

2017 Golden Acorn Award Recipient



Kate Lonning



Kate Lonning's enthusiasm for the students of Newcastle Elementary is evident in every project she takes on. She is always willing to help, and has therefore been seen in a wide variety of roles over the past 5 years. Whether it is volunteering in one of her kid's classrooms, helping with a classroom art project or stepping up to be Co-VP of Ways and Means on the Executive Board of the PTSA, she volunteers with a smile and always puts the kids first. We are delighted to announce that Kate is one of the 2017 Golden Acorn Recipients!

As Co-VP of Ways and Means, she was an integral part of the 2015-16 PTSA Executive Board. There were not many days that went by that Kate wasn't hard at work helping to ensure that PTSA funding was maximized, so that the PTSA could offer the maximum amount of programming for the students at Newcastle. In 2015, Kate worked with her co-chair on securing sponsors for the directory, helping to secure \$1300 in ad sales. She co-chaired our spring fundraiser, the Orange Ruler Fun Run, surpassing the school set goal and bringing together the whole school as a community. Kate has twice co-chaired the Gift-A-Book program, for our library, increasing the number of quality books available to our students. Her organization has benefited this worthwhile program. She has also co-chaired to help secure a new vendor for spirit wear, with 10% of all sales benefiting the PTSA. And, this year, she thought of new and innovative ways to secure quality wine bottle donations for the premium wine bottle table for the PTSA biennial auction.

As if the above wasn't enough, Kate also volunteers her time in each of her children's classrooms. She has been a classroom art docent on her own and as a co-chair for the past four years in a row, and has been a classroom room parent. She can also be seen volunteering in the library on weekly basis.

Kate takes this spirit of volunteerism to the next level during her time away from Newcastle. She is heavily involved with her son's baseball teams, assisting with their annual auction, tournament hotel reservations, annual BBQ, and end of season parties. In her spare time, she is involved with local community food drives and has also volunteered as Reflections judge at the district level for the past two years.

Kate brings positivity and a sense of humor as she takes on each new challenge. Newcastle is very fortunate to have such a wonderful and dedicated volunteer. We are proud to honor Kate as one of our 2017 Golden Acorn Award winners.