



The Golden Apple Award

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS NOMINATION FORM

The purpose of the **Golden Apple Award**, is to recognize an outstanding contribution of time, talent and effort in support of the students, parents and staff of the Livonia Public Schools. Some of the qualities of the nominee might include: a positive attitude, dedication, dependability, self-motivation, helpfulness, etc. Please fill in the areas below which you feel are the basis of

this nomination.

Name of Nominee Dolly Rothermel

Is a positive representative of the District by: (give examples) _____

Is a positive role model for others by: _____

Is innovative and seeks new ideas or methods by: See

Is self-motivated by: attached

Other reasons this person is deserving of this award: _____

Nominee's position: early childhood teacher Worksite: Perrinville

Name of Nominator: Melissa Morton Phone: 248.444.8869

Do you wish to remain anonymous? () Yes No

Are you a (Please check one.): () Student () District Employee Parent/Guardian

() Citizen PTA Volunteer () Other

Please return to ~~Donna McDowell~~, Communications Office, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48154

Any questions should be directed to 734-744-2533: ~~Donna McDowell~~, Administrator of Communications

Thank You Fax 734.744.2569

mittie1@hfhs.org



I am nominating Polly Rothermel for a Livonia Public Schools, Golden Apple Award. Polly is a teacher at Perrinville Early Childhood Center in the Livonia Public school system and teaches in the ECP (early childhood program) for preschoolers with special needs. The program is made up of children with delays in the areas of speech and language, physical, cognitive or social development. Polly works with my son, Cole Morton, who has a speech/language delay, as well as some sensory processing and fine motor delays. Cole is currently a student in Polly's 4 year old afternoon ECP class and was lucky enough to have Polly last year, in the 3 year ECP classroom as well.

Polly Rothermel is a special teacher. She has chosen to teach in the special needs field which in itself is a rewarding, unselfish, and compassionate career. But Polly goes beyond her teaching obligations. Her commitment to her students and their parents is genuine; with total devotion to giving her students whatever instruction is needed to compete with their non-delayed peers. Her faith in her challenged students is boundless, and she strives to have them become as independently functioning as they can. She strives to provide a modified educational environment for EACH student—to support their individual development.

Polly encourages family involvement in a child's educational plan. If something isn't working she preserves and, using her seemingly innate knowledge of educational methods, finds a solution that is right for each student. She is determined that the student can reach his/her greatest potential, and keeps her high expectations even through difficult times. She not only has the task of teaching these special needs students, she must educate other staff and parents alike. Throughout frustrating situations she maintains her optimistic attitude, patience, and understanding. The extra time I know she spends doing lessons over holidays, weekends, and summer vacation adds up to many hours of work that she is not required to do but, because of her devotion and faith in her students, she does it. I live near the Perrinville school, and on most nights, passing the school on the way home after picking up my kids from daycare, I see one lonely car in the parking lot, Polly's!

Polly Rothermel is an honest person and works very well with all the people she encounters. She must communicate with many staff, from administration to para-professionals. Her dealings with principals, general education teachers, as well as the family all filters down for the student's best interest. She is a loyal teacher representative for the school's PTA (parent teacher association) and, in my eyes should be a model for all early childhood educators, particularly those with impairments.

One of the most challenging relationships for a teacher of the impaired can be working with parents. I have found Polly to be open-minded in her evaluations of situations and honest in a constructive and compassionate way. If there is ever a concern, she is willing to discuss it and work together to decide what our options are. She is a pleasant, fun person to work with and my son Cole respects and enjoys learning from her. I feel my son and all of her other students are lucky to have her as an advocate.

I feel Polly deserves this honor for her dedication to our children, and the flawless execution of her position at Perrinville. She is truly an asset to our school district. Without her qualities and knowledge my son would not be as successful as he is today. My son has a lot of work and learning ahead of him and it won't be an easy road for him, or for myself and my husband as his parents. However, with Polly's dedication, ideas, patience, and determination, my son has started on the right track for future success. I am forever grateful to her for starting us off right.

Fondly,

Melissa A. Morton