



# Cheryl Cleeves



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 4



## **Cheryl Cleeves**

**C**heryl Diann Boynton Cleeves passed away on November 21, 2018. Arrangements have been entrusted to Skylawn Funeral Home and Memorial Park, Highway 92 @ Skyline Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94402. 650-349-4411. Service details and obituary will be posted as soon as they become available.



JN

**Jake Niebaum** posted:

On a whim, I looked up Mrs. Cleeves' name. I was a 7th grade student of hers at Cunha Intermediate School in the 1978-79 school year. I don't know how I remember her name is Cheryl because it's not in our school yearbook, but I thought it was Cheryl, possibly because she had made such an impression on me and I remembered her name. I was saddened to find her obituary, and sorry to see that she had gone at a relatively early age. I think when I was a 7th grade boy I didn't truly appreciate how much of a good teacher she was and how much I learned in her class, but as I've gotten older I started to realize more, and I was thinking maybe I'd try to contact her and communicate that to her. I've realized that many science skills I have now and that I drew upon in college, I actually learned in her class when I was in 7th grade. How to use and care for a triple-beam balance (way more fun to use than a digital balance), how to use and care for a microscope, how to read the level on a graduated cylinder (the bottom of the meniscus!). Also some great memories I have of that age are from her class, like observing micro-organisms such a paramecium and amoeba through a microscope (I'm not sure I even did that in college biology), her bringing in a goat carcass to show us its anatomy, dissecting frogs, learning about atoms, and the egg drop design challenge. I was not that great of a student through middle school and high school, as I was much more concentrated on cross country and track and I think I had attention-deficit issues and poor reading skills, but when it came time that I had to pick a major when I was transferring from junior college to university and I really had no clue what I wanted to do, I thought back to how interested I was in the activities in her class, and I picked biology as a major. I got my BS in biology in 1990. I now work in education, but mainly as a substitute teacher, sometimes as a long-term sub, and am reminded more and more of how awesome her class was. Rest in peace, Mrs. Cleeves. I miss you, I miss your class. I'm not sure I really knew it at the time I was a 12-13 year old boy, but I loved your class. Jake Niebaum, graduate Cunha Intermediate School 1980

November 12 at 8:31 AM

DS

**Dione Smith** posted:

Dear Monty, Eric, Patrick, and Lauren, I was so lucky to know your mom. She was such a wonderful woman. Not only an incredible teacher and scholar, but a kind and gentle, funny and snarky, but tough as nails at the same time. She loved you all so much and was so proud as a mother and wife of all that you accomplished. You were her greatest gift. She would often talk about all of you at school and humbly brag about all you were doing and achieving. We were so lucky to have her guide our students in science and with the star lab. She brought such a gusto to science and the kids and I loved having her in the room. She added so much to our staff as a friend and colleague. We all learned so much from her and she was a light in our lives! I will miss her very much!

November 29 at 7:43 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Cheryl Cleeves**

**AB**

**Ann Berljafa** posted:

My deepest condolences to Cheryl's family. I am deeply saddened by her loss, but feel so honored to have know and worked with her for many years at Clifford and also at the Redwood City School District office in Staff Development. Cheryl was an icon of the teaching profession. Her passion for science was contagious and the number of students and teachers she inspired are countless. Although she will be deeply missed, we are all blessed to have called her colleague and friend.

November 29 at 7:00 AM

**PL**

**Phil Lind** posted:

Dear Monte and family, I'm sorry to hear of the passing of Cheryl. I so fondly remember the many years of her teaching science to my first grade students and the Marine Science Leadership she provided during our "Magnet" years at Clifford School. Her's was a life well lived. She touched many people in such a positive way. Betsy and I will hold you all in our thoughts and prayers. Phil Lind and Betsy Woodward

November 28 at 2:30 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Cheryl by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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