

May 30 2014

Celebrating Excellence

During the months of May and June we celebrate the district-wide contributions of our staff, parents, students and community members. This is such a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the incredible efforts of the people who contribute to our school district.

Last night, we hosted the [Student Recognition Awards](#) which celebrate excellence in student leadership. Each year we proudly honour one senior student in each secondary school.~ This year's deserving winners are an amazing group of students who have served on student council, on athletic or arts councils, or who have initiated social programs or activities in their school or community. Many of these involved partnerships with others such as the Royal Ottawa Hospital, CHEO's Youth Mental Health campaigns, Ottawa's Youth Services Bureau, Free The Children, Walk for Water, Me To We, and many more.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to review the booklet from the [Student Recognition Awards](#) and to read about the amazing accomplishments of these 32 graduating students.

On May 22, 2014 we were pleased to participate in the [Capital Educators' Awards](#). These awards celebrate the achievements of outstanding educators and the role of education in our community. Award recipients are announced at a gala dinner and ceremony called EduGala. The OCDSB had 19 Capital Educator's Award finalists this year and three award winners. The finalists were selected from a community panel of judges who then selects the award winners. Congratulations to our 2014 Capital Educator's Award recipients; Maura Cuffari from Stittsville Public School, Dan Lajoie from Glebe Collegiate Institute and Jennifer Lisowski from Crystal Bay Education Centre.

Earlier this month, we also presented our OCDSB staff awards, including the [Director's Citation Award](#) which is a recognition of outstanding and significant staff contributions by their colleagues. The annual Director's Awards are an opportunity to show appreciation to those employees who consistently go out of their way to make sure that the OCDSB is a wonderful working and learning environment. 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.

Check out our website to see all our [award categories, nominees and winners](#). Next week, we will be hosting our Community Recognition Awards, celebrating the volunteers in our schools. Volunteers make so many great things happen in our schools! We're grateful for the time and talent that parents and community members share with our students and staff. Annually, the District hosts a Volunteer Appreciation Reception which includes the presentation of the Community Recognition Awards. The

reception is an opportunity for us to express our thanks to parent and community volunteers for their help in schools. Our [Volunteer Appreciation Reception](#) and the presentation of the Community Recognition Awards will be held on June 5th, 2014 at Algonquin College. I encourage you to join us.

Jennifer Adams
Director of Education/
Secretary of the Board