

## **PTA Seeks Nominations for Phoebe Hearst Outstanding Educator Award**

For more than a century, the National Parent Teacher Association has provided support, information, and resources to families focused on the health and education of children. The PTA organization was founded in 1897 by Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst in Washington D. C., and was initially called the National Congress of Mothers. PTA was created to meet a profound challenge: to better the lives of children. And today, PTA continues to flourish because it has never lost sight of its goal of changing the lives of children across our nation for the better.

Each year PTAs in school districts across the country each honor one outstanding teacher with the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Outstanding Educator Award. In RUSD the teacher receives a \$500 grant, his or her name and picture on a plaque that is displayed in the Superintendent's Office, and a Touchstone Tile in their honor. This national award recognizes professional excellence and extraordinary personal commitment by an educator.

If there is one thing everyone knows about the Reed Union School District, it is that our schools are staffed with the best and brightest in the teaching profession. In asking for your nominations for this award, we respectfully request that parents describe specific and substantive achievements by an individual RUSD teacher who alone stands above the rest as the one teacher who has – beyond all others – made a significant difference to improve the lives of children. Your thoughtful and reflective letter describing that one teacher's special achievements is key to the selection process. Selection will not be based on the number of nominations a teacher receives but by the contributions that teacher makes to the lives of our children.

Nomination letters may be sent either to the RUSD District Office, Attention Superintendent Dr. Steven Herzog/Phoebe Hearst Award or by email to [blavigne@reedschools.org](mailto:blavigne@reedschools.org).

The recipient of the Phoebe Hearst Award will be announced at the Celebration of Education on May 21, 2014. More information on that event will be available in the next few weeks.