

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 13, 2007

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: B. Holt , Acting 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.

Val Lytviak, Teacher, Queen Elizabeth School

After beginning his career as an engineer, Val Lytviak decided helping students was his purpose in life. For the past six years he has used his mathematic skills to make a difference in the lives of students at the school. In addition to teaching math classes, Val coaches the senior men’s soccer team. He helps co-ordinate the placement of ESL and international students into math classes and assists with the ESL students’ homework club. Val also offers tutorials for his own students before and after school and has been involved in the school’s instructional leadership team.

Aryn Ford, Principal, Newton School

In Aryn’s second year as Principal, her “kids first” attitude has had a positive impact on the school and community. Aryn ensures that students receive the necessary testing required to help them succeed in their studies. She also works with families to ensure they have the information they need to obtain medication, clothing and school supplies. Aryn implemented the *Cozy Toes* program to make sure students had the proper footwear they needed to participate in physical education classes. Aryn has created a supportive learning environment for staff, students and parents in a short period of time.

Lynda Rodgers, Teacher, Menisa School

As a member of the school’s Instructional Leadership Team, Lynda Rodgers has been instrumental in ensuring that best practices the school has adopted are workable and effective. She has served as a facilitator for instructional walk throughs, is a member of the literacy teacher’s network and the school’s grade group cohort. In addition to her teaching duties, Lynda volunteered her lunch hours to work on the fall/winter intramural activity. This activity was designed to build cooperation, teamwork and good sportsmanship in the spirit of healthy competition.

Libby Hornland and Kathy McLeod, Teaching Partners, Northmount School

Libby Hornland and Kathy McLeod have shared a Grade 2 class and reading recovery position for several years. They are intensely concerned about enhancing student achievement and are staunchly aware of their students' needs. Libby and Kathy use research based best practices to support their students and as a result, all of their students showed at least one year's growth in reading and writing over the school year. The Highest Level of Achievement Test results for the 2005 – 2006 school year show that all students were at grade level in reading and writing. This is reward enough for these two skilled lead teachers.