

Golden Apple Award
Ria Fandel
April 13, 2009

For students at Soldotna High School, Ria Fandel makes sure that hunger is not an option.

Mrs. Fandel started working for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in 1987. As a member of the Student Nutrition Services team at Soldotna High School, she goes out of her way to make sure students have something to eat for lunch, even if it means paying for it out of her own pocket.

Her excellence in performance and commitment to students extends beyond her normal work hours and job responsibilities. Mrs. Fandel can often be found volunteering to work with booster clubs in an effort to provide after-hours concessions for the many sports activities and other events at Soldotna High School.

Mrs. Fandel volunteers to contact various Soldotna-area businesses to donate fruit during testing week, so students have something nutritious to eat during breaks in High School Graduation Qualifying Exam and Standards-Based Assessments testing. She also works with the school's PTA to help serve the food during breaks.

Principal Todd Syverson said, "Ria treats her students and staff as if they are a part of her family. Her energy and enthusiasm can be seen on a daily basis. Her willingness to go above and beyond for students, activity programs, community and parents is truly impressive."

We, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education, are proud to recognize Ria Fandel for her dedication to fueling students' appetite for learning.