



## Great Falls Public Schools

### Good Apple Award Recipients

Ms. Trisha Harp-Gardner, Public Health Officer, Cascade City-County Health Department, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Tom Moore, Superintendent, because of the following: Ms. Trisha Harp-Gardner has done outstanding work as the Public Health Officer at the Cascade City-County Health Department. During the past two years in my role as Superintendent, I have worked closely with Ms. Gardner on the Board of Health and in the day to day challenges of managing the COVID-19 Pandemic. Trisha has made herself available for consultation and collaborative decision making since day one of this health crisis. Our School District and the Community owes Ms. Gardner a huge "Thank You!" for her dedication and commitment to service. She and her staff continue to provide guidance and recommendations to our citizens and this School District based on the best possible information and data available related to COVID-19 virus. We wish her well in the future as she continues to serve the State of Montana as a public health practitioner.

Dugan Coburn, Director of Indigenous Education, Jessica Boyer, Kylan Hallett, both Academic Achievement Coach, TJ IronBear, Brandon Fish, Serena Steffenson, Angela HeavyGun, all Indigenous Education Youth Development Specialists, Curtis Valladold, Homeless/Youth Development Specialist, and Miranda Murray, and Jordan Lankford, both Instructional Indigenous Education Coaches, Patty Hodson, Indigenous Education Secretary were recommended for a Good Apple Award by Brian Patrick, Director of Business Operations because of the following: This nomination is for the wonderful display of teepees located just outside the District Offices Building (DOB). From my office window, I have been able to view the dedicated work by the Indian Education Department as they maintained them throughout their time at the DOB. The teepees received a lot of tender loving care and ongoing maintenance due to high wind storms. The Inservice activities surrounding their origins were amazing. Most importantly they were used in a positive way to bring attention to many issues that need an open discussion amongst all people. What a joy it was to see the teepees each day, but more impressive was to see the constant care and attention they received by the Indian Education Department members. The staff who worked on them were all positive and I could tell they enjoyed this amazing project. The Indian Education Department employees are very valuable and dedicated employees in the Great Falls Public School District. The Great Falls Public School System is fortunate to have them as a part of our team. I feel very privileged to have seen their efforts on a daily basis as they promoted the Indian Culture in such a positive manner.

Jessica Cape, English Teacher, North Middle School, was recommended for a Good Apple award by Shannon Marr, parent, North Middle School because of the following: I'm sure you're exhausted after a stressful semester

and especially stressful last couple of days. This insanity of threat behavior is a lot for all of us, but I know it's hitting our teachers and administrators really hard. So, I just wanted to thank you for taking the time to provide reassurance to my daughter and her classmates today. She arrived home to report that you stopped in their Connections class to let them all know that you were there to support them and encourage them to talk to you or a counselor if they needed help. With the uncertainty felt right now, I can't tell you how much that means. Thank you for going the extra mile to ease the minds and hearts of our kids when I know you must also feel so much unease. She has often said (just like older children did)... "I just love Mrs. Cape". :) I am especially grateful for caring teachers like you. Wishing you and yours a fantastic holiday season and much deserved break.

Clint Houston, Jesse Rosteck, Kristi Kinsey and Aaron McAdam, Great Falls Public Schools Resource Officers and Great Falls Police Department Detectives, and Sergeant Rob Beal, Great Falls Police Detective, were recommended for a Good Apple awards by Tom Moore, Superintendent, District Office Building, because of the following: In honor of National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day (January 9, 2022), I would like to recognize these individuals for their outstanding work in their roles as Great Falls Public Schools Resource Officers. Included also is Sergeant Rob Beal, who oversees the School Resource Officer division for the Great Falls Police Department. We appreciate their dedication to protecting and serving our Public-School students, staff and community members, here in Great Falls. As a token of our appreciation, I would like to recommend these individuals for the prestigious GFPS Good Apple Award.