

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 9, 2010

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 four individuals who are being recognized at tonight's Board meeting.

Sandra Bassett, Program Coordinator, Budget Services

Sandra is a leader in Budget Services who has earned a reputation as a creative and resourceful problem solver who consistently shows solid judgment and moral character. She is keenly aware of student needs and is a determined advocate for the work done in schools. When calculating resource allocations for schools and central decision units, Sandra always keeps students and their welfare at the forefront of her work. Her understanding of coding criteria and budget are always thoughtfully presented through a district perspective. Sandra's knowledge of Alberta Education's expectations and how they apply to district work is presented in ways that not only support students at the school level, but also help principals understand the reasoning and complexities behind the decisions made at the District level. Sandra also provides excellent mentorship throughout the Budget Services Department, modeling district best practices. She is a team player whose win-win philosophy has dramatically increased staff morale. Her team skills are recognized by others and she is often asked to participate on committees sponsored by other central departments or by Alberta Education. For over 25 years Sandra has provided loyal, dedicated and diligent service to the District. Currently she is completing a master of education degree from the University of Portland.

Gina Connolly, Music Teacher, Lee Ridge School

Whole-hearted student engagement in music at Lee Ridge School is a direct result of Gina's skills, enthusiasm and acute awareness of students needs. Gina is focused on the achievement and growth of her students, both inside and outside of the school environment, often taking the time to incorporate their feedback into her classes. She also attends their concerts and performances outside of school hours and she makes regular contact with parents needing guidance and support. One parent states, "Because of Gina's teaching and guidance, all three of my children have excelled and have had fun doing it. I think this is a sign of a great teacher and one that deserves to be recognized for all that she has done for my children as well as the other children at Lee Ridge." Gina's avid interest in the 'Mozart effect' has led her to implement school-wide music listening

programs to increase student awareness, growth and appreciation of classical music. She has also embraced 21st century learning, using SMART board technology in her music program to increase student engagement and student achievement. Every year, she puts her passion for music into concerts adapted to fit the needs, cultures and abilities of her students. Gina's students are successful because, as one colleague states, "...she is a superb music teacher who consistently goes the extra kilometer."

Ron Manalili, Head Custodian, Londonderry School

Ron approaches his work at Londonderry School with a high standard, an unwavering dedication and a positive attitude. He takes great pride in being a member of the school community and has earned the respect and appreciation of staff and students. Ron and his custodial team repeatedly earn near 100 per cent satisfaction rates for school cleanliness in the annual staff and student satisfaction surveys – an admirable achievement given the number of students attending the school. Ron sees no limitation in his role as head custodian and is always helpful, ambitious and an excellent ambassador for the school, taking the time each day to connect with the students. He responds to teacher and administration requests for assistance immediately and positively. He supports the school staff by holding students accountable for their behaviour in and around the school. He is committed, not only to the care of the building, but also to the safety and security of the students and staff. His high standards for cleanliness create a welcoming and orderly learning environment that is realized by everyone who walks through the doors. Ultimately, he is an incredible role model of commitment, hard work and determination. Ron has created a wonderful atmosphere that contributes to the scholastic achievement of all students at Londonderry School.

Kelly Maroney, Teacher, McNally School

Through his work as a social studies and International Baccalaureate (IB) Program teacher, Kelly inspires all of his students to become responsible, caring citizens, not only in Edmonton but also in the world. Based on his own beliefs in social justice, environmental responsibility and genuine caring for his fellow man, he has involved the entire school in fundraising projects to build the *Alberta Canada School* in Sierra Leone. As a result of his leadership in the area of humanitarian projects, Kelly was invited by IB to write this year's global lesson titled, *Peace and Conflict – A Theory of Knowledge Lesson for all*, which will be used by IB schools across the globe. He was also invited to present at the IB Americas Regional Conference in Quebec City last year, where he was well received by educators from across North and South America. Due to Kelly's leadership, McNally and Edmonton Public Schools are becoming recognized as leaders in the area of modeling the IB leader profile through the Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) program. Kelly is also a dedicated football coach, working tirelessly to get the most out of his players. This year, he was instrumental in forming a cohesive, winning team out of a group of young men, most of whom had never met before. Kelly helped bring the McNally Tigers to gold at the City Championships, followed by participation in the Northern Zone and the Provincial Championships. Kelly has impressed his entire school community with his passion for teaching, his commitment to global citizenship and his dedication to helping all of his students succeed.