

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

April 25, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Acting Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: "An Act to Follow" Staff Recognition Program

ORIGINATOR: P. McKenzie, Student Achievement Services

### INFORMATION

The *An Act to Follow* initiative was designed to recognize and celebrate outstanding performances of staff that have resulted in tangible gains in student achievement through their inspirational teaching and diligent work to support teaching and learning. The *An Act to Follow* recipients have implemented all areas of the Supporting Teaching and Learning framework. In this report, the exemplary work of these individuals is highlighted.

#### **Terry Godwaldt – Teacher, Pre-Advanced Placement Program – Rosslyn School**

Don Darling, Principal refers to Terry Godwaldt as being instrumental in bringing the new Pre-Advanced Placement Program (Pre-AP) to life at Rosslyn School. In his work as Pre-Advanced Placement coordinator, Terry is responsible for designing and implementing the pilot curriculum for mathematics. He works collaboratively with his colleagues at the school and acts as the Rosslyn Liaison for other Pre-AP schools within the district. As part of his commitment to success for all students, Mr. Godwaldt has worked with a colleague to match students from the Pre-AP Program with partners in the ESL class, to participate in daily shared reading. Terry also implemented a peer tutoring program in which the Pre-AP students applied to take part in a program to tutor struggling students. In addition, Terry works with the Pre-AP students to coordinate their placement in activities that involve artistic or physical talents through the "GEM (Giving, Expression, Movement) Program". Moreover, Terry has organized and hosted a mathematics conference as well as produced and directed a major dramatic production. Terry also maintains the School Zone site and is implementing the newly acquired technology of video conferencing at Rosslyn. Terry is an individual who has consistently demonstrated a high level of commitment to public education and truly is an act to follow.

#### **Raina Shortt – Teacher – Brightview School**

Raina is described as being a "risk taker who willingly shares her expertise with colleagues to support improved teaching and learning". Her dedication, support, and belief in collaboration have been the catalyst in enabling Brightview School to become a professional learning community. As a member on the ILT, Raina was instrumental in developing a targeted professional development plan to implement a new Question/Answer/Response strategy into the already existing best practice of Balanced Literacy. In addition, she envisioned a process by which the school's interim measure data could be analyzed at a deeper level, thus resulting

in a true assessment for learning tool. As a result of Raina's leadership, expertise in the school's best practices have been deepened, change in teaching practice has occurred, and student learning has improved. As stated by a colleague, "Raina is an inspiring teacher, exceptional role model and mentor. Her commitment to student learning is never ending and she is always finding new ideas and strategies to promote learning in a new way so that no student is left behind".

#### **Elizabeth Foote – Teacher Assistant – Transitions at the Y**

Liz Foote is a teacher assistant who has a special talent for working with youth who need more guidance and support than those typically found in a traditional classroom setting. It is her balance between a continual focus on maintaining high expectations for students, coupled with flexibility in choosing strategies that match individual needs, which has resulted in students being able to achieve to their maximum potential. In addition to her teaching assistant duties, Ms. Foote runs a Breakfast for Learning program. Each morning she arrives early to school to make a hot breakfast for as many as 40 students. Department Head Mike Morison believes that Liz is the heart of the school. Her caring and compassionate attitude has made her an integral part of the teaching and learning team in the Transitions at the Y program. Her "whatever it takes" attitude is critical in ensuring superb results from all students.

#### **Pam Gray – Assistant Principal – Northmount School**

Pam Gray's infectious smile and obvious optimism that all of her students will be successful is apparent in her teaching style and the way she interacts with parents and staff at Northmount School. Principal Nigel Butterfield describes Pam as a Master Teacher and acknowledges that "she goes the extra mile at all times to ensure that she gets superb results from all of her students." Pam is "dedicated to a team relationship where student achievement is paramount". According to her co-workers, she demonstrates an extremely strong collaborative nature, whether it is through her role as a lead teacher on the Instructional Leadership Team, the coordination of the schools' Instructional Walk-Through, providing direction and purpose of the school's professional development plan, or through the design of collaboration days. Through her tireless efforts Pam has demonstrated that she is committed to achieving superb results from all students and is truly an act to follow.

#### **APPENDIX I – *An Act to Follow – Act II Booklet***

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