

**Altara Elementary Teacher Joanie Richardson Wins the
Golden Apple Award**
*Christensen Law Firm Gives \$100 Gift Card
For Classroom Supplies*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 30, 2012, Draper, UT – The School Supplies Gift Program, sponsored by Utah-based Christensen Law Firm, PLLC, is pleased to announce that **Mrs. Joanie Richardson**, a 1st grade teacher at Altara Elementary in Sandy, UT, is this week’s recipient of the Golden Apple Award.

Mrs. Richardson has been nominated by several different people who have the privilege of interacting with her on a regular basis. These nominations were so heart-felt that we thought that we’d include some excerpts from what they had to say about her.

“Mrs. Richardson makes learning fun and interesting by creating a variety of centers each day. She encourages her students to explore and try new things through hands-on activities. She takes special interest in each of her students and makes sure they all feel valued and comfortable in her class. She works hard to create an atmosphere where the students want to do their best and where they can learn to enjoy learning.”

-Parent

“Dear Friend,
I love my teacher because she is a good teacher. She makes good centers. I love math because of her.
Love, (Student).”

-Student

“I have taught with Mrs. Richardson for over 10 years at Altara Elementary. Every year I am so excited to have students in my class that were in Mrs. Richardson’s class the previous year. The students come into second grade prepared both academically and with their behavior. Mrs. Richardson works so hard to make sure her students leave first grade reading, knowing how to complete assignments using their best handwriting, and working hard as students.”

-Colleague

Mrs. Richardson is an exceptional, high caliber teacher who sets high expectations for her students and then does all that she can to help them individually reach these goals and do the best that they can in all that they do. She says, “I simply love teaching children to read. I love seeing that light come in and seeing their excitement when they get it!”

Some of the challenges that Mrs. Richardson faces in her classroom are directly correlated with school funding.

“Each year we get less and less. It takes a lot of materials to run a hands-on classroom and we are certainly not funded for that....so the expense falls upon the teachers’ pockets.”

Despite these struggles she and other Utah teachers must face, Mrs. Richardson will continue to strive to make her classroom a place where children can learn and grow to reach for and achieve their maximum potential.

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About the School Supplies Gift Program

Ken Christensen and Russ Hymas, owners of the Christensen Law Firm, recently started the School Supplies Gift Program to help public school teachers get extra classroom supplies without having to spend their own money. Each week the program gives the Golden Apple Award, a \$100 OfficeMax gift card, to a deserving Utah public school teacher and his/her class. Anyone can nominate a teacher for this program, including teachers, students, parents and administrators. To learn more about the program and nominate a teacher, click [here](#).