



Nominator Sarah Westneat honors Carla Caldwell

The Nora Award: Named in honor of Madrona activist Nora Wood, this award is given to a Madrona resident who, over time and in ways both large and small, has left a personal mark on the community.

Carla Caldwell is the kind of person who invites neighbors into her home to teach them how to pickle and can vegetables. She's the kind of person who loves to catch fish but hates to eat them and so gives away catch after catch to friends and family. Carla grows her own veggies, cooks big

family dinners (that she apparently doesn't really eat herself!), and creates elaborate custom-colored quilts at the drop of a hat. She is one of five generations of Madrona-ites and those who know her on 35th Avenue say you couldn't find a better neighbor.

Go Panthers Award: Recognizes an individual who has made extra and extraordinary efforts for the education and growth of Madrona K-8.

Laura Washington & Diana Patterson both make a huge difference in the day-to-day operations of Madrona K-8. Laura is a volunteer who is on site nearly everyday, ready, willing and able to take on any task that needs doing. She supports the students, the teachers, and the staff, and her dedication of volunteerism is a beautiful thing. As the school nurse, Diana Patterson knows that parents worry when they get calls from her. But she is always quick to assure them that their student is fine before she tackles the task at hand. Whether it's inquiring about



Jon Hughes surprises Laura Washington

vaccinations, or nutrition, or even helping find an appropriate uniform, Diana is always professional and caring. She understands that Madrona K-8 is more than just a school; it is a full service family support system, set up to make its students successful.



Diana Patterson

Neighborhood Appreciation Day 2009!

There were tons of home-made treats and between the sugar and the good will, everyone at Madrona K-8 library on March 7 was in good spirits. And why not? They were there to celebrate our community and recognize a few of the many people who make it extra special.

Madrona K-8 middle schooler Ruqia Yusuf served as Master of Ceremonies and kept things moving along. Special thanks to Precocious Toys and the Hi-Spot Café for donating refreshments and prizes, to the Madrona K-8 Girl Scout Troops for providing entertainment and fabulous hand-made cards for the winners, to the Madrona K-8 PTSA, the Madrona Community Council, and Madrona K-8 staff for their support, and to event organizers Jon Hughes, Paige Smith, Jen Norling, Kirk Anderson, and Mia Cuevas for making it happen. What a great neighborhood we have!

The Local Hero Award: Given to a Madrona resident for an act of heroism, singular kindness or generosity.

Emma Kearney is 15 and baby sits for many families in the neighborhood who consider her a role model for their young children. She has a genuine interest in how children grow, how to support them, how to keep them safe, and how to simply enjoy them. She is academically successful, an athlete, and a singer, yet she makes it a priority to spend time with young kids, just out of the goodness of her heart. When the Dalia Lama came to Seattle last spring, Emma was there to hear him talk about how compassion starts with the relationship between the mother and the child. Emma's mom, Susan, has clearly taught this compassion to Emma, who in turn is sharing it with many families in Madrona.



Mary Bass Award: an award given to a person who goes above and beyond the call of duty linking the greater community and the school.

Demetra Gary & Rita Shekler are a dynamic duo. These two officers of the Madrona K-8 PTSA have collaborated on many successful ventures, from fundraising to field trips. Both dedicate a lot of time and energy to the school—and they make it look fun! Through their association with the Madrona K-8 PTSA, they have also become good friends.

The Tyrone Love Unsung Hero Award: Named in honor of Tyrone Love and given to a Madrona resident for service to others in the larger community.



Tyrone Love's posthumous award is accepted by his friends and his mother, Roberta Harrison, lifelong Madrona resident.



Madrona PTSA officers Rita Shekler & Demetra Gary, left

Madrona K-8 Student Awards

Celebrating student achievement in three different grade categories, Kindergarten thru Second, Third thru Fifth, and Middle School



Left to Right : Winners Sophia Ortiz-Williams Gr. 3-5, Patrice Carter middle school, Jerome Todd Gr. K-2, with Ruqia Yusuf, Neighbor Day master of ceremonies

Madrona K-8 Doris Baptist Hickman Staff Award: This award is for a Madrona K-8 School staff person who has made a significant contribution to the school.

Melissa Rysemus is a 6th Grade Language Arts/Social Studies teacher but her real love is writing and teaching kids to write. For the past two years, she has run the school's Writers Workshop, a program designed to improve writing in middle school. During that time, the school has seen a huge shift as more and more students take an interest in writing. The program includes a minimum of 60 minutes of writing every day and encourages student writing to be published and shared school-wide at assemblies and in the classrooms and hallways. Ms Rysemus's work really paid off last year when the 7th graders at Madrona K-8 attained the highest WASL writing scores in the district.



Principal Kaaren Andrews presents Melissa Rysemus, left

Lori K. Rath, Attorney/Mediator

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