



## Great Falls Public Schools

### Good Apple Award Recipients

**Lauren Coughlin, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Giant Springs**, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Jessica Swensen, Core Teacher Aide, Giant Springs, because of the following: Lauren Coughlin is an amazing teacher and an even more caring and amazing person. She helped my family in a time of need, completely unprovoked. She has shown me so much kindness during this rough season, and if anyone is deserving of an award it is her!

**Kari Kaufman, Substitute Teacher, District Wide**, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Rae Smith, Principal, Sacajawea Elementary School, because of following: Kari taught at Sacajawea for two weeks and was so flexible during her time. We thought the classroom teacher would be back at one point and when that didn't happen Kari rearranged her personal schedule to continue to substitute in that classroom. She was calm, patient, and very effective with that class. Her consistency made a huge difference. She worked with the classroom teacher and communicated whenever possible. She made the best out of a not so great situation. Every time I walked through the room, she had control and students were doing what she asked of them. I appreciate all of her hard work and dedication to that class while substitute teaching. You are amazing!

**Kaeli Gibson, Substitute Teacher, District Wide**, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Rae Smith, Principal, Sacajawea Elementary School, because of following: Kaeli jumped in with both feet while substitute teaching for library at Sacajawea. She didn't have lesson plans, nor did she know how to check books in and out. We were able to figure out lesson plans and she managed to figure out the Alexandria book software with just one conference call with another librarian. Kaeli is not afraid to find out how to do something and worked hard to get the students of Sacajawea books since it had been so long since they had checked out new books. She has a positive, "can-do" attitude and will do what it takes to get the job done. She also pulled resources from a "shared Librarian drive" to support her classroom lessons. She has been so amazing as a substitute at Sacajawea. I appreciate all her hard work and dedication.

**Laura Vukasin, President/COE of Prairie Mountain Bank, Daneen Pate, Administrative Assistant, Ruth Uecker, K-6 Assistant Superintendent, both District Offices, Shannon Guilfoyle, Principal, Serena Steffenson, Indian Ed Youth Development Specialist, and Rochelle Johnson, Counselor, all Longfellow Elementary School**, were recommended for Good Apple Awards by Tom Moore, Superintendent, because of the following: I would to recognize Laura Vukasin who headed this effort up and was assisted by these GFPS employees, Daneen, Ruth, Shannon, Serena and Rochelle, for their outstand working over the Christmas Holiday to furnish gifts for children who attend Longfellow Elementary School. This effort was called "Project Christmas".

Approximately 48 individuals or business in Great Falls donated over \$ 15,200 to purchase Christmas gifts for the students at Longfellow. The gifts were delivered by another cadre of volunteers on Christmas morning to the individual homes of Longfellow students. The presents were carried by horse-drawn carriages through the neighborhoods around Longfellow as the volunteers distributed the gifts! Thank you for bringing joy to those students in our community this Christmas! As a token of our appreciation, I would like to recommend these individuals for the prestigious GFPS Good Apple Award.

**Ronie Pearsall, Counselor, Dean Jardee, Librarian, Char Bunker, General Education Intervention Teacher, and Chandra Murphy, Resource 1 Teacher, all Whittier Elementary School,** were recommended for Good Apple Awards by Ruth Uecker, K-6 Assistant Superintendent, District Offices, because of the following: These individuals have dedicated their time and efforts and have worked tirelessly for the last several weeks. They have jumped right in and covered recess duties, covered teacher absences and helped with student discipline. Every day at the school they dealt with different and unique situations. These staff members were always ready and willing to support staff, students, families and Corri. They were and are team players who were supportive of me as I filled in for Corri Smith during this time. These individuals always kept things moving along and never shied away from any tasks they were given, they were always the first to arrive and the last to leave. I cannot thank them enough for all of their daily support and willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty. In following the tradition of the Great Falls Public School District, I feel it is appropriate to honor these individuals by awarding them a Good Apple Award.