

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #20 (2001-2002)

AUGUST 13, 2001

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: DENALI AWARD FOR PAT SYTA AND KIM RAMHARTER,  
KASUUN ELEMENTARY

PERTINENT FACTS:

To Alaskans, Denali means "great one," and the Anchorage School District is proud to have employees that display greatness in the areas of achievement, service and dedication. Twice each year a committee of Anchorage School District employees selects six co-workers and one team of colleagues that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to our mission of educating students for success in life.

Pat Syta and Kim Ramharther are both 19-year veterans of the Anchorage School District working at Kasuun Elementary. Both were nominated by principal Colleen Stevens, who is now retired from the District. All three women have been on the staff at Kasuun since it opened six years ago. Ms. Syta and Ms. Ramharther are being recognized tonight as Denali Award recipients so that Ms. Stevens can be present; the rest of the honorees will be recognized in September.

Principal Colleen Stevens calls administrative assistant Pat Syta a "visionary person, utilizing her imagination and creativity to promote ideas and student success." She makes students her number one priority. Through her personal touch she creates a warm and inviting office that students love to visit.

Ms. Syta is a master of technology. Because of her involvement during the construction of Kasuun, she understands all of the building's electrical, safety and communications systems. According to Ms. Stevens, she is the "only person who can effectively troubleshoot every system in the school."

When she is not busy keeping Kasuun organized and operational, Ms. Syta mentors other administrative assistants and teaches quilting classes. She recently completed a quilting book, Bear's Paw Plus, which will be published in April.

Kim Ramharter teaches fourth grade at Kasuun Elementary. According to Ms. Stevens, “Ms. Ramharter’s classroom abounds with a spirit of enthusiasm and cooperation. She believes in the power of modeling life-long learning skills, compassion, understanding, dependability and dedication.” Her commitment extends beyond her classroom, impacting students, parents and staff.

Ms. Ramharter mentors new teachers, serves as a co-teacher-in-charge, presents in-services, and organizes school events. Her successful Spell-A-Thon raised enough funds to purchase a 32-computer i-Mac lab for the school.

In her nomination, Ms. Stevens commented on Ms. Ramharter’s concern for each of her students and provided a supportive letter from the parent of a special needs child. The parent was impressed with the attention Ms. Ramharter paid to the child’s academic and social needs and wrote, “She gave (our daughter) a chapter book, Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing. She moved beyond the fact that it was way above her reading abilities and modified it. (Our daughter) still carries her copy to bed each evening. She was tickled to be part of the classroom reading group and carry around the same book as everyone else. Kim found ways to incorporate reading and (her) desire to ‘belong.’”

It is recommended that the School Board recognize Pat Syta and Kim Ramharter for the examples of excellence they set for the entire Anchorage School District community.

CC/LW/ME

Prepared by: Michelle Egan, Public Relations Director

Approved by: Lawrence A. Wiget, Executive Director, Public Affairs