

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 19, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence

ORIGINATOR: Shirley Stiles, Assistant to the Superintendent

RESOURCE
STAFF: Bruce Coggles, George Rice, Marie Tauber

INFORMATION

The Prime Minister's Awards program, which began in 1993, recognizes the innovative teaching practices of teachers of all disciplines. Awards are presented at two levels: Certificate of Excellence (national level) and Certificate of Achievement (local level). Awards of \$5,000 for the Certificate of Excellence and \$1,000 for the Certificate of Achievement are given to the respective recipient's school. Each year up to 15 national level and 50 local level awards are presented.

This year, our district is honored to have two of our teachers chosen for the Certificate of Achievement.

Mr. Vasile Bratu, a teacher of Physics at Jasper Place School, teaches all levels of Physics including IB and has also taught French 20 and 20 IB. Since 1997, he has taught Higher Level IB Physics – the only program of its kind in Edmonton. Vasile is a dedicated teacher who strives to bring out the spirit of scientific inquiry in his students. They do a great deal of laboratory work using cleverly constructed experimental apparatus that he has assembled mostly from surplus bits and pieces salvaged from the school's storage rooms. Vasile's teaching leans heavily on a combination of problem solving and discovery. He is intelligent, well read, articulate and provocative. Physics is a popular subject at Jasper Place School largely due to his enthusiasm and commitment and his quest to expand his own knowledge.

Ms Carolyn Lewis, a teacher of English at McNally School has taught the full range of courses from English 13 to IB. Her enthusiasm for the classroom translates into a positive, active, happy learning environment where students achieve and grow. Because she has a firm command of her subject area and broad expertise in teaching methodology, she offers her students such a wide range of learning experiences that they are often amazed and delighted at their own success. Carolyn also devotes her energies to working with the Students' Union, coaching the Senior Girls' Volleyball and Girls' Soccer Teams and has organized a Travel Club. Commitment to the teaching profession is very evident in her work as she shares strategies and materials on a regular basis and is supportive of the initiatives undertaken by colleagues in the English department and in the school. Carolyn is a remarkable teacher – one whom we are lucky to have in the profession.

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