

**Golden Apple Award  
Nancy Vait  
March 2, 2009**

Nancy Vait has taken the lead in implementing a standards-based program at Homer Flex School by envisioning, creating and synthesizing this new model of education for the school.

She had included her language arts and art students in the transition to the standards model, and they gain ownership in the process through their input. Through her clear communication, Mrs. Vait invites students to give honest feedback on what is and is not working as she continues to shape and reshape the way a standards-based classroom will work best. She has attended in-service trainings in Soldotna and the Reinventing Schools Coalition Symposium in Girdwood to further her understanding of this model.

Each year Mrs. Vait has been at Flex, she has taken on a significant professional challenge. Recently she studied to become highly qualified as an art teacher and passed the Praxis with high scores. This effort took a tremendous amount of personal time and commitment.

Principal Karen Wessel said, "Nancy is to be commended for her willingness to learn a subject that is critical to the Flex curriculum, and I greatly appreciate this. Nancy is an important member of our staff: she is passionate about and accomplished in the teaching of the language arts; she cares deeply about our students, communicating well with them while maintaining clear boundaries; and she offers important insights on all aspects of the Flex community to our team each week."

We, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, are proud to recognize Nancy Vait for her extra efforts in improving education at Homer Flex, through her willingness to challenge herself for the benefit of the entire school.