



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 Livonia Public Schools. Some qualities of a nominee may include: a positive attitude; dedication; dependability; self-motivation; helpfulness; etc. Please fill in the areas below with your thoughts supporting a Golden Apple Award for your nominee.

Name of Nominee: Tara Hillary

How is this person a positive representative of the district (give examples)? Tara Hillary has been an important asset to Cooper for years. Her daughter once attended Cooper and has moved on to another school; yet she stays and volunteers her time in the Library Media Center and MakerSpace. When we learned that Judy Bowling was leaving Cooper, she offered to stay on to keep the MakerSpace running. She spends four days a week in the MakerSpace so students can continue to come and create. Without her, the MakerSpace would most likely come to a close. She donates her talents to make the space a valuable asset to Cooper. She encourages students to think outside the box by providing them with materials they need, whether it be an iPad or a cardboard box. She works closely with Robby and Evan to keep the room organized, well stocked, and running smoothly.

Through the years, she has donated hundreds of hours of her personal time in the library to help students and staff. She helps run the circulation desk, processes books, assists students on the computers, and creates displays. She has been instrumental in the success of our Battle of the Books in all she does behind the scenes: running copies, organizing treat bags, gathering materials, and ensuring all runs smoothly. She served as a battle coach for her daughter while she was a student at Cooper, and continued to coach students the past two years even though her daughter no longer attends here.

Tara helped create one of our students favorite reading areas in the library, which is set in Paris, complete with brick paneling and awnings. She helped cut out countless quotes that hang throughout the MakerSpace. She created several beautiful courtyard displays made on her own time and with her own materials. In addition to donating her time and talents, Tara has generously donated six Hokki Stools to our MakerSpace and continuously works in our community to obtain donations.

How is this person a positive role model for others? Tara is such a help to anyone that needs it. She is known to run copies for teachers and laminate/cut/deliver materials. I (Sally) remember once losing my LMC time, and she came to me asking if there was anything she could do for me. That has stayed with me because she took the time to make sure I was prepared since I lost a planning period. She helps with our Career Day, book fairs and checking out/shelving books in the LMC. She is friendly and helpful to students and staff alike. I (Mary Ann) am able to bounce ideas off her for classroom projects. She has helped me with my reading goals displays by creating gumball machines for each student and flying high with hot air balloons. She always has a smile on her face and hug if you should ever need one.

How is this person innovative? How do they seek new ideas or methods? As our former LMC specialist, Judy Bowling, was creating a warm and welcoming library environment, Tara was a major player in the transformation and vision of the space. She helped plan and position the space to make it the envious spot of Livonia it is today.

How are they self-motivated? Even though Tara's child does not attend Cooper anymore, she still volunteers so willingly; often inviting her husband and daughter to come support her work. She is a warm hearted, caring person willing to help anyone with a project, or idea.

List any other reasons this person is deserving of the award. Tara is selfless in all she does to help others. Her influence is sprinkled throughout Cooper, not only in the physical environment that she helped transform, but in the hearts of all students and staff she has encountered. Tara's friendly and positive disposition brings smiles to all those she meets. She has truly been a gift to the Cooper community and is so deserving of the Golden Apple Award because she exemplifies all that it represents.

Nominee's position and work site: Tara is a parent volunteer at Cooper Upper Elementary School.

Nominee's email address: thillary@hotmail.com

Name of nominator: Judy Bowling, Mary Ann Bubar, Sally Erickson, Robby Fitzgibbon (student), Evan Jenkins (student)

Nominator's phone and email:

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Sally (248-231-3995); serickso@livoniapublicschools.org

Robby rfitzgib@student.livoniapublicschools.org;

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I am a(n): Student LPS Employee Parent/Guardian Citizen

Please return this form to:
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