

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 30, 1999

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: “An Act to Follow” Staff Recognition Program

ORIGINATOR: N. Diemert, Leadership Services

INFORMATION

The *Act to Follow* initiative was designed to recognize and celebrate outstanding performances of staff which have resulted in tangible gains in student achievement, and to share the expertise and experience of these staff throughout the district in the An Act to Follow publication.

**Rosa Donato - Teacher - Strathearn School**

Rosa Donato teaches a Grade 2-3 class in the mainstream program at Strathearn School. She loves making a difference in the lives of her students and seeing their excitement about their accomplishments. Each year that Rosa has taught Grade 3 at Strathearn, all of the students have achieved the acceptable standard in both the language arts and the mathematics achievement tests. Her enthusiasm has been maintained through her 11 years of teaching, and she continues to challenge herself to improve by seeking out professional development opportunities.

**John Anderson – Teacher – Westmount School.**

John Anderson’s focus on knowing and teaching the curriculum has made a marked difference in the achievement of students at Westmount School. Spectacular gains were witnessed on the Grade 9 Social Studies Achievement Tests after John arrived on the scene three years ago. Previously, 54 per cent of the students were meeting the acceptable standard, and this increased to 93 per cent. Similarly, the proportion of students achieving the standard of excellence increased from less than 10 per cent to 46.5 per cent. At the time, these students may not have appreciated all the hard work they had to do to meet John’s high expectations of them, but after they were informed of their results the typical response John heard was, “Thanks Mr. Anderson. Thanks for making me work hard.”

### **Judy Harrison – Custodian – Kenilworth School**

Judy Harrison recognizes that students do not achieve their best if they are not in a clean, warm, and comfortable environment. In the nearly six years that Judy has been a custodian at Kenilworth School, she has developed a fierce sense of pride in the school, and she has established herself as an integral part of the school community. Her concern extends beyond the safety and cleanliness of the facility to a genuine dedication to the staff and students. She is the school's unofficial "mom", and her love for kids is evident in the way she supports the little guy who gets picked on, or the students required to do community service and are paying the debt to society by helping to keep the school clean. Judy's contributions to the achievement of children at Kenilworth School are well recognized and appreciated.

### **Deborah Crawford-Young – Teacher - McNally School**

Deborah Crawford-Young is the much respected, no nonsense social studies department head at McNally School. During the three years that Deborah has held this position, McNally's results on the Social Studies 30 diploma examination have increased markedly. The proportion of students meeting the acceptable standard has increased from 94.8 per cent to 98.3 per cent. In addition, 23.6 per cent of the students are now achieving the standard of excellence as compared to 17.1 per cent previously. Deborah emphasizes that any success McNally has achieved is the result of teamwork. "I like working in a team atmosphere," she explains, "and I particularly like working with the team I have."

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