



## Great Falls Public Schools

### Good Apple Award Recipients

**Bruce Bieber, Custodian, at East Middle School**, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Jeff Pottratz, 2<sup>nd</sup> Engineer, East Middle School because of the following: I would like to recognize Bruce for his dedication to our school. He has gone above and beyond to help out the evening crew as we have been going through a shortage of swing help. I appreciate all of his hard work!

**Therese McDonald, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher**, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Alissa Kline, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, both at Roosevelt Elementary School because of the following: Ms. McDonald has been teaching math intervention for many years in the Great Falls Public Schools District and transferred to Roosevelt as our school's Math Coach three years ago. At that time, we began to work together on math lessons. I learned a great deal from her technique in teaching math and feel that I am a much better math teacher now because of her guidance. Last year she became a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom teacher and this year I have the fortune of being her 4<sup>th</sup> grade teaching partner. She has taken on a lot of change in the past few years, but remains positive and hard-working through it all. With a very large class size and a very diverse set of needs amongst her students, she remains successful at having positive relationships with her students and meeting their needs. Please recognize her as an outstanding educator!

**Rhonda Zobrak, Principal**, was recommended for a Good Apple by Alissa Kline, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, both at Roosevelt Elementary School, because of the following: Mrs. Zobrak has a lot of extra responsibilities this year as we prepare to close Roosevelt Elementary and open Giant Springs Elementary. Through it all, she has remained positive (even excited) and has kept up with all the little things that keep our building running smoothly. She continues to do regular walk-throughs, writes us each positive notes, takes a few minutes to brainstorm solutions for a struggling student and lends a listening ear in and amongst all the meetings with the architects, tours with community members and all the other additional things that come with the change ahead. We all feel well-informed and valuable members of the team as decisions are made for the new school. It is an honor to teach at Roosevelt and it will be an honor to continue to work with her at Giant Springs Elementary. Please recognize her as an outstanding principal!

**Samantha Bryne and Cathy Richards, both Hands Employees, Roosevelt Elementary School**, were recommended for a Good Apple by Rhonda Zobrak, Principal, Roosevelt Elementary School, because of the following: We had a difficult situation in the school on Friday afternoon. Samantha and Cathy were able to keep the students safe and calm throughout the long afternoon. They were professional and helped us handle the situation as quickly as possible. It is nice to know that we can count on them during difficult times.

**Holly Kincaid, Gifted Education Teacher, District Wide**, was recommended for a Good Apple by Alissa Kline, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Roosevelt Elementary, because of the following: Ms. Kincaid has been teaching for thirteen years, three of them at Roosevelt. During that time, I have collaborated with her about students that I believe may benefit from extended curriculum services. She always finds the time to answer all my questions, help me with ways to meet the needs of these students in the classroom and communicate with me about the progress my students are making in her class. Her students love to see her and are eager to spend time on their lessons with her. The lessons challenge their thinking and she supports them through the struggle that they are not typically used to. She also supports these students by making them aware of additional opportunities that are available to them such as the STEAM Expo, Brainia Mainia during the summer, and the AGATE Scholarship. I appreciate how considerate she is to the process of identifying students for her services, supporting them as well as their teacher throughout this journey, and her superior communication with me about these students. I love to see that her students look forward to the days that she is here at Roosevelt. Please recognize her as an outstanding educator!

**Patty Bergquist, Volunteer**, was recommended for a Good Apple by Alissa Kline, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, both at Roosevelt Elementary, because of the following: Patty has been volunteering in my classroom for three years. During that time, she was reliable, flexible and effective at working successfully with the diverse needs of my students. The students and I always looked forward to seeing her walk through the door every week when she volunteered. This year she has been unable to volunteer in the classroom, so she has found ways to volunteer from home. I appreciate how willing she is to help in any capacity that she can. She is a valuable member of our Roosevelt community. Please recognize her as an outstanding volunteer!

**Christina Dengate and Carol Holmes, both Core Teacher Aides, North Middle School**, were recommended for a Good Apple by Jamie McGraw, Associate Principal and Tara Rosipal, Principal, both North Middle School because of the following: In the last month, we have experienced vacancies in 3 of our 5 teacher aide positions. This left us struggling to cover study halls every period throughout the day. Christina and Carol stepped up and rewrote the master schedule to get a majority of the periods covered, often by taking on additional duties themselves to make it happen. Christina and Carol shifted their personal lunch breaks and frequently offer to alter their personal schedules to ensure that every class is covered and other aides have the breaks they need. Both of these ladies are an integral part of our team at North Middle School, and we appreciate their willingness to support our staff and students at a moment's notice. They are extremely deserving of this recognition and thanks!

**Jamie McGraw, Associate Principal, North Middle School**, was recommended for a Good Apple by Rhonda Hunter, Jean Flacon, Chris Lander, Cristi Fought, Janice Lorang, Extreme Team, North Middle School, because of the following: Jamie is the epitome of professionalism. Jamie is will to address teachers' concerns in a timely fashion with respect to all individuals involved. She is always upbeat and positive. In her first year at North, she has continually supported all students and staff. Her warm smile and sense of humor are much appreciated. Thank you, Jamie for the hard work you have put in this year.

**John Vehrs, Tutor, North Middle School**, was recommended for a Good Apple by Rhonda Hunter, Jean Flacon, Chris Lander, Cristi Fought, Janice Lorang, Extreme Team, North Middle School, because of the following: John provides an exceptional role model for the students in the Academic intervention room. Students have mentioned how much they appreciate the time and effort he puts into their education. He shows the students that he truly cares about them and is willing to work hard to help them be successful. Thank you, John, for all you do.

**Marilyn Grimes, Librarian, North Middle School**, was recommended for a Good Apple by Rhonda Hunter, Jean Flacon, Chris Lander, Cristi Fought, Janice Lorang, Extreme Team, North Middle School, because of the following: Marilyn goes above and beyond her professional duties. For example, she will often deliver supplies for science or other curricular areas from east Middle School to North Middle School. We can call and ask her to find sources on any given topic, and by the end of the day, we have a complete list. She has the unpleasant task of collecting overdue library books. Marilyn does this with a smile on her face while being respectful to the students. She is kind to everyone and always willing to help in any situation.

**Bill Schlosser, 3<sup>rd</sup> Engineer, North Middle School**, was recommended for a Good Apple by Rhonda Hunter, Jean Flacon, Chris Lander, Cristi Fought, Janice Lorang, Extreme Team, North Middle School, because of the following: Bill takes exceptional care of our wing at North. He is always friendly and makes positive connections with staff and students. Bill goes above and beyond and is willing to fulfill any of our requests. Thank you, Bill. Your work does not go unnoticed.