



BISD STRONG Awards
Bainbridge Island School District
2017-18



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In the fall of 2017, BISD launched the BISD STRONG Award as a way to recognize and celebrate the amazing students and staff who make the district ***strong***. The award honors the district's guiding principles of ***strong minds, strong hearts, strong community***.

In the first year, close to 200 nominations were submitted and 36 individuals were awarded the STRONG Award. The winners were surprised in class (or in their offices) by Superintendent Peter Bang-Knudsen who read their nominations and gave them a commemorative award. This book highlights the winners and captures the joy, surprise and happy tears as they learned about their award.

Do you know someone who is BISD STRONG? All BISD staff members and students are eligible to be nominated. Visit www.bisd303.org for details.



Fall 2017



Shirley Rice

Food Service at
Sakai
Intermediate
School

Nominated by a colleague.

Shirley consistently demonstrates an exceptional commitment to going the extra mile to ensure the very best for students. She works hard to ensure students throughout the district have access to fresh, nutritious foods and greets and interacts with students in a positive, friendly, supporting manner.

Words used to describe Shirley: smart, tireless, caring, positive, keenly knowledgeable.

Farrah is a kind and compassionate classmate. She is a problem-solver that is willing to stand up to any form of injustice at school. Farrah will be a friend to anyone that needs one. Farrah knows that mistakes are okay and that we can learn from them. She consistently demonstrates a growth mindset.

Words used to describe Farrah: humble, kind, thoughtful, hardworking.

Farrah Colby

2nd Grade
Wilkes
Elementary School

*Nominated by a Wilkes staff
member.*





Tiffany Kelly

Transportation

Nominated by parents whose children ride her route.

Tiffany greets each student by name and takes care of individual students' needs (such as nervous bus riders). She has become part of our "team" and our family and we know the kids are in a safe place on her bus every morning and afternoon.

Words used to describe Tiffany: empathetic, funny, energetic, caring, safe, friendly, responsible, respectful.

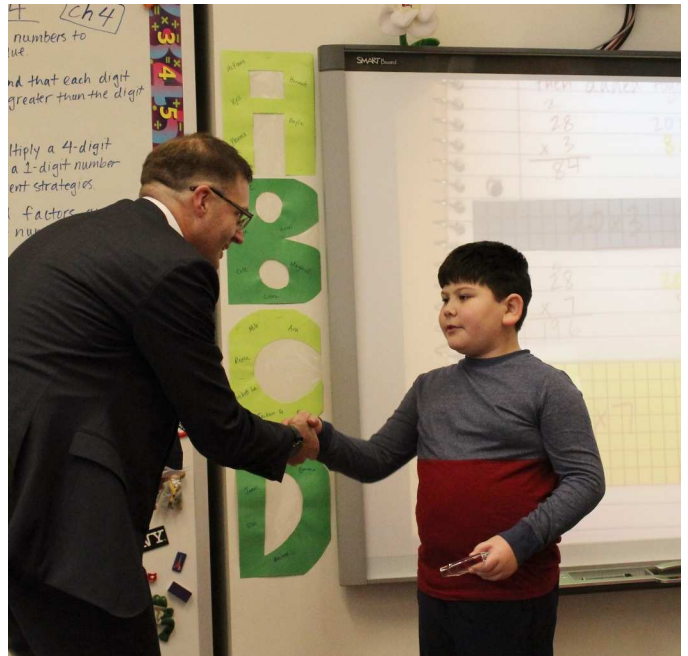
Joseph is a deep thinking, kind, and family-oriented individual, with a world awareness based on history. Joseph seems comfortable in his own skin, a quality that will serve him well in life!

Words used to describe Joseph: optimistic, wise, impressive.

Joseph Hughes

4th Grade
Wilkes
Elementary
School

*Nominated by a Wilkes staff
member.*





Lois Walter

Kindergarten
Teacher
Ordway
Elementary
School

Nominated by a parent.

Lois has a warm and caring heart, a bright and engaging style of teaching and is kind and respectful to those around her. She is patient, joyful, diligent and caring.

Words used to describe Lois: thoughtful, smart, happy, organized.

Erin is an incredible leader, hard worker, always steps up to help others and has a great attitude. She is friendly, talks to new students, is polite to everyone and is an example to others.

Words used to describe Erin: kind, empathetic, motivated, hardworking, excellence, brilliant, happy.

Erin Weiss

8th Grade
Woodward
Middle
School

*Nominated by a WMS staff
member.*





Alex Miller

8th Grade Woodward Middle School

Nominated by a parent whose child runs on the WMS Cross Country team.

Alex is fun to watch in Cross Country and often leads the pack from start to finish. But what is truly inspiring about Alex is after he finishes the race he stays at the finish line to give his Woodward teammates high-fives and compliments. While many exhausted finishers stagger to the team area to get rehydrated and some well-deserved food, Alex waits at the finish line and ensures that every single teammate is recognized.

Words used to describe Alex: inspiring, encouraging, supportive, gritty, determined.

Carly is compassionate, hard-working and empathetic. Her determination is inspirational.

Words used to describe Carly: excellent, smart, funny.

Carly Hart

6th Grade
Sakai
Intermediate
School
*Nominated by a Sakai staff
member.*





Ethan Soltanzadeh

11th Grade
Bainbridge
High
School

Nominated by BHS staff members.

Ethan is a leader in the BHS community, both publicly and behind the scenes. He is a quiet supporter to struggling students and exhibits true character in interactions with all staff and students. Ethan is unique in his individuality and thoughtfulness.

Words used to describe Ethan: exceptional leader, extraordinary advocate, visionary leader, thoughtful, kind, interesting.



Winter 2018



Eli Cook

5th Grade
Sakai
Intermediate
School

*Nominated by a Sakai staff
member.*

Eli faces physical challenges every day, and comes to school with a positive disposition. He is kind, thoughtful, funny, and determined to excel in his work every day. Eli exemplifies resiliency, determination, and kindness; these are the strengths that matter most.

Words used to describe Eli: patient, understanding, funny, creative.

Kyanne is a wonderful presence when you walk into Blakely! She has a Strong Heart: She is kind, compassionate and welcoming to everyone - new families and old families. Her smile and willingness to accept and help people who come into the office makes it a truly welcoming place. Strong Mind: She knows and remembers everything! Strong Community: This springs from the welcoming place. Blakely is a better school because Kyanne is in the office!

Words used to describe Kyanne: friendly, organized, kind, compassionate, understanding, helpful.

Kyanne Hawkins

Office Manager
Blakely
Elementary
School

Nominated by a parent.



Will Browning

7th Grade
Woodward
Middle
School

Nominated by WMS staff members.



Will is kind — I have witnessed him put others before himself in the classroom, and he always does this with a good heart. Will is funny — not only can he make others laugh with his dry sense of humor, he is also able to laugh at himself. He has an uncanny ability to diffuse a situation by breaking into song or referencing a line from a movie at any given moment. Will has a huge heart that he gives willingly to others and to himself. He is accepting of himself when things might be difficult, but always looks at how to make it better.

Words used to describe Will: hardworking, tenacious, funny, determined, resilient, reflective.

Karen is the very best example of what a teacher should be and she is an amazing co-worker and supervisor. She is honest, trustworthy, kind, patient, firm, reasonable, understanding, and wise. She is this way with everyone – students, staff, and parents alike. She gives and gives and gives of herself day after day. She continues to support and unite our team in so many thoughtful and kind ways. She is always there for each individual student in every way possible, even though they may test her over and over again.

Words used to describe Karen: kind, smart, funny, caring, encouraging, warm, giving.

Karen Knezevich

Special Education
Teacher
Sakai
Intermediate
School

Nominated by colleagues.





Zoe Inslee

Kindergarten
Wilkes
Elementary
School

*Nominated by Wilkes staff
members.*

Zoe is a natural helper with a huge heart. Zoe has a strong mind and a strong sense of community. Zoe is so kind, wise, enthusiastic and caring. It is such a joy to have her infectious enthusiasm and energy in class every day! She really does melt your heart with her natural, intrinsic social awareness, empathy, and maturity.

Words used to describe Zoe: kind, outgoing, nurturing, caring, enthusiastic, thoughtful, happy.

Ms. Shulman is one of the most compassionate people I know. She takes it as her responsibility to connect and help each student in her class. She encourages all students to be their best and succeed in her class and in life. She provides a safe classroom full of care, kindness, and tolerance. Ms. Shulman connects with her students, and helps them with their unique challenges. She has a strong heart, and genuinely wants to help her students learn about history, but most importantly, life lessons. To her, a strong mind isn't one that can recite certain dates. She molds her students into critical and persuasive speakers that can communicate their ideas, yet accept the ideas of others.

Words used to describe Tracy: empathetic, kind, caring, mentor, supportive, sincere.

Tracy Shulman

History Teacher
Bainbridge
High
School

Nominated by a student.





Aysen Lampa

1st Grade Blakely Elementary School

*Nominated by a community
member.*

Aysen deserves some recognition for all of the kindness he shares and all of the personal growth and progress he has made. He helps neighbors take out trash and walk their pets. He goes out of his way to check on people and see if they are okay. I hear from classmates' parents that he spends his recesses helping others and wandering around checking on everyone.

Words used to describe Aysen: kind, outgoing, nurturing, caring, enthusiastic, thoughtful, happy.

Kylie a positive influence on those around her and she has a terrific attitude. Not only is Kylie an amazing and successful student, but she also thrives in her achievements outside of school. Particularly, she is learning Spanish by having daily early morning phone conversations with a Guatemalan teacher. On her own, Kylie discovered we have a Guatemalan ELL student at our school and Kylie often works with this student during lunch and, on several occasions has gone to class with her to help her to translate the lesson. Kylie is compassionate and action-oriented. She works hard and is making a difference in her community.

Words used to describe Kylie: kind, positive, compassionate, involved, caring, problem-solver.

Kylie Turner

8th Grade
Woodward
Middle
School

*Nominated by a WMS staff
member.*





Emma Chee

12th Grade
Bainbridge
High
School

*Nominated by a community
member.*

Three years ago, I asked Emma to teach my daughter the Special Olympics Gymnastics Routines. All on her own, Emma figured out the routines and figured out how to help my daughter master them. After that first session, Emma continued coaching my daughter most Saturdays for the next three years. I have been so impressed with Emma's self direction, her work ethic, and her devotion to helping my daughter improve her skills. Emma has continuously gone over and above what I asked.

Words used to describe Emma: disciplined, dedicated, determined, strong, capable, compassionate.



Spring 2018



Sofia Fleischmann

5th Grade
Sakai
Intermediate
School

*Nominated by a Sakai staff
member.*

Each week, Sofia enthusiastically volunteers to help her fellow classmates. Sofia represents BISD Strong and embodies strong heart and strong community. She has a strong heart because she freely shares her time with her fellow classmates. She also helps build a strong community by including students of all abilities in typical social interactions and helps everyone feel a part of the school community

Words used to describe Sofia: caring, reliable, engaging, cheerful, unselfish, kind.

Lani is very committed in making the district a professional, yet accessible environment for everyone. Lani is exceptionally organized and always seems to go the extra mile in making sure the job is done right. She manages to be both friendly and professional at the same time. She seems to keep an eye out for the community, the board and has a gift for making each person feel seen and heard. She is always accessible and focused.

Words used to describe Lani: committed, conscientious, caring, intelligent.

Lani Chaffee

Assistant to the
Superintendent
District
Office

Nominated by a colleague.





Mallory McMullen

7th Grade
Woodward
Middle
School

Nominated by a WMS staff member.

Mallory is a very special student. She is kind and accepting of everyone, with a particularly courageous ability to stand up for anyone being mistreated. She wears clothes that bring her joy and her changing hair colors also represent her love of diversity. Mallory does very well in school. She is a creative and quick learner, and she always says hello to her teachers in the hall. I look to Mallory as a role model for our students, as well as myself, and feel honored to be her teacher.

Words used to describe Mallory: kind, smart, strong.

Kaleb's commitment to our students is outstanding. He has built a community within the classroom where students have fun, love their school, love their teacher and love their peers. This is done while also building independence and dignity. In the classroom and on his own time, Kaleb sets up athletic teams and coaches them so they can be part of an athletic experience. Students are experiencing the joy of competitiveness. Now my child comes home and says "PE was so fun today!"

Words used to describe Kaleb: thoughtful, enthusiastic for student success, problem-solver, invested.

Kaleb Anderson

Special Education
Teacher
Bainbridge
High
School

Nominated by a parent.





Dane Fenwick

Facilities
Management &
Custodial Supervisor
Nominated by multiple colleagues.

Dane has a strong work ethic and a strong commitment to improving our district. Dane looks for ways to go the extra mile. He takes great pride in his work and teaches those he supervises to do the same. He is very solution oriented. He frequently expresses that he enjoys his work and serving the district

Words used to describe Dane: loyal, honest, direct, willing, dedicated.

Devon is very strong, has an open heart and is the most caring and loving person I know. She is very helpful and always willing to help others. Devon is a great person and is always making new friends. She is the best and funniest person on Earth!

Words used to describe Devon: brave, determined, kind, loving, forgiving, helpful, funny, smart, easy to be around, caring, amazing, outstanding, awesome.

Devon Biddle

5th Grade
Odyssey
Multiage
School

Nominated by multiple classmates.





Ava Targett

8th Grade
Woodward
Middle
School

*Nominated by a WMS staff
member.*

Ava demonstrates leadership, kindness, academic excellence, compassion, and motivation. She is one of our ABS Executive Board members and models leadership with her involvement in school functions, planning, running ASB meetings, interacting with staff and students, and in trying to connect with students that are new and don't have many friends. She is outgoing, personable and an excellent communicator. She's going to lead the country one day. Wait and see!

Words used to describe Ava: kind, smart, motivated, empathetic, knowledgeable, hardworking, happy, generous.

Marie and her family moved to the United States from the Republic of Congo when she was 12 years old. Marie did not know English and quickly had to navigate middle school as best as she could without being able to communicate effectively (English is her fourth language). Marie is nice to everyone. She works hard to make sure new students feel included and welcome. She has a strong heart and strong mind because despite the challenges that have been thrown at her, she ALWAYS has a positive attitude, a smile on her face, and continues to work hard to achieve her goals.

Words used to describe Marie: compassionate, loving, kind, welcoming, leader, positive.

Marie Djemondo Kingombe

12th Grade
Bainbridge
High
School

Nominated by a BHS staff member.





Nelson Wynne

5th Grade Sakai Intermediate School

Nominated by a fellow classmate.

Nelson is very joyful to be around. He is a hard worker and determined. He lifts up the spirits of his classmates, is smart and is well-liked by the entire class.

Words used to describe Nelson: amazing, strong, resourceful, helpful.



Summer 2018



Susan Knell

French Teacher
Woodward
Middle
School

Nominated by a student.

Madam Knell always has the brightest smile in the mornings. She is constantly inspiring the people around her to do well. She volunteers her lunchtime every day to help other staff and students sort their food correctly. Madam Knell constantly encourages the people in her life to go green and save the world one step at a time. Madam Knell encourages students to help others. Madam Knell is supportive of her students and goes to see their performances and the next day she sings their praises.

Words used to describe Susan: kind, funny, bright, encouraging, generous, thinks of others, understanding.

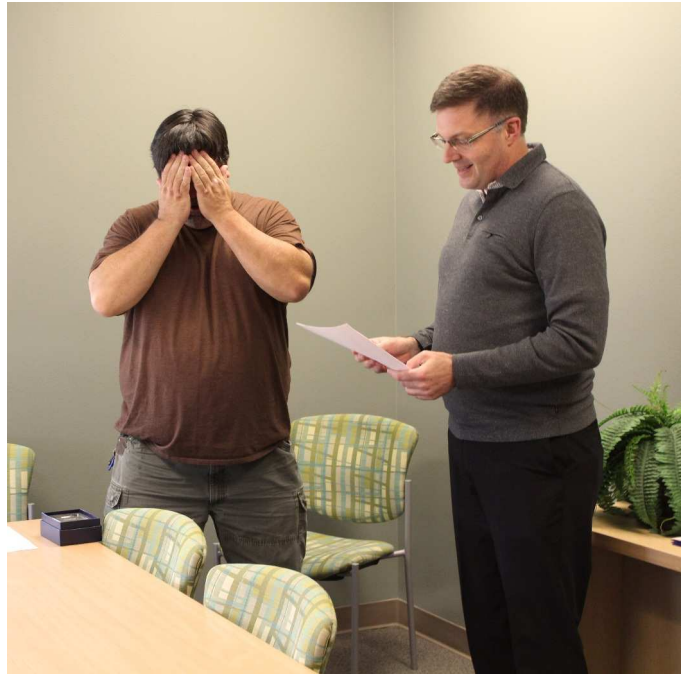
Bernie is very responsive to the needs of each school. He is always friendly in his approach to solving maintenance issues. With our aging facilities, he and his crew do an amazing job of keeping us up and running and making constant improvements. Bernie has a strong heart. He always listens carefully to the needs of our custodians and staff. He sees the big picture and does his best to help everyone. Bernie works tirelessly to ensure that requests are answered and the buildings are properly maintained. When emergencies require his undivided attention, he is the first to step up.

Words used to describe Bernie: thoughtful, kind, patient, hardworking, dedicated, dependable, has a good sense of humor, intelligent, empathetic, generous soul, problem-solver.

Bernie Mejia

Lead Maintenance
Craftsperson

Nominated by multiple colleagues.





Ainsley Candelaria

6th Grade
Sakai
Intermediate
School

Nominated by a student.

Ainsley is always kind, fun to be around, smart, and an awesome friend! Everyone in the class likes her. She's always trying to help others and has a strong heart. She is just an all-around nice and amazing person.

Words used to describe Ainsley: sweet, kind, considerate and smart.

Steve has kept all three of my children (now ages 20, 18 and 14) safe on their rides to and from school, watched them grow up and support them outside of his obligatory bus driver duties. He attended kid assemblies and awards ceremonies. Steve has an amazing sense of humor. He is respected by his riders and appreciated by the parents of those said riders. He even had a song written about him by Blakely 3rd-graders. He is legendary and deserves epic recognition. Steve is a BHS graduate and salt-of-the-earth member of our community. He is huge teddy bear.

Words used to describe Steve: loyal, caring, attuned, committed, genuine.

Steve Brown

Transportation

Nominated by a parent.





Brian Parker

Food Service
Manager
Bainbridge High
School

Nominated by multiple colleagues.

Brian continually goes above and beyond his role as a Food Service Manager at BHS. He engages with all students and prides himself on knowing their names and a little something about each student like a hobby or special event. He is just one of those people that keeps BHS going strong with significant impacts everyday with his positive attitude and his commitment to providing the best tasting food served with a smile.

Words used to Brian: energetic, friendly, committed, passionate about his job.

I am nominating Rochelle because every time I see her she is always there to be a friend. She loves school and loves her friends. She has been through a lot and always looks on the bright side. She loves helping other people and brightens people's day by just her lovely smile. She's always trying to help others and has a strong heart. When a friend and I were not getting along, she was there for both of us and gave some great advice, and some big hugs. She does a lot for her friends and her community.

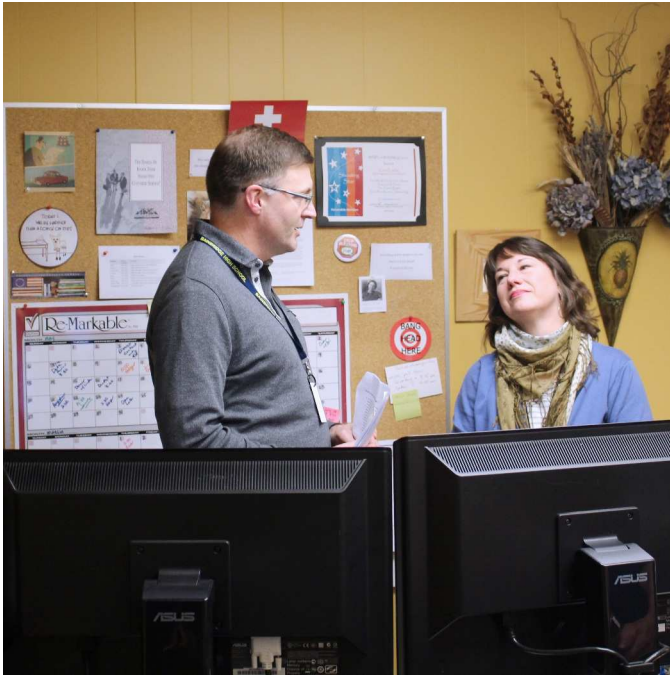
Words used to describe Rochelle: funny, sympathetic, creative, smart, supportive.

Rochelle Olney

7th Grade
Woodward
Middle
School

Nominated by a student.





Carol Laiche

Student Records Coordinator

Nominated by a colleague.

I am nominating Carol for her overall enthusiasm in supporting all staff that use Skyward and especially for her hard work in rolling out the new Skyward module for online registration that will impact all schools district-wide. This roll out will affect all schools and it is amazing how it will also impact the nursing staff, highly capable and SPED departments as well. I know for the high school, she went above and beyond setting it up as there are many special forms that she created for secondary grade-level inquiries that will make gathering transcripts and other enrollment information so much easier.

Words used to describe Carol: dedicated, enthusiastic, committed to quality, caring.

Krista helped guide us and our daughter through an extremely challenging time she faced this year in high school. Due to some challenges our daughter was facing, Krista met with us many times, spoke with our daughter to determine what she needed, and communicated with her teachers to make all of the necessary arrangements and accommodations. I can't adequately say how much her help, information, calm manner, and positive outlook have meant to our family and to the emotional well-being of our daughter. Krista is everything a parent or student could ever ask for in an academic counselor, and should be the model of what BISD/BHS aspires to provide every day.

Words used to describe Krista: professional, responsive, compassionate, confident, encouraging.

Krista Pal

Counselor
Bainbridge High
School

Nominated by a parent.





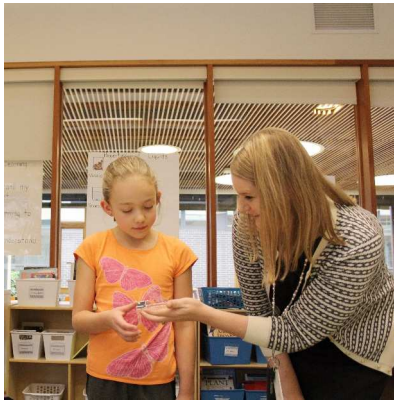
Cathy Oden

Paraeducator
Commodore
Options
School

Nominated by multiple students.

Cathy never gives up on us. Cathy is really funny, helps everyone, gives good advice and makes our classroom better. Cathy is a wonderful teacher, creating a spectacular learning environment for the whole class. She makes learning fun and easy, she is super helpful. She is always happy to see us and has a great attitude. She makes the classroom so much better whether it's helping me with my writing, or making a little joke to lighten the mood. Cathy, out of all people, definitely deserves this award. She always understands us and wears the biggest smile.

Words used to describe Cathy: kind, strong, smart, helpful, funny, awesome, humorous, curious, reliable, thoughtful.





**BAINBRIDGE
ISLAND**

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 393

**STRONG MINDS, STRONG HEARTS,
STRONG COMMUNITY**



**BAINBRIDGE
ISLAND**

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 303

STRONG MINDS, STRONG HEARTS, STRONG COMMUNITY