

Golden Apple Award

Dan Kaasa

November 1, 2010

As the Assistive Technologist for the KPBSD Pupil Services Department, Mr. Dan Kaasa performs the duties of his job with professionalism, high standards, and a commitment to excellence. Mr. Kaasa sets himself apart through his countless efforts that go beyond the scope of his regular assigned duties.

Mr. Kaasa is one of the school district's alternate assessment coordinators, which involves many hours of working with the State of Alaska Department of Education, and training special education teachers. This year Dan has volunteered to facilitate the KPBSD Autism Cadre. He also trained paraprofessionals at the beginning of the year in-service on the topic of Autism.

Mr. Kaasa shares his vast and varied background in special education with special and general education teachers and paraprofessionals. He serves as an excellent mentor for special education teachers across the district. He also shares his expertise with colleagues as both a presenter at the Alaska State Special Education Conference, and as a national presenter on universal design of instruction.

On several occasions, Mr. Kaasa has volunteered to work at the homes of students who are unable to physically attend school because of their disability. He has helped to create developmentally appropriate student goals and routines.

Pupil Services Director Clayton Holland says that, "Mr. Kaasa is always willing to share his array of expertise in special education, technology and communication in a caring and professional manner to benefit the students. Mr. Kaasa is a major asset to the Pupil Services Department and to the entire KPBSD".

We, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, are proud to recognize Tamara Johns for her dedication to the students, parents and staff in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.