

Teachers Sharon Hansen and Lisa Bendall Win the Golden Apple Award

Christensen Law Firm Gives \$100 Gift Card For Classroom Supplies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



February 29, 2012, Draper, UT – The School Supplies Gift Program, sponsored by Utah-based [Christensen Law Firm](#), PLLC, is pleased to announce that **Mrs. Sharon Hansen**, a 1st grade teacher at Deerfield Elementary, and **Mrs. Lisa Bendall**, a 2nd grade teacher at Dilworth Elementary, are the next recipients of the Golden Apple Award.

Mrs. Sharon Hansen has been teaching first grade for 7 years now. She is definitely a people-person, for when asked to describe her teaching, she immediately referred to the meaningful relationships she has formed over the years. These relationships include the many students and families that she has affected, as well as the wonderful group of both teachers and administrators with whom she works.

Inside the classroom, Mrs. Hansen uses tools such as Investigations Math and Words Their Way Spelling to help her students work on the foundations of their education. She describes the growth of the students over the course of the year as a highlight of her teaching. With a current class of 28, she cites this as being perhaps the most difficult part of her job—providing the one-on-one attention she seeks to give each child with such a large class. Though the gift card cannot reduce her class size, it will ensure the quality of education and love of learning that Mrs. Hansen seeks to instill within her students daily.

Mrs. Lisa Bendall has taught for 18 years now, 16 of which were at Beacon Heights and now most recently at Dilworth Elementary. Previously she has taught grades 3 & 4, and currently has a demanding class size of 25 2nd-graders! Mrs. Bendall’s emphasis in the classroom seems to be on creating well-rounded and balanced students, acknowledging that while academics are an integral part of education, the development of the self is as critical as anything else. Multiple times a week, Mrs. Bendall invites her students to engage in a community circle where they share, “joys, concerns, and hopes,” helping to create, “a safe environment for kids to share and respect for others to grow.”

Mrs. Bendall exclaims, “With emphasis on testing that is seen at every level in education, we tend to forget at times that we are teaching children.” Through her various activities, Mrs. Bendall is doing her part to curb the trend of measuring students to an academic standard and helping them become participating citizens. With the money supplied from the Golden Apple Award, Mrs. Bendall hopes to buy necessary school supplies that will serve to sharpen not only the pencils but also the minds of her growing pupils.

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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](#).