



Benson Hill Elementary School teacher Jane Hasson (r) is surprised by Blitz, the Seattle Seahawks mascot, upon learning that she is one of eight teachers in the district named as this year's Renton Chamber of Commerce Ahead of the Class award winners.

Renton teachers recognized for Excellence in Education

Annual Renton Chamber of Commerce Ahead of the Class Award honors teachers for commitment to children and teaching

April 1, 2010 — Eight Renton teachers have been selected as winners of this year's Renton Chamber of Commerce Ahead of the Class Excellence in Education Awards.

The teachers were recently surprised with news of their win in their classroom by a group of Renton Chamber members, Renton Schools Superintendent Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel and Blitz, the Seattle Seahawks mascot. The Seahawks are main sponsors of the event.

**Ahead of the Class
Award Ceremony**

May 11, 7 p.m.

Renton IKEA

Performing Arts Center

*(at Renton High School
400 South 2nd Street, Renton)*

Everyone is welcome to the free event!

Nearly 50 teachers were nominated by school staff, parents, students, and community members for the annual award offered by the Renton business community to honor teachers for their high standards of professionalism and work to nurture and prepare children for a productive future.

A committee of community and business leaders reviewed applications and conducted personal interviews of teachers to select this year's winners.

Community celebration planned

Teachers selected will receive a cash award of \$500 and be honored at a community gala on May 11, 7 p.m. at the Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center at Renton High School. The event is free to the public thanks to this year's sponsors: Seattle Seahawks, First Savings Bank Northwest, McLendon Hardware, Oil Can Henry's, and others. Emcee for this year's ceremony is Seattle Seahawks spokesperson Tony Ventrella, with entertainment provided by the Seahawks Blue Thunder Drumline.

This year's winners are:

Adrienne Deblasio
Special Education Teacher
Benson Hill Elementary School
(team award)



Jane Hasson,
Special Education Teacher
Benson Hill Elementary School
(team award)



Betsy Kavanaugh
English Language Learners Teacher
Cascade Elementary School



Kim Magnusson
Physical Education Teacher
Hazelwood Elementary School



Valerie Muirhead
Special Education Teacher
Benson Hill Elementary School
(team award)



Dave Rolandson
Band Teacher
Dimmitt Middle School



Ellen Terry (middle)
Special Education Teacher
Benson Hill Elementary School
(team award)



Diane Wilson
Kindergarten Teacher
Bryn Mawr Elementary School



Nominees for this year's Ahead of the Class awards:

Name	School	Name	School
Norm Brecke	Kennydale Elementary	Larissa Klein	Talbot Hill Elementary
Shannon Bryant	Renton Christian	Emily Kolczynski	McKnight Middle School
Tabetha Burnett	Lakeridge Elementary	John Kotwis	Lindbergh High School
Monique Cabellon	Cascade Elementary	Mindy Krisel	Highlands Elementary
Christi Chang	Hazen High School	Doug LeClair	Dimmitt Middle School
Tony Collins	Tiffany Park Elementary	Melissa McDowell	Talbot Hill Elementary
Debbie Crabtree	Highlands Elementary	David Martin	Black River High School
Drew Crandall	Lakeridge Elementary	Kim Menon	Lakeridge Elementary
Julianna Dauble	Sierra Heights Elementary	Ana Miller	Renton High School
Linda DeCample	Maplewood Heights Elementary	Kelly Murphy	Kennydale Elementary
Terry Derrig	Lindbergh High School	Lisa Novotny	Cascade Elementary
Gail Ellis	Hazen High School	Sharon Olsen	McKnight Middle School
Emily Emiley	Cascade Elementary	Michele Reace	Kennydale Elementary
Orville Hagerman	Renton Christian	Mark Sabo	Hazen High School
Elena Hillard	Renton Academy	Julie Schmitke	Renton Christian
Kari Hollandsworth	Lindbergh High School	Deborah Sekreta	Nelsen Middle School
Brian Hoskins	Nelsen Middle School & Lindbergh High School	Margaret "Lynn" Simpson	Lakeridge Elementary
Amber Hronek	Campbell Hill Elementary	Patricia Villa	Nelsen Middle School
Renee Idkeidek	Spring Glen	Jackie Whitson	Dimmitt Middle School
Susan Johnson	Renton High School	Teresa Wood	Renton Christian
David Kitzman	McKnight Middle School		