

Taylor Elementary School Teacher Cathy Tonge Faces Challenge of Teaching A Multi-Age Classroom

Christensen Law Firm Gives \$100 Office Depot Gift Card for School Supplies to Golden Apple Award Winner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2011, Draper, UT—The Christensen Law Firm School Supplies Gift Program, a program sponsored by the Utah based Christensen Law Firm, PLLC, is pleased to announce that Ms. Cathy Tonge, a 4th-6th grade multi-age classroom teacher at Taylor Elementary School in Centerville, UT, is the recipient of the Golden Apple Award this week.

Ms. Tonge has the daunting yet rewarding challenge of teaching a classroom with students who range in age from the 4th through the 6th grade. A multi-age classroom (MAC) is intended to help students from varying ages but similar scholastic abilities to come together in a collaborative learning environment. In Ms. Tonge's classroom, the students work together in literacy groups where they all read the same books and then do learning activities together. She says that having a variance in skills and abilities is great because the more advanced students learn more by teaching the less advanced students and the students with lower ability levels benefit by being able to learn from their fellow students instead of just the teacher. The MAC method of teaching gives kids greater confidence and helps to alleviate some of the anxiety that usually accompanies the first day of school and having a new teacher. Ms. Tonge's students come back each year and are ready to hit the books and get things done right when they walk in her door because they are already comfortable with her as their teacher.

Ms. Tonge has big plans for the Golden Apple Award. The students in Ms. Tonge's class just finished reading about Leonardo DaVinci and she would love to do some paper sculptures with the students to replicate DaVinci's work and help the kids gain an appreciation for his legacy. She also plans to take literacy even further in the classroom by having the kids write and publish their own books. This is a new activity that she has not done before simply because she has lacked the funding to purchase the necessary supplies. She is excited for the opportunity that the Golden Apple Award will bring to introduce a little creativity into her lesson plans as she has the same students for three years in a row and does not want them to become bored from doing the same things every year.

The Christensen Law Firm started the **Christensen Law Firm School Supplies Gift Program** to help public school teachers get extra classroom supplies without having to spend their own money. Each week the program gives the **Golden Apple Award**, which is a \$100 gift card each week to a deserving Utah Public school teacher and his/her class. Anyone can nominate a teacher for this program, teachers, students, parents and administrators. To learn more about the program and get information on the winners visit: <http://www.utahpersonalinjurylawfirm.com/christensen-law-firm-school-supplies-gift-program.html>.

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About the Christensen Law Firm

Ken Christensen and Russ Hymas, owners of the **Christensen Law Firm**, are Utah natives. They have individually authored several books covering topics from car accidents to wrongful death law and bicycle accidents. They have been recognized by local media (including KSL, ABC, Fox and KUTV) as legal experts and are frequently asked to offer opinions on news stories and events. They are also sponsors of the **Hit-and-Run Rewards Program**, which rewards honorable citizens for providing information leading to the arrest and felony conviction of Hit-and-Run Drivers. For more information contact: schoolsuppliesgiftprogram@clfutah.com