

**NELDON GARDNER
GOLDEN APPLE AWARD RECIPIENT
DECEMBER 6, 2004**

Neldon Gardner began his tenure with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in 1983 as a math and science teacher at Soldotna Junior High School and has remained a member of the Soldotna Middle School staff for the past twenty-three years as a physical education teacher since 1990.

Mr. Gardner insures that every minute of class time is spent in active, interesting activities which follow the Alaska State Standards. Principal Lee Young states, "Mr. Gardner typifies the work ethic and moral fiber that Soldotna Middle School wants to instill in all of our students." Neldon's students know what is expected of them, and they accomplish what is asked because of their respect for him and their obvious interest in being a productive member of the class.

In addition to his outstanding teaching abilities, Mr. Gardner is a respected, active member of our community. He is well known for his volunteer activities at various sporting events and also as head wrestling coach at Skyview High School. Neldon's list of coaching achievements is very long; Skyview's head coach for 14 years, four state championships, four regional titles, named Outstanding Coach of the year by the Alaska State Wrestling Coaches Association and Neldon has been inducted into the Alaska Wrestling Hall of Fame.

On behalf of the entire education community, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education thanks Neldon Gardner for his outstanding service and dedication to students and education.