

TEACHER OF THE MONTH – November 2014

Michelle Rockwood - Stanwood Middle School Band and Choir

Nominated by: Keli Niegemann

I would like to nominate Michelle Rockwood as the Stanwood-Camano Employee of the Month. Michelle is the band and choir director at Stanwood Middle School. I have been fortunate to work with Michelle at Stanwood Middle School since the year that she came to SMS from Twin City Elementary. It has been fun to watch her build her music program, always encouraging students in the arts with such kindness and patience. For some of our students, music is the reason that they come to school. Michelle makes it her goal to open student's eyes to the world of music and the staff as well. She will, often, provide informative articles related to music and brain development or other musical information. It is a great way to keep staff up to date on important information in relation to student learning and music. Michelle has never said "no" to a student interested in pursuing music no matter when in the school year they express an interest. I, personally, don't know how it is humanly possible to have a beginning band class with all of the students learning new instruments and to receive another new student, several months into the school year. Michelle always does it, happily. She is one of the rare teachers that really wants a larger class. Forty band students is not a problem for her. I often say, "How do you do it?" She would rather have more! If you have the opportunity to attend any of the many musical performances at Stanwood Middle School, from band and choir concerts to the Grandparent's Luncheon, Veteran's or Pep Assemblies, you would walk away impressed with the musical skills that students have gained while under the direction of Michelle Rockwood. Students, staff, and families are so very fortunate to have Michelle Rockwood as a part of our staff. Stanwood Middle School is a better place because of her.

Nominated by: Patti Lauritsen, parent

My son is developmentally delayed and he plays trumpet in band. His goal since 6th grade was to play electric guitar in stage band. She told him at the end of the school year last year that he could so he was able to get a guitar this summer. I can't afford lessons for him so she offered to let him stay after school once a week and she works with him for about an hour each time. His confidence has improved with his trumpet and the guitar because of her encouragement. She goes beyond giving her time to help him understand and she has made a positive impact on him that will stay with him for a very long time. :)