



OTTAWA-CARLETON  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

# 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARDS



# 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARDS

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board aims to have every secondary school student leave our District with the skills and characteristics to be a 21st century success story. Tonight, we share this evening with 33 secondary school students — 33 success stories.

This year's recipients of this special recognition have demonstrated they are resilient, globally aware, goal-oriented, innovative and creative thinkers, and ethical decision-makers. Our school district refers to these traits as Exit Outcomes.

We are pleased to honour these school leaders, some who have faced challenges and overcome adversity to get here. Their resiliency has made them peer leaders and community activists. They have made sandwiches for Ottawa's homeless people, they raised funds to promote literacy in Africa and have baked, walked, danced and ran to increase cancer research awareness.

I encourage you to listen and learn from these 33 individuals who used innovative and creative ideas to find solutions, encourage inclusion, celebrate cultural differences, and showcase the power of positive thinking.

On behalf of senior staff, I want to congratulate our student leaders for their dedication in ensuring that student voice is heard at the OCDSB. Enjoy your special evening. You deserve it!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "J. Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jennifer Adams  
Director of Education

# 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARDS

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Skill is what you are capable of doing.  
Inspiration determines what you do.  
Attitude determines how well you do it.  
The 33 students we honour this evening  
definitely have an admirable attitude and an  
impressive record of achievement.



Individually and collectively they have  
motivated their peers and the greater community to help promote a  
positive school climate; they have generated thousands of dollars for local,  
national and international charities; they have modeled resilience, good  
citizenship and good character. They have been leaders among leaders.

Our ultimate objective as a District is to ensure each high school student  
finds their pathway and achieves their definition of success. Tonight,  
we celebrate the achievements of 33 amazing school leaders. They  
have shown their commitment to ethical decision making, to achieving  
personal goals and to developing creative solutions to complex issues.  
Their demonstrated care and kindness for those less fortunate has made  
a real difference in the lives of their peers, here in Ottawa and around  
the world.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I offer our thanks and gratitude for  
your contributions to your schools and your communities, and we wish  
you continued fulfilment in your future endeavours.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Seward". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Shirley Seward  
Chair of the Board

# WHAT THE STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARDS ARE ALL ABOUT

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The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board is pleased to host our 12<sup>th</sup> District-wide Student Recognition Awards. These awards celebrate excellence in student leadership.

The students being recognized were chosen by their principals and/or vice-principals because they demonstrated initiative, supported by the will to succeed, the dedication to finish what they started, and the commitment to achieve their personal best.

## AWARDS CEREMONY 2017

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<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	Arrival of Guests
<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	Dinner
<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Introductions</b> Master of Ceremonies Nancy Girozan
	<b>Opening Remarks</b> - Chair of the Board Shirley Seward - Director of Education Jennifer Adams
<b>7:35 p.m.</b>	Presentation of Awards
<b>8:50 p.m.</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b> - Director of Education Jennifer Adams
<b>8:55 p.m.</b>	Group Photograph in Foyer

# 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS

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**Elijah Akandwanaho**

Adult H.S.

**Priya Sarwal**

A.Y. Jackson S.S.

**Shannon Snelling**

Bell H.S.

**Hadi El-Mais**

Brookfield H.S.

**Emerson Bach**

Cairine Wilson S.S.

**Caroline Alince**

Canterbury H.S.

**Lukas Romsicki**

Colonel By S.S.

**Timothy Latreille**

Continuing Education

**Matthew Simser**

Earl of March S.S.

**Mickey DiPietro**

Elizabeth Wyn Wood Secondary  
Alternate Program

**Danyon Veenstra**

Frederick Banting Secondary  
Alternate Program

**Ann Ritchie**

Glebe Collegiate Institute

**Cameron Jones**

Gloucester H.S.

**Katie Leonard**

Hillcrest H.S.

**James Lu**

John McCrae S.S.

**Kaeden Seburn**

Lisgar Collegiate Institute

**Maiyah Russell**

Longfields-Davidson Heights S.S.

**Claire Sethuram**

Merivale H.S.

**Michael Dans**

Nepean H.S.

**Devin Quackenbush**

Norman Johnston  
Secondary Alternate Program

**Andrew Morin**

Osgoode Township H.S.

**Michael McKinty**

Ottawa Technical S.S. (OTSS)

**Samantha Nicholls**

Richard Pfaff Secondary  
Alternate Program

**Mohammed Cheikhezzein**

Rideau H.S.

**Zeinab Cherri**

Ridgemont H.S.

**Chantal Dagenais**

Sir Guy Carleton S.S.

**Jeffrey Wu**

Sir Robert Borden H.S.

**Gabrielle Deschamps**

Sir Wilfrid Laurier S.S.

**Emma Kinkade**

South Carleton H.S.

**Alethea Eva Qablunaaq Noah**

Urban Aboriginal Alternate H.S. Program

**Addy Strickland**

West Carleton S.S.

**Abdikarim Buraleh**

Woodroffe H.S.

## 2017 EXCELLENCE IN EQUITY STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENT

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Kate Vokral

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Elijah Akandwanaho** Adult High School

Elijah epitomizes a selfless investment in bettering the lives of others. As a student, he is a proven school leader who seeks to empower all those around him. To say his positive attitude is contagious is an understatement; he exhibits unbridled enthusiasm.

He is a demonstrated community trailblazer. Elijah organized the distribution of more than 240 Christmas dinners and children's gifts to over 240 Adult High School families. As a Newcomers' Club ambassador, Elijah has worked tirelessly to make others feel welcome, proud, heard and connected.

His own personal journey led him from Africa to Canada's capital where he embodies a work ethic that is admired by his children, peers and colleagues alike. As an articulate man who tackled the nuances of his new language as an English Language Learner, Elijah's sincerity shines through both his speech and his charisma.

His generosity, kindness and gratitude will ensure his continued success.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Priya Sarwal** A.Y. Jackson Secondary School



Priya, according to many of her teachers and administrators, is one of the best all-round students they have ever encountered.

She is a proven school leader. Starting in grade 9 she was the Grade Representative on Student Council. In grade 10 she participated in Student Council activities. During her grade 11 year she was A.Y. Jackson's Senator at the Board level and Student Council Co-President. In grade 12 she was a cast member in the school musical – The Addams Family, and a member of the Relay for Life planning team. Priya can do it all, do it well, and do it with a smile.

Her dedication and achievement toward academics is also remarkable. In school year 2015–2016, Priya had an average of 94.4%. She is in French Immersion, has been a silver medalist (over 90% average) for three years, and is on track to repeat this in grade 12.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Shannon Snelling** Bell High School

Shannon is involved in countless Bell High School initiatives aimed at supporting and promoting a positive school climate. She is unwaveringly cheerful, well organized and encouraging to everyone she meets.

Shannon is an excellent role model as she demonstrates original thinking and goodwill towards others. She is a genuine, empathetic and dependable person who is continuously reflective and strives to be her very best.

Shannon's style is all about being thoughtful, grounded, passionate and results-oriented. This is always done with a huge smile and a wonderful sense of humour. Shannon is keen to empower and encourage the younger leaders to take risks, to get involved and to make an impact on the school community.

In her role as Bell Co-President, Shannon is a tireless collaborator and promoter of Bruin spirit. She continually strives for high student engagement in a wide variety of activities. Shannon's can-do attitude is infectious.



# 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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## **Hadi El-Mais** Brookfield High School

Hadi consistently demonstrates dedication to his studies and extra-curricular activities. He is a member of Brookfield's Honour Roll and Century Club for academic excellence and is held in high personal regard by all of his teachers as a result of his exemplary work ethic and respectful nature.



Hadi is a kind, humble, yet strong student leader. He is a proud member and President of the Brookfield Muslim Association. Hadi organized key events including weekly meetings, meat pie sales, clothing sales and the annual Eid dinner. He worked in collaboration with Brookfield's administration to find a more suitable and accessible location for the school's prayer room. Once a new location was secured, Hadi worked diligently with Brookfield custodial staff to set up the room to ensure it is welcoming for all students.

Hadi's contributions and his consistent leadership helped to create a positive atmosphere for all students and staff at Brookfield.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Emerson Bach** Cairine Wilson Secondary School

Emerson's formidable work ethic, keen sense of social justice, and her innate creativity make her community a better place to live and learn. Everything she does is done with grace and confidence.

Writer Terry Orlick said, "The heart of human excellence often begins to beat when you discover a pursuit that absorbs you, frees you, challenges you, or gives you a sense of meaning, joy, or passion." Emerson epitomizes this statement.

Emerson endeavours to complete every task to the best of her ability. Her efforts are appreciated and respected by her peers, who hold her in the highest esteem. Her teachers and administrators are awed by how many projects she can tackle while still maintaining excellent grades.

Emerson is renowned for her ability to organize and execute events as varied as Diversity Day, selling her crafts to raise money for disadvantaged families at Christmas, and leading numerous student government initiatives.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Caroline Alinec** Canterbury High School

Caroline is an integral member of the Canterbury High School learning community. She is renowned for her positive attitude, her commitment to seeing projects through to completion and her staunch belief that all students should have a voice in defining their high school experience.



Throughout her high school career Caroline has been a vocal and effective advocate relating to student well-being. She is a member of the Source of Strength initiative and is the guiding force in Mental Health Month at Canterbury High School. Caroline gets things done – well!

Caroline is also actively involved in several community endeavours including: CHEO YouthNet Youth Advisory Committee, Ottawa Youth Engagement Committee and the Headstrong Mental Health Summit Planning Committee. In addition, Caroline is a dynamic promoter of school-based environmental projects, the school's Social Awareness Committee, and is the Co-Head of the Athletic Council. Caroline is also an OFSAA Cross Country athlete.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Lukas Romsicki** Colonel By Secondary School

Lukas is a tremendous ambassador for Colonel By Secondary School in a myriad of activities and initiatives he leads and supports. He is an easygoing and approachable young man.

Ranging from volunteering at Relay for Life to Coffee Houses, to being a student co-leader of the Colonel By and Sir Wilfrid Laurier Human Library Project, Lukas seeks experiences where he can contribute and learn. Lukas is the lead student in Colonel By's Sound Light Audio Visual (SLAV) team, the Robotics Club, and head of the Anime Club.

Academically, Lukas pursued his passion for technology through his involvement in CougarVision, Colonel By's in-school television station. Lukas is also the student director of High School Happenings, a Rogers TV program showcasing events at high schools across Ottawa. To complete the hat trick, Lukas dedicates countless hours as the chief yearbook editor.

Lukas does not seek the spotlight even though he richly deserves it.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Timothy Latreille** Continuing Education

Tim is a perfect example of resilience and determination. Faced with a learning disability, Tim's educational journey has been full of challenges. As an adult, Tim attempted to finish his OSSD a few times but work and family commitments made that goal impossible to achieve – until now.



Tim believes it was his desire to make his children proud of him that pushed him to finally graduate. When he felt like giving up he thought of his children and his teachers who believed in him and he kept studying. He made a commitment to himself to succeed and he did.

It was not easy but few things that really matter are. Not only did Tim achieve his goal – he is the 2017 Student Recognition Continuing Education winner. Tim will have both a diploma and an honorary plaque of distinction to hang on his wall to showcase his success story.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Matthew Simser** Earl of March Secondary School

Matt exemplifies the qualities of good citizenship when people are watching and when they aren't. He treats everyone with respect, kindness and empathy. Matt believes in helping those in need in his community and around the world not for praise but because it's the right thing to do. He built houses in Haiti and the Dominican Republic in an effort to improve people's daily lives.

He is an extraordinary young man who leads by example in a calm, mature and responsible manner. He has mentored students through leadership camp training and group interactions ensuring they felt welcomed, safe and encouraged.

Matt is involved in many aspects of student life. He is active in Student Council; he designed the cover of the school yearbook; he participated in a promotion yearbook video and is the Head Builder for Leadership Camp.

Matt will continue to participate in humanitarian efforts – it's in his DNA.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Mickey DiPietro** Elizabeth Wyn Wood Secondary Alternate Program



Mickey entered the Elizabeth Wyn Wood Alternate Program unsure and is leaving a confident, successful, young woman. Mickey developed a sense of self. She gave experiential learning a chance and found it to be a perfect fit.

Throughout her educational journey, Mickey learned how to make quality decisions to ensure a positive future. With newfound confidence, she achieved the following: an Ontario High School Diploma, Level One Plumbing Certification in Dual Credit Program, Level One Pipe Certification and full-time employment at Ottawa Plumbing.

Mickey is an exceptional role model for young women in particular for those who want to succeed in the trades. She is on the leading edge for women in the trades and has made a successful transition from education to employment in her chosen field of plumbing. Mickey's determination and resilience will help her achieve all of her life goals. She will continue to succeed.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Danyon Veenstra** Frederick Banting Secondary Alternate Program

Danyon spent his early childhood in Kenya. His life was difficult yet he found beauty and joy in the faces of the young children he met while volunteering. Many of these children had severe disabilities but found a way to be happy. Danyon believes the children taught him empathy and gratitude. These are two traits he brings to the classroom.

Danyon is quick to help a struggling student. He believes that by helping others he too will learn. This will allow him to be both teacher and student, and the two will succeed. Danyon has a way of turning challenges into learning opportunities. His positive attitude toward studying allowed him to encourage his peers not to give up when the tasks at hand were difficult.

Danyon willingly shares his love of wildlife and animals with his classmates. His teachers believe that whatever route he takes, it will include helping others.



## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Ann Ritchie** Glebe Collegiate Institute

Ann is a dynamic community and school volunteer. She is Glebe's Best Buddies Chapter President – a program dedicated to making Canadian schools and communities more inclusive and accepting of people with intellectual disabilities.



As Chapter President, she successfully matched students with their peers. She routinely contributed to the emotional development and mental health of the Best Buddies' participants at Glebe Collegiate. She helped to improve the quality of life for all involved.

Ann is a national and provincial athlete. She is currently Glebe's premier soccer athlete and a Team Ontario alumnus. She motivates and inspires her team to test their physical limits.

Ann's practices and beliefs earned her a position at Camp Misquah, a recreational group dedicated to providing memorable camp experiences to people with developmental disabilities. As a camp leader, she promoted positive relationships and helped those in attendance to develop self-confidence and life skills.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Cameron Jones** Gloucester High School

Cameron is a positive and proactive student leader. He is honest, hard working, motivated, altruistic and enthusiastic in everything he attempts. His optimistic attitude is contagious. He is a team player who shows tremendous commitment to his teammates. Cameron leads with passion and produces results.

His success is due to his consistent effort and joy in helping others; he demonstrates this daily, particularly in sport. His concern for others is well-known particularly in Outdoor Education courses. He always ensures everyone is okay at the end of portages and that all equipment is accounted for. His leadership skills are always on display.

Cameron consistently models good character and encourages others to show empathy and compassion. Students respond well to Cameron and like to seek his feedback.

When deciding who should be this year's Student Recognition title holder, many staff said, "Cameron is the most deserving student they have ever met!"

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Katie Leonard** Hillcrest High School

Katie's mission is to make the world a better place. This may sound lofty but in Katie's capable hands the sky's the limit. She has made a positive impact on student governance ensuring that the student voice was loud, proud and effective.

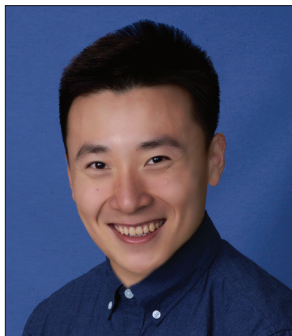


Her work as President of Best Buddies has led to a greater sense of acceptance in the school's hallways, classrooms and common areas. Best Buddies is an international non-profit organization. Its goal is to establish a global volunteer movement to create opportunities for one-to-one friendships for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Katie's dedication to being a Link Leader, member of the Sources of Strength, Anti-Bullying Club, Straight Ally with GSA, Mental Health Awareness Week and Black History Club to name a few helped to establish a school climate that radiates kindness, compassion and empathy. Her desire to implement positive change will last long after she graduates.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **James Lu** John McCrae Secondary School

James exudes a calm confidence in everything he attempts. Everyone recognizes his dedication to making John McCrae Secondary School and his community better. He prefers to work in the background eschewing recognition for all that he does.

In addition, to being an exemplary student, James mentors Grade 9 students through his involvement in Link Crew. He leads with a remarkable blend of humility, empathy and class.

James helped establish a school newspaper for which he regularly contributes articles. He is the VP of marketing for Junior Achievement, a member of the Robotics Club, the Red Poppy Gallery committee and a volunteer in the annual Relay for Life fundraiser.

What is astounding is that James does all this while being a member of the High Performance Athlete Program. He is a competitive swimmer and maintains a high academic standard. It is a testament to his tremendous determination, discipline, skill and attitude.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Kaeden Seburn** Lisgar Collegiate Institute

Kaeden is an outstanding community and school leader. Kaeden has played a leadership role in both the Ottawa-Carleton Space Simulation Club and the school's Rainbow Alliance. In both clubs, Kaeden



has mentored students and increased the profile and membership of the clubs. Kaeden is a subtle but strong leader, sensitive to the needs of others.

As the Rainbow Alliance club leader, Kaeden supports and advocates for safe spaces within the school for LGBTQ students. Kaeden's advocacy included delivering a presentation to the entire teaching staff and School Parent Council, relating to gender acceptance throughout the school.

Kaeden's dedication to Ottawa-Carleton Space Simulation which simulates a week long space mission is commendable. Kaeden helped organize the mission including running the competition to select student astronauts.

Kaeden will graduate from Lisgar leaving a lasting legacy of inclusion, acceptance and the importance of advocacy. We will miss Kaeden's passion, commitment and energy.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Maiyah Russell** Longfields- Davidson Heights Secondary School

Maiyah is an exemplary role model for her peers. She has an infectious enthusiasm for tackling new challenges and a strong

desire to serve others. She held a series of leadership positions during her time at Longfields-Davidson Heights Secondary School, including being the voice of Ravens Television and an academic peer tutor.

Maiyah is currently the co-president of the Student's Council, and under her leadership, the Council created numerous inclusive activities that enhanced the school's welcoming environment.

Maiyah respected existing traditions while establishing new initiatives that addressed emerging student concerns. Maiyah worked tirelessly to promote academic and extra-curricular opportunities. She is a peer tutor during after-school credit interventions run by the Student Success Department. Maiyah maintains a high average in her academic courses, while participating on various athletic teams. Maiyah made a real difference in the school's culture. She will be missed but her spirit will remain.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Claire Sethuram** Merivale High School

Claire is a polite, respectful, independent, and extremely driven young lady. She is a diligent and conscientious student who strives for excellence. In addition, to being an exceptional student, Claire is



active in extracurricular events, both in and out of school. Her resume includes the school music program, golf team, badminton team, Tools with Impact, Girls Self Esteem Day and is currently the co-president of student council.

Claire wanted to start a new tradition so she planned and implemented a Relay for Life school fundraiser. She assembled a committee, secured prizes, and made a detailed plan for the actual day. Claire hoped for 100 participants, and to raise \$10,000.00. In the end, over one third of the school participated (approximately 260 students) and collected \$30,000.00.

A memorable highlight of the event was the Survivor lap. It was awe-inspiring to witness survivors walking the track with the participants cheering them on.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Michael Dans** Nepean High School

Michael is a model student leader. He is motivated, hard working, and dedicated to making a positive and lasting impact in the lives of others. Most importantly, Michael holds himself to the highest possible standard in being caring, inclusive and kind to others. Michael never puts his own goals ahead of making other people feel respected.

Michael leads by example. His leadership resulted in the school community raising over \$75,000 to fight cancer. Student leaders host two cancer fundraisers each year. The Inside Ride is a school-wide team competition while the Relay for Life is a community-wide event that brings cancer survivors to Nepean for a day-long party with a purpose. Michael filled the role as a leader of leaders in chairing these two successful events. And he is not done yet – he hopes to help raise an additional \$50,000 to fight cancer before he graduates.



## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Devin Quackenbush**

Norman Johnston  
Secondary Alternate  
Program



Devin is the heart and soul of Norman Johnston. His dedication, work ethic and personal resilience are inspirational and his gentle thoughtfulness helps create a safe and welcoming atmosphere for both students and staff.

His quiet personal example enriches all. Devin's dedication to his studies and his interest in the world are infectious. He inspires others to learn, think, and examine the world they live in.

He is without question one of the most welcoming of people. He makes an effort to reach out to those who are new to the school and give them a sense of belonging and comfort. Devin can be counted on in any situation.

Devin is an avid supporter of the Outdoor Education program and actively encourages others to become involved.

Devin does not strive for accolades, nor does he look for them. Nonetheless, his gentle, understated leadership makes him most deserving of praise and gratitude.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Andrew Morin** Osgoode Township High School

Andrew has consistently demonstrated a tireless enthusiasm and devotion to his school, community and mother-nature.

He has served as a Leadership Camp participant, a skill builder and a Link Crew leader / mentor for all new and junior students.

He is active in high school sports including; volleyball, soccer and track. Andrew also participates in numerous extra-curricular activities. Relay for Life and the Student Senate are just two ventures he has participated in.

In addition, to his school commitments and 90%+ average, Andrew is involved outside of the OTHS community. He is an enthusiastic outdoorsman and sports enthusiast. He was a Stewardship Youth Ranger and a local hockey player. Andrew understands the necessity of giving back and being an active participant in his rural community.

Andrew is wise beyond his age. He will continue to make a difference in the lives of friends and family for years to come.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Michael McKinty** Ottawa Technical Secondary School (OTSS)



Michael embodies OTSS values. He is a hopeful, positive, young man who encourages others to believe in themselves.

He takes every opportunity to learn and grow from life's experiences. He is an inspiration to his peers. They watched Michael succeed through hard work. He forged ahead even when he met obstacles. He inspires others by his can-do, positive attitude.

Michael set and accomplished realistic goals. He never let circumstance get in the way of finishing those projects. This is a testament to his commitment to himself and his future. He worked diligently to improve his academic standing by utilizing his own creative, innovative, and critical thinking skills.

Michael's work as a LINK Leader is exceptional - the students he mentored are thriving. Michael is one of the Student Council presidents. He helped enhance the school's culture by listening to students and ensuring everyone felt their voice was heard and mattered.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Samantha Nicholls** Richard Pfaff Secondary Alternate Program

Sam is a positive role model to her peers at Richard Pfaff. She is a student leader who makes time for the greater school community while maintaining excellent grades.

Sam's leadership skills can be seen on the stage during assemblies, in the classroom helping her fellow students and behind the scenes making contributions to the school's Sources of Strength group. She demonstrated her ability as a peer leader in many ways including; her commitment to the school's Fitness Club and her advocacy for an active, healthy lifestyle.

Sam is a tireless worker and is often the last student to leave the building. She fostered many meaningful relationships with staff and students. Her charisma, resiliency and tenacity are the embodiment of true leadership. Sam made a commitment to herself to make her last year of high school her very, best year of high school. She succeeded! She will be greatly missed.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Mohammed Cheikhezzein** Rideau High School

Mohammed is a born leader. Be it Student Council, Key Club, Rainbow Club or the Link Crew you will find Mohammed front and centre doing whatever needs to be done.



Mohammed is one of Rideau High School's best known ambassadors. He welcomes everyone to the school with an attitude of acceptance and friendship. His goal is to ensure that new, returning, and present students feel valued and respected. Mohammed has a way of making people feel heard and appreciated for who they are.

He works with the grade 9 students to make sure their transition to high school is not overwhelming. He advocates for equality within the school and its programs, and helps organize Rainbow Club events which promote individuality and the creation of safe spaces in the school.

Mohammed is a very important voice for the student body within the walls of Rideau High School and throughout the community.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Zeinab Cherri** Ridgemont High School

Zeinab is a proud member of the Ridgemont High School community. In her role as Student Senator she is committed to fostering student leadership, voice, and sense of belonging at all levels: classroom, school, and District.

She is also a member of Spartan Stars (Link Crew). In her role as a Star she helps the grade 9 students bridge the gap between seniors and the rest of the student body. She is a positive role model for them during the important transition from middle school to high school. She is not only a leader for the grade 9 students, but she is also a leader amongst her fellow Stars and peers.

Zeinab innately knows how to make people feel comfortable. Her generous spirit encourages others to share their opinions, concerns and suggestions. Zeinab is a consensus builder. She believes in teamwork and her efforts have produced positive results.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Chantal Dagenais** Sir Guy Carleton Secondary School

Chantal is a quiet, modest student whose positive attitude and wonderful work ethic can be seen in everything she does. She has overcome significant obstacles to become one of the top students at the school. She chooses to always help others when the opportunity arises. Chantal's contribution to the Sir Guy Community is profound.



She excels in all aspects of student life including academics, athletics and her skilled trade classes. Two of Chantal's greatest qualities are her perseverance and determination. If she decides to get something done, it will be done - well.

Chantal is a respected volunteer at the Boys and Girls Club. Last year, Chantal created an amazing, metal sculpture that she donated to a charity raffle for the Boys and Girls Club. Chantal's co-op placement at Crystal Bay Centre for Special Education is part of her preparation to enter Algonquin College's Developmental Service Worker program in the fall.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Jeffrey Wu** Sir Robert Borden High School

Jeff listens and strives to reach a consensus with his peers. He embodies a leadership spirit. He is not afraid of hard work; in fact he enjoys it. Jeff gets the job done.

Jeff helped to introduce an organization known as Tools with Impact, which provides tools or school supplies to impoverished communities. To date, the group has raised over \$41,000 in donations and \$65,000 in tools. He also actively supported the Ottawa Mission. He was able to help collect over 400 pairs of socks and \$700 in donations. In addition, he is one of the Relay for Life lead organizers. This campaign has raised over \$40,000 for cancer research.

As a silver medalist, Jeff exhibits a strong work ethic. He is renowned for his ability to connect with and motivate his peers. He will continue to do great things in the future – he simply knows no other way.



## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Gabrielle Deschamps** Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School

The stellar achievements of Gabby Deschamps both in school and in the community, combined with a personality that is at once gracious and dynamic, attest to the beautiful human being that she is.



Gabby has been an OCDSB silver medalist since Grade 9. Not only does she achieve marks most students only dream of, she has served the school in a myriad ways. Being creative and responsible are qualities that don't always go hand in hand, but with Gabby they do. She can be counted on to see projects through to their completion, and despite challenges of her own, thinks of others first.

When you think of what defines a positive role model you think of Gabby. Her contributions to school culture can be felt in the classroom, in the hallways and outside the school. She will continue to succeed thanks to intellect, empathy, advocacy and her can-do attitude.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Emma Kinkade** South Carleton High School

Emma has grown from a quiet grade 9 student to a positive, confident grade 12 force to be reckoned with. Emma has overcome personal challenges and used those experiences to strengthen her commitment to succeed in all of her endeavours.

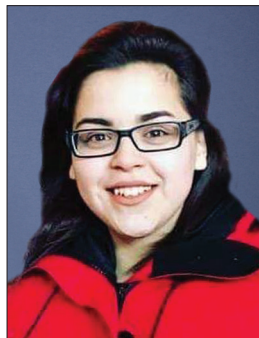
Emma's strong work ethic, incredible patience, and willingness to help her classmates are always on display. As a Peer Tutor, she helped others succeed. At her cooperative education placements at Richmond Public School (RPS), Emma supported different teachers in different classroom settings and is always asked to return. Emma continues to volunteer at RPS due to her love of children and her genuine enthusiasm towards learning.

Emma is a dedicated student who is balancing full-time day school, co-op at night school, employment, and playing hockey throughout the regular season. Emma is a tenacious, hardworking student who will succeed at whatever she does; she is truly a success story!

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Alethea Eva Qablunaaq Noah** Urban Aboriginal Alternate High School Program



Alethea Eva Qablunaaq Noah is about to complete her personal dream of becoming a high school graduate. She is a young, Inuit woman and mother who demonstrates determination and strong single-minded focus to completing her high school studies at the Urban Aboriginal Alternate High School Program.

Alethea consistently exhibited a sound work ethic and is an inspiration to her classmates and staff. She is looking towards the future and will attend post-secondary education in a field which she is passionate about.

Alethea shares her culture with others in a generous and caring manner. She is well versed in Inuit and First Nations knowledge. She is ensuring her son benefits from her cultural intelligence. A love of his culture is evidenced in his interest in Native drumming techniques.

Alethea is a great example to others of what can be accomplished through perseverance and hard work. Her future is very bright.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Addy Strickland** West Carleton Secondary School

Addy is simply amazing! She is a phenomenal leader who never seeks the spotlight and always shares the praise with her peers. She has been instrumental in organizing and initiating many activities within the Social Justice Program.

Addy worked tirelessly to collect 4,000 books for African children through a Community Book Drive. Addy's enthusiasm for the project was contagious. The community and three other OCDSB schools willingly contributed to the book drive. She also collected over \$2,000 to ensure the books were delivered to their intended audience. It took over two years and dogged determination but all 4,000 books arrived in Africa.

She is a staunch advocate for student voice, and is an active, effective member of the Minister's Student Advisory Council. Addy does the right things for the right reasons on a daily basis. We are going to miss her energy and powerful presence at West next year.

## 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENT

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### **Abdikarim Buraleh** Woodroffe High School

Abdikarim is a vibrant and active presence in the Woodroffe High School community. He is as polite and respectful as he is competent. His contributions to the school and the greater community can be felt near and far. He seeks no recognition for his efforts – he does it because he believes it is the just thing to do.



Abdi is a true believer in giving back, both to the community at large and to the school. He also finds the time to hold down two part-time jobs while he mentors new arrivals to Canada in a school program he helped start.

Abdi contributes countless hours as an assistant to the junior boys' basketball team. He is a proven leader in the community as a member of Youth Futures and he helps with Student Council, the Woodroffe Athletic Association and the Sources of Strength program.

He will study Biochemistry in September.

## 2017 EXCELLENCE IN EQUITY STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

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### Kate Vokral

Kate is an exemplary student who instinctively helps those less fortunate. She helped to organize a variety of activities including: making sandwiches for the homeless, running the waffle breakfast to raise funds and awareness for Sleeping Children Around the World, and

Sir Robert Borden's first ever Light it up Blue event to create awareness, celebrate, and advocate for autistic students and families. In addition, she was instrumental in raising over \$40,000 for Relay For Life.

Kate is able connect with all students, especially those who are hard to reach. With her altruistic tendencies, Kate tutored a student struggling in math for over four months entirely on her own initiative.

Kate includes her brother and other students in the Autism Unit each time she sees an opportunity. Kate made an insightful video about autism that can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/NxrLhRSBCsM>. One of her objectives is to destigmatize autism.

# 2017 STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The OCDSB would like to thank the following for their contributions to make the Student Recognition Awards a reality:

## **Organizing Committee**

Marie Bulgin  
Nancy Girozan  
Hyacinth Haddad  
Paula Hall  
Sharlene Hunter  
Paul Jaworski  
Monica Leonhardt  
Ann McCrimmon  
John MacKinnon  
Nathalie Rodriguez  
Charles Tourigny

## **Familiar Faces**

for the production of the plaques

## **Musical Entertainment**

Nepean Choir  
Conductor Lee Carter

## **Floral Creations**

Sir Guy Carleton Secondary School  
Green Industries Students



# CONGRATS

**Published by Communications and Information Services — May 2017**

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