



2007 Classified Champions

The focus in education is always on classroom learning and rightly so. But in order to get children to school, make sure they are fed and have clean, well-maintained facilities in which to learn, a cadre of employees is necessary.

These workers, known as classified staff, who drive busses, mop floors and peel potatoes, are critical components to any educational organization. Not only do they support education outside of the classroom, but inside of it as well.

The full range of their contributions might be hard to quantify, but at a recent Board of Education meeting, SEIU Local 790 President Crawford Johnson put it simply. "We work."

This year, the Board of Education honored 22 of these Classified Champions, who exemplify the best characteristics of district employees.

"They are an invaluable part of the educational system," said Norm Tanaka, a district personnel director and former principal in charge of the Classified Champion awards. "If we are going to achieve success for every student by name, we need contributions from every single employee. Without the efforts of classified employees like our champions, it will be impossible for us to succeed in educating our children."

A list of the honorees follows. An excerpt from each champion's nomination is next to their photo.

Nirmala Chand, Camellia Basic, Food Services Assistant. It is my contention that it is not the number of hours a person may spend at their job that would merit recognition for going above and beyond the call of duty, but rather in the performance of ordinary tasks with extraordinary care during their regular work day that sets them apart.



school by keeping Woodbine a friendly, positive, safe and organized place for children to learn.



Simon Fortes, Jr., Matsuyama, School Plant Manager. Academic achievement improves when the schools are clean, well maintained and organized. Simon's work keeps the school humming right along. We are most fortunate to have Simon on the Matsuyama team.



Christina Facio, Sutter Middle, Instructional Aide. She works with all of the students that need extra help with their language arts, history, science or math assignments. Her skills with our Spanish students come into play again as she is able to help them become more comfortable with the English language. She is able to build their self-esteem and they become motivated to achieve.



Anthony Franceschi, Charles A. Jones Skills Center, Toolroom Attendant. Tony's active participation in our school's learning community has benefited our students tremendously. He serves as a role model and a leader, and is a major contributor to everything that happens here on campus.



Helena Forrester, Woodbine, School Office Manager. Helena goes above and beyond her job duty on a daily basis. Her actions benefit the students and the

Colleen Gale, Hubert Bancroft, Clerk. Because Colleen is so active with staff, families and the community, she

takes every opportunity to promote Bancroft in a positive light to everyone she comes in contact with. Her willingness to be available to our staff, parents and the community on the job are admirable qualities. The fact that she spends her own evenings, weekends and vacations supporting our school is what makes her a Classified Champion.



Karen Jensen, Thomas Jefferson, School Office Manager. As office manager, Karen not only manages the office, she is the glue that holds the school together. ... Our school would collapse without her. Her attention to detail and district policy has ensured that all records and documents on students are accurate, submitted on time and are complete.



Darin Lanz, Hubert Bancroft, School Plant Manager. He keeps our school clean, up to code, well organized and keeps us



proud to be part of the school. His dedication and pride make him available to support the school and community events on weekends and after hours. He is a positive member of the staff and goes well beyond his job to support...many events at the site.

Carol Lee, Alice Birney, School Office Manager. Carol is often the first person who potential students and their guardians meet. She is a good advocate for Alice Birney Elementary and the Sacramento City Unified School District. Her ability to organize tasks and to follow through makes her a valuable employee and colleague.



Marilyn Perry, Golden Empire, Parent Advisor. Marilyn Perry is dedicated to instilling a love for reading in the young hearts of hundreds of children. Her cheerfulness, enthusiasm and love for books spreads throughout the school and neighborhood and greatly benefits the minds and souls of our



community.

Karen Redmond, Camellia Basic, Instructional Aide. Karen's ability goes unnoticed by the students because she performs many tasks from "behind the scene." The students benefit when they have a successful experience navigating the World Wide Web, interacting with a software program or finding a library book.

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Richard Remund, Buildings & Grounds, Operations Supervisor. His dedication to his profession is exhibited each day as he delivers quality customer service to all customers.... His leadership shows at monthly Plant Manager meetings as he attempts, without fail, to share his wisdom with all who attend. His experience is evident when he speaks. He is a fair human being to all his peers and he will always be first in line to assist with any request this district has of him.



Kae Saefong, Human Resource Services, Personnel Technician. Kae has multi-tasked in a seamless way, allowing us to make it through difficult periods. She never complains, nor has she requested a reduction in work. Kae has



invigorated us all and set an example of how to pull through during tough times.

Sandra Smith, Camellia Basic, Food Service Assistant. Just as an army marches on its stomach, so too does a group of school children learn better with a nutritious lunch. Sandy Smith exemplifies the outstanding service provided to many children for whom lunch can be the best part of their day.



Wayne Snyder, ISET, Help Desk Technician. From the beginning, Wayne has shown a willingness to go above and beyond in supporting the needs of this department. We have recently acquired a new computer program to help the department run more efficiently. On his own time, Wayne has enrolled in an on-line course to better understand and support our department.



Nicholas Vargas, Facilities & Maintenance, Assistant Foreman Carpenter. He is one of the most caring and giving people I have the pleasure of working with each day. His compassion, drive and devotion speak for themselves. What makes him a champion is whatever he is doing is done at 100 percent. He always places everyone else in

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front of his own work load.

Christine Villegas, Human Resource Services, Personnel Office Assistant. Christina is a problem solver. She is an asset to our department and to our district. She is respected by everyone and is the reason why our customer service has improved. Nobody deserves to get this nomination more than her.



Dorri Woolen, Abraham Lincoln, Instructional Aide. Dorri has always been able to reach and teach very young children. She frequently creates extra practice and reinforcement lessons for our math students without teacher direction. She is innovative and uses humor to get her ideas across.

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Jeff Yanez, Phoebe Hearst, School Plant Manager. It is clear that Jeff is a hard worker, takes pride in his school and his work and enjoys what he does. We are truly blessed to have Jeff. Our school looks fabulous, our kids are learning in a safe and clean environment and we know that if we are in need of anything, Jeff will take care of it immediately and with a smile.



Margie Yee, Human Resource

Services, School Accountability Operations Specialist. Mrs. Yee should be nominated for her hard work, dedication, creativity, production of quality work, and her ability to organize staff development binders and materials after work hours. She is a wonderful team player.



Linda Zanza, Rosemont, Office Technician. Mrs. Zanza is a ray of sunshine and glue that holds Rosemont together. She is always at her job and when someone asks for her assistance, they can be assured that they are going to receive the utmost of care even if it means going an extra mile. She is a terrific co-worker with the ready smile and terrific laugh that can brighten the most challenging days.



Ramona Zetter, Camellia Basic, Food Service Assistant. The work performed in the cafeteria is under-appreciated by staff, students and parents alike. Knowing that, R a m o n a approaches each task with the knowledge of the critical importance of the health and well-being of everyone who passes through the cafeteria doors is phenomenal, and should be greatly applauded.

