

GOLDEN APPLE UPDATE

November 2006



Quality Teachers Needed, New School Calls on Golden Apple

The new Sherman Elementary School in Chicago's Englewood community is undergoing a major change. It began Sept. 5, the first day of school, when Sherman, a "school that struggled on academic probation for years," according to Sun-Times education reporter Rosalind Rossi, "(reopened) with a new principal, new teachers, new books, new furniture, a new paint job, and especially, a new attitude."

"The new Sherman, said Principal Lionel Allen, is 'all about teacher quality.'" Golden Apple has much to do with providing that quality.



Joanna Navarro

Five of the handpicked quality teachers are Golden Apple educators: Master teachers Aiko Boyce and Carolyn Grantham, both recipients of the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching; outstanding teachers Joanna Navarro and Harold Arnold, who were prepared to teach in the Golden Apple

Scholars of Illinois program; and veteran teacher Alexandra Burrell, a graduate of GATE, the Golden Apple Teacher Education program, an alternative-certification program designed for mature adults who decided to change careers to teach in Chicago public school classrooms.

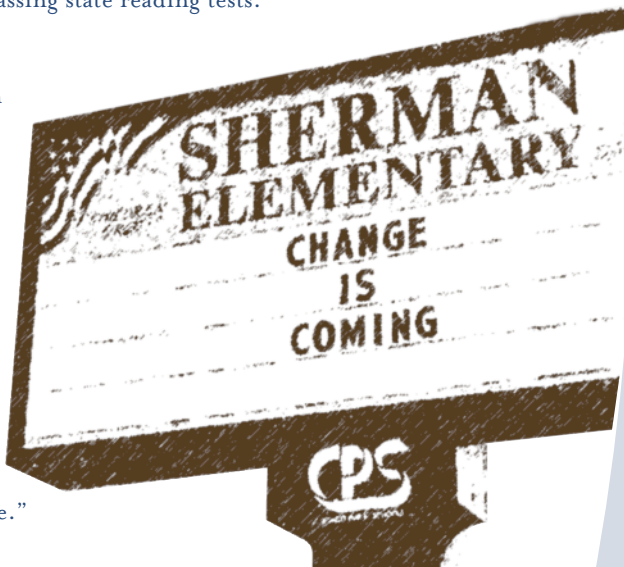


Carolyn Grantham

Sherman is being managed by the not-for-profit Academy for Urban School Leadership, created by venture capitalist Mike Koldyke, who also founded Golden Apple Foundation.

"The same students are returning — 99 percent low-income and 99 percent African American," Rossi reported. "Fewer than 15 percent have been passing state reading tests."

"This is the type of challenge we've been preparing for," said Dominic Belmonte, Golden Apple's president and CEO. "It's a wonderful opportunity. We look forward to helping prove the point that a faculty comprised of quality teachers can and will impact student performance."



Dear Friends,

Our focus is on the future as we take the first steps this year to implement our Strategic Plan for the years 2006 through 2010. Underlying our efforts is a recommitment to our fundamental conviction that All Children Deserve Excellent Teachers, with a special emphasis on schools of need.




We are making excellent progress on a number of exciting long-term goals:

- A new Teaching Excellence Center, which would provide world-class resources to teachers throughout their careers, now has a potential site in the Chicago area that we are vigorously pursuing.
- Plans to expand the Golden Apple Awards to recognize outstanding teachers in Central Illinois are drawing strong support from education leaders and television executives in the Champaign area.
- Expanding the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program to prepare more committed teachers for the state's neediest schools will be a reality in 2007 thanks to a \$350,000 federal grant secured by U.S. Senator Richard Durbin that allows Golden Apple and the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy to prepare more Scholars majoring in math and science. We hope our planned expansion of the Scholars program also will benefit from a generous gift from the Marie Kirchner Stone Estate.

These are but three of the 50 action steps we have set out to accomplish for achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan. During this past summer, we also worked to include Will and Kane County high school teachers in the 2007 Golden Apple Award nominations and increased teacher participation in the Storytelling Workshop and CORE, the Center for Ongoing Renewal and Enrichment.

As a member of the Golden Apple community, I encourage you to continue your support of our enthusiastic efforts to advance the teaching profession and serve the school children of Illinois.


Dominic Belmonte
President and CEO

Letter from a new Award-winning Teacher

Golden Apple founders Mike and Pat Koldyke received the following letter from Kristin Ziemke Fastabend, a 2006 Golden Apple Award recipient who teaches kindergarten at Burly Elementary School in Chicago.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Koldyke,

I want to take a moment and thank you for the Golden Apple experience. I had a wonderful summer studying at Northwestern, Each day I attended class I felt renewed in myself and in my profession....

This summer I enrolled in Children's Literature taught by June Cummins and Early Intervention taught by Lynda Thill. Children's Literature was an amazing course that provided so much history as to how literature evolved for young children....

My Early Intervention class was in the School of Communication Science Disorders. As a kindergarten teacher, this class reinforced why we need early identification of children who have special needs or may be at high risk. Many of the other graduate students were speech pathologists or occupational therapists so it was terrific to discuss and hear the opinions of various professionals working to support student learning. My professor, Lynda Thill, had such a wealth of experiences that she connected each topic to a real-world event that she or another graduate student in our class had experienced while working with young children or their families.

Every day I called my parents (they are both educators) on the drive home to tell them what I had learned in class.... I was so excited about my sabbatical, the opportunity to take classes, and the gift of finding a class I loved, that I had my mother attend Professor Thill's class in July. My mom was overwhelmed.

And so, after an outstanding summer semester, I anxiously await my fall courses. Thank you again for such an amazing gift.

Fondly,
Kristin Ziemke Fastabend



Kristin Ziemke Fastabend



Pat & Mike Koldyke

On the calendar

Sunday, Nov. 5th at 9 a.m.

10th Annual Golden Apple 5K Run/Walk. The race starts at the corner of Marengo and Madison (7239 W. Madison) in Forest Park. To sign up, log on to www.ga5k.com.

Saturday, March 31, 2007

Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois induction at The Field Museum.

Saturday, May 12, 2007

Golden Apple Awards Ceremony and Gala at the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel

Reward a Great Teacher

Nominations are open through December 1 for the 2007 Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching. To be eligible for the 22nd annual awards, nominees must be full-time classroom teachers currently teaching in grades 9 through 12 at a public or non-public school in the Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and Will. Nominees also must be committed to continue teaching for at least two years after receiving the award.

This is the first year Kane and Will County teachers are eligible for the award.

Ten award winners will receive a paid sabbatical to study tuition-free at Northwestern University, a personal computer, \$3,000, induction into the Golden Apple Academy, and recognition in May on a one-hour WTTW/11 TV special.

Award finalists will be announced in January; the 10 winners will be named in March.

Nomination forms are available at www.goldenapple.org/nominate.htm or by calling 312/407-0433 ext. 108.

In the News....

- **TEN**, Golden Apple's website for teachers (www.teachingexcellencenetwork.org), has received \$10,000 from Illinois State University's Chicago Teacher Education Pipeline Programs & Partnerships for a new portal promoting dialogue among prospective teachers. The ISU program is funded through the U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Quality Enhancement.

- **The 2006 Golden Apple Award recipients** are now at Northwestern University for their free fall-term sabbaticals. For their group project, the 10 awardees have chosen to focus on the need for nutrition and exercise in elementary schools.



- **Lucy Klocksins**, a 2000 Golden Apple Award recipient, has taught problem readers at Chicago's Boone Elementary School for the past 12 years. She serves 50 children who are two grade levels or more below where they should be. In an article that ran in Regional Connection, a publication of the Metropolitan Planning Council, Klocksins said most of Boone's students come to the overcrowded school from low-income households. She said she teaches at Boone because "I know I can make a difference in these kids' lives." Previously, Klocksins taught in suburban schools with small classes and gleaming facilities like the ones her own children had attended. Klocksins believes lawmakers must find ways to bring more resources to Illinois schools that need the help. "It's a matter of social justice," she said. "It's morally wrong that kids in poor districts don't get what my kids got."