

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 17, 2003

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: 2002-2003 Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence

ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Assistant to the Superintendent

RESOURCE: El Probert, George Rice, Ross Tyson, Jane Farrell

STAFF:

INFORMATION

The Prime Minister's Awards program, which began in 1993, recognizes the innovative teaching practices of teachers from 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. This year, 72 teachers were awarded the Prime Minister's Award, 16 being awarded *Certificates of Excellence* and 56 receiving *Certificates of Achievement*.

Our district is honoured to have four teachers chosen to receive the 2002-2003 Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence. Karen Douziech, an English teacher at McNally and Sherry Taylor, a Grade 5 teacher at George H. Luck have both been awarded *Certificates of Excellence*. Raymond Adam, a Chemistry teacher at Old Scona and Wes Myck, a Mathematics teacher at McNally, will receive *Certificates of Achievement*.

Sherry Taylor, a Grade 5 teacher at George H. Luck School, has a 30-year teaching career that includes an Alberta Learning Teacher of Excellence award, a posting at Alberta Education as the Acting Associate Director of Curriculum, and the publication of two resources: *The Learning Team - A Guide to Student-Led Conferences* (1994), and *Explorations in Science* (1993). Sherry's teaching assignments have ranged from primary school to high school, in both indoor and outdoor classrooms. Sherry has a desire to see her students excel at academics, learn technical and athletic skills, increase their level of sophistication in reading and writing, and understand the world around them to have a better sense of who they are, what they are capable of, and how they can make a difference in their world. Sherry has demonstrated a commitment to the professional development of teachers, to visiting other classes and other schools, practicing model teaching, and focusing on the classroom teacher as the key component for learning. Sherry involves her students, their parents and her co-workers in everything she does and is an example of the remarkable things one teacher can accomplish.

Karen Douziech is a dedicated, innovative leader who has applied high principle and integrity to her 11 years of teaching English at McNally School. Karen has been the English Department Head at McNally for the past three years and has assumed a second role as International Baccalaureate Department Head for the current year. She is a lifelong learner committed to upgrading her own knowledge and education so she can share her learning with her students and colleagues. Karen has worked with her fellow teaching staff to develop and implement new units of study at the English 10 and 20 levels that give students the opportunity to take a creative approach to the study of literature. There is a high success rate among Karen's students at both the classroom and provincial exam levels. Karen also serves on the Teacher Advisory Board to the Citadel Theatre and has worked in conjunction with the theatre to design a theatre appreciation course for high school students. Her commitment to and passion for teaching literature are inspiring.

Wes Myck, a Mathematics teacher at McNally School, has accomplished much in his 10 years as a teacher. Wes has been the Department Head of Mathematics at McNally for two years and was the Department Head of Student Activities at M.E. LaZerte for two years. Over the last decade, Wes has set up many programs to assist students in learning: daily math tutorials over the lunch hour, peer group tutoring for students who require individual help, and a homework support line. Wes is also the school badminton coach, the school representative to the local school council, the school leader for the Alberta Initiative for Student Improvement Mathematics Project, and the supervising teacher of the MASSIVE Program (McNally Active Service Solutions in Volunteer Experience). He has also been involved with Alberta Learning in the development and marketing of provincial diploma exams, and writing for the provincial math curriculum. Wes' dedication to learning have earned him an Alberta Learning Teacher Award of Excellence, the Students Choice Award at the Institute for Sharing Best Practices II Conference, and a nomination for the APEGGA Awards for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics. Wes' students recognize his commitment to their education. Over 120 of his students have challenged the Canadian Open Math Contest, the National Mathematics League or other local and national contests. His dedication to his profession and his students makes Wes an invaluable member of Edmonton Public Schools' faculty.

Ray Adam is a veteran teacher and role model. His 35 years as a teacher have been hallmarked by commitment and dedication to his students and colleagues. Ray holds a Bachelor of Science degree and Grad Diploma. He has served as the Department Head of Old Scona Academic Chemistry since 1982. His attitude and actions have earned him exemplary performance assessments for his classroom teaching, but Ray's dedication to teaching and education extends well beyond the classroom. Ray strives to understand his students as unique individuals and believes in their abilities. He is dedicated to the growth of his students and to developing their self-confidence. He is a gifted teacher whose devotion to students and their learning is unwavering.

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