

When Theodora Santon started school in Kings Park, kindergarten was in the RJO building. In fact, all grades were in the RJO building, so Teddy and her classmates spent every day there until graduation.

It was a small, tight community in those days, more like a family. She remembers being dropped off with friends to spend all day at Callahan's beach in the summers, and in winters skating on Fresh Pond. Saturdays were for rollerskating at the Northport rink.

Leo Ostebo was her English teacher in 10th and 11th grade, and she credits him with challenging her to master her first research paper. While in high school, Teddy played on the field hockey, basketball, volleyball, and softball teams, for which she won a Gold Key. She was also a cheerleader.

Teddy won a Regents scholarship and went to Oneonta, from which she graduated in 1966.

She received her Masters from Stony Brook and spent 42 years teaching Elementary and Middle Schoolers in the Northport School District. During her long and respected career in teaching she has been honored with many awards. In 2019 alone, she received a Friend of Education Award from the United Teachers of Northport and a Community Service Award from the NYSUT. She currently represents both active and retired teachers.

Since her own retirement, Teddy has been a Volunteer Educator with Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS). Focusing on bully prevention and child safety, she teaches children how to protect themselves from physical, emotional, and online harassment.

Teddy and her husband have been married for 48 years. She has two beloved godsons and a wonderful dog named Daisy.