

News

Binks is honored at dedication ceremony for new school

By **RUSSELL INGOLD**

The weather was stormy, but that didn't prevent a celebration of one of Fontana's finest education leaders from running quite smoothly on Sept. 22.

Fontanans honored School Board Member Kathy Binks for her devotion to local children during the official dedication ceremony for Binks Elementary School at the corner of Cypress and Baseline avenues.

"What she has done for local children is impossible to match," said School Board Member Gus Hawthorn, one of several speakers at the outdoor event.

Thankfully for the attendees (including more than a dozen members of Binks' family), a rainstorm stopped just as the ceremony was beginning under a makeshift covering, and the sun soon came out.

"I love the rain, but I didn't want it to rain today," Binks told the audience.

Joanne Thoring, the principal at the school, said: "Today is a special day, not only for Kathy Binks, but for all of us who have shared a part of this school's beginning."

Binks Elementary, Fontana's newest school, opened its doors for classes in July, even though construction is continuing on the school's large multi-purpose room.

Thoring talked about Binks' many contributions over the years and emphasized the importance that Binks has placed on family members and children. She said Binks has been greatly instrumental in helping students in the Fontana Unified School District, in addition to assisting many young men who have lived in the boys' home she runs with her husband Dean.

Binks said she is proud of the academic improvements the district has made in recent years and praised the FUSD's dedicated employees for their fine work in boosting state-mandated test scores.

Binks said in reference to the federal No Child Left Behind Act that a better slogan would be "No Child Forgotten." She said: "I hope this school can be a place where children are not forgotten."

One of the highlights of the ceremony came when students from the school sang a song featuring lyrics which lauded Binks, who has been a School Board member for 20 years.

(In the photo above, Kathy Binks smiled with former FUSD Superintendent Anthony Lardieri.)



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