

# Kuna Way Awards April 2019

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

- **Kimberly Barker & Rebecca Mecham**

- *"I appreciate Kim and Rebecca so much! Kim has put a lot of time, energy, and thought into helping me with three of my students this year. Two of them are on behavior plans that involve visits to the office, so Rebecca has helped with them too. Even on Kimberly's birthday, she spent almost all of it in my room helping with intense needs. Both ladies are always putting kids first and doing whatever it takes to help our kiddos succeed!"*

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

- **Mary Holmes - Teacher at Reed**

- *"Mary Holmes is a phenomenal teacher who collaborates to solve problems, to make decisions, to reach win-win decisions and to continuously improve to make our system better for kids. Mary spends extra hours tutoring kids after school, being an NEHS mentor, supporting our PBIS program, and has recently started a chess club for students during their lunch hour. Mary is always looking for new ways to improve the learning environment for students. We greatly appreciate all that she does!"*

## Leading from where you are

- **Josu Amuchastegui - Bus Driver**

- *"The gates were left unlocked the other night at the district office and Josu went out of his way to get a hold of the right people to make sure not only that the gates got locked, but that the entire district office was secure."*

## Working hard and having fun together

- **Tena O'Brien - Reed Kitchen**

- *"Reed Elementary would like to celebrate Tena for her ability to work hard and have fun together! Tena's kitchen is filled with beautiful decorations and ideas that simplify the process for kids. The staff and students at Reed enjoy entering the cafeteria and seeing all that Tena has done. Her love for students and wanting to make sure every child is fed does not go unnoticed. She is a huge advocate for our students and make the cafeteria a great place for all Cheetahs!"*

## Taking care of each other and ourselves

- **David Hart - Bus Driver**

- *"Dave is our bus driver and is a true blessing to our family! Dave shows up every morning with a smile on his face and books in his hand for our son Khizen. Khizen was born severely deaf and uses a cochlear implant to hear. His language development is delayed and Dave not only makes sure that our son makes it to school safely each morning, but also takes an interest in Khizen's academic success. He finds ways to make personal connections with the students he serves and the families he works with. When we first started using transportation, my husband and I had concerns that Khizen would have difficulty locating the bus and perhaps stray away and not make it safely to the bus. Dave reassured us that while Khizen was in his care, that he would keep a close eye on him. As a parent, it is wonderful to have a consistent bus driver who you can count on when you are unable to transport your own child. Thank you Dave! Thank you Kuna School District Transportation Department for arranging such a beautiful fit!"*

## Preserving our professional capital and promoting professionalism

- **David "Buck" Fry - IPHS Teacher**

- *“Buck Fry completed a submission to the Idaho Education Association’s Insurance Carrier’s athletic equipment grant program last month and IPHS was awarded \$1,000 for their athletic program. A big thank you to Mr. Fry for continuing to look out for and go above and beyond for Kuna Students!”*