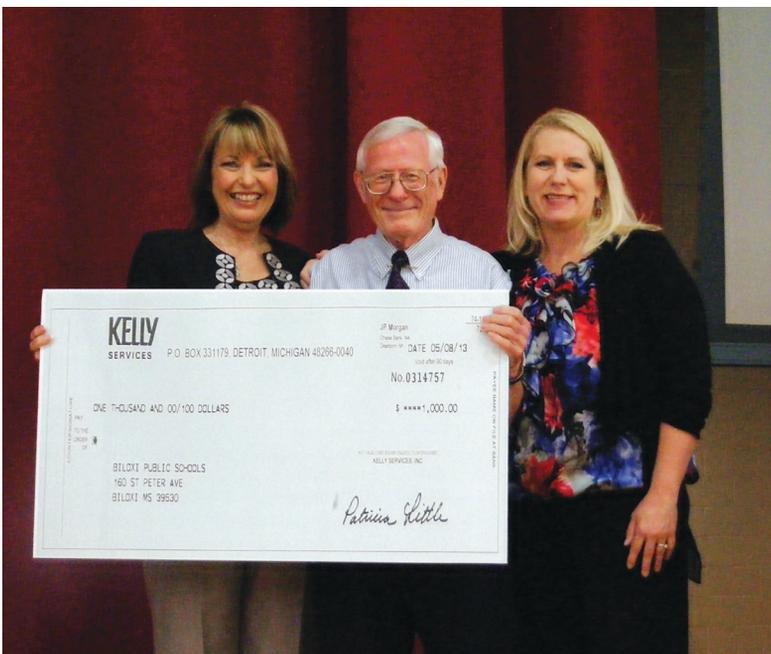


PEOPLE teaching you a lesson

THE INCREDIBLE Mr. Bean wins National Substitute of the Year Award

MR. BEAN

story by **Priscilla Loebenberg** photo courtesy of **Kelly Services**



CHECK PRESENTATION for the National Substitute of the Year Award by Kelly Educational Staffing is presented to Biloxi High Principal Pamela Manners by winner Ronald Bean and Robyn Tennyson of Kelly Services.

Students fortunate enough to be assigned Mr. Bean as a substitute teacher often receive unexpected bonuses with their education.

“My passion is helping them build up vocabulary,” said Bean, who is a retired mechanical engineer.

One way he gets students engaged is throwing in a little lagniappe. Each day he teaches, Bean designates a Word of the Day. Students who pronounce, define and use the word correctly get a crisp, uncirculated dollar bill. Each week, two students are awarded special origami dollars displayed in a wooden frame handmade by Bean. Each quarter, the substitute draws the name of one student from the pool of participating students to receive a \$50 savings bond. He’s spent approximately \$4,000 of his own money over four years of teaching.

“When I see these young people start to understand the importance of a good vocabulary and how it will impact their reading, writing and speaking — when the lightbulb comes on — that’s when it feels like everything is worthwhile.”

Although he has taught at schools all over Jackson and Harrison counties, for the past year and a half Bean has worked exclusively at Biloxi High School. He said there are some advantages to being part of the same students’ lives for several years.

“For some students it didn’t happen the first or second year; but by their senior year, they recognized the importance of vocabulary. It was a thrill and pleasure to see students understand and embrace that.”

Recently, Bean was awarded the National Substitute of the Year Award by Kelly Educational Staffing, beating out 20,000 other substitutes. He was awarded a \$1,000 bonus, which he says will go right back into his teaching budget, and \$1,000 to give to the school of his choice, Biloxi High School.

“I truly think he is beloved by the students,” said Biloxi High School Principal Pamela Manners. “That’s pretty unusual for substitutes. It’s difficult coming into a different classroom every day. He is extremely adaptable and the kids respect him.”