

2013 Student Citizenship Awards Banquet



Making a Difference

An old man walked up a shore littered with thousands of starfish, beached and dying after a storm. A young man was picking them up and flinging them back into the ocean. "Why do you bother?" The old man scoffed. "You're not saving enough to make a difference."

The young man picked up another starfish and sent it spinning back to the water.

"Made a difference to that one," he said.





Making a Difference



The Board of Trustees of Park West School Division hosted their annual Student Citizenship Awards Banquet at the Strathclair Community Hall on January 18th.

Each school within the division was encouraged to nominate an individual and/or a group of students based on the following criteria:

1. Volunteer service to the community, such as volunteering with health care facilities, senior citizen groups, shelters, and day care centers.
2. Involvement in citizenship or character building organizations.
3. Participation in student government programs or activities.
4. Leadership ability to motivate others to actions to benefit the community.



The Board was pleased to receive ten individual applications and seven group applications. Each nominee was presented with a gift and a certificate to honour their commitment to citizenship.

Park West School Division is proud to announce the winners :

Individual Category - Marian Juce from Hamiota Collegiate

Group Category - "Hawks for Change" from Strathclair School

(Grace Kang, Jessica Arnfinson, Shaylyn Lamb, Robyn Gerrard, and Lisa Rystephanuk)

The Board has forwarded the winners on to the Manitoba School Boards Association as our representatives for Park West. If they are selected by MSBA, they will be recognized at their Convention Banquet held in March. Congratulations to all of the nominees!



Marian Juce—Hamiota Collegiate

School Sponsor—Rachel Proven-Luhowy

Community Sponsor—Linda Little

Community Sponsor—Dana Routledge



Marian is an accomplished athlete who is training with the Wheat City ConnXion Synchronized Skating team. She has utilized her talents to mentor young skaters in Kenton and as a CanSkate Coach in Hamiota. While Marian isn't a member of the student council, it doesn't stop her from helping out with various school functions. She works at the after-school canteen, helped at student council barbeques and was an integral part in the WE Scare Hunger campaign.



Tyla Betke—Major Pratt School

School Sponsor—Teresa Boucher
Community Sponsor—Jayne Totte



Tyla has been involved in the Major Pratt Student Council for the last four years and this year she has taken on the role as Co-President. This involves planning meetings, assemblies, pep rallies and school dances.

Tyla enjoys helping out the elementary music classes to help them prepare for the Christmas concert and she also plays the piano for the annual Christmas concert.

Tyla contributes to the Safer Communities Committee by offering input on how to make the community a safer place. She also sings and plays the piano for the residents of the PCH.





Zack Koscielny—Strathclair School

School Sponsor—Mark Geekie
Community Sponsor—Crystal Watson



Zach has served as a Sports Rep for the student council for the last two years. He has been involved in organizing the noon hour intramural program, and distributing the school sports uniforms. Zack has been apart of the coaching staff at Strathclair as a student coach for the middle year's athletes. . Zack is an outstanding musician, especially playing the fiddle. He shares his love of music with the residents at Morley House Personal Care Home in Shoal Lake. Zack also volunteers his time with the Strathclair Drama club, the Agriculture Society and with swimming lessons at Salt Lake.



Rylee Lanouette—Shoal Lake School

School Sponsor—Benita Shwaluk
Community Sponsor—Rheanne McMullan



Motivated by WE Day, Rylee and a friend developed “Be the Change”. They are working towards a goal of \$1000 to help provide clean and safe drinking water for people in Africa. In her combined Social Studies and Art class, Rylee recognized that a few younger students needed some assistance. She took it upon herself to offer the students her help and has been mentoring them on a daily basis. Rylee is a lunchroom supervisor, volunteers with the milk program and donates her time to work at the canteen for after school functions.



Sadie-Jo Luba –Rosssburn Collegiate



School Sponsor–Bill Legge
School Sponsor–Mark Williams
Community Sponsor–Wendy Woychyshyn

Sadie-Jo served as Captain for the RCI volleyball team during this past season. She was instrumental in leading the team both on and off the court. Sadie-Jo helped to organize team meetings, fundraising events and took the lead role in developing a promotional booth of the team at the “Student Showcase”.

Sadie-Jo has volunteered her time with the swim lesson program in the summer and the winter swim program.



Parker Malchuk – Birtle Elementary School

School Sponsor – Tanis Cheasley
Community Sponsor – Mike Smart



Parker is a member of the Student Leadership Group at BES, helping to organize various school events, including Halloween for Hunger and Cans for Christmas. He volunteers his lunch hours and recess to help the Kindergarten students with opening lunch containers, clean up and assists with outdoor clothing. Parker is a school patrol ensuring that students safely cross the road. Parker assists with coaching for both T-ball and hockey, demonstrating skills for the younger players. He also helps at the rink running the time clock, selling 50/50 tickets and assisting with clean up.



Jaelyn Marzoff—Inglis School

School Sponsor—Darcy Kowalchuk
Community Sponsor—Nadine Hickey



Jaelyn recruited 12 students to join her Drama club and they meet two noon hours a week. As Drama Coordinator, she writes lesson plans, teaches drama games, creates and teaches choreography, directs and produces the play. Jaelyn is Co-President of Student Council helping to organize school events. Jaelyn is an active member of her church as a Sunday School assistant, an acolyte, a reader and she assisted with Vacation Bible School for the past two summers. Jaelyn volunteered with the Canada Day celebrations helping to organize the BINGO.



Amy Pizzey – Major Pratt School

School Sponsor—Mike Totte
Community Sponsor—Ed Robidoux



Amy and her community group from Binscarth planned many fundraisers for the Beef & Barley King and Queen contest which included a community supper, garage sales, an auction sale. Amy was awarded the title of Queen while raising over \$9000 for student activities at the school. She serves breakfast to students at the Binscarth School once a week and she recruits students to donate blood for the Canadian Blood Services clinics twice a year. Amy has been a member of the 4-H club for 10 years and is currently the president.

Mike Tchoupiak – Rossburn Elementary School

School Sponsor – Yvonne Urichuk-Knight
Community Sponsor – Father Mykhaylo Khomitskyy



Mike, known as the resident “technology specialist”, dedicates his time to helping out school staff with new technology, setting up the sound system for school events and researching grants for the school. Mike’s Grade 7 class travelled to Brandon to work at the Food Bank and the Christmas Cheer Board. As part of the Student Council, Mike has helped organize various school activities. Mike has also helped the local Catholic Church with their computer system and he has tutored Father Mykhaylo to strengthen both his English and his computer skills.



Payton Woitas—Binscarth School

School Sponsor—Lois Tibbatta & Ed Robidoux
Community Sponsor—Brenda Christie & Rita Wasslen

Payton assists every week with the Healthy Lunch program at Binscarth School. This involves serving food to fellow students, washing dishes and cleaning up. As a member of Student Council, Payton helps to organize “mini house”, and has been instrumental in fundraising for a new digital information sign. Payton is involved in BKIDS who make Binny care packs for new community members and the elderly. She enjoys singing at the Personal Care Home and visiting with the elderly. Payton volunteers with the craft sale, 4-H, and at the Fall Feast.



ME to WE Africa – Birtle Collegiate

School Sponsor–Craig Barker
School Sponsor–Dan Hardern



The ME to WE Africa group are trying to raise awareness of the poor living conditions in Kenya. Their goal is to fundraise enough money to contribute towards building a school, to dig new water wells and to make the trip to Africa to donate their time with these projects. It is their hope that by the summer of 2014, they will be able to present the residents with the money and begin work on construction of the school and wells. The group made a presentation to the community outlining these goals at the fall supper and have organized a WE Scare Hunger campaign as well as the WE Create Change fundraiser.

Cornerstone Youth Group—Hamiota Collegiate

School Sponsor—Jon Zilkey
Community Sponsor—Rev. Orland Usick
Community Sponsor—Nathan Klassen



The Cornerstone Youth Group meet weekly for leadership training and other activities. They have planned various events for the school and community. One such event was the Go Fly a Kite that was held during the school noon hour for middle years' students. The students were treated to a barbeque and given their own kite to fly. The group has also provided child activities during the summer fair, and they have helped to organize and participate in the Pavilion of Hope.

The Hawks for Change—Strathclair School

School Sponsor—Bobbi-Lynn Geekie
Community Sponsor—Linda Dereniwski



The Hawks for Change have been volunteer facilitators at the MB Project for International Cooperation workshops teaching youth about international food shortages. They have made several presentations to various groups about the positive impact of student voice. One member of the group won a trip to volunteer in India. She was fortunate enough to bring the whole group and they participated in the building of a new school. The Hawks for Change are very active in their school & community helping with clothing drives, food drives and with the Student Leadership Team.

The Green Club—Rossburn Elementary School

School Sponsor—Yvonne Urichuk-Knight

Community Sponsor—Karen Bergeson



The Green Club runs every Thursday during the noon hour break. The goal of the club is to create awareness amongst students on how to keep our planet healthy. The Green Club recycles, composts and educates others on how to become “Green”. The duo are both members of 4-H, contributing with the highway clean up and mentoring younger members .

Social Justice Group—Miniota School

School Sponsor—Trevor Lewis
Community Sponsor—Beth Lelond



The Social Justice Group is committed to being good, participating citizens, both locally and globally. They demonstrate this by partnering with UCW to collect warm clothing to donate to a northern MB community. The group organized a food drive to collect items for the Christmas hampers. Pennies for Change were collected for clean drinking water for third world countries. The group put jars around the community for this project. Abdoulaye is from Africa, he is sponsored by the group and they gifted his village with a water filter for Christmas.

RCI Leadership Team—Rosssburn Collegiate

School Sponsor—Bob Ploshynsky
Community Sponsor—Kerry Lawless



The Leadership Team has worked hard to develop many school events to help students feel connected to each other despite varying cultural backgrounds. The group has organized pancake breakfasts, Anti-Bullying Day, Spirit Week and welcome events for new students. At Christmas, the Leadership Team delivered cookies and hot chocolate to the local businesses as a way of showing thanks for their support. The group led the school in a Town Clean Up and trick or treated for non-perishable food items to donate to the Christmas Cheer Board.

WE Team – Waywayseecappo School

School Sponsor – Troy Luhowy
Community Sponsor – Delores Clearsky



The WE Team has collected pennies every day for one month. The money raised will be gifted to a small community in Haiti to provide clean drinking water. The team has now decided to incorporate the Seven Sacred Teachings into their school and community life. They plan on focusing on one teaching per month and they have contacted the local RCMP and health office to join forces. The WE Team are planning to host their own mini “WE Day” concert in their community in the near future.