

*Robin Bennett  
Golden Apple Award  
February 21, 2011*

*In describing Robin Bennett's volunteer efforts on behalf of the educational community in Nikiski, it might be easier to list what she doesn't do than the variety of ways she does contribute.*

*John O'Brien, principal at Nikiski Middle-High School, said that Mrs. Bennett is multitalented and supports the school in many ways, but even he can't quantify just how much she helps because the one thing she doesn't do is seek recognition.*

*"Never, in many years working in schools, have I known a more intelligent person willing to spend countless unpaid hours to improve education not only for their own student, but all students in a community. But you would never know all the things that she knows how to do because she doesn't really speak about her activities or call attention to herself." Mr. O'Brien said.*

*Mrs. Bennett is integral in supporting Nikiski's activities programs, from making tickets for every raffle to working at the gate for sports events and baking cookies and breadsticks for teams to take on trips. She makes cinnamon rolls for Nikiski North Star Elementary School's annual fundraiser. She is as good a seamstress as she is a cook, repairing tattered mascot flags and making new ones for the school. She also puts her recycling habits to use by collecting and donating interesting items for use in the art room.*

*Mrs. Bennett took the headaches inherent in activities scheduling and had her husband, Tom Bennett, build a program to make the complex task easier. She puts her own education to work by tutoring students, from those needing the most assistance all the way to the highest-achieving kids studying AP chemistry and calculus.*

*"Robin also seems to take a special interest in lending a helping hand to students who need an adult to guide them," Mr. O'Brien said.*

*Best of all, Mrs. Bennett does everything she does for the benefit of all kids.*

*"Robin is genuinely interested in a great educational experience for all students and comes to all school-related meetings to add support and offer suggestions for the betterment of the school and the district. She is not boisterous or pushy. She listens quietly and thinks methodically before adding comment. When she does speak, she is very much respected so everyone listens," Mr. O'Brien said.*

*We, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, are proud to recognize Mrs. Bennett for contributing her time and countless talents to enhance education in Nikiski.*