



# OGDEN PREPARATORY ACADEMY

## December Employee of the Month

Lee Knapp



Lee Knapp has taught 1<sup>st</sup> grade at OPA since 2009. After graduating from Whitman College, she spent several years in Taiwan, working as an English teacher and advertising copywriter. She returned to the U.S. to attend film school at UCLA.

While working as a writer in Los Angeles, Lee started volunteering in local schools. This convinced her to return to education. She received her M.Ed. from Pepperdine University and taught in LAUSD before moving with her husband to his hometown of Ogden. They share their home with two very spoiled terriers.



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### Teresa Hislop



Life is the stories you can tell. Sometimes it is great to tell life's stories and sometimes it is great just to be alive at the end of the story to be able to tell it. Sometimes stories push us into adventures and sometimes stories pull us through them. When all is said and done, at the end of the day (or the decade or....), our lives are a compilation of the stories we can tell. "Life is the stories you can tell" is my mantra and I am grateful that OPA is a part of my story.

I began my story in Oregon where I lived with my four siblings until my father's dream to own his own farm took us to a dairy in Idaho where I learned to work lots and swear a little. Then dreams of becoming a science teacher drew me to BYU where I ran for their track team for a year and graduated summa cum laude a couple years later. In between track and graduation I served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in La Republica Dominicana.

Though I planned to return to Oregon to teach, I could not say no to Ralph Aardema and found myself teaching science at Ben Lomond High School. GO SCOTS!!! The "wise yet harmless" mother of one of my students encouraged her handsome, adult son to ask me out, which he did three years later. Ten weeks after our first date we were married in the Ogden Temple and now we have five children, two ewes, eleven hens, one pig, one dog, and one very angry bird.

I am 57 years old and I still seek stories. Some of my favorite stories involve OPA students in tide pools on the Oregon coast, hiking trails in the Redwood forest, hunting for Mars analog rocks at the Mars Desert Research Station and slithering through slot canyons in southern Utah. Thank you for sharing your children with me.