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February 1, 2022

Dear Students and Families of the Philomath School District:

**Recognition (Noun) /ˌrɛkəgˈniʃ(ə)n/**

1. Identification of someone or something or person from previous encounters or knowledge;
2. Acknowledgement of something's existence, validity, or legality; or
3. Appreciation or acclaim for an achievement, service, or ability.

Noah Webster is one of my favorite resources from whom to seek knowledge. I find that definitions can capture the essence of specific words. I received notification today of some special recognition within the Philomath School District.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the nomination of two Philomath staff members for recognition through the National Life Group as **Life Changers of the Year**. Congratulations to Philomath High School Counselor, Maria Drennen, and Philomath Middle School Counselor, Mike Panico on their nominations. Nomination makes Maria and Mike eligible for one of seventeen cash prizes, up to \$10,000!

Members of the community are highly encouraged to get involved and add to nominations by leaving comments on an individual profile. You can view nominations for [Mike Panico](#) and [Maria Drennen](#) on the Life Changers of the Year web page.

Each school year, Life Changer of the Year receives hundreds of nominations from all fifty states and the District of Columbia. Of these nominations, eighteen individuals will be honored with this distinction. Winners are chosen by a selection committee comprised of former winners and education professionals. Nominees for the award must:

- Make a positive impact in the lives of students;
- Enhance their school or district's atmosphere, culture and pride;
- Demonstrate exemplary leadership at the school and/or district level;
- Possess a proven record of professional excellence;
- Show commitment to building a nurturing environment that supports learning; and
- Adhere to the highest moral and ethical standards.

Please join me in congratulating Maria and Mike on their nominations. They reflect two of many reasons why Philomath schools are such great places for our students!

Always learning together-

Susan