



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Golden Apple Award | April 14, 2014

Delores Benner

"Grandma Dee"

Community Member

Grandma Brenda and Grandma Dee are fixtures at Kalifornsky Beach Elementary School. It is commonly said that the year doesn't officially start until both of these fine ladies start reading with our students. Many Alaskan kids do not have grandparents who are part of their lives on a regular basis. This is not true for students at K-Beach Elementary. Our kids have two grandmas they see almost every day!

Grandma Dee is a perfect fit for K-Beach primary students. On any given day, you will see her in the hall working on letter names, sounds, high frequency words, writing names, numbers and more. She has also given her time as a volunteer for fitness testing and for field day at our school. Grandma Dee has an extensive background of pre-school experience that coupled with her ability to give of herself and her time, results in a very special relationship between Kalifornsky Beach Elementary and Grandma Dee. It is a joyful thing to see Grandma Dee working with students.

Grandma Brenda is just the right mixture of firmness and love. She is very active with local Boy Scouts and volunteers at K-Beach all day, *every* day. She works with primary and intermediate students. Whether she is working on reading, math facts, or helping students with forensics, Grandma Brenda has a sparkle in her eye and a smile on her face every time she greets the young people. She has high expectations for all of our students, and the students would tell you she doesn't beat around the bush when there is work to be done! They are so excited when it is their turn to meet with Grandma Brenda that they practically jump out of their seats and race to the hall.

Last year the foster grandparent program was eliminated at our school. Through the program, a small stipend and mileage was paid. The former coordinator of the program was tasked with telling the school teachers about the cut, and they literally gasped. However, Grandma Brenda and Grandma Dee did not miss a beat. In fact, they possibly volunteer even more now, than while the program was in place.

The students' love of learning at K-Beach Elementary would not be as intense if it were not for Delores Benner and Brenda Ratky. They are an inspiration to students and staff alike at Kalifornsky Beach Elementary.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education is proud to recognize Delores Benner for her dedication to the students of the school district, past, present, and future.