



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Foundation

Thank you...

.... we are so glad you have been with us this year!

As we have marked the end of the school year, we are reflecting on the year that was. From having to pivot classroom learning to online and distance learning, to changing up all of our Foundation activities, including our annual Ready for Life fundraising breakfast, the 2019-2020 school year has definitely been memorable.

We are so grateful to our friends and donors who have supported students during these challenging times. Your gifts have meant that more children had access to needed supports to help them in their learning.

During this pandemic, your gifts have meant more than ever! Thanks to your kindness, our Kinder Kids are better equipped to succeed in learning, and in life.

Good News: A Student Success Story

By Mathieu Labossiere

Full-Day Kindergarten Teacher, Princeton School

(To protect privacy, identifying information such as the student's name and country of origin have been changed.)

As the Kindergarten teacher at Princeton School, I come into each new school year excited and eager to meet the students, introduce them to the classroom and school, and watch them as they engage and socialize with each other for the first time. On the first day of class in September 2019, I was eager to know more about each child and discern who might require some extra attention.

The last person to enter the room that day was Jonas, who cautiously entered the classroom holding his mother's hand. Immediately, I recognized he was a very shy young boy. His parents advised me that although he was very bright, he had only moved to Canada from Lithuania 11 months before. He had a tremendous amount of difficulty expressing himself in both Lithuanian and English. His parents were unable to understand what he was trying to say the majority of the time, and feared that his communication difficulties would hold him back, especially as a new language was introduced. In fact, the reason they sought out a school that offered full-day Kindergarten was to provide Jonas with as much opportunity as possible to grow his language skills.

Over the course of those first three months, his parents, our inclusive learning specialists, and I, worked on identifying strategies to help improve his language and communications skills.

By January, Jonas' proficiency and articulation skills improved and he was confidently interacting with his peers and inviting them to play with him at recess and during centre time. As a result, Jonas' increased comfort at school was evident and his personality and love of learning began to truly shine through. His infectious laugh and effort became a staple each morning and his positive outlook, especially with table time activities, rubbed off on those around him.

I am also extremely proud of my amazing students who were so helpful, patient and accepting of Jonas from the very beginning and supported him while he found his voice!



Community Initiative: Kits for Kids

The Edmonton Public Schools Foundation welcomes the support of community partners to help support our kindergarten students. This spring, we were thrilled when members of **Girl to Girl** reached out with their idea for a special campaign to provide more supplies for students.

Girl to Girl: Young Women's Empowerment Group is a volunteer group working to bring awareness to gender inequalities, empower youth, and give back to their community. The members of Girl to Girl are volunteering their time and talent to raise funds and collect supplies to support our Kindergarten students when they begin class in the autumn in an initiative they are calling "Kits for Kids".

To learn more about their good work or to lend your support to the Kits for Kids campaign, you can find Girl to Girl on social media @girltogirlyweg.

If you would like to explore organizing your own community initiative, **please contact us**. We would love to chat!



\$150,000 to Change More Lives

Did you know that it costs \$75,000 to fund a class of **full-day Kindergarten** for a year? That means that, in order to fully support our six full-day Kindergarten classes, we must raise \$450,000 from the community every year.

While we are thrilled to have received \$300,000 in donations and grants so far this year, we are currently \$150,000 short of our fundraising goal to fund the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.

We know this is a challenging time for so many people, and we are so appreciative of the support that we have received this year. If you are in a position to make a gift, please consider **making your gift today** and support the next class of full-day Kinders!



Show your love for Edmonton Public Schools!

We are pleased to have joined the **Here for Good campaign** from PrintMachine, which is supporting local businesses and nonprofits during these challenging times by selling custom t-shirts, with proceeds to each business or nonprofit.

You can support the EPSF by **snagging your own t-shirt** with our 10th Anniversary logo for just \$19.95, with proceeds going to the Foundation. Simply visit the **PrintMachine website**, purchase a Foundation t-shirt and then wear it proudly.

Look good while doing good too!

Thank you to everyone who has taken time to connect with us over the past couple of months. Your thoughtfulness and kindness means more than you'll ever know!

Keep well, have a wonderful summer, and please keep in touch.

Emmy Stuebing
Director, Edmonton Public Schools Foundation
Email me or call 780-893-6094



Help more children succeed in learning and in life! Please make your gift today!

Follow us on:



The Edmonton Public Schools Foundation is a registered charity, working to level the educational playing field for children who come to the classroom at a disadvantage. To learn more or to become involved, please visit us **[online](#)** or **[contact us](#)**.