

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**WHAT:** 850 Pumpkins Distributed to all GFPS First Grade Students – donated by Torgersons

**WHEN:** Monday (October 15) & Tuesday (October 16) – schedule attached

**WHERE:** All 15 Elementary GFPS Schools

Some students roll their heavy pumpkin into their school, some first grade students partner up while carrying the large pumpkins and others write their name on it and set it next to their school to take home. First grade teacher, Mary Proud incorporates a Pumpkin Workshop into her curriculum at Giant Springs Elementary. "We have different stations set up throughout the first grade classroom and we have the students bring their booklets and pumpkins with them to each station. Then we weigh, measure, put them in water, cut one open and count the seeds, write story problems, and then at the end we paint them," commented Mary. Some classes even make pumpkin pie! Before students guess how many seeds are inside the pumpkin, they count the sections and multiply it by 16. That is usually a good indicator of the number of seeds.

It all began twelve years ago when Joe Hafliger and Wayne Fisher from Torgersons supplied enough pumpkins for every first grade student at Morningside Elementary. Since their request to supply enough pumpkins for one class (by Wayne's nephew in first grade), Torgersons' generosity has grown into distributing 850 pumpkins to all first grade students in Great Falls Public Schools. In fact, Torgersons now supplies pumpkins to rural and private schools as well, to exceed 1500 pumpkins. Big Stone Hutterite Colony expects to see Joe every October with his trailer and pickup to load the pumpkins from the colony garden.

Monday and Tuesday, (October 15-16th), Joe will bring his pickup to every elementary school and the first grade students will run out of the doors grinning ear to ear. Joe has heard many comments through the years while distributing pumpkins including "this is the first pumpkin I have ever had" to "I can't wait to show my mom."