

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 30, 1999

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Update on District Level Millennium Projects

ORIGINATOR: S. Stiles, Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools

RESOURCE

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INFORMATION

This report provides information about the current status of the district level millennium projects, and recognizes some of the students and community professionals who have made contributions to these projects to date.

Seven district level projects were presented publicly at the Key Communicator meeting of April 28, 1999. These projects are described in an information booklet that was distributed at that time and continues to be distributed on request by Communications, as well as on the district millennium web site. The projects include

- Millennium quilt wallhanging project
- Millennium torch trail run
- Millennium celebrations (Kick-off and Wind-down)
- District millennium symbol
- District millennium web page
- District millennium song

Millennium quilt wallhanging project

The millennium quilt wallhanging project is currently at the design stage. Each school and group within the district as well as sponsoring organizations will decorate a quilt piece during the months of January to June of the current school term. The quilt will be assembled during the fall, and the unveiling will take place at the wind-down event in January 2001. The completed wallhanging will connect the present generation of students in Edmonton Public Schools to those of past generations, and with future generations as part of the permanent collection at the Archives and Museum at McKay Avenue School.

Millennium torch trail run

In order to bring the district together, while at the same time enabling school level projects and activities to be highlighted, a millennium torch trail run has been developed. Beginning on January 6, 2000 at the 1881 Schoolhouse two torches that incorporate the millennium symbol will be carried from school to school along two separate routes (Appendix I). While schools and their parent groups may organize and participate in individual site activities to celebrate the millennium, they have also been invited to host a special ceremony to mark the arrival of the torch and its departure to another destination. As we enter the new millennium in January 2001 there will be a wind-down celebration following which the torches will be displayed at the District Archives and Museum.

District millennium symbol

The creation of a millennium symbol was the first district project to be undertaken because the symbol would be incorporated into many subsequent projects. After a review of numerous submissions, the symbol created by Amy Nicole Sullivan, a grade 8 student at Vernon Barford School, was chosen. Amy's symbol will be placed on mementos of millennium celebrations in the district such as lapel pins, medallions, t-shirts, print resources, and certificates.

District millennium web page

The millennium web page <http://millennium.epsb.net> is up and running, however, expect this web site to be dynamic and constantly changing. Soon you will be able to follow the torch trail runs, read about school-based celebrations, and link to other millennium activities in Canada and the world. Assisting with the construction of this site is Harry Ainlay teacher James Fedorchuk, and students Aaron Chute, Stephen Philips, Eric Ng and Eugene Chan.

District millennium song

A district project that is both a culminating activity and a new beginning is the millennium song. Through collaboration with Allan Gilliland, a district graduate, local composer, musician, performer, and currently composer-in-residence with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the song *Look Ahead to Your Dreams* (Appendix II) was created. Resources for its teaching have been distributed to district schools. Teachers are being provided with printed scores and a CD, all of which are designed to present the song in a variety of arrangements. The arrangements include unison voices, SAB voices, junior and senior high concert band, and an Orff ensemble. Patrick Lundeen, a grade five student at Laurier Heights created the melody; the lyrics are based on a poem created by Helen Chalmers and Krista Higdon, grade nine students from Mary Butterworth; and instrumental arrangements were composed by James Carson, a grade eleven student at Harry Ainlay.

These projects would not have been possible without assistance from some of our business community partners. At this time financial support, or support in kind, has been received from Albert's Restaurants, IKON, Xerox, (others). And there's still time and opportunity for other partners to help us out.

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APPENDIX I - Millennium Torch Trail: Route A and Route B
APPENDIX II - Look Ahead to Your Dreams