



HANDS & WORDS ARE NOT FOR HURTING PROJECT®

THE PLEDGE:

"I WILL NOT USE MY HANDS OR MY WORDS FOR HURTING MYSELF OR OTHERS"®

October 2, 2008

Crystal Apple Award Selection Committee:

It is my great honor and privilege to nominate Eileen Taylor, PASS room supervisor at Judson Middle School, for the distinguished Crystal Apple Award 2008.

I know of no one more deserving than Eileen to receive special recognition and appreciation for her many years of compassionate service to countless children under her care at Judson Middle School.

I have known Eileen for over twenty-five years, first as a wonderful mother then as an amazing educator. Eileen is in a unique position at Judson Middle School working with kids who are in need of special attention. Often they are in trouble because they are troubled. She has the ability to guide them with high expectations for each one with patience and humor. Always a smile, these kids know they can count on her to believe in them so they in turn believe in themselves. From her heart and many times out of her own pocket she would reward them for each positive step they took. Tears of joy fill her eyes as she talks about those who still keep in touch or drop in for a visit years after leaving Judson, always remembering her and thanking her for her encouragement and support during that tough time in their young lives.

Eileen also must be acknowledged for her contribution to the Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Project's movement in abuse and violence prevention education. Because of her, Judson was the first middle school in Salem-Keizer Schools and the first middle school in the nation to implement the Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Project's Pledge of nonviolence.

Year after year, for the past ten years, she has led the charge to ensure the Purple Hands Pledge: "I Will Not Use My Hands or My Words For Hurting Myself Or Others®" is taught, reinforced and blended into the fabric of daily life in the school. Hundreds of individual cutouts of students and staff's Purple Hands Pledges, posters and banners are displayed around the school walls and classrooms year round. All symbols of unity setting the standard of respect and equality in all relationships for all students, staff and their families. I must add she has inspired and influenced many others to take the Hands & Words Project to heart in their schools and homes. There is no way to count how many thousands she has reached out and touched. Eileen is a perfect example of "The Power of One" making a difference...a valuable and irreplaceable educator creating positive change for children and their families...one person at a time!

I, and all who know Eileen, respect and admire her for her love for children and for her tireless work for them to feel valued and to be safe. I am proud to call her my friend! Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann S. Kelly
Founder/Executive Director
Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Project®
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