



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

DIRECTOR'S AWARDS

Monday, May 7, 2018



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board is an engaged, energetic, and exciting organization administered by an immeasurably gifted and caring staff. The annual Director's Awards are an opportunity to show appreciation to those people who consistently go out of their way to make sure that our students are reaching their full potential.



In reviewing the nominations for the Director's Citation Award, Excellence in Equity Award, Health & Safety Award, the Innovation Award, the Mentoring Award, the Ronald K. Lynch Memorial Award, and the Technology Excellence Award, it is evident that we have a first-rate team that is building a world class educational system. We are genuinely privileged to have such an outstanding staff.

Commemorating exceptional contributions by our staff is only one of the many ways we show students, parents, staff, and communities that public education is built upon partnerships of distinction. Together we are creating exemplary learning environments for our children and adult learners.

Congratulations to all of the award recipients. These awards you receive today are a tribute to the work you do and it is my honour to present them to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Adams".

Jennifer Adams

*Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board*

2018 DIRECTOR'S AWARDS

Director's Citation Award

The Director's Citation Award recognizes outstanding and significant staff contributions to the District and its students, over an extended period of time, showing a level of imagination, enthusiasm, and professionalism that constitutes a worthy model for others. The Award was initiated by former Director of Education Stanley J. Berry, in 1985, as a means of celebrating outstanding professional contributions of staff and has been continued by all directors since that time. It was, and is, intended to be a recognition of staff, by their colleagues, honouring those who are in the midst of their careers.

Excellence in Equity Award

Awarded for outstanding and significant contribution by an OCDSB staff member to serving the District and its students by aligning and integrating equitable and inclusive education principles and practices that value and leverage the diversity of our students and communities in their daily work.

Health & Safety Award

Awarded for your outstanding and significant contribution over an extended period of time, or a specific singular contribution of significant impact or benefit, to health and safety.

Innovation Award

The Innovation Award recognizes the noteworthy contribution of a staff member to the development of innovative concepts, suggestions, actions, or process improvements that result in immediate and significant ongoing benefit to the District.

Mentoring Award

The Mentoring Award recognizes the outstanding contribution and support from a District staff member to the Mentoring Program which has resulted in having a significant impact in the development of a beginning employee.

Ronald K. Lynch Memorial Award

The Ronald K. Lynch Memorial Award recognizes a staff member who has made a sustained commitment to the success of students with special education needs or who has made a specific contribution of outstanding merit to the delivery of special education services. The Award is in memory of Ronald K. Lynch, a long-time educator, who passed away on January 4, 2008. Ron was a champion of students with special needs throughout his 43-year career in public education.

Technology Excellence Award

The Technology Excellence Award recognizes the outstanding commitment of a staff member to the planning and implementation of a technology initiative which benefits student learning.

2018 DIRECTOR'S CITATION AWARDS

Rose Albert

Supervisor

Facilities Department

Margaret Berry

Teacher

Sir Guy Carleton Secondary School

Angel Canning

Educational Assistant

Glen Ogilvie Public School

Elizabeth Cartau

Intermediate Itinerant Teacher

Curriculum Services

Jonathan Coupland

Learning Support Consultant

Learning Support Services

Petra Duschner

Manager

Mental Health & Critical Services, Learning Support Services

Sam Laggis

Vice-Principal

Elizabeth Wyn Wood Alternate Program

Céline Leduc

Principal

Henry Munro Middle School

Linda MacKay

Learning Support Teacher

Gloucester High School

Cindy MacLean

Library Technician

Half Moon Bay Public School & Kanata Highlands Public School

Cory Pigeon

Technician

Business and Learning Technologies

Bill Tyers

Risk Management Analyst

Risk and Supply Chain Management

2018 DIRECTOR'S CITATION AWARDS



ROSE ALBERT

Supervisor Facilities Department

With the District since 1998, Rose assumed the position of area supervisor in 2006.

A consummate professional, she is very approachable and is always willing to assist anyone who needs a hand. She is compassionate, understanding and conscientious, and her approach is always fair and firm.

As senior supervisor, Rose is a mentor to her more junior supervisor colleagues. She is well respected and is the voice of reason in meetings; staff will listen to what Rose has to say. She has a very strong work ethic. She is intelligent and has keen observational skills that give her the ability to recognize the possibility for changes and the need to modify action plans quickly when necessary.

Rose is loyal and practical but also respectful and discreet in her work relationships. She is perseverant and determined when faced with a challenge. As she is also goal oriented, she has the ability to engage her staff in helping to achieve her goals and the District's goals.

Five times a year, Rose is on call for 24 hours a day for one week. During this period, she is expected to respond to calls about break-ins, heat and fire alarms issues, and broken windows, and she still comes to work to do her regular day job. You can imagine the challenge with irregular sleep patterns, work flow coordination, and commitments to family!

Rose has also been the lead supervisor responsible for the two mechanical training components provided to the District's care staff. Rose has developed, produced and continues to update training sessions to reflect the changing equipment and Ministry regulations, and has been a patient teacher for many years. She has made a great impact on many new custodians over the years; she supports her peers and colleagues and continues to be a source of support to those in need. Her leadership, commitment and personal touch are huge assets to the District.

2018 DIRECTOR'S CITATION AWARDS

MARGARET BERRY

Teacher

Sir Guy Carleton Secondary School



Margaret is an outstanding teacher who provides support to students at Sir Guy Carleton Secondary School. She is a kind, tireless and dedicated educator, a strong communicator and the student success team leader at the school. She advocates for all students and ensures they receive everything they need to succeed in school and in life.

She believes in fostering a sense of belonging for youth and feels that, if students feel they are a part of the "Knighthood", they will be successful. She encourages students to participate on sports teams and applies for grants when needed, organizes Knights clothing to inspire pride in the school, and has spearheaded the yearbook to capture memories for students to cherish.

A dedicated coach, Margaret has coached numerous sports teams encouraging all students to try out. As manager of the varsity basketball team, she once contributed personal funds to pay for the entry fee to a tournament so all players could participate.

She is the first to step up and lend a helping hand when needed. She volunteers to be the Master of Ceremonies at the annual undergrad awards and sits on the commencement committee to ensure that students' successes are recognized and celebrated. She recently became a 'Big Sister' and takes great joy in introducing her 'Little Sister' to fun activities. She also volunteered to run weekly bingo at a local retirement home.

She thrives on creating a welcoming environment for all, and will bake a birthday cake for a struggling student, advocate for a student with autism, escort an anxious student to class; these are all part of what makes Margaret an amazing educator.

A 300-word nomination cannot do justice to Margaret's daily work and dedication to her students. She is selfless, considerate and a model educator with an enormous heart and a deep commitment to young people.

2018 DIRECTOR'S CITATION AWARDS



ANGEL CANNING

**Educational Assistant
Glen Ogilvie Public School**

An educational assistant with the District for nearly 25 years, Angel enriches the academic experience of many high-needs children. She exemplifies resourcefulness, respect, and compassion for students.

Over her years at Glen Ogilvie Public School, she has initiated social skills groups for at-risk students, including the Second Step programs for class groups, Roots of Empathy, and the monthly Character Education assemblies.

She spearheads the WE team, and supports students in reaching out and giving back to the community, including helping students to raise money for the Humane Society and the food bank. She trained and mentored grade 5 students to be leaders on the playground through the PALS program.

She is regarded by staff and the community as having a wealth of knowledge in managing difficult behaviours, in an effective and respectful manner that safeguards the integrity of the student. Angel has mentored many beginning and experienced teachers, EAs and ECEs in dealing with difficult situations.

In 2016, Angel designed Glen Ogilvie's first Body Break/Sensory Room. After much research, site visits, addressing logistical issues, and many discussions with the team, Angel created a room that respected and addressed the physical and sensory needs of students. The success of this room necessitated the room being moved this past summer to a larger location, which was proudly unveiled at the school's "Meet the Staff" night. This room is a demonstration of Angel's quiet leadership and her commitment to student well-being.

For many years Angel has administered an award recognizing students who overcome obstacles to learning to become positive and contributing members to the Glen Ogilvie Public School community. The award has had far-reaching impacts on students, their families, school staff, and the community at large. Angel is a dedicated employee and a strong advocate for children. She has touched the lives of many children, families, and staff.

2018 DIRECTOR'S CITATION AWARDS

ELIZABETH CARTAU

Intermediate Itinerant Teacher Curriculum Services



When she was a French as a Second Language (FSL) instructional coach in Curriculum Services, Elizabeth was heavily involved in the successful rollout of balanced literacy with special focus on literacy in FSL. Elizabeth worked to bring the “perfect” literacy resource, sample lesson, or task to meet the needs of students and teachers.

She was the District lead in the area of assessment in FSL at the elementary level working through GB+, Évaluation Rapide and other assessments for all schools to have sample quality reading assessments. Her creativity was perfectly suited to the challenging period when schools worked with CASI at J/I English; Elizabeth ensured that the Core and French Immersion teachers would have appropriate resources to support school-wide moderation.

Elizabeth was a key educator thinker in the District’s BIPSA process and an exceptional resource in the original SIPSA process and subsequent student learning plan (SLP). Her thoughtful reflective nature and outstanding quality of thinking was paramount in the creation of the SIPSA principal support guide.

Elizabeth was an exceptional instructional coach and continues to engage teachers through her humble and thoughtful questions and is always respectful of the work being done in schools. She asks the right questions at the right time to promote thinking and reflection. She has a deep commitment to co-learning with staff teams, and this often results in teachers working together with Elizabeth before and after school. She never stops coaching, and even spends some evenings and weekends with teachers supporting teaching networks.

Elizabeth was one of the most requested instructional coaches and is now an exceptional itinerant teacher at the intermediate level. She is always available to help when assistance is needed. At her core is a deep commitment to supporting and growing quality instruction.

2018 DIRECTOR'S CITATION AWARDS



JONATHAN COUPLAND

**Learning Support Consultant
Learning Support Services**

For the past five years, Jon has been a pivotal team member in the Learning Support Services department as Learning Support Consultant for Behaviour and the Section 23 Navigator. In this role, Jon supports students, staff and families, and has worked diligently to build strong and supportive relationships with everyone he interacts with.

He is frequently called upon to provide assistance to vulnerable students, often in situations of crisis, and to work with families that are going through very challenging times. His calm and reassuring approach is deeply appreciated by students, staff and families.

Jon always goes above and beyond his regular duties to find creative, effective and compassionate strategies to support staff in addressing the individual needs of each student. He brings so many strengths to this role. In all situations, he takes the time to listen carefully and examine strategically all of the resources both within the District and in the greater community to support each student and the student's family. This is evidenced in the strong relationships he has built with all professionals within our organization, as well as with those in the greater community in the Section 23 treatment programs.

As an advocate, Jon models professionalism, enthusiasm and optimism. He motivates others to look for the strengths in all students, and he consistently strives to coordinate the overall team ensuring that each team member is serving the student in the best possible way.

In his role, Jon often has to share difficult messages. He takes on this responsibility with true compassion and understanding, fostering trusting relationships with everyone. Jon has made an outstanding and significant contribution to our District and to the greater community.

Jon is highly deserving of recognition. His professionalism, unwavering dedication and service to our students and staff make him a most worthy model for others.

2018 DIRECTOR'S CITATION AWARDS

PETRA DUSCHNER

**Manager
Mental Health & Critical Services,
Learning Support Services**



Petra exemplifies the criterion for a Director's Citation. She is making an outstanding and significant contribution showing a level of professionalism that is a worthy model for others.

Petra has a complicated and demanding role in promoting mental health across the District, and always provides thoughtful and creative ideas to support students in challenging situations. Petra is a key resource to senior staff, principals and vice-principals and is instrumental in her efforts to promote positive behaviours.

She models a positive mindset and is willing and able to think in such creative ways to reach and support the most challenged students and families. She does not give up, is always hopeful, and quickly mobilizes the necessary supports that will meet the needs of students. No matter what the challenge, Petra is always available -- whether it's during the day, after work, or in the car on her way home -- to consult with a superintendent who needs to deal with a challenging situation. This is invaluable.

In situations where school-based case conferences and interventions have not been successful and central supports are not achieving the desired outcomes, Petra is instrumental in these exceptional case conferences with her co-planning in advance of the meeting, her strategic and highly supportive comments and suggestions, and in her follow-up.

She has proven to be a "parent whisperer" helping parents who have lost faith in the education system. She quickly connects with students, with them quickly engaging with her when they don't want to engage with any adults.

Like a security blanket, her support wraps around these students and families as she ensures a smooth, safe and soft landing. A simple summary statement is that "Petra works magic!"

2018 DIRECTOR'S CITATION AWARDS



SAM LAGGIS

Vice-Principal

Elizabeth Wyn Wood Alternate Program

As vice-principal of the Elizabeth Wyn Wood Alternate Program, Sam is a consummate professional and respected leader. His collaborative ways of problem-solving, how he works with staff and supports students, are admirable.

He has a remarkable memory and knows the names of all his students as well as their unique life stories. Sam has a collaborative leadership approach and, with staff, works on the development of the school learning plan. This has allowed staff to address the need for increased student achievement and to develop wellness-based goals that take into account student needs. Sam provides clear direction, ensuring a cohesive understanding of a shared goal—that of establishing curriculum pathways and support for student achievement.

One creative initiative of Sam's is collaboration on a Student Success course delivery model for credit rescue of grade 9 and 10 compulsory courses. Sam recognized the need for an alternate model. The result has been increased credit accumulation through the implementation of improved instructional strategies.

Sam is imaginative and envisions the impact of new ideas on students. He works closely with staff to promote physical and mental health through the creation of sustainable programming. Some examples of this include: SPARK; music production; a Green Tech program supported by the new construction SHSM; and new equipment for the Foods program offering a teacher-led "Make, Eat, Grow, Share" experience.

Sam understands the value of the diverse strengths and interests among staff members and supports new ideas, such as unique field trips and mindfulness coaching, and he encourages other creative initiatives that will benefit students. He participates enthusiastically in all school life, and sets a welcoming tone in the school. He runs with the students as they train for the 5 km Run for Women's Mental Health, participates in Pink Shirt day, makes chili for the chili cook-off, and also prepares a dish for the Holiday dinner!

2018 DIRECTOR'S CITATION AWARDS

CÉLINE LEDUC

Principal

Henry Munro Middle School

Céline has made important contributions to student success and staff development in the District. Her enthusiasm and leadership have set high standards for others to emulate. She has mentored several vice-principals and many of her teaching staff, some of whom have since become principals.



Upon arrival at her current school, Céline familiarized herself with the skills and contributions of every one of her staff members, and worked collaboratively to make improvements to the school. She managed the operating budget to create new learning spaces, such as the technology lounge, the ELD classrooms, the Behaviour Intervention program and the Art room. With Céline's encouragement, staff have led professional activity workshops, organized school-wide assemblies with community leaders, and coordinated student workshops through the Ottawa Inuit Centre and with Indigenous leaders.

Participating in the New Pedagogies for Deep Learning, one of her projects *Welcome New Lions!* provides orientation sessions for grade 5 students who will make the transition to the school the following September. Central to this project are student-created multimedia presentations highlighting the school facility, procedures and routines, and various activities. Visiting students complete a survey which collects data about their confidence, their interests and their concerns. Feedback from parents, students and grade 5 teachers has shown that the orientation eases transition anxiety and prepares students for a successful entry to middle school.

Henry Munro has welcomed many Syrian children over the last 3 years. Céline ensures that staff receives ongoing training to address the complex needs of these students. She visits with the families regularly, often at their homes. Céline works with the Multicultural Liaison Officer to gain a better understanding of the needs of the newcomers and their families, and to ensure clear and effective communication regarding the students' progress. Colleagues, school staff, students and their families all agree that Céline is most deserving of recognition.

2018 DIRECTOR'S CITATION AWARDS



LINDA MACKAY

Learning Support Teacher Gloucester High School

Linda is outstanding in every way. She has changed many lives over 30 years as a teacher. Her ability to engage and support students is truly remarkable. She is able to creatively and passionately work with and motivate any struggling student. Her compassion, kindness and humour draw everyone to her. She is loved by students, parents and staff.

Linda quickly builds a relationship with students, and her keen skills allow her to assess a student's strengths and learning needs. With technical precision, she is able to construct an academic plan for any student who possesses a complex learning need, and this ensures success.

Linda's unstoppable enthusiasm, reassuring manner, and her determination to support students are contagious. She is eager to help all students and they are always welcome to the Resource Room. She supports all student leadership initiatives, from student mentors and tutors, to student events, student clubs, music events and fundraisers. She will work tirelessly to make her school the best place that it can be.

She is always thinking of ways in which she can work with others to create better learning spaces. Linda is a skilled communicator, and ensures that all stakeholders are involved in discussing and brainstorming ways to support and help students. She communicates with home, students, teachers, student services, administration and volunteers.

She sits as the teacher representative on the school council and advocates for students and staff as she outlines various educational programs and opportunities within the school. Linda provides hope for students and treats everyone with respect and dignity. Graduates regularly come back to visit with her and to share their successes.

Linda is a magic weaver who leads by example. She is the model of influence and change; she is irreplaceable and unmatched. Students, the school and the District are better places because of the remarkable Linda MacKay.

2018 DIRECTOR'S CITATION AWARDS

CINDY MACLEAN

**Library Technician
Half Moon Bay Public School &
Kanata Highlands Public School**



Cindy is a creative, humble, hard-working, caring person, who gets involved in all facets of school life. She has woven her passion for literacy, technology and Makermindset into the fabric of our schools and turns the ordinary into extraordinary every day. She gets to know the students, sharing her technology expertise and offering unique opportunities for students to create and explore.

Her creativity and energy are endless. Cindy is a lifelong learner who works tirelessly, sharing new ideas and insights with everyone around her. She is a great ambassador and always takes the time to celebrate the passions of others. As part of her goal to support a welcoming school environment, she initiated the Kindness Club supported by library volunteers. She organized the creation of over 700 cards for seniors in our local community, supported Kupcakes for Kindness and set up a Kindness Cafe run by students. Through charity pancake breakfasts for staff, she led the Me to We Club and raised thousands of dollars to help people in more than 14 countries.

Encouraging students to find their own voice, Cindy makes time to support student leadership initiatives. Global and community service are also priorities and, each year, she organizes the Food Drive and Kiva Lending Project. Cindy is well organized; she plans and adjusts priorities to support important school initiatives. She listens, reflects and helps shape the school's vision. She is innovative and harnesses the community to support literacy, technology and kindness. Over the years, she has organized and managed book fairs, providing over \$200,000 of books for school libraries.

In addition to her extraordinary contributions at the school and community levels, Cindy also engages in District-level initiatives. She served on the Leadership Conference Committee and played a pivotal role in liaising with presenters and developing program materials for District-wide leadership conferences. So many have benefitted from the heart Cindy pours into her work. Cindy is a true gem and we are blessed to share this world with her.

2018 DIRECTOR'S CITATION AWARDS



CORY PIGEON

Technician

**Business and Learning
Technologies**

The Director's Citation is awarded to someone who displays enthusiasm and professionalism in his or her work. Cory is a worthy model as he is always ready to provide assistance, sharing the knowledge of his trade and doing this always with a calm and friendly attitude.

It's very unusual to look forward to experiencing computer problems, but Board Office staff who have had the privilege of receiving technical support from Cory cannot help but hope they will have the opportunity to work with him again. He is confident, cheerful and there when you need him.

Cory troubleshoots every technical problem in a calm and efficient manner. His customer service is exceptional. His priority is always to address problems, and he will not leave until he is sure that the user is comfortable and confident when using technology... and his follow-up is pretty impressive. He will always drop by, checking in to ensure that the problem has been addressed and has not re-occurred.

Cory enjoys his work; he is one of those truly special people who spreads joy as he goes about his work. When people call Cory, they are often at a point where they are frustrated by computer issues. He knows how to bring calm in these challenging situations, and doesn't leave until he has found a solution to the problem. Staff value his expertise, and recognize that he values their work.

Cory has often been heard saying many variations of the following statements: "I love my job." "I like to solve problems.", and "I like to help people." Cory takes great pride in his work. His standard of service is incredibly high. Through his efficient, unfailingly professional approach to helping others, Cory improves the ability of others to complete their work. He leaves every technical issue solved, and every client feeling a lot happier.

2018 DIRECTOR'S CITATION AWARDS

BILL TYERS

Risk Management Analyst Risk and Supply Chain Management



Bill is described as professional, responsive, respectful, empathetic, honest, and dedicated. He began his career with the OCDSB in 1988 and is currently a certified risk management analyst. He deals with day-to-day risk and insurance related questions from staff and school council representatives, and also analyzes student incidents providing preventative risk information to assist staff with decision making. As a result of Bill's analysis, schools have become more precise in reporting student incidents, and this was extremely helpful in the early days of concussion management.

Bill's visibility provides credibility! When a property loss occurs as a result of a fire or flood, Bill ensures that the space is remediated as quickly as possible. He enjoys challenges and finding creative solutions to problems, ensuring the safety of students and staff.

There are many examples of his dedication: He prepared a school to receive a low-vision student by installing texture strips on stair treads, arranging for the improvement of lighting in stairwells and hallways, and for the installation of reflective tape in the playgrounds. He was instrumental in getting the speed limit reduced and proper signage installed on a very busy roadway in front of a school. He also volunteered to coordinate and oversee the installation of defibrillators in all schools with Ottawa Paramedics.

Bill is a board member of the Canada Capital Risk and Insurance Management Society. He has a wealth of experience and knowledge and has developed trusting relationships with colleagues and with external service providers. His organizational ability, collaborative nature, and good sense of humour, enable him to complete work efficiently and expeditiously. He has strong ethical values and he is often sought after to share his best practices in risk management.

Bill has made many significant contributions to the District and is a worthy model for others. He has demonstrated this through his hard work, continued educational pursuits, and acceptance of new challenges and roles within the District.

2018 DIRECTOR'S AWARDS

Excellence in Equity Award

Pamela Parks

Teacher

Meadowlands Public School

Health & Safety Award

Calvin Ferguson

Chief Custodian

Castor Valley Elementary School

Innovation Award

Karen Dion

Department Head and Teacher

Adult High School

Mentoring Award

Stacey Grenier

Teacher

Summerside Public School

Ronald K. Lynch Memorial Award

Dr. June Pimm

Psychologist

Learning Support Services

Technology Excellence Award

Website Design Team

Dave Miller, Diane Pernari-Hergert, Rosemary Kitts,

Teresa Harrison, Emily Vollans, Ali Goncci,

Sharlene Hunter, Nathalie Rodriguez

Business and Learning Technologies and Communications

EXCELLENCE IN EQUITY AWARD

PAMELA PARKS

Teacher

Meadowlands Public School



Pamela Parks is a passionate, humble, and exemplary teacher. She is the driving force behind her school's innovative character education program, embedding character in every classroom and school wide, defining essential values of education, and working tirelessly with students, parents, staff and community members to ensure we create the leaders of today and tomorrow. Pamela's leadership has been transformative and instrumental in changing the school itself, and the lives of the children that pass through it. She has changed the community conversation from "what we do" to "why we do it" and constantly reflects on character education, its importance in our community and its positive impact on behaviour. Pamela does the heavy lifting of implementing character education within the school, promoting students' and teachers' efforts, coordinating behind the scenes, constantly reconsidering and modifying the plans in place in the school, and looking for new ideas and materials.

What makes her approach so innovative is the way that she uses the world to develop the leaders within it. She has introduced students to a wide range of community guests with whom they would otherwise never have encountered. Pamela arranged for a rabbi and a female imam to discuss diversity and acceptance together. Her tireless creativity and organization efforts in the school are best observed in the many Character Days and conferences she has organized and facilitated over the past 10 years. Pamela worked with others to develop a leadership program, training all of our grade 6 students as leaders within the school. Pamela works closely with our student leaders to support them in their efforts, taking care to put them into carefully chosen positions providing opportunities to learn specific leadership skills. She epitomizes the character traits she works hard to instill in students.

HEALTH & SAFETY AWARD



CALVIN FERGUSON

Chief Custodian

Castor Valley Elementary School

One day last fall, a group of students was working with card boxes in the hallway, cutting, taping and quite frankly making a mess! As our chief custodian approached, he stopped, paused to look at their mess, and then said: "I see that you are working on a project. How can I help? Do you need more boxes?" This particular scenario

exemplifies Calvin's outlook on his role at the school and why he is so deserving of this award. Calvin is a valued member of the Castor Valley Elementary School team. While he is busy every day making sure that the school is safe and welcoming, managing some significant site specific demands, Calvin stands out because of his ability to go above and beyond, every day, with a smile. He has a "can do" attitude.

Calvin understands that a safe and healthy school is one where students can thrive and learn. From prioritizing grit removal from the paved yard area so students can resume playing four squares in the spring to diligently working with his team to make sure our medically-fragile students' classroom is properly disinfected, Calvin's contribution lies in the attention to detail and his deep understanding of the educational environment within which he works.

It is an honour to work alongside our chief custodian, Calvin Ferguson. His impact on student learning, employee morale and providing the community with a healthy and safe working and learning environment has been invaluable.

INNOVATION AWARD

KAREN DION

Department Head and Teacher Adult High School

Karen is an outstanding educator and a dedicated leader who consistently embraces change and champions evidence-based innovation in the pursuit of her deep passion for learning and instruction. She believes in experimentation, creativity, mindfulness, collaboration, metacognitive analysis, data-driven efficacies, mistake-making, and problem solving to help a student.



An exemplary Science department head and teacher, she gives selflessly of herself every morning, at lunchtime and after school, sharing her imagination, creativity, and knowledge of pedagogical teaching styles to provide students with a springboard to further their understanding and appreciation of science and collaborative problem solving.

Beyond the classroom, Karen creates creative and enriching opportunities for science teachers to have mentorship roles which provide support and leadership to other departments, and throughout the District and the province. It is magical to observe her sophisticated approach to instruction as an embedded component of science class, authentic task development and labs.

Karen's students demonstrate mastery of contemporary applied skills in her carefully executed summative evaluations. Her commitment to the OCDSB Exit Outcomes gives students a competitive edge when seeking a future in science, and in higher learning.

Karen models professionalism and demonstrates collegiality working with and learning from her colleagues and often serves as expert and lead learner when it comes to innovation and change.

At the Heads' table, Karen gently and consistently pushes the team to evolve communal learning philosophies, to analyze what grades mean, and to connect to the rubrics teachers use from an equity lens. She also serves on the Adult High School PD committee and subject council, and tirelessly promotes collaboration, metacognition and assessment, and evaluation practices.

MENTORING AWARD



STACEY GRENIER

Teacher

Summerside Public School

*This nomination was submitted by
a very grateful mentee.*

Stacey has been an impeccable mentor right from the beginning of the school year. She has been a steady source of support, always welcoming, available, and an inspiring role model since my very first day of teaching.

Even before having been assigned as my official mentor, she helped me to prepare for the important first weeks of school on very short notice and made sure I felt welcomed and supported in the school. Stacey is available 24/7 whenever I have questions, concerns, when I need feedback or advice, or simply when I want to share experiences that happened in the classroom. She is proactive at helping me find enriching resources and activities that can be valuable in a classroom. She has been incredibly supportive when writing my first ever report cards ensuring that I felt confident the whole time.

Most importantly, Stacey shines by modelling what most teachers aspire to be. She is a team worker ensuring that all her colleagues feel safe in the school environment, she is very student oriented, involved in leading so many activities in the school and the community. She is gifted at creating meaningful relationships with all of her students and everyone in her working environment.

RONALD K. LYNCH MEMORIAL AWARD



DR. JUNE PIMM

Psychologist Learning Support Services

Dr. Pimm has spent a lifetime dedicated to the understanding of human behaviour and supporting educators in their quest to understand and support the District's most vulnerable children.

She has had an unprecedented career navigating the field of autism for which she has applied her leadership role as the lead psychologist at the OCDSB on the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Team.

It is not only Dr. Pimm's keen understanding of behaviourism but her unparalleled knowledge in the field of developmental psychology that has provided the educators in the OCDSB with a new and updated approach to look at students with ASD in a new light. Dr. Pimm has changed the way we talk about autism and helped us better understand the whole child rather than identifying them by a diagnosis.

Dr. Pimm's power of persuasion isn't just with educators but some of her most powerful work is with parents. If you've ever sat at a table with Dr. Pimm and parents, it feels like a Master's class in education on the Autism Spectrum. She has led the way with new initiatives throughout the OCDSB, whether it be the ASD Intake as a direct response to the Ministry's Policy Program Memorandum 140 (PPM 140), to the assessment pilot class at Arch Street Public School for students with Autism, to the opening of the very first Asperger's system class now known as the ASD Secondary Credit Support Program.

Dr. Pimm exemplifies dedication, commitment and compassion in her ongoing search for knowledge and applying it to her role on the ASD Team and as a published author.

TECHNOLOGY EXCELLENCE AWARD

WEBSITE/PORTAL DESIGN TEAM:

**Dave Miller,
Diane Pernari-Hergert,
Rosemary Kitts,
Teresa Harrison,
Emily Vollans, Ali Goncci,
Sharlene Hunter, Nathalie
Rodriguez**



Business and Learning Technologies and Communications

Throughout the 2016/2017 school year, a team of dedicated individuals from Communications and Business and Learning Technologies collaborated to perform the monumental task of redesigning the District website, migrating 150 school websites onto a new platform, and developing portals for staff, students and parents. The team met on a regular basis to brainstorm, plan, discuss and share ideas to completely redefine how the District could better support the information and communications needs of our staff, students and community members. This work not only changed the way that our websites look, feel, and function, it created an integrated communications platform that is the foundation for redefining the way we work and the ways we can communicate with clients. Throughout the process, this team faced many roadblocks and technical challenges, but they persevered and came up with new solutions to meet their goals.

Each member of the team brought talents and expertise which they used to collaborate and ensure the integration of the District website, the school websites and the staff, student, and parent portals. The District and school websites were launched on time and the portals were released one year ahead of schedule. As the department managers, Dave and Diane played an important role in providing project leadership, sharing and allocating resources, ensuring departmental collaboration, and keeping the project on time and on task. Rosemary was the project lead on the technology side and was instrumental in designing the portals and ensuring a secure authentication process for the staff portal.

TECHNOLOGY EXCELLENCE AWARD

Ali, the webmaster, was key in the design of the District website and managing the migration of the many pages of information from the old site. Nathalie and Sharlene took on the task of reviewing and revising the thousands of pages of content from the old website for migration to the new site. Emily was the leader in the design thinking behind the student portal, using the student learning management software as a landing spot for students. Teresa played a major role in converting our school sites over to the new website platform and providing training to school staff.

Together, the team has created websites that the District can be proud of and a one-stop shop for staff, students and parents to find all the information to do their work. The work of this team is continuing with the expansion of the portal functionality and the design of the new OCDSB app. This work is essential to help the OCDSB become a digitally- fluent organization.





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