

Renton School District
Good News Announcements
November 18, 2009

1. McKnight Middle School registrar Sharon Jones provides endless support to students and staff and goes above and beyond her job description to ensure that each student receives the proper care and services he or she is entitled to and deserves. Knowing that new middle school students need someone to guide them, Sharon created the Buddy Program which connects current students with incoming sixth-graders so that they have a friend and mentor at the start of the school year. Sharon also played a major role in establishing a relationship with St. Mathews Lutheran Church so that every Tuesday afternoon students have a place to spend time doing homework, play games, and hang out with friends. In addition, during delayed start Fridays, St. Mathews opens its doors for breakfast and a place for students to spend time before school.
2. Lakeridge Elementary School's front office staff members Nancy Kaastad, Colleen Jensen and Katie Cobb not only do a great job managing the school's front office, they also volunteer as coaches for students in the school's Check, Connect & Expect program to improve student achievement through better relationships with staff. This team meets with students in the morning and at the end of the day, giving positive feedback to help students set goals and be successful with their behavior and in their school work.
3. Debbie Vasser, McKnight Middle School's kitchen manager not only feeds the school's 1,100 students each day, she also helped start a program to offer free snacks to students in the school's many after-school enrichment programs. Debbie researched federal regulations to learn that some schools can qualify to offer snacks free-of-charge to students in after-school programs. Students now are eating healthy and have another incentive to participate in homework club, assignment completion program and other clubs like computer, art, chess, honor society, math and more.
4. Dimmitt Middle School's lead custodian Tri Huynh is a favorite among school staff for his ready smile, quick response time and willingness to take on any job. Tri's work ethic is legendary among staff and students and he is always available to address the often unpredictable needs of managing a school. Tri's constant refrain is "I'll take care of it," making him a model for the staff and students and a great representative of a Dimmitt Viking.

5. Campbell Hill Elementary School Administrative Specialist Chevelle Kaalekahi recently helped organize and manage a fundraiser for the school including contacting parents, communicating with a fundraising organization and setting up rewards for student participation. Chevelle spent long hours well beyond her workday to make the fundraiser successful. The school raised \$2,200 to be used to fund field trips, supply student rewards, and other student needs.
6. Tiffany Park Elementary School Administrative Specialist Sharon Keil and Office Staff Assistant Teresa Morrell support the school community with exceptional skill, dedication, and professionalism. Their work includes helping monitor the school's many budgets, coordinating student enrollment procedures and transportation assignments, assisting with payroll and staff attendance, and managing ASB fundraising. They are friendly, trustworthy, and calm even in the most stressful situations. They are very organized, accurate, reliable and flexible and their friendly outgoing manner enhances the welcoming atmosphere of the school.
7. Hazen High School custodian Joe Dahl goes well beyond the call of duty for students and staff. Joe recently made a display case to show off the school's state championship trophies, he created space for the Hazen cheer squad to meet and store their equipment, and has worked with various special needs students to provide training for some who work in custodial positions off campus. Joe cares about keeping the school ready for students and staff each day. He also is a vital part of each student's high school education.
8. Staff in the Payroll department work hard to ensure that every month each staff member receives compensation for their hard work. Pam Cole, Monica Oberender, Sarah Viles and Danese Thaidigsman work diligently to coordinate and process the very complex components of payroll. Over the past several months, working with Human Resources, this group has been especially busy learning and implementing a challenging transition into new software. Each of these dedicated employees sacrificed dinner with their families, weekend activities and a little of their sanity to make the transition seamless and keep pay checks arriving on time.
9. Talbot Hill Elementary School Administrative Assistant Marcia Patterson has the unique combination of patience, competence and commitment to the students, staff and parents that really makes her an outstanding asset to Talbot Hill.