



From the
Heart

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Foundation

GETTING CHILDREN READY FOR LIFE

Summer 2017

Message from Director Tracy Poulin

It has been an amazing year filled with the wonders of meeting new friends and the delight of supporting our greatest resource — our children. No day passes without me feeling inspired by the wonderful things happening for students in our District. As I reflect back over the last two years, I am reminded of what it means to be a part of a strong community. A community that steps up to the plate when called upon to make a difference in the lives of the children we serve at Edmonton Public Schools. Our community consists of people from all walks of life who contribute either with generous donations, grants and in-kind gifts or volunteering their time. We are so thankful for all the ways our friends support the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation.

This newsletter is in celebration of those we are honoured to call our friends. Whether it is local businesses, service clubs, unions, Edmonton Public School employees, or our amazing students themselves who love helping other children — we are so blessed to have our community behind us. Your determination and willingness to help out this year means approximately 175 Kindergarten students were given the gift of an extra half-day of learning in order to get on an equal playing field with their peers. We are so excited to see their progress in Grade 1! Thank you for playing a part in this rewarding work. We applaud you!

The Academy at King Edward Raised Funds and Community Spirit!



We sat down with teacher Alina Engstrom from the Academy at King Edward to ask about the amazing work the teaching staff is doing to support the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation.

Q: What inspired you to consider raising funds for full-day Kindergarten?

A: Last September, Mrs. McNeil invited Foundation Director Tracy Poulin to visit and let the staff know about the Foundation. That visit created awareness of the great need that exists in our own system.

Table of Contents

- Message from Director Tracy Poulin
- The Academy at King Edward Raised Funds and Community Spirit!
- 8th Annual Ready for Life Breakfast was a Momentous Celebration
- Royalty Ruled the Runway at Kingsway Mall's Student Fashion Show
- Spirit is Alive and Hip-Hopping at Edmonton Public Schools!
- Northmount School – Business as Usual!
- Fashion Show Scholarship Winner

Q: What have you done so far?

A: We started by running a "Jean Friday," where staff members donated \$40 to wear jeans for the remainder of the year. We raised \$1320 at the beginning of the year and the teachers loved the opportunity to wear their jeans. We also had a cake sale; selling a slice of cake to staff and students for \$2 which raised \$154. In addition, we sold Oiler tattoos for \$1 and raised \$57.

All these events create a great sense of community here at the school. We love the fact proceeds go to a cause that we, as educators, believe in. We support key early learning interventions for children who need the extra support.

8th Annual Ready for Life Breakfast was a Momentous Celebration



“Celebrate” was the theme for this year’s breakfast! On May 5, 2017, 460 guests arrived at the doors of Lillian Osborne High School to help us do just that! We celebrated the significant impact full-day Kindergarten is making to get children who are disadvantaged ready for learning. We also celebrated that through the kind hearts of our generous donors and friends, we’ve been able to

establish and sustain full-day programs at six schools since our Foundation’s launch in 2010.

It was an exciting day for all — particularly the Lillian Osborne students who played a huge role in directing traffic, greeting guests, and serving coffee and food. Each table also had a student ambassador to ensure all our guests had an enjoyable morning. Student Hannah provided background piano music as our guests entered the gym and student MC’s Michael and Neha kick-started the program with a hilarious “bloopers” video of this year’s Tipaskan Kinder interviews.

Our Director Tracy Poulin took the stage to thank everyone for their support, and to share stories and information about the importance of levelling the playing field at the start of a child’s educational journey. What followed was a video of the amazing things happening in the full-day Kindergarten classrooms at Tipaskan and a poignant speech from one of the parents whose son has autism. Many guests held back tears as Mrs. Parhar talked about her son’s outstanding progress as a result of his full-day Kindergarten experience and expressed her heartfelt appreciation to everyone in the room.

It was a hard act to follow, however Tipaskan Grade 6 student Sudharshan and Kindergarten student Sophia were up to the challenge. With a mix of comedy and eloquence, they asked our guests to consider giving to support full-day Kindergarten programs. They were so persuasive that guests donated \$60,000 at the breakfast and we are still receiving donations via mail.

But that’s not all! Cute little Tipaskan Kinders showcased their whimsical musical talents. Then guests enjoyed a celebratory video about getting children ready for success as the Tipaskan Kinders, who were in the first Foundation funded full-day Kindergarten classroom, will be graduating to junior high at the end of this school year.

Grade 2 student Ellie from Earl Buxton School and backup singers from Lillian Osborne belted out a revised version of the song “Time of my Life” to close the breakfast with a riveting grand finale.

Visit our website to view video.

Northmount School – Business as Usual!

-Written by Teacher Shafiya

In collaboration with their Bank of Montreal mentor Nahla Najmeddine, the Grade 3 Cogito students at Northmount School decided to raise funds for the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation. Quite simply, we wanted to support education for children learning to speak English or living in socially vulnerable neighbourhoods.

We began our journey by choosing three different fundraisers that would enable us to reach our goal. We decided to have an art sale, a bake sale and a carnival. Our art and bake sale raised just over \$1000. Hard work and commitment was evident at our final fundraiser, the carnival. As a group, students worked strategically to decide what booths, prizes and snacks to provide. As they came to the end of their amazing journey, they became aware of what the entrepreneurial adventure taught them. Students learned about finance, advertising skills, and most importantly, teamwork! Northmount Students are proud to say they raised just over \$2310.65 from all their events to support Kinders!





Royalty Ruled the Runway at Kingsway Mall's Student Fashion Show

On April 27, 2017, over 375 guests came out to celebrate a night of fashion and flare at the 7th annual Rule the Runway student fashion show hosted by our partner Kingsway Mall. Students from L.Y. Cairns, Harry Ainlay Jasper Place, M.E. LaZerte and W.P. Wagner schools showcased outstanding clothing collections. The 75 student participants were challenged with designing and creating royally-themed outfits: a black tie outfit created from a selection of quality materials and notions provided by Marshall Fabrics and an upcycled outfit made from a mystery box of items that included a recycled wedding dress and unique adornments.

Excited student models strutted down the runway as did two full-day Kindergarten students from Princeton School who were wearing clothing provided by a Kingsway Mall retailer. At the end of the evening, all the students participated in a draw. Phoebe Fiddler from L.Y. Cairns won a \$250 Kingsway Mall gift card and pair of jeans from Bootlegger, Holly Busse from Jasper Place has a new sewing machine from Johnson's Sewing Centre and Juliet Koski from M.E. LaZerte received a \$5,000 scholarship from MC College to further her passion for fashion.

This event honours the creative talents of students and raises funds to help support the six full-day Kindergarten programs funded through our Foundation.

We raised an incredible total of \$20,000 because amazing things happen when the community and generous sponsors help out!

Visit our website to check out our sponsor list and view videos and photos.

Edmonton Public School Board

Ward A - Trustee Cheryl Johner	Ward F - Trustee Michael Janz
Ward B - Trustee Michelle Draper	Ward G - Trustee Bridget Stirling
Ward C - Trustee Orville Chubb	Ward H - Trustee Nathan Ip
Ward D - Trustee Ray Martin	Ward I - Trustee Sherry Adams
Ward E - Trustee Ken Gibson	



Fashion Show Scholarship Winner
Juliet Koski won a \$5,000 scholarship from MC College at the Rule the Runway Student Fashion Show. Thank you to our sponsors and everyone who came together to support this event.



Who is on our Board of Governors?

Dr. Louise Hayes
Don Lore
Cheryl Johner, EPSB Trustee
Cory MacTaggart
Jennifer Zabloski
Chelsey Swankhuizen
Julie Ketel
Ray C. Purdy, Q.C.
Anar Jassani
Eric Haug
Judy McCorquodale

Spirit is Alive and Hip-Hopping at Edmonton Public Schools!



Brilliant things happen when students are involved! We were thrilled when Old Scona students, Hannah and Muriel, approached us to discuss a way to re-energize school spirit District-wide. Their BIG idea was to organize an AnyBody Can Dance (ABCD) Interschool Dance Off. Although the choreographed dance routine was an important part of the competition, the critical

judging element focused on the energy and enthusiasm displayed by teams made up of students and staff. In between school performances, individual students from all Edmonton Public high schools were also invited to showcase their dance talents onsite or through videos shown during the event.

The result! On April 22, 2017, Brayden Haydamack from Virgin Radio emceed the unique and successful first annual ABCD challenge hosted by M.E. LaZerte. Teams from Old Scona Academic, M.E. LaZerte, Ross Sheppard and Lillian Osborne schools were breaking, locking and popping like professionals, making it tough for the judges to choose a winner. The roster of judges included the President of Freestyle Movement Dance Company Hubert Lin, actor Jesse Lipscombe and Principal Joanne Wynn. After much deliberation they deemed everyone a winner; however, Team Ross Sheppard took home the trophy.

To our delight, students raised \$400 through ticket sales and the concession booth which went straight into our full-day Kindergarten piggybank.

CELEBRATING OUR HEROES

Thanks to EPCOR whose donation helps "power" full-day Kindergarten at Mee-Yah-Noh School!



Thanks for the memories!



Next year we go to Grade 1!



Help today!

- Make a donation via** foundation.epsb.ca
- Attend events** as a guest or volunteer.
- Spread the word by** talking to your family, friends and colleagues about getting involved.
- Adopt us as your charity of choice** as an in-kind partner or create a third party fundraising activity.

100 per cent of all contributions go directly into full-day Kindergarten programs where the greatest impact can be made for students who come to the classroom at a disadvantage.



Want to make a donation? Have questions or feedback? Please contact us at:
 Phone: 780.970.5238
 Email: foundation@epsb.ca