



Melinda Piña

September 11, 1950 - August 19, 2013

09/11/1950 ~ 08/19/2013

Melinda Piña age 63, passed away Monday, August 19th 2013, in Bellingham, WA. She was born on September 11, 1950 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Mesa, AZ. She was the daughter of Jesus and Carmen Pina (deceased) and had one sister, Landa (Doug) Gray.

Melinda left behind 3 nephews, Justin, Haniel, Uriah Gray and niece Bithiah Gray. She also had 6 grandnephews and nieces and one great-grandnephew. She also left behind a very large family in Arizona who will miss her deeply. Melinda grew up in Tempe, AZ where she graduated in 1969 from Tempe High School. She went on to be a hair stylist for a few years and went to Mesa Community College to study arts and theatrical make-up. She wanted more out of life. As time passed she went to Arizona State University to get her bachelor's degree in special education. Melinda was hired at Rosa Linda School in south Phoenix where she taught 1st through 8th grade for 9 years. She moved to Bellingham, WA in 1990 to be with her sister and was then hired by Ferndale High School as a life skills teacher for 13 years and then in the resource program for 8 years. She loved the young adults that God placed in her care and she did her very best to send them off into the world to function and prosper to the best of their ability. Melinda loved to cross stitch, crochet painted murals and make jewelry. She also loved to bake and participate in the Bellingham Farmers Market. She was a strong believer in Jesus Christ and was a member of Abundant Life Church for many years. The celebration of Melinda's life will be held at Ferndale High School's Auditorium on Saturday September 7th, 2013 at 5 pm. Everyone is welcome to come share their love and support along with any stories they have of Melinda. Please come as you are.

Comments



“ She was a amazing teacher. A good friend. I am going to miss her
~
Tiffany Lamberson

Tiffany Lamberson - September 09, 2013 at 12:51 PM



“ Melinda,
Your bright eyes, warm smile and gentleness will be greatly missed.

Gary Hodge - September 09, 2013 at 12:50 PM



“ Ms. Pina u will be missed and never forgotten u were a great teacher u will always be remembered at ferndale high school as a great bright wonderful teacher r.l.p
~
nicole parker

nicole parker - September 09, 2013 at 12:49 PM



“ You be miss love always the Deptuch Family R I P
~
John Deptuch

John Deptuch - September 09, 2013 at 12:49 PM



“ I met Melinda about 5 years ago and I fell in love with her sweet personality, her kind smile, and her beautiful soul. I will miss her terribly. Please know that you all are in my thoughts and prayers. Heaven has gained a sweet, sweet soul. Love you Mel.
~
Donna Kremer

Donna Kremer - September 09, 2013 at 12:49 PM



“ R.I.P Ms.Pina you will be missed

~

Cristine James

Cristine James - September 09, 2013 at 12:48 PM



“ Sorry to hear the news my Prayers go to the family

~

Cristine James

Cristine James - September 09, 2013 at 12:48 PM



“ Ms. Pina was the most amazing and awesome teacher in the world she always knew what to say even when your mad and or sad. She helped me through so much during my junior year i remember the time that i made everyone in the classroom laugh even her she would always tell me to study hard and focus on my work and not worry about talking to my friends until class was over. then when i was working on a project in my acting class i would go to her room and practice in front of her,mrs.winters, and mrs.keller and they would give me smiles and giggles haha those were some good times she was very helpful to me and seeing and hearing about her past away really sucks but shes in a better place now and the lord is going to take very good care of her i know i will see her again in heaven

kelsey trent - August 28, 2013 at 09:25 PM



“ Melinda was the greatest with the very special needs kids in her classes. She new the tricks of the trade. She will be missed dearly by all, I have so many great memories of her cheerful laugh and smile while my son Tom was in her class. Her love was out-pouring for everyone!! My prayers to all her family. Lorraine Hunter, Tom's mom

Lorraine Hunter - August 28, 2013 at 09:14 PM



“ Melinda was a dear person. She taught me how to improve my tamale making. She was a caring and considerate person. She had incredible insight with special education kids. I worked with her at FHS for many years. She was willing to try anything to help her students be better communicators. She was a whiz on the computer. We made each other laugh. Her family was very important to her and she loved her sister and sister's her children. She was a great Tia. She loved selling at the Farmer's Market. She not only sold peaches but she was a peach of a person. My thoughts go out to her family. I will miss her greatly.

Lisa Cochrane - August 28, 2013 at 02:56 PM



“ I will greatly miss Melinda's warm smile, seeing the care she had for her students and hearing about her family. Talking with Melinda and her sister at the Farmer's Market and buying peaches from them have been a highlight for me for many years. My thoughts are with her family.

Ann Lackland - August 25, 2013 at 09:39 PM



“ Melinda was kind, caring, thoughtful, and helpful. She will be missed! Our sympathies go to her family.

Robin & Dave Peters - August 25, 2013 at 01:27 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Melinda's passing. Melinda was the first teacher that Keith subbed for years ago. We will miss her at school.

Chelle and Keith Dunham - August 25, 2013 at 08:36 AM



“ My sympathies to Melinda's family and friends. She was a delight to work with. I was inspired by her faith and hard work.

Angie Zehnder - August 24, 2013 at 07:11 PM



“ Melinda’s sunny positive nature radiated through her smile. Melinda touched so many students lives and her efforts will live on through them. My sympathies extend to Melinda’s family and others who knew her well.

Carole Scanes - August 24, 2013 at 02:18 PM



“ I’m saddened by the loss of Melinda, a friend and fellow teacher. I’ve known her and her sister for quite some time. She was such a kind-hearted, spirit filled woman. She will be missed.

Beverly Salisbury - August 23, 2013 at 06:50 PM



“ I SO enjoyed working in the classroom this last few years with Melinda. We laughed, we cried, we prayed . . . we were a good team. She taught me a lot as I watched her respond to different situations with students, always loving but tough when she needed to be. And I adore this beautiful photo because she always had a scarf on. . Her purples and blues . . . (just no green, thank you very much) . She was a beautiful woman, inside and out.

Brenda Winters - August 23, 2013 at 05:07 PM



“ I was so sorry to hear of Melinda’s passing. I always enjoyed chatting with her at Ferndale High School. I will remember her sweet smile and laughter.
Neil McKay

Neil McKay - August 23, 2013 at 12:21 PM



“ I have NO doubt you were greeted with open arms into the Kingdom of Heaven! Thank you for always opening your heart, your home, your life, your recipes and love to me and mom. Melinda is a precious person to me, always will be and I am so grateful to have known you.

Julie Kloecker-Clint, Mesa AZ - August 22, 2013 at 02:10 PM



“ Excellent friend throughout Arizona college days, community and state, trying to get through the woes of college, when she selected special ed studies as her major, her numerous projects, the laughs we shared cracked us up til we would pee our pants every time and there were many! Landa was so sorry to hear about Melinda, but I think she will be with you in every way, in spirit, always. With much love.....Connie

Connie Kloecker - August 21, 2013 at 07:58 PM



“ We are so sorry. I am going to miss seeing Melinda's smiling face at school. She will be greatly missed. Take Care.

Joey McAlpine - August 21, 2013 at 02:49 PM



“ Melinda was a kind, loving and giving soul. She worked hard for her students and was a great inspiration to each of them. I enjoyed my years working with her and she will be missed. Prayers for her family and friends.

Gudlaug Hawkinson - August 21, 2013 at 12:58 PM