

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 10, 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 five individuals who are being recognized at tonight's Board meeting.

Shelley McKenna and Tara Jones-Whitford, Teaching Team, Rideau Park School

According to their colleagues, Shelley McKenna and Tara Jones-Whitford fit together like salt and pepper, peanut butter and jam, and milk and cookies. The dynamic and highly effective collaborative duo is responsible for teaching a combined Grade five and six class at Rideau Park School. The pair works tirelessly to ensure every student is successful, by building students' understanding of the benefits of self-assessment. Shelley and Tara actively engage parents through interactive parent meetings as well as regular, informative newsletters that share assessment techniques and encourage parent participation. They also participate in two different collaborative grade level groupings with the Southside Focus Four groups of schools. These professional development opportunities assist them with facilitating learning in the classroom. In addition to their work in the classroom, both are community minded and spend time organizing school activities to instill in students attributes of citizenship and good character through student involvement in raising funds or awareness for a variety of community causes.

Shari Paziuk, Teacher, Weinlos School

Shari Paziuk's classroom is the epitome of a community of musicians who strive to do their best and support each other. She has fostered this through her commitment to each student's social, emotional and academic growth and by providing students with opportunities to experience both personal and group success. This work has resulted in positive relationships and well being within the classroom. Shari directs the school's Christmas concert and provides opportunities for the choir and ORFF ensemble to perform at the Allen Grey Continuing Care Centre and the Good Samaritan Nursing Home, building student character and citizenship. Shari is also a member of the school's Instructional Leadership Team and has served as the school's Alberta Initiative for School Improvement project representative for the past two years. She served on the steering committee for the National ORFF conference held in Edmonton at the end of April.

Garry Padlewski, Manager, Facilities Maintenance

Under Garry Padlewski's support and direction, Facilities Maintenance is a leader in the area of maintenance service. Garry's leadership abilities combined with his collegial manner, have encouraged excellence in his staff. His active participation with the Facilities Services Principals' Advisory Committee has helped improve the understanding between principals and maintenance staff, which has led to improved relations and service to schools. Garry has also inspired his staff to understand that quality facilities promote quality learning environments, which are critical to success in both teaching and learning. As a member of the School Plant Officials of Alberta, Garry shares his knowledge with other school districts and has recently played an instrumental role in developing occupational health and safety training for maintenance workers.

Mary Ann Dobson, Teacher, J. Percy Page School

Mary Ann Dobson's passion for art and love for her students are evident in her classroom every day. A visit to her classroom will show students at all levels happily engaged and on task in art work that meets curricular objectives. Mary Ann successfully incorporates Assessment for Learning practices into her teaching to involve students in successful learning experiences. Mary Ann has also taken the time to build positive relationships with the Mill Woods community in a variety of creative ways including posting student artwork in the Edmonton Police Service station and collaborating with neighboring junior high schools. Through Mary Ann's work with the Homework Club and the ESL Summer Camp, students who are new to Canada have found a venue to compare and contrast their unique needs, interests and strengths through various artistic mediums.