Kay Gardner Golden Apple Award Oct. 15, 2007

Kay Gardner began her career with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in 1995 as a secretary at District Office. It didn't take long for her to become respected among district staff as well as school administrators.

In October 1998, Mrs. Gardner moved to Soldotna High School to take the position of attendance secretary, where she put her excellence to work for staff, students and parents. SoHi Principal Todd Syverson said her interaction with students isn't just limited to the requirements of her job.

"Kay's compassion for all her students can be seen on a daily basis," he said. "She is there when a student needs a hug and/or a reminder. Kay has the magic touch and serves many roles for her students (and) school. Within any hour of the day you will find her acting as a student advocate, a mom, a teacher and, when appropriate, a disciplinarian."

Along with her above-the-call-of-duty work schedule, where she typically arrives early and leaves late, Mrs. Gardner is a regular volunteer at school activities. She can be found attending sports activities, chaperoning school dances, and helping with after-prom and after-graduation functions.

"Above and beyond doesn't even come close to describing Kay's work ethic," Mr. Syverson said.

We, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, are proud to recognize Kay Gardner for her hard work, dedication, many hours of volunteer service and devotion to quality education.