

Kuna Way Awards November 2018

Putting kids first and doing whatever it takes to help students succeed

- **Kelly Ayers**
 - *"Kelly Ayers of Hubbard Elementary deserves to be recognized for her incredible heart. She took the time with my son to recognize his special needs as a child. She fought hard to give him the best learning path for his needs. She has loved these kids so much. She has touched not only my son's life, but my entire family. She is such a beautiful person. She needs to be recognized for her tremendous amount of care that she puts into her work. She has forever changed lives. Thank you Kelly!"*
- **Neva Gambill**
 - *"When Reed was in the need of a kinder substitute, immediately Neva stepped up to teach and support the kinder students and team. Reed is thankful for Neva's dedication to the students and willingness to put the the students first."*
- **Shannon Shayne**
 - *"Shannon is deserving of this award because she gives selflessly to students. From ensuring that they have school supplies, warm clothes for school, food on the weekend, access to vaccinations so that they can stay in school - she goes above and beyond to help support families. In addition, she conducts multiple layers of needs assessments so that we can help support students with their social and emotional well being. Shannon is always on the go to help others, and never expects or asks for anything in return. It is truly altruistic. She also mentors future social workers, and I cannot think of a better person for that! For these reasons and more, I would like to nominate her. She is the epitome of somebody who 'puts kids first' and I am thankful to be on her team."*

Collaborating to solve problems, to make decisions, to reach win-win decisions and to continuously improve to make our system better for kids

- **Linda Wiedenfeld - Instructional Coach**
 - *"I would like to nominate Linda Wiedenfeld for her hard work at Kuna Middle School. She has many new teachers and new staff to the building, and she is always helpful and an amazing resource to them. Right now she is building a middle school 101 course for those of us new to middle school teaching. I appreciate her expertise and everything she does for us! Thank you Linda!"*

Leading from where you are

- **Diana Salzman & Shauna Compher - Transportation**
 - *"I want to give the biggest shout out to the bus driver and helper on bus #9. These ladies go above and beyond their regular duties. My grandson rides this bus and it's a joy to see their happy, smiling faces greet him each morning. Over the years of him riding the special needs bus, I have never had the kind of bus driver and helper as friendly and kind as they are. I could go on and on with how lucky and blessed I feel to have these ladies take care of my grandson. Thank you Kuna! They deserve a raise!"*

Working hard and having fun together

- **Kimberly Nickel - KHS**
 - *"I wanted to give a big shout out to my grandson's special needs teacher, Ms. Nickel. She is the sweetest, nicest teacher who takes time with her students and is there for them. She listens to them but at the same time, always makes sure they stay on task. My grandson has learned so much in her class than in previous years in school. Whenever there is a problem or concern, Ms. Nickel is quick to contact me and she is also great to answer any questions I might have. Thank you Kuna School District for hiring a teacher that is so special and kind, and helps our children with their needs. It's great to see how she is able to work hard and make it fun for her students."*

Taking care of each other and ourselves

- **Alyssa Townsend**

- *"Alyssa is a prime example of taking care of others and putting the world on her shoulders. Alyssa not only takes care of her kinder students, but she takes care of the well being of her team and the staff. Reed is incredibly lucky to have an educator like Alyssa who excels in teaching, leading, and caring."*

- **Brittany Allen**

- *"Mrs. Allen is an amazing teacher that rocks! As a parent, whenever I have a question or need to know something, I know that I can always go to her and she will always take the time to help me and answer my questions. I even took in extra classroom supplies for her students that didn't have anything and she was super grateful. My grandson is in her class and he is very shy. But after getting to know her, he loves her and has learned so much and comes home to tell us everything he has learned. She does such an amazing job with the class, and demonstrates kindness as a teacher. She has a beautiful heart and it shows through in the way she teaches her class. I know the students love her and so do we as grandparents to one of them."*

Preserving our professional capital and promoting professionalism

- **Lisa Gamboa**

- *"Because of Lisa's hardwork and interest in our students and their learning, we were awarded the PK-12 Innovative STEM Project Grant from the Idaho STEM Action Center! This was a comprehensive grant that is quite competitive throughout the state. Thank you Lisa for your dedication!"*