

Ellison Park Elementary Teacher Michelle Francis Wins the Golden Apple Award

***Christensen Law Firm Gives \$100 Gift Card
For Classroom Supplies***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2012, Draper, UT – The School Supplies Gift Program, sponsored by the Utah-based Christensen Law Firm, PLLC, is pleased to announce that **Mrs. Michelle Francis**, a 2nd grade teacher at Ellison Park Elementary, in Layton, UT, is this week's recipient of the Golden Apple Award.

Ms. Francis loves teaching young students. She has been teaching for four consecutive years, in 3 different grades. She is well-known for her loves of oceans, and because Utah is a land-locked state, her creativity has led her to call her class the 'Francis Ocean'. The kids have taken to it well. She said that her love of oceans led her to create "an ABC ocean research book that allows students to hone their research skills, practice non-fiction reading, use their writing skills, and also learn about animals—all of which fall under the core curriculum." She said the "book starts with anemone and ends up with zooplankton."



Ms. Francis works diligently to provide her students with a good education. She said, "It's an exhausting job but very rewarding, and I know that sounds cliché, but it's true." She has every right to make such a comment seeing how she teaches 25 students at a time. She said her class size has gradually increased over the last few years, from 19 to 22 to 25 students. Another obstacle with which Ms. Francis is faced is a multi-lingual class. Her credentials include her status as being ESL endorsed, which means that she teaches students who speak English as a second language, and ultimately means that the disparity of understanding is vast. Both the large class size and the linguistic limitations of students means that Ms. Francis has to work very hard in order to have her whole class up to par and capable of passing the standardized tests.

We applaud Ms. Francis for her continuing efforts to teach our children, and her dedication to them is evident. She spends 1-2 hrs. per night looking for possible donors to increase classroom supplies so that her students' education is not shortchanged. Though it may be small, \$100 dollars at OfficeMax will be able to provide for at least some of the necessary supplies, such as folders, drawers and shelves. We wish to publicly thank Ms. Francis for her excellence and her continual pursuit of teaching from the heart.

About the School Supplies Gift Program

Ken Christensen and Russ Hymas, owners of the Christensen Law Firm, recently started the 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, a \$100 OfficeMax gift card, to a deserving Utah public school teacher and his/her class. Anyone can nominate a teacher for this program, including teachers, students, parents and administrators. To learn more about the program and nominate a teacher, click [here](#).