

2015

TRSD Employee Recognition

April 2013

Important Dates

Graduations:

NVHS June 2, 2015 7:00 p.m.

HVHS June 3, 2015 7:00 p.m.

IVHS June 4, 2015 7:00 p.m.

Paydays:

5/29/15 Everyone

6/12/15 Teachers

6/26/15 All Others

Insurance Meeting

5/13/15 4:00 p.m. @ D.O.

Retirement Party

5/28/15 5-7 p.m. @ D.O.

No Work: 5/25/15 Memorial Day

School Board Meeting

5/19/15 6 p.m. @ D.O.

6/16/15 6 p.m. @ D.O.



HIGH SCHOOLS ILLINOIS VALLEY

Cougar Nation would like to recognize **Melissa Farmer** for her continued excellence in facilitating and providing extracurricular activities for the students at Illinois Valley High School. This year Melissa has taken on the duties of SMILE coordinator, Promise Grant Representative as well as implementation of the 3-D Printer Grant. Melissa, along with the IV SMILE club, recently organized a Math and Science Night club that was hosted at Evergreen Elementary. During this event students and parents could partake in activities like building earthquake resistant popsicle houses, Lego-robotics, balloon races and more, she also gathered raffle prizes that attendees could win. Along with her teaching duties, Melissa is the Three Rivers representative for the Promise Grant that is run through RCC. One Saturday a month Melissa dedicates to attending meetings and trainings on how to best implement the Promise Grant. Melissa is a valued staff member not only for the

activities that she provides, but also the student activities that she attends. We greatly appreciate her efforts!!!

Mrs. Megan Brown is currently teaching Freshman Form, Honors Freshman English, Film as Literature and filling a vital role as a TOSA. Continually Megan demonstrates flexibility and work ethic in the multiple roles that she fills. Recently Megan is developing and will assisting in the facilitation of the Smarter Balanced Assessment structure, as well as devoting multiple hours assisting seniors in their efforts to complete the essential skills of their diploma. Heading into the 2nd semester Megan as had her class schedule change and she has consistently demonstrated a "can do" attitude with whatever she is faced with. Thank you Megan for your effort and continued support of Cougar Nation.

Cougar Nation would like to recognize **Erica Butler** for her constant effort and enthusiasm here at IV. Erica is currently teaching Common Core 1, Jr. College Prep and Leadership, but her

duties don't stop there, she also is the Title 1 coordinator which oversees student attendance as well as many other facets of day to day operations. Erica is the driving force behind all of our extra-curricular activities and events, much of which she does on her own. She leads a Pride class that teaches students care and concern for the school, community and fellow students. Erica's can do attitude is one that is valued and relied consistently, and is demonstrated through her willingness to be part of other activities like the Gear-Up grant leadership team, coordinating the College Application Week event, sites on the Josephine County Fund board, facilitates the ECMC group and is the head coach for the volleyball program. Thanks to Erica for all her effort and dedication.

Cougar Nation would like to recognize **Mrs. Mary Paul** for her continued excellence in the attendance office. Mary has been serving the IV students and parents for 14+ years and the district for over 20, she has done so flawlessly. Mary has displayed the poise and atti-

tude to work with parents and students around the area of attendance handling some cases that are not so pleasant. Additionally Mary supervises our Ed Lab for students that are in need of serving a discipline consequence, this is many times a thankless job that requires her to handle situations on her own. One of Mary's greatest assets is continually investing in students and seeing them through to a more positive situation. Thanks Mary for your effort!!!!

We would like to give **Debbie Larsen** a round of applause for her constant effort in supporting students in the credit recovering classroom. Debbie is a caring individual that supervises, monitors and advocates for students that are working in the Odysseyware program to recover previously failed classes. Debbie provides a classroom environment that is welcoming and supportive for all students to excel, much of this all on her own. The role that Debbie fills in Cougar Nation is one that is vital to student success, this takes a special individual to see these students through to graduation, we greatly appreciate her consistent dedication to the students in this capacity.

Illinois Valley High School would like to recognize and thank **Julie Pope** for all her efforts and hard work around our intervention program as well as the other duties that she fulfills in the front office. Julie organizes and facilitates details around the intervention periods, with-out Julie's effort the requisition of students would not be a streamlined process. Julie consistently has the students in the right classes and communicates with teachers in a manner that support students in their interventions. As parents enter the office they're greeted with a smile and a hello, Julie exemplifies the spirit of a customer service organization and is a welcoming face to the parents and the community. We applaud and recog-

nize Julie as an integral part of Cougar Nation.

HIDDEN VALLEY

With the changes surrounding staffing here at Hidden Valley High School, a shift of how to deliver the Business Math class to students was created. **James Powers** took the lead with this as he not only is teaching the class, he has transformed the delivery method of the curriculum utilizing a proficiency based mode that includes students working on Chromebooks each day. This new structure has motivated students that otherwise in many cases have struggled in a traditional math classroom. Students have delivered high praise for the changes and it is evident that without Mr. Powers' willingness and leadership... Business Math here at Hidden Valley would not be as successful as it is currently.

Luke Tomlinson has taken on many challenges here at Hidden Valley High School in the last two years. His efforts to create a behavioral model classroom and program is well documented and appreciated. Currently, Mr. Tomlinson is working on protocols where Special Education students can gain access to the general education environment using cutting edge technology that includes teacher recordings of individual lessons and the use of a Chromebook by students that are not able to be in the general education environment due to special needs. With all of the changes around Smarter Balance testing, Luke has been a staff leader sharing research while working with administration to make the transition happen as smooth as possible. Mr. Tomlinson's influence as a professional working to improve many things for our students and staff is valued and we thank him for his positive energy.

In the morning, you can hear brass horns blasting in the music room prior

to school during o period at Hidden Valley. As a 6-12 band instructor, **Mr. Ben Lawson** has tirelessly tackled being a music teacher that covers fine arts in two buildings. This task is difficult to say the least and he deals with a spread of ages and abilities every day within the context of his position. This being said, what makes Mr. Lawson an exceptional teacher is that he is always looking for ways to meet students where they can have a positive experience that excites them. Regardless of whether it is 7:00am in the morning for Jazz Band, a choir concert, teaching enrichment, or 9:30pm on a Tuesday night with his pep band playing for basketball- Ben leads his students with charisma. This level of passion bleeds involvement. Our music program is one of the best in Southern Oregon and much of that credit goes to our leader, which in this case is a man that understands the importance of captivation which in turn promotes student success. Our students are lucky to have such a mentor, advisor, and director here at Hidden Valley.

Ben Bickle continues to leave his mark on many things here at Hidden Valley. Ben is a doer, he finds ways to make events and his classroom a place where students want to be. His effort as a teacher and volunteer are nearly unparalleled. Ben's help with enrichment, Senior Super Stars, facility painting, archery, prom, and yearbook are all things that students and staff gain large benefit from. Our community at large benefits greatly from his influence as a volunteer and leader with events such as Art Along the Rogue and Best of the Best. Currently, we are planning a mustang sculpture that Ben will be actively part of. Words cannot express enough what Mr. Bickle means to Hidden Valley

High School. He is a second generation mustang that recognizes how personal commitment positively affects an entire school community.

Madeleine Commons is a new hire coming to us from Lincoln Savage Middle School last spring. Ms. Commons has been a great fit as she embodies the “whatever it takes” mantra here at Hidden Valley. She truly has a service heart to help people regardless of whether she is serving students, parents, staff, or the entire school community at large. Over the course of this year, we have held several community events that need countless volunteers. Madeleine gives of her time and talent to these events. Our annual Veteran’s Day Celebration, Hall of Fame Steak Feed and Auction, and our Crab Feed would not be as special as they are without her tireless commitment to making things great for our school. We commend her for her efforts and she is but a large part in helping make Hidden Valley special.

When we think of someone that goes the extra mile in so many capacities, **Liz Elkins** immediately comes to mind. Not only is she pleasant while serving parents and students that come in the front door, she also serves our staff and community beyond description. Her effort to help lead with our Booster Club’s Hall of Fame and annual Veteran’s Day Celebration is commendable. Liz has a “whatever it takes” attitude that exemplifies the true posture of what it means to be a Mustang! We commend her for working so hard to make things better for our students, staff, and entire school community.

Janis Posin is an employee that serves the needs of our students tirelessly. One employee shared that she is the most consistent and hard-working staff member on our team calling her Steady Eddie. When Ms. Posin walks into a room she lights it up with a smile and service heart. The students of the life

skills program gain so much from her willingness to go the extra mile to assist them. Specifically, she attempts to be creative in how she communicates and works with others always thinking and reflecting on how best she can do her job. Janis is a model employee for the Three Rivers School District... but further than that, she is a model human being that we are proud to have as an intricate part of our school community.

Edgar Houghtby is an amazing young man and professional. Plainly put, he is a role model that leads by example for many of our students. Edgar is a calming and compassionate spirit that always seems to find a way to meet the needs of our school. He has been instrumental as a classified employee working through difficult situations that come up in the life skills environment. He is appreciated by our entire school community for going above and beyond as the leader of our wrestling program-giving opportunity at all ages of athletes to gain access and success through character development. Overall, Edgar is a “whatever it takes” employee. He is a problem solver and leader regardless of what is asked of him- which is exactly why he is so good for our students and school.

NORTH VALLEY

Amanda Graber is an emerging master teacher who has contributed heavily to the kids in her Math classes and to the greater good of North Valley. In addition to her teaching duties, among which she team teaches a Math class with our SPED teacher, she has brought back our acting program and helped with student led stage productions. Amanda has been our swim coach in the winter and this spring she is coaching a new tennis program. Amanda goes many extra miles to connect with a

wide spectrum of our kids.

Kevin Shafer is a new ERC aide at North Valley and he has made really solid connections with some of our toughest students. Kevin helps kids one on one, helps with testing, works in classrooms where some of our SPED kids need support and in general shares the helping load with two other aides. Kevin is also our varsity baseball coach and has done excellent ground work to prepare our kids for varsity and JV baseball. Many of our students are complimentary of the connections and positive interactions that he shares every day.

NEWBRIDGE

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

LINCOLN SAVAGE

Rick Draper has been a consistent leader on the 7th grade staff at Lincoln Savage Middle School. Rick shares his knowledge of mathematics with students of all grade levels. His students continue to be top performers on state assessments locally, regionally and state-wide. Mr. Draper has also tackled advanced 7th grade math and academic support classes for 7th and 8th graders for the 2013-14 school year. Mr. Draper, the staff and students at LSMS love you and appreciate everything you do.

Ben Lawson has tackled the tremendous task of growing our music program at LSMS this year. In a few short weeks, Mr. Lawson has taken a beginning band of 17 members, and expanded it to well over 50! In doing this Mr. Lawson has agreed to a “tweak” in his daily schedule. Thank you Mr. Lawson for caring so much for the kids of Lincoln Savage Middle School and Hidden Valley High School. And thank you for working so hard to give our kids the best opportunities to learn and grow in the world of music.

Brenda Tall is our 6th grade math instructor. Brenda goes above and beyond in assisting the students here at Lincoln Savage. Brenda is giving of her time before school, and has taken on an activity within our after school programs. She has hosted a STEM evening for the community, parents and our students to join in. As a leader in our 6th grade teacher team, Brenda supports all students through her efforts and her constant communication with her other team members. Thank you Brenda for your dedication to the success of all LSMS students!

Cary Polka is our new kitchen manager. Cary comes to school with a smile and the drive to serve great food to our staff and students each day. Cary's kitchen experience has helped transition new food programs and menus to LSMS this year. Her leadership has also helped new kitchen staff members and new student kitchen workers come together and function as a great team. Thank you Cary for all you do!

Cyndi Crofoot has been working at LSMS for the past 3 years. After transferring from Fruitdale Elementary, Cyndi quickly earned a reputation as hard working, dependable, caring, and knowledgeable. Each day she brought those traits to our Special Education program and students flourished under her tutelage. In the spring of 2014, Cyndi accepted our Office Clerk position and has done a fabulous job. She continues to be described as hard working, dependable, caring and knowledgeable. Cyndi is a fast learner and has already made several contributions to the office and the school from her new position. Thank you Cyndi for everything you do!

LSMS would like to give a special thank you to two ladies: **Rene Stark** and **Nancy Hurley** are Super Star moms that have made huge contributions to the students of Lincoln Savage. They have helped lead our PTO and their countless hours and dedication to our school and our students is greatly appreciated. Thank you for all you do for kids! YOU ARE THE AWESOMEST!

We would like to thank **Brian Fitzsimmons** for his time, diligence, patience and can do attitude. Brian is an exceptional man and an exceptional asset to our school. He is always striving to serve our students and staff to the best of his abilities. He continually gives of his time and abilities mentoring many of our young people along the way. Brian's easy going approach and friendly disposition have earned him the respect of all. We are extremely grateful for Brian's flexibility this year as he has transitioned into a more diverse working role, tackling numerous new responsibilities, and leading our testing center. Thank you Brian for all you do for the Lincoln Savage Family!

LORNA BYRNE

Tim Talty wears a number of different hats here at our building. He is always the "go to" guy when something needs to get done. He is a strong advocate for children and goes out of his way to make sure each child has a chance to succeed. Tim puts in a great deal of extra time above and beyond his contracted hours. Thank you Tim for all that you do.

Brenda Encinas is the "go to" person when it has to get done. She is precise, consistent, and meticulous. I depend on her every day of the week.

She is also extremely giving of her time. Thank you Brenda for all you do at LBMS.

Stephanie Henning is a tireless worker and the friendly face you see when you enter LBMS. Stephanie goes out of her way to be helpful to parents and students and helps our school be a kinder and friendly place to visit. Thank you Stephanie.

Noni Merrell does a variety of important jobs for us at LBMS. Her knowledge and experience is very valuable to us here in IV. Not only is she a resource for us as a staff, she is our school family advocate, and helps children and families within our community acquire needed items. She is positive and does her job with a smile. I truly appreciate seeing her in my life every day.

FLEMING

We'd like to honor **Nic Kemper** at Fleming Middle School. He is a new teacher this year and is teaching 6th grade language arts and computer science. Nic is an alumni of Fleming. He loves the school and his dedication shows. He has taken a leadership role in supporting other staff with technology needs. Nic is also teaming with another 6th grade teacher to run an after school 6th through 8th grade leadership program. They are supporting all kinds of student led and supported activities and jobs at Fleming. They recently supported Mr. Stuckey in putting on our first school dance. They are currently planning our Holiday Dance in December. He also applied for a local Delta Kappa Gamma Grant and received \$200 to buy new literature for his class. Mr. Kemper definitely was the coolest dressed teacher during our recent spirit week. Way to rock it Mr. Kemper! That nose ring and Mohawk hair style was "AMAZING.....!"

This year **Mr. Rick Saeman** has offered a 21st Century class in archery again. That group developed into a skilled team. They went to the state tournament this weekend and took first place for Middle School! Congratulations to Mr. Saeman for his work with this great group of kids. His caring, devoted attention has given the kids the skills and encouragement to improve and compete!

From our Classified staff, I'd like to recognize **Tiffany Clark**. Tiffany is our test coordinator at Fleming Middle School. This year she has gone beyond her typical duties and is now running our intramural program, homework help house, and she is the co-director of our 21st Century Grant. Tiffany is very organized and is a key communicator to our teachers regarding STAR/OAKS data. Being involved in our student data, it was a perfect opportunity for her to get 'googlized'. After attending the training, she will be sharing her knowledge with our staff, she is also using google docs to share recent scores or attendance data with staff. I appreciate her ability to take on these new duties, train others with this new software, and to continually come to school smiling every day. Thank you Tiffany.

I'd like to recognize **Coach Garrett Farmer**, Garrett has volunteered to coach three sports this year. He coached 8th grade football in the fall. In the winter, he encouraged 23 students to come out for wrestling. That is more than 50% growth over last year. We had much success and had six boys who were eligible to wrestle at Regionals and one student who went to State for Fleming! He took 8th place! This is incredible growth for our team. Garrett works diligently to connect with kids and he

actively seeks assistant coaches with skills that compliment and support the needs of the team. There are currently about 60 students out for track! I am pleased to see Garrett's excitement and dreams coming true for our teams. His efforts are paying off!

I'd also like to recognize **Coach Chris Davidson**. Coach Davidson supported our talented 7th grade Girl's basketball team. They had a great season. There was a rocky start to our season with several schools dropping out and a need to reorganize to get our team some competitive games. He showed patience and leadership as we weathered that transition. Coach Davidson was so impressed with our girl's work ethic and progress that he volunteered to take them to a very competitive tournament in Bend. It was a challenging weekend, but the girls stood tall with the skill and encouragement from their devoted coach. We are looking forward to next year as they grow even more skilled as competitive players in the Gold League! Thanks to both coaches for going above and beyond for our Fleming athletes.

ELEMENTARY EVERGREEN

Tiffany Bonney is a 1st grade teacher at Evergreen who continues to astonish me with her classroom instruction. When in her class, students have no down time and instructional time is at a maximum. She is well organized and plans her lessons to be the most effective and engaging for all students on a daily basis. Tiffany is dedicated to every student and it shows in her preparation, implemen-

tation, and reflection of her craft. Tiffany is a true professional and an asset to our school. We are very fortunate to have her at Evergreen.

Tammy Griffis, 5th Grade Teacher, is an astonishing teacher and mentor for our younger staff at Evergreen. She does a brilliant job engaging her students throughout the instructional day because of her well-planned lessons and the various instructional strategies she uses to engage all learners. From day one, Tammy has set high expectations for all and has established classroom routines that allow her and her students to utilize every minute of the day for learning. Tammy is a key person in the development of all of our 5th graders before they make the transition to middle school. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated and passionate person working at Evergreen.

Laura Gill is a 1st grade teacher at Evergreen who continues to amaze me with her classroom instruction and dedication to student success. She plans her lessons to be the most effective and engaging for all students. When you enter her class, you will see students working together to learn and practice essential skills in reading, math, and writing. She is a skilled teacher, who utilizes every minute in the day to deliver quality instruction by using various instructional strategies for all learners. Laura also serves on our building RTII team and she goes above and beyond her regular teaching duties to make sure all students in our school are developing in reading. We are very grateful that she is at Evergreen Elementary.

Molly Kitchens, Office Clerk, is one of the most vibrant and energetic people on our staff. She always has a smile on her face and kind words for all who visit our school. In addition to her office duties, she is in charge of publishing our monthly newsletter and the leader on our PBIS team. Molly's creativity and energy makes her the perfect person to lead our PBIS assemblies. As situations arise in our school day, she is one of the first people to step up and support our students, staff, and parents. Molly is a remarkable employee and we are truly fortunate to have her working at Evergreen.

Karen Lorensen is an educational assistant that works with our students during reading and math times throughout the day. She is very talented and gifted in delivering the reading and math intervention/enrichment to our kids at various grade levels. Her friendly face and positive personality makes for a great match for our students and staff at Evergreen. She continues to amaze me with her dedication and devotion to our students, staff, and parents. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful individual working with our children.

Angie Griffin is the assistant who monitors and works with our students in our learning center. She is a vital part of our PBIS team during the day by helping students work through their behavior problems that arise in the class, recess, cafeteria, etc. Mrs. Griffin has developed relationships with students, which help her support them in the problem solving process and allow them to return to their daily schedule as quickly as possible. Mrs. Griffin also

meets with Mr. Regal weekly to discuss the behaviors of students from the previous week and come up with a strategy for the individuals. She is a key part to our behavior process at Evergreen and we are very lucky to have such a dedicated and compassionate person in this role.

FT VANNOY

Dave Holden has once again given the kindergarten children as well as their parents a warm start to the school year and a fantastic start into their educational careers. Dave, like all the other elementary staff, has put in countless hours preparing and implementing the new Journey's curriculum. In addition, Dave has moved classrooms and is working collaboratively with the 1st grade teachers. If that wasn't enough, Dave has taken a very active role in the fund-raising efforts to help keep the FV music program alive and the school's PBIS program going strong. Dave's time, energy and attitude is appreciated by all.

I'd like to recognize the second grade team consisting of **Mary Solomon** and **Lindsay DeVore** for their passion to educate children. As a team they carefully plan assignments that hold the second grade students to a high standard. Lindsay and Mary demonstrate qualities of compassion and caring that are often seen in their students.

On November 21st **Carolyn Suess** retired from Fort Vannoy and the Three Rivers School District. In her last days at FV, the students showed their appreciation for Carolyn by making her a good-bye banner and wishing her well. In addition, the staff gave Carolyn a farewell breakfast and gifts of appreciation. Carolyn's passion for chil-

dren was evident daily in her interactions in and out of the classroom. Often in education individuals wonder if they are making a difference in the lives of the children with whom they work. In Carolyn's case, I feel that she made a big difference and this was showcased by the child who she had worked with for four years who gave Carolyn a going away gift of his most prized toy cars, rocks and other various items. The FV staff will miss Carolyn and wishes her all the best.

I'd also like to recognize the FV kitchen staff of **Cindy Jaciuk** and **Katie Hart**. Their cheerful demeanor is welcomed by all who enter the cafeteria. Cindy and Katie's flexibility as well as their ability to anticipate the needs of the students, parents and staff are greatly appreciated.

FRUITDALE

Mandy Duke is a 1st grade teacher at Fruitdale. She is compassionate and patient in her classroom. Her first graders are actively engaged throughout the day and she hold them to high standards. Mandy helps lead our SST team, RTI team, and our PBIS team. She extremely positive and professional every day. It is a joy to work with Mandy Duke.

Cindy Lomica teaches 1st grade at Fruitdale Elementary School. As a new teacher to Fruitdale, she has adapted well to the culture of our building. She has teamed with two other teachers at her grade level. They have spent countless hours collaborating on instructional areas, especially with our new reading program. Ms. Lomica has brought a wealth of experience in primary reading instruction as well as many other areas.

Cece McKee volunteered to lead a Professional Development activity in early December. She was well-organized and knowledgeable when she led the staff. Teachers asked a lot of questions, many of which she answered and others she has been researching and continuing to follow up. She has proven herself to be a great resource for all of the staff at Fruitdale. She is also one of our district's lucky teacher who has the challenge of having a blended classroom. She is doing an excellent job of supporting students in her class while focusing on the needs of both first and second graders. Fruitdale is lucky to have Ms. McKee as part of our community.

Brandi Linden is a title one assistant as well as our Family Advocate. She has worked at Fruitdale for several years and has built strong relationships with both staff and students. Several families will call and ask specifically for Ms. Linden. Ms. Linden is excellent with our students and is often seen not only helping to solve conflicts on the recess yard, but also paying attention to the individual needs of each and every student. The Fruitdale Community is lucky to have Mrs. Linden.

Sheri Larson is new in the Office Manager position at Fruitdale. While she has experience in this position, transitioning from middle school to elementary school can still be a challenge. Sheri has done an excellent job of getting to know the students of Fruitdale. Mrs. Larson is always asking, "What can I do to help out." I appreciate her flexibility and eagerness to be a support in any way she can.

Vickie Brown works in the office. She greets students and par-

ents every day with a warm smile on her face. Despite the craziness of her job, she always represents Fruitdale as a warm loving place for families. Vickie is also well organized and sees every job through until the end. It is a pleasure to work with Vickie every day.

MADRONA

We have a very devoted teacher named **Mindi Law**. She is a fourth grade teacher who truly goes above and beyond with her students. In addition to her overall awesomeness, she is also helping Madrona with our new goals around Responses To Intervention (RTI) along with helping our assistants learn progress monitoring skills. Her natural leadership influence is felt throughout the school. SHE IS ALSO A MADRONA MOM-MY, her pride for her kindergarten son is both contagious and admirable.

Carrie Simpson is without a doubt, a stellar teacher... her classroom promotes fairness, accountability, and rigor. When she reads aloud to her students, they are captivated by her animations and her enthusiasm. Over winter break, she orchestrated former Madrona students, now Hidden Valley students, to come to our school and paint. The students were so excited to return to "HAPPY YELLOW" paint throughout our school. Her devotion is so admirable, and we appreciate her willingness to always go above and beyond.

Andrea Rodgers, she is one of our wonderful support staff who goes above and beyond to not only make sure our students feel supported by her as our family advocate but she also brings so much recognition to our staff through various random acts of kindness. She listens, she internal-

izes, she validates, and she follows through with all of those she works with. Her impact is felt throughout our entire school...she truly makes Madrona a special place to be.

I would also like to recognize **Gordon Schneider**. He is our "Mr. Sunshine"...From birthday cards, gorgeous flower arrangements, and decorated bulletin boards, the list is endless. Gordon puts forth so many wonderful efforts to give Madrona Elementary a feeling of family. Most importantly, he is there for our students, he goes above and beyond to have an academic and supportive impact on our students.

MANZANITA

Lori Chamberlain has taught at Manzanita going on nine years, this year she joined the 5th grade team and has truly embraced the new curriculum and her new teaching partners. Mrs. Chamberlain has high learning expectations and sets her students up for success by building confidence in each student. She works hard every day to meet each student's individual academic and social needs. In addition to her hard work in the classroom she volunteers her time for an afterschool Destination Imagination team, last year she led her team to the National competition. Thank you for your dedication to learning success.

Heather Wolter is an amazing 2nd grade teacher at Manzanita. I am impressed that she has balanced teaching full time and earning her Master's degree simultaneously, never letting her smile fade. Her classroom is always positive, energetic, full of learning and yet calm in nature. A parent recently reported how impressed they were with her "ability to set high ex-

expectations, hold students accountable to those expectations, while conveying a sense of deep caring for them as a student and a growing person. I am so thankful that my child is in her classroom” Mrs. Wolter is a team player and always willing to go the extra mile for our school. Thank you for all you do for kids.

Van Granger teaches 5th grade. He continually goes above and beyond to meet the needs of learners in his room and grow as a professional. Van is dedicated to making a difference in our school and beyond. He stays connected with our students as part of the middle school team that takes students on a learning adventure back east every summer. Van stays connected to the growth and direction of our district by regularly attending monthly board meetings. I appreciate all that Van does and his positive approach to continually making a difference.

Ronda Vanlandingham is the office manager extraordinaire at Manzanita. In the elementary world the office is grand central station from 7 am to 3pm. I am so thankful to have Ronda to work with, she continually goes above and beyond to make our school a wonderful place to be. Ronda meets every task with a smile and is always willing to do what needs to be done to build success for students and staff. We are fortunate to have such a kind and compassionate person on our team. Thank you for all you do for us!

Janet Hudson is an educational assistant. This year she also accepted the family advocate position. She has started a back pack food program and pantry to supply students with food during long weekends and breaks

from school. She currently supplies 35-40 students with weekend food supplies. During the week of our pantry food drives Ms. Hudson can be seen dancing around the parking lot with her reminder sign. Janet is an amazing resource as an educational assistant and family advocate. I appreciate her dedication to our school.

Eileen Dryer brings a positive, can do attitude to Manzanita. Most of her day is dedicated to helping our students learn in the computer lab. She can also be seen starting the student’s day off in the cafeteria and sending them home safely curbside. This year I am impressed with her excitement to instruct a 5th Grade math group, her willingness to be the voice of Synrevoice messages and her amazing data tracking skills. Every task, request or change is met with a smile and every challenge is met with a solution. Thank you Eileen for all you do!

APPLEGATE

Jim Scull is the 4/5 teacher at Applegate. He has been in the teaching business for 14 years and has refining his approach along the way. Jim brings an expertise and philosophy about being the teacher who prepares elementary students for middle school. His expectations are high for his students, and Jim is willing to push himself in order to give feedback and direction to his students as they work hard to get ready for their middle school years. Jim is a team player who is willing to pitch in and help. He took a lead role in running the Applegate Jog-a-Thon, and has been helpful with every major event and assembly since then. It is teach-

ers like Jim who make Applegate the school we are. Thanks Mr. Scull!

Debra Yerby, 2/3 blend, is a dedicated staff member who loves to teach at Applegate. Debra is part of the Applegate fabric. She is our de facto teacher leader, not only by HER years on the staff, but by her example of professionalism, commitment to students and community, and the deep caring and compassion she brings to our school. She is also open to change – Debra embraced the new English Language Arts curriculum and has done a great job of cooperating as we implement Response to Intervention (RTI) in our school.

Justin Montano has been working hard to expand his influence in our school this year. As always, he’s the biggest Cougars fan in the building – he is seen at almost (if not every) Cougars game for volleyball and boys/girls basketball. Montano has added “scheduler” to his credits, as he took a lead role in ensuring our complicated schedule served our students as they need to be served. Montano also MC’s school assemblies, and is helpful in organizing them when called upon to do so. Further, he has taken on Student Council, already running highly successful elections and putting his charges to work helping with events at school. Montano is a gifted leader of students – his youthful energy combined with his love for kids is a powerful combo, one which he puts to work each day to help our middle school students learn and grow!

Janie Burstein is the Applegate Library Manager. She has established a highly organized and vital space on our campus. She is always on the lookout for opportunities to add books to our shelves. Burstein works with the community to raise several thousand dollars each year to benefit the library. Further, she has taken on the roll of “Lunch Detention Supervi-

sor". This role constitutes a considerable change in how Applegate uses its library, and Janie was accommodating and helpful in making this adjustment. Janie monitors young adult literature and keeps a firm grip on the kinds of literature students have in our library. She understands the importance of offering a wide array of themes for our middle school students while still protecting the interests of our youngest students. This is important in a K-8 school like ours!

Tracey Jacobs was awarded a new position recently. She is now in charge of the technology lab at Applegate, and is taking a lead role in coordinating OAKS and Smarter Balanced testing in our building. Tracey has proven herself as a collaborative team player, and she is doing a great job communicating the importance of keyboarding "from the home keys" with our students. We have always been pleased with Tracey's work here at Applegate, and in her new position, Tracey is soaring! Thanks to Tracey Jacobs!

Without **Linda Kappen**, many parts of our school would wither. She has recently started the Art and Nature after school program, which extends the school day for a dozen of our students. Linda raises and releases Monarch butterflies on campus in cooperation with Washington State University and has developed this program from scratch. She also is an excellent educational assistant, helping our young readers develop through their participation in small groups. Linda is an integral part of our school, and we appreciate her immensely!

Darrin Bossingham has been at Applegate long enough that he is familiar with every nook and cranny. He does a great job of caring for our

school. That isn't where Darrin stops, however – he makes it a point to develop relationships with staff members and students alike. A highlight this year was during the Applegate Christmas show, when Darrin, playing Santa Claus, made a memorable entrance as he walked down the center aisle in rock star fashion, to the adoration of every parent and student in the gym. Darrin is a rock star head custodian at Applegate School!

Volunteer: Fred and Jean Hall are solid Applegate citizens that give, give, give! The Halls eschew public recognition for their efforts, but it is important the members of the board know that these are the folks the hold Concerts in the Barn at their farm in the valley benefit our library and arts programs at Applegate. Further, the pair organized the recent and highly successful Applegate School Community Square Dance, arranging for live music and a live caller to take participants through their first steps of square dance. Their giving goes further: both of the pair can be seen at school helping in various ways: the both are SMART readers, and Jean heads up Applegate Battle of the Books for 5th grade. Fred assists with the garden club, and recently took part in the Waste Audit which will lead to more effective recycling practices at our school. These two are true gifts to our community, and to our school!

WILLIAMS

Cassandra Elston-Bingham, 4/5 blend teacher, is an extraordinarily well-planned educator whose own standards drive her to do her best possible every day. She runs a highly structured classroom and still has fun

with her students – evidence of a highly qualified and expert educator! Cassie is a great team player, and is always on the look-out to do something nice for a colleague. We're fortunate to have her on our team at Williams!

Joanne Wardle has been a leader in our building, working hard to ensure she was ready to go with our new English Language Arts adoption and taking a lead role in building and tweaking a complicated schedule to ensure our students gain the academic support they need. Joanne is branching out technologically, with training in Google Chromebooks and the recent acquisition of an iPad she will incorporate in her classroom.

Joanne is a staff member to whom every detail is important, and she's willing to work to make everything right for her students. Joanne Wardle's are hard to come by, and we're super happy to have her at Williams!

Catherine Agnifili, K/1 blend, has taken the proverbial "bull by the horns" with our new reading program. Her students are growing consistently in reading according to school data, and she's been working very hard to master the new, complicated Journeys curriculum lessons.

Catherine ("Cat") is a meticulous planner who is careful to account for every instructional minute at her disposal, and when there is a problem, she always brings a solution with it. She is typical of Williams teachers: dedicated, hard-working, results-focused and caring. We're lucky to have her, and so are her students!

Premila Miles, Library Manager, is a highly organized librarian. She works diligently to check in and out books, to decorate our library, and to smile at each of our kids. Premila is a quiet

and positive force in our school – a tireless worker who sets a good example for our staff and kids alike. It is classified employees like Premila upon whom we depend every day to support the efforts of our teachers as we prepare our students for careers and higher education. Williams is glad to have Premila on our team!

Dawn Nowak has been at Williams for what the Pioneers call “a long spell”, but her enthusiasm and care for our students has only grown. She is a proven problem-solver and never complains – she just gets it done. Dawn runs a tight ship – her reading groups are fast-paced, non-nonsense yet fun for her students. Dawn pitches in at all levels at Williams – she helps with all of the major events (Jog-a-Thon, Pioneers Annual Christmas Show, etc.) and is always flexible when it comes to her schedule or being needed for something that others might see as “extra”. To Dawn, it’s all part of doing what’s best for kids. We’re lucky to have her!

Wesley Nevotti is the long-time Head Custodian at Williams Elementary. Wes knows every nook and cranny of our school, and works steadily to ensure this building is ship shape for our students and staff. Wes is the kind of custodian who is loved by all. He is kind and caring to students, establishing funny ways to say hello and goodbye to many of them. Wes recently starred in our job-a-thon video as “Wes Turned Bad”, the “bad guy” in a western-themed spoof to inspire our Pioneers to run! Wes is a community person who knows everyone out here in Williams, and we’re lucky to have him!

Sarah Biggs, Food Service Manager, won’t be with Williams much longer so it’s high time this Pioneer gets

proper recognition! Sarah is a treasured part of the Williams team, living the dream of working in a school where a child of hers attends. Sarah always has a smile, and her hot lunch is always hot, and the cold parts are always cold! We’ll miss Sarah!

Kathy Irish is an Educational Assistant who has carefully crafted her skills. An expert small group leader and great team player, Kathy sets a high bar for supporting teaching and learning at our school. Kathy is a true professional – she shows up every day to do her work at the optimal level, and always has a pleasant smile and a warm hello to share with all. Williams is fortunate to have Kathy!

Volunteer: Becky Vidlak is, well, Super Mom! Becky spearheaded the re-incarnation of the Williams Student Council, and has been volunteering to help with providing our K-5 students with physical education. She kick-started the Williams Student Store. Becky is always willing to help in whatever way called upon, despite a busy schedule, rushing from game to game, event to event to support her own! Moms who support their schools like Becky don’t come around often – hence, the Super label!

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Please include **Kim Pyle** in your recognition for staff. She has gone way above and beyond to help support teacher, staff, and students in TRACT. For our Open House, she created our menu, cooked everything, and supported students in the process. She takes initiative daily, and sees issues before they become real problems and helps to create solutions. Kim is such an incredible high

powered self-motivated individual that she has made my job much easier! Kids relate well to her, and enjoy working with her! She is positive, delightful, and always willing to lend an extra hand to help out! Without Kim our Thanksgiving luncheons, Open House, and other Life Skills lessons would be lacking in style and energy! I am very grateful to have Kim on my staff, and want her to realize how important she is to the TRACT Program! Thanks, Shawn

FISCAL SERVICES

I’d like to submit **Mary Miller’s** name for this month’s recognition for but not limited to, her hard work, flexibility and resourcefulness during the transition and change within the payroll department this last month.