



MONTANA

March 3rd, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: Great Falls Public School Lincoln Elementary Principal Jon Konen recognized as School Breakfast Hero by First Lady Lisa Bullock

WHEN: March 11th at 10:45 AM

WHERE: Lincoln Elementary Gymnasium

FROM: Becky Nelson, GFPS Community Connections 406-899-8642

Treasured Principal Jon Konen is Recognized by First Lady as a School Breakfast Hero

GREAT FALLS – The national anti-hunger campaign No Kid Hungry announced this week their 2019 School Breakfast Hero contest winners. The contest was launched in 2018 during National School Breakfast Week in March to celebrate champions who make school breakfast possible for all kids. The winners include educators and administrators from school districts across the country who were nominated by members of their local community.

Among this year's five national winners is Principal Jon Konen from Great Falls School District, who was nominated by Linda Cleatus with Montana No Kid Hungry for his outstanding commitment to making sure that every student at Lincoln Elementary has the opportunity to start their day with breakfast. Konen's school was one of the first in Montana to apply for and receive a *Breakfast After the Bell* grant from Montana No Kid Hungry in 2014, when the school did not offer any sort of breakfast program for its 400 students. Since implementing *Breakfast After the Bell* five years ago, Lincoln Elementary has consistently offered breakfast to all students and currently serve breakfast to 72% of those students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals. **"Jon is a true leader who sets the example for his staff and students,"** said Cleatus. **"He decided to be one of the Montana trailblazers who started *Breakfast After the Bell*, and now there are eleven schools in Great Falls who have followed suit and adopted the program for the good of their kids."** Konen will accept the School Breakfast Hero award from First Lady Lisa Bullock during a recognition ceremony at Lincoln Elementary on March 11th at 10:45 AM.

Research shows that hunger has long-term ramifications on children, including lower test scores, weaker attendance rates, and a higher risk of hospitalizations and chronic diseases. No Kid Hungry and its partners focus on school breakfast as a critical way to end childhood hunger. Accessing traditional cafeteria breakfast service can be challenging for many kids. Breakfast After the Bell provides breakfast in a way that is more convenient and accessible to students, resulting in more kids starting the day ready to learn.

Jon Konen is a contributing writer for Teacher.org and his work can be found at:

<http://www.teacher.org/daily/category/teacher-talk/>

For more information about school breakfast and Montana No Kid Hungry, visit: <https://mt.nokidhungry.org/>