

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 8, 2007

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: “An Act to Follow” Staff Recognition Program

ORIGINATOR: T. Parker, Executive Director

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 these individuals to achieve superb results from all students, who are being recognized at tonight's board meeting.

Warren Marcotte, Jack Geldart and Dennis Bagley, Teachers, W. P. Wagner School

Over the past two years, this team of teachers has worked closely with students at-risk in the areas of mathematics, social studies and science. The team selected 24 students identified as at-risk entering high school and created timetables that placed the students together for their mathematics and social studies classes. The goal was to improve the students' attendance through vigilant tracking, as well as connecting with the parents and students on a daily basis. In addition, the three teachers also implemented research based instructional practices that included assessment for learning and differentiation. At the end of the first term, 23 of the 24 students completed the semester earning 91 per cent of all credits. Historically, these students attended less than 50 per cent of their grade nine year. Through this project the group's average attendance rose to 92 per cent. Students from the project's first year are still in school and successfully completing their grade 11 year.

Colleen Cooper, Teacher Assistant, Rundle School

Colleen has dedicated the last six years transforming Rundle School's library into a learning resource center. She works with students who have unique learning needs and helps teachers develop programs, appropriate strategies and locate resources to meet the many needs of students in the school. In addition to coordinating and running this learning resource centre, Colleen also finds time to run several student clubs including: craft, drawing, running, horse and computer clubs. She has attended the overnight camps at the Bennett Centre and Camp He Ho Ha to support the grade six teacher. Each year she runs a themed book fair and sews costumes for the student helpers. Colleen is a member of the Children's Literature Roundtable and demonstrates leadership by regularly providing information for staff about authors, events and resources that stimulate literacy. Throughout each and every day she creates opportunities that involve students in literacy while simultaneously getting them to appreciate positive values in others.

Gudrun Winkler, Teacher, Rideau Park School

As a grade two teacher in the German Bilingual Program, Gudrun strives to provide the best programming to meet the needs of all her students. Gudrun is a certified balanced literacy teacher and uses the program to extend student learning in both German and English Language Arts. She is a member of the school's Instructional Leadership Team and provides leadership and guidance to Rideau Park staff as they deepen their work in relation to assessment for learning practices. Gudrun participated in the committee to provide input for the Western and Northern Canadian Protocol for Language Arts. Additionally, Gudrun has assisted in writing the Illustrative Examples for the German Bilingual Program. Most recently she has been involved in the translation of the Math to the Max resource into German for grades one to four.

Stuart Wachowicz, Director, Curriculum

As the director, Curriculum, Stuart has demonstrated exemplary dedication to the development, promotion and sustainability of Second Language and Immersion programming to improve student achievement. Stuart's clarity of vision and passionate determination in this area has made Edmonton Public Schools a leader in Second Language education on the provincial, national and even international scenes. Throughout Stuart's career he has positively impacted the work of schools in other areas such as the Aboriginal Infusion Project and the development of the Cogito program. In addition, he has developed and maintained successful working relationships with principals, district staff, federal departments and heritage language communities. Stuart, through his leadership but most importantly his stewardship, has promoted excellence in the district and in district staff. He is committed not only to public education, but also to high quality, equitable education for all students and the public we serve. Whether it be the implementation of new curricula, the inservicing of district staff or pursuing external accreditation for French Immersion students, the fruits of Stuart's efforts are far reaching and district wide.