few buildings, and Lloyd's was the local grocer," she says. "We didn't have apartments or gas stations, and fields were everywhere you looked.

"Copper Creek used to be a gravel pit. The gravel is now the lake, but people were concerned it wasn't going to get cleaned up."

Keiran also volunteers at Living History Farms in the Tangen House as an historical interpreter.

"We do all of our cooking, cleaning and gardening," she says.

Keiran has enjoyed her time in the school district.

"I truly enjoy the people out here (Pleasant Hill) because they love the community. It's a great place," smiles Keiran.

Keiran, who just celebrated her 29th wedding anniversary, lives with her husband, Ken, and her cat, Lucy. **PHL**

### What do you like best about Mrs. Keiran?



Michael Schminkey: "She always teaches us good things."



Emma Buchacker: "She's fun!"



Gavin Ray: "She teaches us different things."



Josie Henderson: "She's nice to us."