

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December 13, 2005

TO: Board of Trustees  
FROM: E. Schmidt, Acting Superintendent of Schools  
SUBJECT: “An Act to Follow” Staff Recognition Program  
ORIGINATOR: P. McKenzie, Student Achievement Services

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 their inspirational teaching and diligent work to support teaching and learning. These individuals have implemented all areas of the teaching and learning framework. In this report, the exemplary work of these individuals is highlighted.

**Tom Banks – Assistant Department Head, English – McNally High School**

Tom Banks demonstrates a commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. George Rice, Principal, refers to Tom as a “Master Teacher” and one that he would assign as a mentor to teachers who are seeking new, effective approaches to enhance the learning of their students. Tom’s work as co-chair of the Instructional Leadership Team has allowed him to demonstrate creativity and innovation in reinforcing the school’s instructional focus on literacy and assessment. As a result, “FASS: Flexible Assessment for Student Success” was created. Tom played an instrumental role in challenging teachers to reconsider their assessment practices in light of current research and align these practices to curriculum standards.

**Nellie Puim – Teacher – Queen Elizabeth High School**

Nellie has worked intensely with at-risk students for the past 5 years in the “Students Targeting Academic Results” (STAR) program. As a result of hard work, dedication to the implementation of best practices in the school’s instructional focus on reading comprehension, approximately 65% of these students graduate. Nellie sets high standards for her students and is able to motivate them to exceed their own expectations. Nellie is a member of the school’s Instructional Leadership Team and this year she has undertaken the responsibility as one of the Instructional Walk-Through Facilitators for Queen Elizabeth School.

**Tammy Tchir – Assistant Department Head, Social Studies – McNally High School**

In every school there are teachers who connect with students in a way that persists long after they complete the course. Tammy is one of those teachers. A superb communicator, Tammy believes that the success of her students is the result of her collaboration with home and

school. Tammy is a teacher who has been described as being knowledgeable, personable, conscientious and dedicated to the goals of education. Her enthusiasm and passion as co-chair of the Instructional Leadership Team has made her a leader among staff and a role model for her students. It is this passion that has moved the school's instructional focus on literacy and assessment forward in McNally School.

### **Barbara Trimm – Library Technician – Hillcrest School**

Getting students not only to read but to enjoy reading is the focus of Barbara's work every day. "Students who don't like reading haven't found the right things to read yet," says Barb. Barb reads over 100 books every year, and therefore has little difficulty suggesting just the right book for her students. The library is a place where Barb has organized many activities, and these initiatives directly support the school's Instructional Focus work on reading. Will Deys, principal, describes Barb as a role model who demonstrates a love of literature and reading. Her personality and expertise have made her an integral part of the reading culture formed at Hillcrest school.