



## Great Falls Public Schools

### Good Apple Award Recipients

**Jamie Ronholdt, Tara Hageman, Kami Bramlette, Arika Hagel, Steve McGregor, and Christine Phelps, PTA Members, Riverview Elementary School**, were recommended for a Good Apple Award by Luke Diekhans, Principal, Riverview Elementary School, because of the following: All of these individuals were an integral part of our Riverview Playground Committee over the last two years. They worked as a team to plan our layout for the new ADA playground and were committed our fundraising to make this happen. Because of these individuals this project came in on budget and was ready for students this school year. A big thank you for all the time and energy each of these individuals put in, making our new Riverview playground a reality for our school and community!

**Caressa Hewitt, Kindergarten, Morningside Elementary School**, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Irina Mills and Lori Edwards, both EL Teachers, both Great Falls High School, because of the following: Caressa teaches Kindergarten at Morningside Elementary and for the past two years her classroom welcomed students who are new to speaking English. It has been amazing to watch Caressa support these students in learning and becoming an active member of the classroom community. Caressa is not afraid to try and communicate in student's native language to help them better understand directions and lessons. She has advocated that students have access to books in their home language in the classroom and at home. Most importantly, Caressa has incorporated some elements of the students' language in her instruction to the whole class, which not only makes her language minority students feel accepted, but it also enriches the educational experience for other students. Our EL support team is so proud of Caressa and her dedication to education of English Learners!

**Dana Freshly, Counselor, West Elementary School**, was recommended for a Good Apple Award by Jackie Mainwaring, Student Achievement Executive Director, District Office Building, because of the following: During August and September this year, Dana Freshly has filled the role of acting principal at West Elementary School. Ms. Freshly has done an incredible job leading this school. When challenges presented themselves, Dana not only persevered, but did so with a positive attitude and excellent problem-solving skills. It is evident that Dana cares deeply for her students, families, and staff. Great Falls Public Schools and West Elementary School are lucky to have Dana on our team. Dana has the mindset, the skills, and the capability to be successful at anything to which she puts her mind. I am so thankful that Dana was willing to step into this leadership role and serve our students, staff, and families in this way. I know that Dana will continue to do great things in her work as West's School Counselor. Thank you for providing this opportunity to publicly express my gratitude and appreciation for Dana Freshly, by nominating her for a GFPS "Good Apple" award.

**Call Signs: "Hobbs", "Irish", "Holiday", "Rover" and "Turtle" (The STARBASE CREW)**, were recommended for a Good Apple Award by Wynn Davis, 5th Grade Teacher, Giant Springs Elementary School, because of the following: These call signs are Hobbs-Blaine Goosen, Irish- Shannon McInerney, Holiday- Lisa Hering, Rover- Kara Bates-Tangedal and Turtle-Teryn Brown, just so there is no confusion. This crew at Starbase is amazing. They run a tight ship while keeping all the students engaged the entire time. They provided students opportunities that they will remember for a lifetime! Also, many of these kids may never of had the opportunity to experience something like this, if it were not for this team and the Starbase program. It is awesome to see all the different "Scientist" (students) get excited to make hypotheses, make predictions, work with technology, collaborate with one another, test, rework, solve and so many other skills. This team's constant energy and apparent genuine love for what they do is really inspiring to see! Thank you to them all with their commitment to my Giant Springs 5th grade class, along with all the fifth graders around the district! You are each appreciated! Continue to have a fabulous year reaching our young scientists! -Call sign: "EYES"