



# Apollo PTA Service Award Recipients – 2016

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## Golden Acorn

### **Brandee Shillito**

Brandee Shillito is in her second year as the Apollo PTA co-President. This position has a lot of behind the scenes work. She has also spent several years leading or strongly supporting the PTA membership drive. Brandee is always willing to step in and help where needed at or preparing for events. She is friendly, supportive and loyal. When not volunteering in her daughter's classroom, she spends time helping Mrs. Fujioka in the library. Brandee is dedicated to Apollo and we are thankful for her support!

### **Laurelle Graves**

Laurelle Graves is in her first year as the Art Docent Chair for the Apollo PTA. She has worked endless hours organizing volunteers, training those volunteers, and assisting them throughout the year. She has such a passion for art and loves to share that passion with the students of Apollo. She is very helpful in planning projects, explaining art techniques and assisting. Through all this work she has kept a smile on her face. We are very thankful for her hard work with the Art Docent program!

### **Maricel Paulino**

Maricel Paulino's dedication to Apollo is tremendous. Not only is she VP of events, a position she has now held for two years, she also is the co-Chair of the Book Fair! Both of these positions require significant time and effort to coordinate. When chairs of events cannot be found, she often steps up and takes them on. And she is supportive of the chairs she does work with. Her commitment to Apollo is greatly appreciated, especially since she always has a smile on her face. We appreciate her years of dedication to Apollo!

## Outstanding Advocate

### **Christie Loe-Malone**

Christie Loe-Malone is in her first year on the PTA Board as the Family and Community Engagement Chair (FACE) and has been instrumental in several events this past year. As chair of FACE, she has stepped up and supported not only her child's classroom, but also other classes in the school. Christie's positive energy and excitement for kids and Apollo Families can easily be seen as she greets incoming kindergarten parents, works with teachers on ways to support our ELL and LRC students, and her never tiring genuine passion for our community as a whole. She has been actively involved in planning and participating

in Reflections, Story Expo, Fitness Committee, and the School of Excellence application. We appreciate all the work Christie has done on behalf of Apollo students!

### **Kimberly Nocco**

Kimberly Nocco has been an active PTA member since arriving at Apollo, serving this year as co-President. Kimberly has worked tirelessly this year to ensure our PTA accomplishes all of its goals. She has strongly advocated for health and fitness programs at the school. Through Kimberly's efforts, students at Apollo have a weekly recess opportunity with YMCA fitness staff. She actively works with the school's administration and community organizations to encourage fitness and nutrition efforts for the students. She also serves on the PTSA Council, where she regularly promotes Apollo's fitness program and shares our school's experiences with others. At least two other Issaquah schools have now adapted a similar recess program. Kimberly's interest in advocating for youth extends beyond the school. She is the organizer of a local neighborhood safety group, advocating for the safety of our neighbors and children. Her efforts to connect the people within our community with each other and local law enforcement have made the Apollo area community a safer place. We are thrilled that Kimberly continues to dedicate her time to the Apollo community!

## **Outstanding Educator**

### **Cassie LaFranchi**

Cassie LaFranchi is truly an outstanding educator. She takes her role in guiding students seriously and puts forth an enormous amount of effort into personally creating lessons that are engaging and meet the educational standards expected by the school and district. Her communication skills are excellent and in her informative weekly newsletters she goes the extra step to include parent tips as well as have the students write about the week in review from their perspective. Miss LaFranchi's work with the PTA this year has gone above and beyond expectations for staff interaction related to the PTA. Her involvement with the PTA has led to the creation of a newly appointed position on the Apollo PTA Board called "Teacher Liaison" This has resulted in much improved communication and participation between the school, staff and PTA. She has done a lot to help the board make sure we are in tune to the needs of the staff and work well together. We are thankful for her enthusiasm and commitment to Apollo students!

### **Jenise Clausen**

Jenise Clausen has been a strong advocate at Apollo to develop improved ways to engage students out on the playground during recess. She is a firm believer in making sure recess is a place where students can play and socialize. Mrs. Clausen has spent the past two years working with the Apollo PTA to advocate for new opportunities for students on the playground. She coordinated a "PTA" Field Trip to the Edmonds School District to learn more about the progress they have made with engaging more students in play at recess through their Play Coach concept. Mrs. Clausen worked with the PTA to submit a Big Idea grant to the Issaquah Schools Foundation this year as a way to fund the proposed Play Coach concept at Apollo. She also tirelessly supports all of the PTA-related assemblies, technology (microphone/sound system) requests, and lunchroom announcements that make the PTA programs possible. In addition to juggling all of the other expected responsibilities of her

position as Dean of Students, Mrs. Clausen is an active member of Apollo's Site Council. We thank Mrs. Clausen for all her hard work to provide more opportunities for Apollo students!

### **Jennifer McNease**

Jennifer McNease is an incredibly warm, supportive teacher. Whether current or former students or their siblings, she always has a kind, encouraging word. Her students think that she is caring and makes learning fun and interesting. This year, she brought a wonderful opportunity to the school – a Drama Club. Over 50 students wanted to participate, so it clearly is something of great interest! In fall, she led the club for 24 kids. Ms. McNease worked with them on performing short plays, improving eye contact, projecting their voices and increasing confidence in public performances. She is a regular at PTA events, such as calling at Bingo, participating in the Multicultural Night among others. Last year, her class outraised everyone else in the first day, giving them the opportunity to name the Orange Ruler. She also regularly encourages families to join the PTA. We are thrilled to have her as a part of the Apollo family!