

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 13, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Logos Christian Program

ORIGINATORS: D. Bouck, Principal, Winterburn
B. Gowans, Principal, Killarney
S. Pepler, Principal, Fulton Place
E. Schmidt, Principal, Queen Alexandra
F. Schmidt, Principal, Belmont
A. Stewart, Principal, Hardisty
E. Westwood, Principal, Youngstown
J. Zilinski, Principal, Kensington

RESOURCE
STAFF: Brad Galloway, Carolyn Gartke, Jim Higgs

INFORMATION

The Logos Christian Program began in Edmonton Public Schools in September, 1996. The establishment of this program of choice resulted from a trustee budget initiative in 1993 by trustee Jean Woodrow. However, it was not until the formation of the Edmonton Logos Society that a proposal was submitted to the trustees by the superintendent. The trustees approved this proposal on January 23, 1996.

Initially, the Logos program was located in five schools: Fulton Place, Kensington, and Youngstown elementary schools, and Hardisty and Winterburn junior high schools. In September, 1998, three additional schools were chosen to offer the Logos program – Belmont and Queen Alexandra elementary schools and Killarney School. Winterburn School has extended their program to include the elementary population. The program began with about 440 students, and since then enrolment has grown to 1,094 students registered in the program today.

The Logos alternative program provides delivery of the provincial curriculum within a nurturing Christian environment. As well, it provides a strong academic program using a traditional instructional approach. In the spring of 2000, the Logos Program Description was developed jointly by principals, parents, and members of the Logos Society. The document was prepared to clarify and elaborate on the basic, essential, and unique features of the Logos Christian Program. It helps all those involved to understand what is meant by a Christian environment, the Logos adaptation of the pedagogy of the Cogito Alternative Program on which the Logos program is based, and expectations in specific curriculum subjects.

The Christian environment is non-denominational and is based on traditional Christian principles such as the Ten Commandments. The Christian environment is created through daily activities such as prayers, Bible readings and stories, devotions, scripture memorization and periodic assemblies with a Christian focus. The teacher in this program is expected to bring a Christian viewpoint to issues and topics from all curriculum areas. As indicated in the Logos mission statement, students are taught in a spiritually nurturing, intellectually challenging, and disciplined environment.

A strong academic program involves establishing high standards for academics, work habits, and organizational and presentation skills. The curriculum is knowledge-based. The acquisition of knowledge is recognized as a basis for learning and an important foundation for skill building. Students are taught higher level thinking skills, which are derived from a sound basis of knowledge and understanding.

The only achievement results available for the Logos program students as a whole are the results of the Highest Level of Achievement Test. In the 2000 HLAT, 94 per cent of the Logos students in the district were at or above grade level in both reading and writing, and 26 per cent of the students were above grade level in reading.

Fundamental to the program is the provision of opportunity for active service which may be focused on the school or community. This service component fosters in students an appreciation of community and the need to take care of each other by giving of themselves.

Expectations for behavior and discipline of students reflect the Christian environment and are consistent with the traditional values of the home. Students are taught respect for the Bible, for God's laws, Christ's teachings, and for authority. They learn to love and respect others and themselves, to respect their own and others' property, to accept responsibility for their behavioral choices, and to contribute to making the world a better place.

The Logos Society, which consists of an elected executive and representatives from each of the schools, supports and nurtures the Logos Program. The schools and district value the Society's work in introducing new program ideas and helping to maintain the integrity and intent of the program. The Society also assists in recruiting new students, finding new resources, and providing financial support.

The Logos Christian program provides parents with a desired choice for the learning of their children. It is anticipated that the program will continue to grow in the coming years.

JZ:jj