

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 8, 2011

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: An Act to Follow Staff Recognition Program

ORIGINATOR: T. Parker, 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 five individuals who are being recognized at tonight's Board meeting.

Randy Coombes and Rosa Tarulli, Custodian Team, Lee Ridge School

With over 40 years of experience between them, Randy and Rosa always approach their work at Lee Ridge School with unwavering dedication, enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Their high standards for cleanliness and attention to detail create a welcoming, comfortable and organized learning environment that is noticed by everyone who walks through the doors, including the Occupational Health and Safety auditor who commended the school for its spotlessness and the amazing care given to the building. On annual staff and student satisfaction surveys, school cleanliness is always rated very highly. Neither Randy nor Rosa see limitations in their role as custodians and are always helpful and motivated, taking the time each day to connect and interact with the students, staff and parents. Through these everyday interactions, the pair shows how much they truly value people. In addition to their daily tasks and responsibilities, they have also taken personal time to help with field trips, concerts, theme days and class activities. It is evident that they are committed, not only to the care of the building, but to the safety and security of the students and staff. Ultimately, these two are incredible role models of commitment, hard work and determination; together, they have created a wonderful learning environment that contributes to the achievement of all Lee Ridge students.

Ashley Geldart, Teacher, Hillcrest School

Since her arrival at Hillcrest School, Ashley has been dedicated to ensuring student success, both in the classroom and through her involvement in school wide activities. Her passion for teaching and focus on student learning is evident in the creative teaching methods she uses in her classroom every day. She has embraced technology as a way to engage her students, developing interactive lessons on the SMART Board and using net book computers for research projects. One of Ashley's teaching assignments includes the Grade 9 leadership class; a class where student leaders develop their citizenship skills by promoting positive relationships and good character. Students in this class follow Ashley's creed of engaged learning by taking on leadership roles in activities and in multi-grade learning groups, through the Crest Group program. Ashley's efforts with this program have helped

create a positive school climate where students help each other and take great pride and respect in the school. In addition to her work in the classroom, Ashley supports the school community by coordinating the school's Crest for the Cure campaign, student recognition assemblies and a winter carnival for elementary students... Ashley has impressed her entire school community with her enthusiasm, her genuine respect and kindness to all those she encounters and her commitment to helping all of her students succeed. Her students especially value her open door teaching style, where they feel welcome, safe and valued as individuals. According to her colleagues, Ashley is, "...an inspiration and role model for all students and staff at Hillcrest School."

Terri Gosine, Project Co-ordinator, Facilities Services

For the past year, Terri has worked as the Project Manager for the Alberta Schools Alternative Procurement (ASAP) project and has earned a reputation amongst her ASAP school colleagues as a creative and resourceful problem solver who consistently shows solid judgement, integrity and professionalism. Terri has been the 'go to' person for every aspect of the six new ASAP schools, from the construction process, to the massive job of filling the schools with furniture and equipment, through to the school openings. Terri ensured a process was in place to order furniture, technology and resources from the capital budget, allowing enough flexibility for principals to customize their orders, while ensuring an 'economy of scale' yielded the very best prices. Terri was able to guide the ASAP principal group through the project with her willingness to listen, her calm demeanor and her genuine commitment to doing the best job possible. One principal says, "Not only did she provide us with great support, but she consistently went above and beyond my expectations and continued to do this with a positive attitude and a smile on her face." Terri's patience, knowledge, and efficient approach ensured the development of the ASAP schools was a truly collaborative endeavour. Her willingness to listen to suggestions, gather input, and coordinate responses has resulted in the creation of six innovative learning environments that will continue to meet the needs of the community, students and their families for years to come.

Terri Notdorft, Educational Assistant Rutherford School

Terri is an exceptional educational assistant who is committed to going above and beyond her job description. She has been instrumental in supporting the development of 21st century skills in literacy and numeracy at Rutherford School and has take a lead role in supporting staff and students with integrating technology in the classroom. From suggesting curriculum-based projects that are customized to meet individual student learning styles and abilities, to enthusiastically sharing new technologies with staff and students, Terri is truly focused on the end goal of helping all students learn. Terri also takes the time to help parents support their children's learning by offering creative ways to help with studying or by sending student projects via email. One parent says, "Mrs. Notdorft's contribution to our school and our children's education is priceless." Terri plays an integral role in coordinating the school's PERT (Paired Echo Reading Time), Adult Paired Reading program and Study Buddy program. Her colleagues add, "Terri has a remarkable gift of working with children of all age levels equally well and has earned the highest respect of all staff, students and parents. She has the ability to lead students to work beyond what they believe they are capable of doing, leaving them with an enormous sense of accomplishment."

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