

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 12, 2008

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: "An Act to Follow" Staff Recognition Program

ORIGINATOR: J. Bidulock, Assistant Superintendent

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 inspirational teaching and diligent work to support teaching and learning. This report highlights the exemplary work of the seven individuals who are being recognized at tonight's Board meeting.

Brenda Mulder, Assistant Principal, Londonderry School

Brenda Mulder's work as assistant principal, instructional leader and classroom teacher, has had a positive impact at Londonderry School. Brenda works with her team of Language Arts teachers to conduct a data analysis of Provincial Achievement Tests, Highest Level of Achievement Tests and student progress reports. Together, they determine the next steps to be taken to further improve student achievement. Brenda has presented professional development sessions for staff on Assessment for Learning practices and Differentiated Instruction strategies. She incorporates information from District professional development into the school's professional development work. As part of the Instructional Leadership Team, Brenda has been involved with the development and implementation of the Londonderry Assessment Plan. This fall, she co-presented on *Leadership and the Assessment Journey at Londonderry School* at the Alberta Assessment Consortium. Brenda has recently completed the project work for her master's degree.

Brenda Scaddan, Social Studies Department Head, Queen Elizabeth School

Brenda Scaddan brings a wealth of experience to her roles as Social Studies department head and member of Queen Elizabeth School's Instructional Leadership Team. She has mentored new teachers, facilitated discussions on best practices, collaborated with District teachers and initiated inter-school visitations with District high schools. Brenda was the first teacher to lend her knowledge of Differentiated Instruction at District level professional development sessions. She led by example and videotaped her classroom while presenting a Differentiated Instruction lesson for her students. She provided staff with a copy of her lesson, which outlined learning outcomes, process, product and assessment. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Brenda is also an active member of the grad committee, awards board, Jostens Renaissance Steering Committee, and the AISI Committee. She also takes an active role in meet the teacher night, open house, Touch of Class and dance supervision.

Steven Begrand, Teacher, McNally School

In the three years that Steven Begrand has been at McNally School he has achieved exemplary results both in the classroom and as coach of the junior women's and junior men's volleyball teams. Steven has established a stimulating learning environment in his classes by encouraging student participation and openly accepting all opinions as valid and worthy of discussion. He is an energetic teacher who is aware of the individual needs of his students and does everything he can to differentiate his instruction to meet those needs. Steven works collaboratively with his colleagues to create interesting and relevant units that capture student interest and give students a wide variety of means to demonstrate learning and therefore achieve success. This year, Steven was appointed to assistant department head of English and he has taken the required training to become a proficient International Baccalaureate English teacher.

Ray Lutt, Cheryl White, Tim Martinez and Brian MacKinnon, Technical Support Team, Argyll Centre

Argyll is a unique learning environment of geographically disparate learners in Grades 1 to 12. The Argyll Technical Support Team members research and implement new technologies to connect these students through LearnNet, a real-time learning community. By listening and responding to feedback from students, parents and teachers, the technical team has fine tuned Argyll's LearnNet program into a user friendly interface. The team also created the Argyll Portal, which serves as the centre of Argyll's online learning community. The portal gives students, parents and teachers entrance to a living online community where students can access and share their work through one online door. The tech team has helped many students and teachers learn to access and navigate many online resources such as *Quiz-zone* and *Tools for Teachers*, which contribute to improved student achievement. The team has undertaken many hours of group and individual professional development in order to better serve and support Argyll's school community in many ways. The team's work helps all Argyll teachers use technology to enhance and enrich their face-to-face teaching. Their work also helps teachers located outside of Edmonton remain attached in a meaningful way to the school and their peers.