

Governor's Brightest Stars Awards

West Park Elementary Recognized



West Park was recognized with Honorable Mention on November 10, 2010 at the Brightest Star Awards Ceremony in Boise, Idaho. On Wednesday, January, 26th Dale Kleinert, Jenny Pierce, Susan Steele and Bill Marineau attended the "Capitol for a Day" ceremony in Culesac, Idaho where they received additional recognition from Governor Otter.

Governor, C.L. "Butch" Otter and First Lady, Laurie Otter recognized Idaho's unsung heroes who work tirelessly as volunteers to improve the quality of life for Idaho and its citizens. There were 103 nominees honored during this year's event and awards were presented in six categories. West Park Elementary was recognized in the category of School Volunteer of the Year. An excerpt from the award program reads:

West Park Elementary — Moscow

West Park Elementary has a culture of integrated volunteerism throughout the school. This culture benefits students, families, staff and the community by providing reading buddies, school maintenance/clean-up during Saturdays of Service, organizing blood drives and fundraising for Red Cross and Inland Empire Blood Bank. The school has an extensive volunteer corps representing all aspects of Moscow's community.

Volunteers at West Park during December were:

- 36 Community and parent volunteers
- 25 Reading buddies
- 6 Mentors
- 104 U of I, Service Learning Students

In total, 171 community members volunteered their time to enhance student learning and help staff members.



West Park Elementary was nominated for this award by Adrian Wurr, Ph.D. Assistant Director for Service-Learning & Internships at the University of Idaho. He has been impressed with West Park Elementary staff for their dedication to service learning and volunteerism. West Park Elementary was also recognized as a Brightest Star School by the Governor in 2008.



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

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November 10, 2010

Dear Brightest Stars,

Congratulations on your extraordinary achievements as a volunteer. First Lady Lori and I are pleased to host the 2010 celebration where you and many others will be honored for your contributions to our Gem State. Your efforts have been noticed by those who took the time to nominate you as a Governor's Brightest Star and we are here today to say thank you and celebrate your achievements.

We are humbled to have so many individuals who are committed to making life better for others. Your dedication and ingenuity have benefitted our entire Idaho community and show that service truly is a solution to addressing community needs. Each of you has contributed so much that it was difficult to select our Volunteers of the Year from among this inspiring group — what a wonderful challenge to have!

Thank you to Serve Idaho, the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism and all who served on the organizing committee to make this event possible. Your efforts are appreciated. Congratulations again to this year's Governor's Brightest Stars and thank you for setting an example of what citizenship is all about.

As Always—Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C.L. Butch Otter".

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho

2008 Brightest Star Award Ceremony Excerpt

West Park Elementary

West Park Elementary truly has an open door to volunteers. They make each volunteer feel welcome and a valuable part of their school. They take time to train and guide volunteers and make sure they are placed where their strengths are best matched. In 2007 West Park had welcomed over 180 active regular volunteers with over 3200 hours served, and collected over 1550 books provided to at risk children in partnership with the local food bank to be distributed in holiday food baskets.

