



Teacher Feature

Maria Scott is known as a kindergarten teacher at Meadowbrook, but her high school friends know her as something else: Scoops!

Mrs. Scott grew up in Northbrook and attended St. Norbert's and Glenbrook North. While in high school, she was a sprinter, a cheerleader and an employee at Baskin Robbins in downtown Northbrook, hence the nickname. Her boyfriend and now husband, Doug, also worked there. The two met on the first day of high school when she was just 13 years old. They were in the same freshmen history class, and Mrs. Scott remembers he asked her to go steady on Sept. 11, 1978. They dated all through high school, attending every school dance together. By senior year, they decided they needed to attend separate colleges, so she went to Marquette and he went to Colorado College.

Unfortunately, her college career was interrupted when her mother got sick, so Mrs. Scott came home to be a caregiver. At the same time, she earned a teaching certificate from National Louis University. Mrs. Scott says from a young age she always knew she wanted to be a teacher and recalls making work books and seating charts and writing on the chalk board at home when she was a kid.

After college graduation and their wedding, the Scotts moved to Los Angeles for work, but it wasn't long before Mrs. Scott started missing Chicago and all her connections here. By the time they returned to Northbrook, she was pregnant and put her teaching career on hold. Ten years and three kids later, she became a classroom assistant at Meadowbrook with the help of her good friend Kathy Klein who is currently an assistant. Eventually, Mrs. Scott became a full-time teacher and is now in her 16th year at Meadowbrook. She has taught both kindergarten and first grade and loves the full-day kindergarten program. "We are busy," she says, "but at a more relaxed pace."

In 2013, Mrs. Scott was forced to take a year off after she had heart surgery due to a complication from a previous illness. She didn't know if she would ever teach again, but when her mother-in-law became ill, that gave her the boost she needed to get back into the classroom. "Helping her helped me," said Mrs. Scott, "I felt like I was back to helping people." She was thrilled to return to Meadowbrook and expects to teach for many more years.

Although, you won't see her at school when the White Sox play their home opener. She's a dedicated fan and took that day off to go the game!

Fun Facts about Mrs. Scott

- Works out 5 days a week at either LA Fitness or Orange Theory Fitness.
- Grew up a White Sox fan thanks to her father who lived in an orphanage, and became a fan when a jazz singer took him and other kids to the all-star game to see Babe Ruth at Comiskey.
- Graduated from high school in the same class as Stacey Verne, a fifth grade teacher, and Pam Streeter, the school nurse.

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