



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Golden Apple Award | March 7, 2016

Mrs. Jean Calhoun
Secretary

Mrs. Jean Calhoun has served students and staff in the KPBSD for more than 25 years, with the majority of her time as secretary at West Homer Elementary School. She makes time for every student, every staff member, every parent, and every visitor. Walking past the school office, Jean is often heard laughing with a teacher, commiserating with a sad parent, or praising a child. She is described as the heartbeat of the school.

“It is not uncommon to see Jean giving a personal tour to newly enrolled students, and the pride she feels for the school is evident,” said Shellie Worsfold. “It’s said that it’s really the secretary who runs the school ... with Jean this is true. She interacts with everyone in our building and keeps the community feeling alive.”

“Jean juggles many tasks with constant interruptions, and a smile on her face all day long,” said Laura Peek, school nurse. “She is often at school late into the evening, has taken children home who missed their bus when parents are unable to get to the school. She has made sure students have a meal at lunch if lunch money isn’t available. Additionally, she covers the nurse office. She cleans wounds, provides ice packs, dispenses daily medications, and calls a lot of parents.”

“Jean helped me adjust as a first time librarian in a new school when I was hired at West Homer Elementary twelve years ago,” said librarian Lisa Whip. “She encouraged me as the multitude of tasks piled up, supported me in my struggles to make the library a top notch environment for literacy, and supplied me with information and contacts I needed to progress. During Book Fairs—twice a year—Jean advertises with the local papers and radio stations, puts out newsletters, contacts the truckers delivering books, and makes sure the Family Fun Night and the Fair itself is fully equipped to make the event a success.”

Jean has helped thousands of people over more than two decades. She does it every day without fanfare, and no attention drawn to her good deeds. “We just hear about it later from a student or parent, sometimes years later,” said Peek.

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