

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 24, 2009

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Improving Student Achievement at J. Percy Page High School

ORIGINATOR: A. Gibson, Principal, J. Percy Page High School

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Debbie Jackson, Corrie Ziegler

### INFORMATION

J. Percy Page High School, located in south-east Edmonton, serves 1100 students. Within this vibrant school community 60 different cultures are represented and celebrated. The learning needs of this diverse student population are met through the Regular Program, the International Baccalaureate Program, and the English Language Learner Program.

J. Percy Page School is built on relationships. The staff takes pride in getting to know the students, understanding their needs and connecting with them on a personal basis. Staff understand that each student's situation puts them in a unique set of circumstances for learning and believe it is essential to know and understand the needs of each one. Staff believes that in order to help students succeed in their studies they must get to know them as people first.

The staff and students continually strive to build a positive learning community for their multicultural student population. The goal is for students to enjoy the time they spend in the building, to get to know one another, to have pride in their school and in their community and to feel a strong connection to both. Page TV, J. Percy Page's own television channel, which is student-driven and supervised by a leadership teacher, plays a key role in creating a positive school climate. Each day the Page TV crew of students broadcasts the daily announcements and promotes school events from the Page TV studio. Page TV is a powerful tool for getting students involved in activities around the school, getting to know each other and building school spirit.

Ensuring high quality teaching and learning on a daily basis, within a positive learning community, is critical to student success. To that end, teachers collaborate to develop and implement best practices to assist students with their learning. Over the past several years the staff have incorporated various assessment for learning practices into their teaching. Providing students and parents with timely and meaningful feedback is imperative to improving student progress. When students struggle with a concept or skill, they are given additional support, as well as opportunities to redo assignments and rewrite tests and quizzes when appropriate. Extra tutorials outside of class time are offered in all departments. Students know they can count on their teachers for extra help when it is required.

Staff believe that when students are involved in and contribute positively to their school and community everyone learns and everyone benefits. At J. Percy Page all students are encouraged to take part in student activities and to volunteer at school events. One way that students learn about volunteerism and serving others, both inside and outside the school, is by participating in the “Exit Project” which was implemented last year through weekly “Advisor Classes”. In the “Advisor Class” J. Percy Page students develop an awareness and understanding of the importance of giving back to their school and community and opportunities for doing so are provided. As part of the “Exit Project”, each student is required to complete one school-based and one community-based volunteer project in each of their three years of school. At the end of each year, students present their project to their “Advisor Class”, providing evidence of the volunteer work they did and explaining what they learned. The “Exit Project” makes the social studies and language arts concepts of active citizenship and identity, and effective communication come alive by providing an opportunity for a meaningful connection between J. Percy Page students and the Mill Wood’s community.

A sense of community is expanded when J. Percy Page students connect to the world beyond their community through the Page Global Classroom. This unique communications facility enables students to interact with peers and experts from around the globe and represents a significant step in the use of technology to enhance learning. Students are able to collaborate, in real time, with their counterparts across Canada and around the globe to discuss relevant issues. This educational experience helps prepare students to think like global citizens and see themselves as potential leaders in an evolving global society.

Through excellence in teaching, building quality relationships and making meaningful community connections, staff and students are learning in a supportive, collaborative environment that celebrates diversity, fosters a sense of belonging and respect, and emphasizes success for all. *Bright futures begin at J. Percy Page.*