



## Great Falls Public Schools

### Good Apple Award Recipients

**Sue Boysun, Teacher Aide, Riverview Elementary School**, was recommended for a Good Apple award by Amanda McCarvel, 2nd Grade Teacher, Riverview Elementary School, because of the following: Sue is an overload aide in my classroom at Riverview Elementary. Every day she contributes positively to my classroom and our school. She is patient and kind with the students, and supports their learning by taking the time to work individually with them. This extra time that she works with them really reinforces the concepts they are learning. In addition to doing this, she remains organized and efficient. She is able to work with students, pull reading groups, and still completes correcting, data collection, and all of the other classroom duties that I need her assistance with. On her own time, Sue volunteers and helps in the library and the school book fair. She really goes above and beyond her duties for the students and me. She is exemplary in all areas of her job. Our school is a better place because we have her.

**Jordon Falkenhagen, Orië Fischer, and Glen Kimball, All Technology Support Technicians, District Offices**, were recommended for a Good Apple award by Joseph David Myles, Technology Core Specialist, District Office, because of the following: Jordon, Orië, and Glen were assigned to rebuild one of the worst network distribution closets in the district and only given two days to accomplish. With Orië at the lead, they laid out a plan to dismantle, re-terminate and move all the wire into a new free standing closet. They needed to make sure all the label was correct on the wires so they could be found and tested later. Not only did they accomplish this incredible task, they showed professionalism in working with the staff at Skyline and assisting in getting those that relied on network activity back online as quickly as possible. I know that the two days were very stressful but Orië, Jordan and Glen worked quickly and proficiently to finish this network upgrade quickly and insured that everything was working correctly before the next business day. I, as well as the entire Technology department, want to thank them personally for their hard work and dedication.

**Laurie Ueland, Core Teacher Aide, Whittier Elementary School**, was recommended for a Good Apple award by Barb Butcher, Math/Literacy Teacher, Whittier Elementary, because of the following: At a time when many schools are struggling to fill such positions, Whittier has been fortunate to have Laurie return to her position year after year. For nearing two decades, Laurie has committed herself to serving the students and staff at Whittier. Were she not with us, she would be sorely missed, and her efforts nearly impossible to replace. It is for her commitment and dedication to the Whittier family, students and staff alike that I would like to recognize her with a Good Apple award.

**Tammy Lapointe, Substitute Teacher Aide, Whittier Elementary School**, was recommended for a Good Apple award by Barb Butcher, Math/Literacy Teacher, Whittier Elementary, because of the following: Tammy needs to be recognized for stepping up and filling in as an aide at Whittier at a time when hiring an aide seemed to be an insurmountable challenge. Tammy had been an aide at Whittier in the past, but she had chosen not to return to that position. As a favor, she not only agreed to temporarily fill in as an aide, but it now appears she will stay for the duration of the school year. And this is not the first time! She has come to our rescue when we needed her in the past. Our secretary and office aide simply call and ask, and Tammy appears and fills the needed position for us. I would like to acknowledge her dedication and commitment to our school and our students with a Good Apple award.

**Dawn Reitz, German/English Teacher, Great Falls High School**, was recommended for a Good Apple award by Chad Getten, Jason Karls, Carie Magers, Bridgette Pence, and Kathy Van Tighem, all counselors at Great Falls High School, because of the following: Dawn is always aware of students' needs and struggles, and is one of the first to give counselors notice when something outside of school is impacting a student's life. She is aware, involved, and cares deeply for our kids. Teaching about the German culture, fundraising for events like Bison Giving Tree and the Bison Family Scholarship, or feeding the masses bratwurst, Dawn is building relationships with our kids, faculty, and families. We appreciate her willingness to go out of her way to make sure a student has his or her needs met and that she is willing to work with any student to boost their confidence as a learner.

**Amber Lloyd, Science Teacher, Great Falls High School**, was recommended for a Good Apple award by Chad Getten, Jason Karls, Carie Magers, Bridgette Pence, and Kathy Van Tighem, all counselors at Great Falls High School, because of the following: From her efficiency when giving the CRT, attention to detail during our extended second periods, and enthusiasm implementing new curriculum, Amber Lloyd's professionalism is appreciated by all. In the counseling department, we often have duties that impact the entire student body—we would not be able to do our job without the support of our teachers. Amber takes all our requests seriously and tackles each task with competence and a smile. She makes what we do easier to do and extends her appreciation of us with all that she does.

**Paul Culbertson, Associate Principal, Great Falls High School**, was recommended for a Good Apple award by Chad Getten, Jason Karls, Carie Magers, Bridgette Pence, and Kathy Van Tighem, all counselors at Great Falls High School, because of the following: They say you can't come home again, however Paul is proving that the 3<sup>rd</sup> time is the charm. Besides being alumni, Paul has such an advantage after being here a number of years ago and then returning to us because he is able to see the big picture—where we have come from and where we are going. This has become evident when watching him navigate the scheduling puzzle as well as giving such valuable input with the layout of the new construction. As a counselor it is so helpful to have a partner who is willing and able to listen and then give constructive feedback. Thank you Paul for your forward thinking and willingness to return to your old stomping grounds!

**Jackie Denegar, Core Teacher Aide, Whittier Elementary School**, was recommended for a Good Apple award by Barb Butcher, Math/Literacy Teacher, Whittier Elementary, because of the following: Jackie is an indispensable aide at Whittier. Whittier is fortunate to have had Jackie return to her position again this year. At a time when many schools are struggling to fill such positions, Whittier has been blessed to retain Jackie. She is committed to lovingly serve the students at Whittier. Our students recognize her caring disposition and adore her in return. Her positive outlook makes her a pleasure to work with. There doesn't seem to be a task that she will not attempt. And she performs with perfection. She even stepped up and was trained to teach Read Well for us. It is for her commitment and dedication to our students that I would like to recognize her with this special award.

**Patty Broesder, Print Center Technician Lead and Heather Ashby, Print Center Technician, District Offices**, were recommended for a Good Apple award by Janette Kempf, Advisement Secretary, C. M. Russell High School, because of the following: I've been so impressed with the timeliness and professionalism of the Print Center. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to send several orders that needed to be expedited, and each time the print center has graciously fulfilled our orders immediately (even the same day on a couple of them.) There was also an incident where we had to call the print center and ask them to NOT print something we'd sent, and they were very helpful, friendly and understanding. The folks at the print center do such an awesome job for our entire district and we appreciate all their hard work and helpfulness.

**Katie Hagen, Preschool Family Engagement Teacher, Early Family Learning Center**, was recommended for a Good Apple award by Collette Getten, Early Childhood Education Coordinator, because of the following: In fact, she is deserving of the whole apple tree! She is currently in the position of Family Engagement Liaison at Great Falls Public School Preschool. As a certified teacher, she understands the importance the significance of rigor, relevance and RELATIONSHIPS! As a parent, she understands and appreciates feeling valued and appreciated as a parent. Katie goes above and beyond making sure all families are greeted throughout the school day and makes herself available to all families in need of community resources and support. She keeps families informed via phone class, Remind 101, email and monthly newsletters. She also helps keep our Preschool Weebly page updated and current. At the end of the day, every single family she interacts with feels like they were the most important person in Katie's world, in that moment. In a survey most recently completed by families, they noted these specific comments. *Katie...is amazing!, ...was so kind to my family. ...always helped us right away!...genuinely cares about my child...is wonderful and very helpful...has gone out of her way more than once to help our family!* As the administrator, I appreciate the dedication and passion Katie has as an educator. Katie is so much more involved in the preschool than family engagement. She actively participates on the Leadership Team, MTSS and supports preschool efforts in Special Olympics Montana-YA Unified Partner. She has a "team player" attitude and staff knows they can count on her to make requested contacts with families in an effective and timely manner. In addition, they know they can count on Katie as a colleague and friend. She is genuine, believable and highly respected at the preschool by EVERYONE! Staff used the following words to describe her professionalism. We cannot imagine preschool without her!

**Cortni Harant, Art Teacher, Jordan Spicher, Vocal Music/Guitar Teacher, and Krystina Thiel-Smalley, Drama Teacher, all Great Falls High School**, were recommended for a Good Apple award by Charlotte Marlowe Brown, Erica LaTray, and Haylee Marzetta, all Special Education Teachers, Great Falls High School, because of the following: These educators have selflessly given up "prep time" to provide instruction to over 30 students in special education life-skill programs at Great Falls High. Many of our students may not have the same access to fine art courses and these teachers provide exposure to art, drama, and music. Not only does this experience enhance their lives, students also may earn fine art credit prior to graduation. Thank-You is not enough!

**Greg Clement, Counselor, North Middle School**, was recommended for a Good Apple award by April Wavra, Social Studies Teacher, Bill Clark, Science Teacher, Kasi Thompson, English Teacher, and Kurt Shepherd, Math Teacher, because of the following: Greg came to North Middle School this year as a counselor and has been a wonderful addition to our team. In a very short time he has made himself an integral part of the staff and he will be missed next year. Greg has been extremely helpful with schedule changes and setting up parent conferences. He usually has a schedule change done and talked to the student about the change within an hour or two of our team deciding that a change is needed. He has even done a couple of changes on his tablet while we have been in team meetings. He has set up almost all of our parent conferences this year. Regardless of the conference being requested by the team or the parents Greg schedules them promptly and has all the details taken care of. This might not seem like a big deal but in doing this he gives the teachers more time to prepare lessons and work with students. Greg has been a joy to work with this year. Even when we are talking about difficult students and difficult subjects he finds a way to make us feel like we are making a positive difference, even with the kids we don't see a lot of progress with. When students confide in Greg he communicates with the team on the parts of the conversation that we need to be aware of. He then works with the team to come up with a plan to help these students meet with success. In our team meetings Greg has quickly become part of the group and has fit in with us both personally and professionally as if he has been here for years. Perhaps the most outstanding part of Greg's time at North is how he has worked with our students. He finds time to talk to the kids who need his attention and tries to help them find solutions. He is always kind and compassionate with the kids but is also very firm in telling them that this is what they need to do and if they don't make that change then they will not get the outcome they want. We have had some kids this year, as we always do, that have some truly tragic life circumstances that they are trying to deal with and overcome. Greg has gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping these kids and making a positive difference in their life this year. This is the most important part of the job for anyone that works directly with students and Greg has been an inspiration with his work in that area. In all of our years in education we have been privileged to work with wonderful counselors every year. Their impact on students is extremely important and we can't be effective as teachers without the assistance of the counselors. As Greg finishes his final year in our profession our team felt that a nomination for a Good Apple Award was the least we could do to show our appreciation. We will miss Greg but we are excited for him as he starts this new chapter in his life.