



Pictured left to right: High School volunteer Barbara Maitland; Granite Falls School District Superintendent Karen Koschak; Granite Falls City Library Manager Jude Anderson; Past Manager Lynette Howard; and Library Board Member Mary Winter.

School Board names volunteer and partnership of the year winners

The Granite Falls School District Success in Education Volunteer and Partnership of the Year awards were presented at the regular

School Board meeting September 16. The awards are presented annually to an individual for outstanding volunteer service and to a business, organization, or civic group for understanding the importance of education and providing excellent service to students, staff members, and the community.

Barb Maitland was named the volunteer of the year based on her endless hours of work with the High School's drama department. For the last seven years, beginning in 2002 when her daughter became a drama student, Barbara took on the huge task of costuming over 35 productions in both the beginning and advanced drama classes. In addition to this contribution, she has patiently monitored and supervised the backstage preparation of every show. This entails countless hours during weekend performances as well as weekly wanderings to local stores for costumes and props.

According to drama teacher Deborah Blumel "Barbara is as much a part of the department as the students and me. We all love and appreciate the endless time and energy Barbara has so graciously and unselfishly bestowed upon the department, and the impact her work has had in creating each of our productions, holding nervous hands, wiping tears, and making us giggle."

Barbara's dedication to the High School students has continued long after her child graduated from school. Barbara's knowledge of what needs to be done, and when, has helped build a successful drama department.

The Granite Falls City Library was presented with the Partnership of the Year award. Managing Librarian Jude Anderson, past manager Lynette Howard, and Library Board member Mary Winter accepted the award on behalf of the library staff. The collaboration of the District library programs and the Sno-Isle Library system is an integral partnership to increase literacy skills and help students develop independent research skills both of which are necessary to help students become lifelong learners.

Elementary librarian Debbie Hanby said, "Vital to this partnership is the sharing of knowledgeable personnel, resources, and programs, which creates a pattern of literacy, resource usage, and knowledge acquisition outside of the school system."

A powerful learning environment has been created through the City Library that includes such partnerships as providing a library card application for all kindergarten students; walking field trips to the City Library; staff members from the City Library visiting schools to encourage student participation in the Sno-Isle Summer Reading Program; secondary students utilizing the City Library for research and other services including guest author speakers, plays, art, and cultural programs; and teachers at all grade levels accessing the resources of the City Library to enhance curriculum.

Past managing Librarian Lynette Howard began the partnership and was diligent in her quest to increase family and school usage of the City Library. Many of Ms. Howard's collaborative efforts developed over her 30-year career continue today with new manager Jude Anderson, who is already well known to District staff.

Superintendent Karen Koschak stated, "Our dedicated volunteers and local partnerships are an essential part of our school family. The contributions they make to our students and programs are long-lasting and our appreciation is endless."