



Students dance onstage during a performance of "To Be a Star" in the Edgewood Elementary gym.

Photos by Samantha Smith

Pavloff receives Star Teacher Award

By **SAMANTHA SMITH**
Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY — What started out as a normal school play about kids determined to become stars, turned into a surprise celebration for Edgewood Elementary school teacher Teresa "Tess" Pavloff.

On Thursday afternoon, Pavloff received the Star Teacher Award from Alan Lawrence, president of computer company PCM-

G, and a \$2,000 check, which could be spent on anything she wanted for her classroom.

This all followed a play put on by students in Edgewood Elementary's gymnasium to disguise the true nature of the event to Pavloff, who didn't realize she won the competition.

After the event, Lawrence said the purpose of this quarterly award was to honor great teachers.



Teresa "Tess" Pavloff receives a \$2,000 check from PCM-G after receiving its Star Teacher Award.

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He said he started it when he partnered with adoptateacher.org, a non-profit organization recognizing teachers who strive to be the best.

"The average teacher spends up to \$625 annually on supplies for the classroom and for those who teach computer classes, it could be thousands. We were looking for a way to help teachers that are spending money out of their own pocket," Lawrence said.

With two other teachers in the running, more than 1,000 people across the country voted on who should receive this award. Pavloff won by receiving 70 percent of the vote.

"I worked very hard to get the word out that this was very important to me," she said.

Pavloff's family, friends and other members of the school district spread the word via email, social media and week-



Teresa Pavloff, Alan Lawrence and Peggy Thomas stand with Pavloff's kindergarten class on Thursday. Photo by Samantha Smith

ly newsletters. Pavloff decided to apply for the award when she saw an advertisement for it on her Facebook page, two weeks before the application deadline.

"We encouraged parents to vote for Tess because she's amazing. Everything she does, she gives 100 percent," said Edgewood Elementary Principal Peggy Thomas.

For now, the use of the money is undetermined but Pavloff says she wants to use some of the funds to buy tablets for her class. Specifically tablets

that support Google Chrome so her students can use a program called I-ready.

"Using tablets is going to give me so much more one-on-one time with the kids so I'm very excited," she said.

Whatever Pavloff decides to use the money for, the Edgewood Elementary staff knows that this award will benefit the students.

"We're looking forward to working with them (PCM-G) in the future and to see how their services can help our students," Thomas said.

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