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integrity

2023

Division Student Awards

HONOURING STUDENT EXCELLENCE



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Division Academic Excellence Award is open to Grade 12 students who demonstrate overall exceptional academic achievement in a range of subjects in International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement or regular programming.

## **Denom Broome**

*Academy at King Edward*

Denom challenged himself to take upper level courses in both math and science and applied himself with vigour and persistence in every course. He was a well-rounded, organized student who took pride in the products he handed in whether it was an essay for English or a project in one of his option classes. Outside of his course work, Denom was involved in clubs such as the Best Buddies Club where he took on the role of vice-president of the club and volunteered as a news anchor with a team of students to produce the school news. Denom applied to Concordia for fall 2023 with plans to go into Education. His dedication to his classes as well as his community will take him far in his post-secondary studies and beyond.

## **Simran Bansal**

*Centre High Campus*

Simran was an excellent student who was motivated and actively enjoyed learning. His hard work and perseverance paid off with his acceptance to the Faculty of Science in Engineering at the University of Alberta. Simran is looking forward to completing the co-op program and using his knowledge directly in the engineering field.

## **Liam Parrell**

*Dr. Anne Anderson*

Liam demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and work ethic across a range of subjects, including several Advanced Placement courses. As an engaged and motivated learner, Liam was consistently curious, creative and reflective in the classroom. His ability to problem solve and think critically about complex issues to produce viable and creative solutions during inquiry labs set him apart from other students. The ease with which he communicated with others in class, and when participating in school athletics, was a testament to his collaborative skills and the value he placed on others' opinions. Overall, Liam embodies the qualities that this award seeks to recognize.

## **Zainab Dahni**

*Eastglen*

The incredibly talented Zainab excelled in all areas of academics. Not only was her achievement always at the very top of the class, but her work ethic and drive to master all concepts was second to none. Oftentimes, she discovered mistakes in the official textbook keys due to her comprehensive completion of assigned practice. Other students regularly looked to her for guidance, yet Zainab remained very humble and was quick to help those around her when she saw someone struggling. Fluent in multiple languages, she challenged FSL 30 achieving well beyond expectations and completed the DELF exam during the spring. Zainab aspires to put her compassion, talents and intelligence to work as a language interpreter working with newcomers to Canada.

## **Madilyn Hofstede**

*Edmonton Christian High*

As the school's top academic student, Madilyn was actively engaged with the curriculum and highly motivated to do well and achieve her goals. As a critical thinker, problem solver and strong collaborator with her peers and teachers, she was a positive role model and leader in the school community. Madilyn was involved in all areas of the school from student council to sports. Everyday, she worked to make the school a better place for everyone.

## **Joonseo Choi**

*Harry Ainlay*

Joonseo challenged himself to not only excel but to completely comprehend, question and think critically. He chose more academically rigorous courses and achieved honours with distinction for all three years of high school. Outside of class work, Joonseo also developed scientific research skills in the Youreka program, knowledge of diplomacy and debate in Model UN and engaged in math and chemistry competitions. Joonseo looks forward to continuing to push himself to improve and experience multiple opportunities to grow and learn.

## **Harshini Ravi**

*J. Percy Page*

Harshini's commitment to education was reflected in her overall average of 97 per cent in Grade 12 and honours with distinction throughout her academic career. She always focused on doing her best and helping her fellow classmates. Harshini was a positive influence in the school and found a balance between academics and volunteering. She continually had a smile on her face, conducted herself with personal integrity and treated others with dignity and respect. We were very proud to have Harshini and all that she represents at J. Percy Page.

## **Liz Seto**

*Jasper Place*

As a focused and tenacious learner, Liz challenged herself by taking all core Advanced Placement classes. She was self motivated and excelled in coursework, consistently completed homework on time and created summary notes. Teachers described Liz as an inquisitive, hardworking and resilient student who enjoyed learning. She went beyond what was taught in class and used extra resources such as AP Classroom and 5 Steps to a 5. Liz achieved the highest academic standing for Grade 10 and 11, a result of her diligence and hard work. In addition to her academic endeavors, she was also an executive member of the Interact club helping out in the school and community.

## **Erika Eamer**

*Lillian Osborne*

Erika maintained the highest overall academic average in Grade 11 and the second highest overall academic average in Grade 10 while balancing a commitment to improving herself and her community. Her consistent dedication to excellence extended to her roles as the co-president of the school's Interact club and the head of events of the STEM club. Erika was also devoted to several other school clubs, such as peer tutoring, graduation council and the student support council. As a member of the University of Alberta WISEST Youth Council, she worked to help dismantle barriers women and gender-diverse students face while pursuing careers in STEM. Ultimately, by embracing opportunity and discovery, Erika constructed meaningful relationships with her peers, developed critical thinking skills and remained diligent throughout her high school career and beyond.

## Sanjeet Sandhu

*M.E. LaZerte*

Sanjeet excelled in all of her courses as a full International Baccalaureate Diploma student where she maintained at least a 97 per cent average in IB courses throughout Grade 12. She embodied what it meant to be a formidable learner—she was humble, yet perceptive and questioning. Whether analyzing a text in English, debating a position in Social Studies, tutoring her peers in math or putting in some extra lab time in Chemistry, Sanjeet was a strong, determined, respectful and motivated individual. She also assisted her classmates when they experienced difficulty by tutoring and studying with them until they grasped challenging concepts. This showed her commitment to education, to knowledge and stood as a testament as to who Sanjeet is as a young individual. She looks forward to pursuing the sciences at the University of Alberta.

## Janelle Martinson

*McNally*

Janelle was actively engaged in all her classes, took extra time out of her day to do homework and work towards her studies and asked questions and made time with teachers to go over subject matter she did not understand. She took all of the sciences at the highest level, in addition to Calculus. Janelle managed to maintain her exceptional academic results despite experiencing and responding to a serious head injury that followed her throughout Grade 12. Her systematic approach to education led to her exceptional performance and her designation of honours with distinction. Congratulations, Janelle!

## Ethan Chin

*Millwoods Christian*

Ethan was a well-rounded student with a broad depth of knowledge about a variety of topics. With a particular interest in history, he lent insight to any conversation in that area. Ethan was a conscientious and hard-working individual adept at problem solving. He was respectful of others and always willing to engage in discussions with people of varying viewpoints. Ethan demonstrated a commitment to serving his community through working as a volunteer tutor and also intentionally seeking out opportunities for personal development. In the words of one of his teachers, Ethan is an “exceptional human being.”

## Aurora Shi

*Old Scona*

Aurora achieved top marks across all high school subjects. She was a member of the students’ union, student engagement team and Chinese cultural club, to name a few. Aurora was the recipient of multiple art and writing awards. She designed the logos for the school’s CyberPatriot team and swim club. Aurora also developed an application that is used by the school to determine academic standing. In her freshman year, she combined her skills in art and coding to design a computer-based financial literacy game for children. As the captain of her CyberPatriot team, Aurora used her knowledge of cybersecurity, servers and operating systems to place in the 98th percentile in a field of over 2000 teams. Aurora and a classmate co-wrote and illustrated a children’s book which emphasized the importance of a healthy self-image and being active in doing good. They claimed first prize and their book was published locally in Edmonton.

## Livia Zheng

*Ross Sheppard*

Livia did not strive for recognition at school; instead, she aspired to fulfill her dreams. Dedication in everything she did allowed her to achieve consistency in her schoolwork, earning honours with distinction throughout high school. Whether it was working on every school project until she was proud of the results, like the creative and vibrantly coloured poster she created for biology class or completing every question in her homework package, Livia felt satisfied with the end result of her best work. She was proud of her medals and certificates not because it proved to others how accomplished she was, but how the successes represented her hard work, important processes and memories and relationships Livia built along the way.

## Sidney Gilewich

*Strathcona*

Sidney epitomizes the quiet leader and well-rounded student. In addition to her honours with distinction marks for all three years of high school in full Advanced Placement, she was one of the most valuable volunteers and mentors at the school. Sidney was one of the silent allies who contributed to Strathcona’s anti-racism work to recognize social and racial biases. Whether it was helping out in the classroom, football/rugby pitch or the gymnasium running intramurals, one would be hard pressed to find a more committed student than Sidney.

## Talia Siobhan

*Victoria*

Talia was a conscientious and dedicated honours student who engaged easily and effectively in her learning. In French, she made an extraordinary effort to only use the target language in class and also looked for opportunities to speak French outside of the classroom. She enjoyed a challenge, and as such, she chose to take French IB in high school and completed the DELF exam. She was a member of both the graduation committee and VARSI, the school's anti-racism student initiative. Talia helped organize the Walk for Wenjack in commemoration of the Downie/Wenjack Fund. Beyond school, she volunteered for the bagged lunch program at Sacred Heart church to help the homeless population and low-income families and worked as a lifeguard for the City of Edmonton since 2019. Talia truly has an intrinsic desire to help and serve others.

## Jacqueline Taylor

*Vimy Ridge Academy*

Jacqueline was a keen learner who really cared about her marks and did everything she could to ensure she was successful at school. As a result, she achieved in the high nineties in all of her classes. Jacqueline was also amazing at dance and very helpful in her community. She particularly enjoyed tutoring younger students in math.

## Uday Dogra

*W.P. Wagner*

Uday was a thoughtful, respectful and focused student. He worked incredibly hard to ensure understanding of his academic courses and asked for help when he needed it. Uday demonstrated mastery of all of his academic subjects and curricular outcomes while collaborating with his peers and possessing a maturity beyond his years. He maintained a 97.2 per cent average in his 30-level academic core courses, illustrating his remarkable academic excellence. Outside of academics, Uday participated in student leadership and helped to organize and implement extracurricular school-wide events and activities. Uday was a kind, ethical and driven student very deserving of this award.

# CAREER AND LIFE PATHWAYS AWARD

The Division Career and Life Pathways Award is open to Grade 12 students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement in one or more of the following areas: Business, Administration, Finance and Information Technology (BIT), Health, Recreation and Human Services (HRH), Media, Design and Communication Arts (MDC), Natural Resources (NAT), Trades, Manufacturing and Transportation (TMT) and Career Transitions (CTR).

## **Olivia Schonheiter**

*Academy at King Edward*

During the first semester of the 2022-23 school year, Olivia made the decision to apply to the Community Care program through Campus EPSB at McNally High School. Olivia's decision to enter the program came from a desire to embark on a career in the healthcare field. She embraced every aspect of this domain and demonstrated a true passion in caring for medically fragile individuals.

## **Brooke Malysh**

*Braemar*

Brooke demonstrated impeccable dedication by completing all health modules that Braemar offers. She was an engaged and curious learner and always connected the material to her everyday life. Brooke worked exceptionally hard and asked questions to clarify the material. She showed great perseverance and resilience by accomplishing her work despite the complexities of everyday adversity. With her bright personality and warm sense of humour, Brooke was a thoughtful leader who focused on self-improvement and looked to inspire others and make the community a better place. Our hope for Brooke is to forever keep her inquisitive nature and positive attitude as it will continue leading to more success in her future endeavours.

## **Regis Yuen**

*Dr. Anne Anderson*

Regis embodied the qualities of an engaged learner, ethical citizen and individual with an entrepreneurial spirit. His commitment to learning was evident in his passion for both culinary arts and computing science. He demonstrated a strong work ethic by helping out before and after school actively contributing to the school's culinary arts program in Prairie Market. Regis valued diversity and teamwork, and his open-mindedness helped him build strong relationships. He assumed responsibilities in a variety of roles and demonstrated respect, empathy and compassion for his classmates and teachers. Regis continuously set goals and worked with discipline to achieve them in both his practical and written work.

## **Ella Thorsteinson**

*Edmonton Christian High*

Ella was always willing to lend a helping hand in class and in her spare time. She was a great role model in class and enjoyed helping her peers. Her openness to participate in whatever way possible demonstrated her integrity, her servant heart, her awareness of others' needs and her ability to pour love into others. Ella played an integral role in the success of Food Studies/cafeteria through her extra dedication.

## Heril Saha

*Harry Ainlay*

Heril was an exceptional computing science student. He completed many impressive projects inside and outside of class. Heril assisted in a comprehensive redesign of the Harry Ainlay website. This job was labour intensive, took a high degree of technical skill, many hours of Heril's own time and required him to work side-by-side with teachers and school administrators to meet the specific requirements of each part of the website. His amazing work won the admiration and respect of school staff. Heril was always a responsible, hard-working student very driven to learn and accomplish great things. He was also recognized for his abilities by winning gold at the Provincial Skills Canada competition and silver at the Skills Canada Nationals.

## Kisha Dizer

*J. Percy Page*

Kisha was a motivated student extremely dedicated to completing the Hairstyling Apprenticeship Program. She began her cosmetology journey in her final year of high school, after attending Cosmetology 10 in a different school division. Kisha worked incredibly hard to complete both the Cosmetology 20 modules and the 30 program simultaneously. She spent any and all of her free time in the lab perfecting her practical skills and completing the theoretical portion of the program. Kisha mastered many techniques, but excelled specifically in women's haircuts, styling and colouring so much so that she was constantly requested by clientele. She was truly a wonderful contributor to J. Percy Page and the cosmetology program. Kisha plans to move into a salon and complete her apprenticeship program.

## Mykayla McKerlie

*Jasper Place*

Mykayla created a variety of innovative projects during computer science classes. She worked hard to learn advanced concepts and implemented them into her games. She broadened her horizons with Japanese language and culture to an advanced level. In addition to her course preparation for post-secondary studies, Mykayla was involved in her local community through the Best Buddies program and volunteered at her church and the Whitemud Equine Centre to teach children with special needs how to ride.

## Sabrina Mei

*Lillian Osborne*

Sabrina demonstrated excellence in all her undertakings. In Fashions 30 class, she had exceptional skill above and beyond the curricular objectives and designed, researched, drafted and constructed her garment designs at a level parallel to industry standards. Sabrina's dedication and creativity was truly astounding. Also, she was always willing to help others, encourage classmates with their designs and was willing to take the extra steps to ensure high achievement.

## Ariana Boon

*M.E. LaZerte*

As an engaged learner, Ariana never failed to take a leadership role to guide and encourage other students as she navigated her own achievement with purpose and conviction. She appreciated challenging projects where finding creative solutions, reflecting on successes and failures and critical thinking were required for successful task completion. Ariana demonstrated lifelong learning and modelled this principle for those around her. She was intrinsically motivated, team oriented and driven to succeed in all endeavours. Ariana's confidence was well deserved and continuously growing, she will excel in any career pathway she chooses.

## Anand DesaiGoudar

*Old Scona*

Throughout high school, Anand achieved an honours average in technology courses in CyberSecurity, Cisco and Computer Science. He was a member of the CyberPatriot team that competed at national and international levels and Anand led his team to a top 10 finish in Canada all three years of high school. He was a founding member of the OSA Business Club and an executive member for the past two years. This club promotes both business and community volunteering. The club was recognized for promoting financial literacy in high school and was profiled locally on CBC Radio and nationally on CBC TV during this school year. Anand also led his Business club team to a first place finish at the MacEwan Business Challenge in 2021 and 2022. He even found time in his busy schedule to be part of the community helpers program at the school.

## **Sarah Mah**

*Ross Sheppard*

Sarah made a positive difference in her community and contributed to the well-being of others. She tried to be mindful of her impact on the environment and took steps to reduce her carbon footprint and promote sustainability. This included conserving energy and water, reducing waste and supporting eco-friendly initiatives. Sarah believed in treating others with kindness and respect, regardless of their background or beliefs. She strove to be open-minded and accepting of others and to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone. Sarah is a positive force for change in the world and embodies the character attributes of honesty, fairness, respect, kindness and empathy in all aspects of life.

## **Lynea Runge**

*Victoria*

Lynea was a dedicated student and participated in multiple extracurricular activities in the CTS field. She took on leadership roles and thrived as a member of the food culture program, contributing to the opportunity for students to learn industry skills and standards in entrepreneurship and hospitality management through culinary arts. Lynea was a core member of the film team at Victoria, using those skills in production in the classroom and beyond. She showed great skill, determination, passion and excitement.

## **Cameron Taschuk**

*Vimy Ridge Academy*

Cameron was an intelligent, enthusiastic, hard-working student who was a delight to have in Food Studies class. He enhanced the environment of the class with his eagerness and energy. Cameron participated fully in all class activities and went above and beyond by bringing new recipes, ideas and skills into the lab. His food product consistently exceeded expectations and his attention to detail enhanced his product further. A role model in all his classes, Cameron consistently demonstrated the Vimy CORE values of character, opportunity, respect and enthusiasm.

## **Ekjot Brar**

*W.P. Wagner*

Ekjot views education as vital to the curation change. This belief pushed her to uncover new ideas through collaboration and dedication. In school, Ekjot excelled in Fashion Studies, Computer Science and Student Leadership. She combined passion for her work with creative risk-taking to illustrate her ability to succeed in various learning pathways. Ekjot held an insatiable interest in STEM and pursued this curiosity to great depths. Outside of school, she took on a research internship with WISEST, took part in the Youreka program and was a member of AlbertaSat. In school, Ekjot served as the vice president of the Rotary club in Grade 10, a member of the District 5370 committee and an Edmonton Public Schools student senator. Throughout high school, she devoted countless hours volunteering with WILD Outside which included educating herself and others on various aspects of the ecosystem and sustainability and gaining her Below Zero Environmental Education certificate.



# FINE ARTS AWARD

The Division Fine Arts Award is open to Grade 12 students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement in one or more of the performing and visual arts, including subjects pertaining to music, art, dance and drama.

## **Kenzie Perry**

*Braemar*

Kenzie demonstrated exceptional academic achievement in visual art. Not only showing confidence and mastery in a wide breadth of mediums, she also pushed her creativity well beyond her comfort zone. Kenzie took on new challenges with both determination and innovation. She made meaningful contributions to the class environment by supporting, encouraging and modelling techniques for peers. Our hope is that Kenzie continues to personify this artistic spirit towards all future endeavours.

## **Manaal Naeem**

*Dr. Anne Anderson*

Manaal consistently demonstrated a creative spirit in all aspects of her academic programming and Visual Art is no exception. Manaal was outgoing and engaged in all her classes, and she was also an active HSMUN member, a reliable volunteer and had an infectious ability to bring diverse groups together in dynamic conversation and problem solving. In her arts classes, Manaal brought positive energy to her creativity, drawing on others for constructive, confident and effective critique. She modelled reflection actively and verbally as she talked through visual compositional challenges with teachers and peers. Her openness to assessment of her work demonstrated a willingness to challenge her skills and continue to grow as a thinker and an artist. As a result, she produced thoughtful artwork that promoted conversation. Manaal was a selfless individual who was admired and respected by her peers and took on leadership roles anytime she saw a need.

## **Tyler-Rose Arden**

*Eastglen*

Tyler-Rose showed an exceptional commitment to her art, as well as her community within the school. Her tireless dedication to mastering skills and techniques created truly exceptional works of art. Tyler-Rose pursued every opportunity to learn and grow as an artist and demonstrated a willingness to experiment and take risks in her work. Additionally, she immersed herself into her own identity and experiences which were reflected in her exceptional AP portfolio. Tyler-Rose used her artistic talents to make a positive impact in her community through her work with the First Nations, Metis and Inuit initiatives in the school. A naturally entrepreneurial spirit, Tyler-Rose took a bold and innovative approach to her art. She experimented with all of the mediums available to her and applied vigour and resilience to any creative challenge. Throughout her time at Eastglen, Tyler-Rose made an incredible impact on the arts community.

## **Kaiden Klatt**

*Edmonton Christian High*

Kaiden exhibited the very best of what it means to be a visual and performing artist. He consistently brought high levels of energy and enthusiasm to each and every rehearsal and performance. Kaiden was extremely coachable and highly reflective in his pursuit of his best performance. He demonstrated the utmost professionalism as an actor and cast member in how he encouraged everyone and led by example. He delivered an all-star performance as Christopher in "A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time" in which he brought a unique and engaging perspective to that role. He helped audiences and cast members look beyond their own preconceptions and view the humanity around them with grace, humility and appreciation for how each person is uniquely gifted.

## **Adam Rudy**

*Harry Ainlay*

Adam showed talent upon arrival to the Harry Ainlay music program. A day did not pass that Adam was not at the marimba, vibes or xylophone working on his skills. It was easy to tell that he had no limits to his abilities and that he was a motivated and disciplined young man. He set high standards for himself and worked hard to achieve these lofty goals. This passion for success soon spread through the percussion section as other students soon wanted to play as well as Adam. Throughout his three years in the program, Adam demonstrated all the qualities of an engaged learner, an ethical citizen and an individual with an entrepreneurial spirit. The benefits of becoming a musician have made him the type of person that everyone will appreciate and rely upon throughout his lifetime.

## **Felicity Arends**

*J. Percy Page*

Throughout her time at the school, Felicity carefully weaved together her creativity as an artist and her dedication and focus as a student. Her approach to her artistic work demonstrated a thoughtful understanding of big picture ideas, paralleled by an attention to fine details. Beyond the canvas, Felicity was quick to share an idea, a source of inspiration and an encouraging word with those around her. She developed her skills as an artist through patient practice but also found fast success when taking on new challenges, including winning the school's inaugural live drawing competition. She was an active promoter of art for current and prospective students alike. Felicity was an exceptional student both academically and artistically and will without doubt continue to be a valuable contributor to her community for many years to come.

## **Tegan Warwaruk**

*Jasper Place*

Tegan has received a drama award each year, achieving exceptional results in all class assignments. She was resourceful, fully engaged and willing to take risks. Tegan was also a confident, supportive team player; her approach and strong work ethic earned her the respect of peers. She learned the new stage lighting system by independently studying manuals and attending a tutorial with a professional technician. Tegan was able to record numerous lighting cues for productions and continued to teach the system to others in a straightforward, humble manner. Especially after the pandemic, she understood the power of drama to build community; she was an outstanding mentor for new students and an ambassador for the program to both junior high and other high school students. Tegan's capacity for leadership and collaboration, her self-discipline and ability to work creatively will be significant factors in her future career.

## **Alyssa Fraser**

*Lillian Osborne*

Alyssa was an intelligent student with an obvious passion for the creative arts. She communicated very well with teachers and other students, and her organization enabled high achievement in the program. During her time at the school, Alyssa contributed her talent and countless hours to the music program by playing the trombone in the concert band, jazz band and the tenor drums in drumline.

## **Kurt Villarey**

### *McNally*

Kurt was a visionary musician and student. As an exceptional multi-instrumentalist performer, he was involved in many ensembles both within and outside of school. In addition to taking the lead in McNally Jazz, he also played in the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the Jazz Combo. He performed with the MacEwan Youth Jazz Orchestra and also as the pianist in the Alberta Jazz Ensemble, an auditioned provincial band featured at Music Conference Alberta. He was an engaged leader within the music community, mentoring younger students regularly in many of McNally's music ensembles and younger students at feeder schools. Kurt was humble and encouraging, elevating not only his own performances, but those of the students who performed with him.

At every opportunity, he sought to perform to the highest standard and to bring his joy and passion for music to his peers and audiences alike. Kurt is continuing his musical studies in jazz piano at MacEwan University.

## **Kaitlyn Riesen**

### *Millwoods Christian*

Kaitlyn Riesen was a renaissance woman and worked very hard in her academics to excel. She also applied herself in the arts and was always seeking to improve and grow her portfolio. She chose to go beyond herself to serve her community with her gifts. In 2023, Kaitlyn completed two community murals in the midst of a very busy school and work schedule. She was not afraid of trying new things and acquired support when things became too much. She was an amazing leader with a kind and soft heart. Kaitlyn looked to connect with those on the fringes and easily made friends with anyone.

## **Evan Yin**

### *Old Scona*

Evan was an outstanding music student who not only won several awards and competitions, but also strove every day to learn more about other musical styles and genres. He applied them to his own composition as well as skills, which he utilized as an executive for the OSA music club where he wrote music that his classmates enjoyed. Evan lent his talents to the school's drama program multiple times as a backup pianist for musicals and theatre shows and even dabbled in acting himself. Evan understood the hard work needed to make art and at the same time the importance of being true to himself during the process.

## **Alice Mair**

### *Queen Elizabeth*

Alice went above and beyond in all fine art classes in every regard. She took time during lunch and on weekends to work on projects. Alice encouraged everyone to be their best and put all her dazzle into every performance. In Fashion Studies, she worked tirelessly the week before exam break to finish her final project adding extra flare to it for the aesthetic. Even with all the fine arts she has taken, Alice continued to work hard to learn new drawing techniques on her own, completed little sewing projects just to better her skill and learned about the animation industry. Alice was a dedicated and hardworking student, indeed.

## **Mila Pesevic**

### *Ross Sheppard*

The summer after Grade 10, Mila took art simply to keep busy while school was out. However, she quickly developed a passion for the subject and immersed herself in its fundamentals, practicing for hours daily. The next fall, she switched into art IB, where she further challenged herself and honed her skills in pursuit of artistic excellence. Throughout Grade 12, Mila spent time in the art room every school day. She even co-founded Ross Sheppard's art club, giving everyone, including non-art students, the opportunity to work in the studio. Through her dedication and effort, Mila developed her skills sufficiently to compile an art portfolio which allowed her admission into the University of Alberta bachelor of design program. Art was an enriching experience throughout high school, empowering Mila to develop a better understanding of both herself and her peers. Continuing her journey in this wonderful field greatly excites her!

## Joseph (Isaac) Shantz

### Strathcona

Throughout high school, Isaac was an extremely talented musician known for his hard work, excellence and exceptional musicianship. He was the Principal French Horn player throughout the Grade 10 Concert Band, the Grade 11/12 Senior Concert Band, and in the Strathcona Symphonic Band. Isaac was also the Principal Bass Trombonist in the Strathcona Jazz Ensemble for three years. He led by example and became recognized as one of the top prolific musicians in the program. Isaac was honoured to be the Principal French Horn player in the Edmonton Public Schools Night of Music Senior Band and a member of the Scona Jazz Ensemble which performed at the Night of Music. Isaac was accepted to three universities across the country for a Bachelor of Music (french horn) degree.

## Logan Sundquist

### Victoria

Through eight years of arts-based education at Victoria School of the Arts, Logan honed in on his craft of creating theatre. Though playwriting and directing may be his particular areas of interest, he showed great success in other areas, such as vocal jazz, acting, choral singing and student leadership. As an enthusiastic learner, he proved himself within his school and his local community to be a reliable, independent and engaged student and citizen. From Nextfest to the Walterdale Theatre, Logan had numerous plays of his pop up around the local theatre community and continued to make an impact through dedicated time and effort within Edmonton's theatre scene. He plans to continue with an education in the arts, hoping to one day teach drama and continue his work as a playwright and director.

## Paulina Twardzik

### Vimy Ridge Academy

Paulina completed three years in the school dance program with a keen interest in contemporary dance and enjoyed exploring and expanding her repertoire of styles. She accomplished tremendous growth and progression with her technique and performance skills in both contemporary and ballet styles. Paulina was a member of Edmonton Contemporary Dancers the last two years and was an exemplary student leader in her dance courses. She was not only a dedicated artist committed to enhancing her craft as a dancer, but was also thoughtful and insightful in her approach to written work, both individually and with her peers. Paulina completed Composition 35 with a creative and powerful project and she also completed multiple dance courses with excellence. She demonstrated a particularly strong musical talent with her dance. This came, in part, from her skill as a harpist.

## Corinne Lambert

### W.P. Wagner

Corinne demonstrated consistent dedication and excellence to all of the fine arts programs during her three years at the school. She was a leader in the pottery studio, an advanced actor and director in the theatre and shone as a member of the choir. In her remarkable work in all of those creative spaces, Corinne also strived to be a role model for younger students and sought to coach and mentor them to achieve success and fulfilment in their creative work. Corinne created amazing visual and performance art during her time at W. P. Wagner and left a legacy of kindness, compassion, knowledge, creativity, personal connection and excellence.

# HEALTH AND WELLNESS AWARD

The Division Health and Wellness Award is open to Grade 12 students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement and/or model leadership in one or more of the following areas: physical education, school athletics, health and life skills and overall wellness, such as healthy life choices.

## **Sam Wong**

*Academy at King Edward*

Sam showed a commitment to living an active lifestyle throughout his high school career by participating in physical education and sports performance classes to the 30-level and 20-level respectively. He enjoyed taking part in athletics and played an important role on the McNally School football team. The teamwork and sportsmanship skills Sam learned through sport, will serve him well as he continues on to post-secondary after high school. Sam plans to attend NAIT to take the Industrial Heavy Equipment Technology program.

## **Abigail McRae**

*Braemar*

Abigail was a kind and caring leader who motivated her classmates to do their best and also pushed herself to achieve personal success. She displayed incredible sportsmanship and teamwork during games and sports which created a positive environment for all students. Abigail was active in her everyday life by eating healthy, exercising and keeping her mental health in check after having her son, Maverick. She was resilient and an amazing role model to her peers. Abigail was a great advocate for Braemar's physical education program and reached out to the community to get more resources and experiences for the school. She plays a big role in the Indigenous community by being a top performer at the Soaring Eagles Youth Academy and teaching at the Indigenous Sport Council of Alberta. Abigail will be successful in all her future endeavours.

## **Carter Balkan**

*Dr. Anne Anderson*

Carter made some huge life changes as he entered high school. He made goals to commit to a healthier lifestyle and stuck to them. The benefits to Carter's personal life and confidence have been very obvious. He took a keen interest in physical education and sport performance classes. Carter took what he learned from these subjects and applied them to his daily life and encouraged his classmates to do the same. He led by example and was very willing to guide others and share information that he learned around health and fitness. Carter was a fully engaged learner and dedicated much of his personal time to continue achieving his health and fitness goals. He can be proud of all he has accomplished.

## **Kai Knoch**

*Eastglen*

Kai showed phenomenal commitment to all things health and wellness. He had incredible leadership skills, which he demonstrated on a daily basis throughout the school year. Kai was named the captain of the volleyball, basketball and flag football teams, roles that he fulfilled with dedication and discipline. His work ethic, charisma, compassion and talent made him a dynamic leader. The most special part about Kai's leadership capacity though, was that he had a natural ability to bring out the best in others. He always encouraged teammates and peers, advocated for what was right, acted with empathy and truly led by example. He did this on and off the court. Kai set the bar high for what it meant to be a student athlete and vibrant member of one's school community.

## Akira Xaysana

*Edmonton Christian High*

Akira was a great role model and example to her peers, classmates and teammates when it came to active, healthy living and wellness. She was a natural athlete and passionate about learning and participated in a wide variety of team and individual sports in physical education class and on interscholastic teams. Akira was an active participant in the CTS sports performance course where she worked hard on individual fitness goals and was a great leader and collaborator in small group activities and projects. She demonstrated excellent leadership and sportsmanship as captain of the volleyball, indoor soccer and basketball teams. She led by example and worked hard to build community and positive relationships among her teammates and coaches. Akira is continuing her lifelong learning in health and wellness in university—her drive and passion will fuel her success in any endeavour that she pursues.

## Rafe Prince

*J. Percy Page*

Rafe was the ideal student athlete. He was strong academically with a 90 per cent average and a fantastic leader outside of the classroom on numerous school athletic teams. Rafe encouraged his teammates and was respectful towards his coaches as well as the game officials. He displayed proper sportsmanship at games and was a fantastic ambassador for the school and community. Rafe was a great listener who was always willing to learn new things and take on new challenges. He will do well in life because of his wonderful personality and ability to lead his peers.

## Mhari Mattuli

*Jasper Place*

Mhari exemplified what it means to be a student athlete while valuing her health and wellness throughout her time at the school. She maintained an honours with distinction average, while being a multi-sport athlete at a high level. Mhari was a top student in Phys Ed 30 and demonstrated a balance of competitiveness and sportsmanship. Her disposition and work ethic led her to be respected and endeared by her teachers and peers. Mhari demonstrated leadership on the court within teams, in the physical education setting, and within the school environment as a whole.

## Brady Heschuk

*Lillian Osborne*

Brady exemplified the characteristics of a student who knows the importance of living an active lifestyle. He valued everything that goes along with it including active participation, leadership, teamwork and sportsmanship. Brady received 100 per cent in Phys Ed 30 during the first semester and continued to join another class on a daily basis to remain active. In addition to his participation in class, he was a member of the athletics teams all year long beginning with volleyball, then basketball, to handball and track. Brady was a great role model for the entire student body and had a positive impact on all those around him.

## Camila Candido-Fuentes

*M.E. LaZerte*

Camila was an active and motivated member of the school community. She displayed excellence and leadership in all that she did. She fully invested herself in athletics, leadership, IB and the overall culture of the school. Each year, Camila participated on the soccer, basketball, cross country, handball, track and badminton teams and she was recognized as MVP in both soccer and cross country and received numerous athlete of the month awards in multiple sports. She was a driven and dedicated leader who motivated those around her to be their best. Outside of athletics, Camila was in partial IB, maintained an 82 per cent average, received honours in her Grade 10 school year and is fluent in both Spanish and French. She volunteered countless hours to make LaZerte a great place for students and staff. Camila embodies health and wellness.

## Leila Ceniti

*McNally*

Leila was an exceptional athlete with a holistic appreciation of wellness. She was the cross country and track and field captain. Leila volunteered at cross country races and attended nearly every sport as a spectator. She consistently helped throughout the school by volunteering for tournaments and events. Leila ran the McNally coffee houses that are designed to provide students with nutritious and healthy food. She believed in the value of being physical and moving one's body. Being physical was Leila's way of dealing with past events, staying in shape and meeting new people.

## **Parker Skare**

*Millwoods Christian*

Parker took strides in his wellness by focusing on his physical health. As a result, he achieved a noticeable improvement in his physical wellness. Parker consistently took care of his body through working out and being cognizant of his nutrition. He contributed to athletics by participating over the years in volleyball and track. Parker had a positive influence on his peers both in school and out of school based on his dedication to his physical health.

## **Natalie Nakatsui**

*Old Scona*

Natalie was a high level athlete achieving competitive success unequalled by other Alberta high school students in badminton and other sports. Her commitment went well beyond athletics and academics. Natalie maintained very good academic grades while balancing her training with other diverse interests that included playing several musical instruments. She was part of the student council and both a mentor and executive director for the student engagement team where she led the tutoring and integration program for new students. Natalie demonstrated a strong commitment to volunteerism and engagement and was respected for her genuine and caring ability to interact with others. She volunteered her time to help children with developmental disabilities. Natalie was a positive and caring person who put the well-being of others ahead of her own.

## **Samaksh Singh Chauhan**

*Victoria*

Sam was a highly engaged learner both on and off the court. He advocated for himself by asking questions to ensure he understood exactly what was required to achieve excellence. Sam consistently applied this knowledge in a positive and exemplary way. He was respectful and always willing to lend a helping hand to peers in class, his opponents on the badminton court and anyone who had the pleasure of interacting with him. Sam was an active member of the school community; he helped coach the junior boys volleyball team, the junior high badminton team, as well as volunteered to assist in other school events. His reliable and punctual nature made him an immensely valued member of the scorekeeping group for the junior high and high school basketball and volleyball home games. Sam's unwavering kindness, integrity and standard of excellence was the perfect example for all students, Kindergarten to Grade 12.

## **Zanzi Brook**

*Vimy Ridge Academy*

Zanzi was an integral part of the school athletics program and played numerous sports. She participated as a member of the volleyball and track and field teams. Zanzi also participated in club track and field and club volleyball. She helped with the administration of all of school sports by volunteering her time to scorekeep and help manage athletic events. On top of all this, Zanzi was an outstanding academic student earning honours with distinction.

## **Tori Hanson**

*W.P. Wagner*

Tori was an exceptional student, athlete and leader, who always set a great example for her classmates. She was very active in school athletics during her three years at the school, playing for the flag football and rugby teams, and won two provincial titles with the cheerleading squad. Throughout her high school career, Tori made great use of the school facilities and fitness equipment in her physical education and sports performance classes. Away from school, she ran, walked, went to the gym and played club rugby, staying as active as she could.

# HUMANITIES AWARD

The Division Humanities Award is open to Grade 12 students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement in one or more of the following subject areas: English, social studies and languages.

## **Victoria Silva-Veltkamp**

*Academy at King Edward*

Victoria was chosen as the student who best exhibited a desire to learn and lead in the classroom. She demonstrated tremendous growth in her desire to model ethical citizenship and initiate respectful discussion and debate amongst her peers. Victoria was enthusiastic about perusing books and text related to trauma experienced by many First Nations people due to involuntary assimilation which is shown in many of her written reflections. As an Indigenous student, Victoria became a strong advocate in promoting and maintaining aspects of her culture and language in school, as well as within her community.

## **Cora Rock**

*Braemar*

Cora personified all of the attributes of an ethical and respectfully engaged learner throughout all of her humanities classes and beyond. Her insightful contributions to discussions and analytical skills enriched the classroom environment. Cora's resilience and perseverance despite life's complex challenges, was a source of inspiration to students and staff alike. This unwavering work ethic shone through all areas and subjects with a clear respect for academia, peers and the school community as a whole. Our hopes for Cora are that she continues to invoke the best in others and embody the positive force that she is in the world.

## **Saliha Fiaz**

*Dr. Anne Anderson*

Saliha actively engaged in lessons as an advocate for her classmates and was consistently relied upon to spark meaningful conversation in any classroom situation. She has exceptional inquiry skills and her persistence to complete her understanding of the subject matter exceeded curricular and program expectations, without exception. Saliha was unwaveringly kind, thoughtful and generous with her time. Through her discussions on the polarizing topics of the day, she demonstrated patience for all sides of controversy and exemplified a fair and equitable voice for all community members, encouraging participation and modelling reflection. Saliha was a highly confident and reliable student who could be counted on to initiate and complete complex tasks that required skillful delegation and stoicism. She was quick to smile and respected by her peers, and her aptitude was welcome in any environment.



## Amina Yassin

*Eastglen*

Amina's work in the humanities throughout her time in high school was nothing short of exemplary. Not only did she do all her assigned reading and research with enthusiasm, but also went well beyond the scope of her English and social studies courses, including university-level literature and current events centred on human rights and women's rights. She approached creative projects in innovative ways, coming up with inventive ideas that went far above and beyond her teachers' expectations. Amina's analytical and persuasive work was just as impressive, as her mature insights allowed her to understand and expertly communicate subtle nuances in texts and contexts. Her ethical citizenship was evident not only in her insightful work in her humanities classes, but also through her time spent doing Model UN and the time she volunteered working at the public library.

## Naomi Hungler

*Edmonton Christian High*

Naomi exemplified hard work, sacrifice and perseverance. In English and social studies, her willingness to work hard, ask questions and strive for excellence allowed her to demonstrate compassion and empathy for others. This was best demonstrated through her work during the Write for Rights campaign. Naomi put together the whole human rights advocacy on behalf of Amnesty International. From conception, to organization, to collecting the materials—she did it all. While it was true that it was part of her passion project, it was also part of her worldview and it came through in her writing and questioning in class. Naomi cares about people, the world and everyone's place in it.

## Joy Yang

*Harry Ainlay*

The phrase "outstanding" could have been coined to describe Joy. Not only was Joy amongst the top academic achievers in the humanities, she demonstrated superior leadership skills as she worked in a variety of ways to improve the lives of others. For the past two years, Joy has been a page at the Alberta Legislature and represented Ainlay on the Edmonton Public Schools Student Senate and the City of Edmonton Youth Council. She also worked to benefit her community through involvement in numerous programs such as the Clean-up Edmonton initiative. With a work ethic second to none, Joy truly represented the Harry Ainlay motto, "in all things excellence."

## Erik Pellegrino

*J. Percy Page*

Erik was a curious learner unafraid to take risks and explore new ideas. He approached challenges with a critical, creative and reflective mindset, often collaborating with peers to develop innovative solutions to problems. His passion for learning extended beyond the classroom, evident in the diverse range of interests and activities that he pursued. Erik was resourceful, self-reliant, highly motivated and took ownership of his learning and consistently sought ways to improve. His dedication to learning, contribution to the classroom environment and strong work ethic made him a pleasure to teach. He actively engaged in discussions and was always willing to offer thoughtful insights and perspectives, enriching the learning experience for everyone. Erik was a model student, embodying the qualities of a lifelong learner. We are confident that his passion for the humanities will continue to guide him towards success in all areas of his life.

## Maddux Shipton

*Jasper Place*

Always engaged and wanting to learn, Maddux was a rare and cherished individual in a classroom. Yes, he was academically successful; his work in English and Social was always of the highest quality. However, it was his personality which separated Maddux from many of his peers. He carried himself with a pride and dignity that exuded confidence and integrity. Maddux's appetite for learning manifested itself in his consumption of literature, history and philosophy. He tempered his inquisitive mind with great compassion and empathy for others. Maddux could always be counted on for his smile and good sense of humour to lighten the mood when the classroom atmosphere got a bit too heavy. As a result, he was a personable and likeable young man, who was popular with his fellow students and spoken highly of by school staff.

## Erika Eamer

*Lillian Osborne*

Erika achieved results almost never seen in both Social Studies 30-1 and English 30-1. In addition to being one of the top academic students at the school, Erika's involvement in extra-curricular activities was exemplary. In and out of the classroom she displayed the attributes of an engaged, ethical and entrepreneurial learner.

## Sanjeet Sandhu

*M.E. LaZerte*

Sanjeet's passion for the humanities was unrivalled, and the excellence she attained was unparalleled amongst her peers. She was curious and inspired about a diversity of topics with an admirable desire for learning especially in the humanities. Sanjeet demonstrated understanding of current world realities, and sought opportunity everywhere for awareness, engagement and leadership. She crafted a comprehensive discussion of Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*. This choice was dictated by her passion for exploring historical events in modern contexts, her love of language and her desire to understand complex situations—in this instance, racial relations in our current context. From learning languages to developing her musical skills, the arts have always been important to Sanjeet and she is excited to extend these explorations into university.

## Flora Gilberts

*McNally*

Flora exemplified all the attributes of an engaged learner throughout her humanities classes. She was very passionate about the exploration of various styles of writing such as plays, poetry and prose. Her English assignments were strong, she loved helping her peers in class and she was always engaged in learning. Flora is a passionate writer aspiring to become an author and engages in all different kinds of writing.

## Lydia Marshall

*Millwoods Christian*

Lydia embodied the idea of pursuing academic excellence. This was profoundly demonstrated in her exceptional achievement in English Language Arts 30-2. Lydia did not allow herself to be defined by dyslexia. Instead, she redefined her capacity through an investment of remarkable grit and an attitude of resilience. Thus, she achieved the highest diploma mark in her class, and the highest mark she achieved in her English language arts course history. The numbers reflected her success but did not embody the excellence she demonstrated on a daily basis as shown in her willingness to work with others, to be the first to help a colleague or take on a challenging group task. Lydia was committed to being an excellent person who showed up every day desiring to do her best.

## Vida Savic

*Old Scona*

Vida was an outstanding student in every sense of the word. She was studious, hard working and performed at the highest of levels. Her writing in particular was extraordinary. As a talented writer, Vida excelled in communicating her ideas on paper. For example, she wrote a perfect position paper for her Social 30-1 class and also scored 94 per cent on her source analysis writing. Vida has a passion for learning and understanding history, which was evidenced by her extraordinary performance on all her exams and writing.

## Stacey Pine

*Queen Elizabeth*

As an engaged learner, Stacey consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to her academic pursuits. Her insatiable curiosity and thirst for knowledge propelled her to explore diverse subjects beyond her coursework. Whether actively participating in class discussions or engaging in extracurricular activities that fostered intellectual growth, Stacey consistently exhibited a genuine passion for learning. Her strong moral compass was reflected in her genuine desire and unwavering commitment to make a positive impact on her community. Stacey actively looked for opportunities to contribute to society and was an enthusiastic advocate for social justice causes. She possessed a unique ability to identify opportunities and transformed them into tangible projects. From a young age, Stacey has always been driven to take action within the community.

## Abigail Cullen

*Ross Sheppard*

Abigail was a motivated student, driven by the desire to creatively understand multifaceted issues in a complex and human way. This innate desire to know was evident through her engagement in Theory of Knowledge classes, as she often participated in discussions regarding the knowledge found in the arts and also connected those perspectives to real world examples. Participation in the International Baccalaureate programming illuminated her interest in both history and English. She developed key research skills while writing a history-based extended essay, participated in short story contests and made insightful connections between texts and global issues—a trait which was clearly seen as Abigail both co-wrote and delivered a poem for the school's Remembrance Day ceremony. Her high level of achievement ultimately stemmed from her innate love of the humanities, which she plans to expand on in post-secondary.

## **Maria Ngan**

*Strathcona*

Maria clearly demonstrated exceptional academic achievement in English, social studies and French. She was motivated, resourceful, self-reliant and tenacious, continuously set goals and worked with discipline to achieve those goals. Maria was simply an outstanding student and role model for her peers.

## **Stevie Lawrence**

*Victoria*

Stevie was an outstanding student throughout their time at the school, particularly in humanities courses. Their intelligence and work in the community were an inspiration to classmates and teachers alike. Every teacher who worked with Stevie, whether in English, Social or Indigenous Studies, said the same thing—that they were a brilliant student who asked insightful, provocative questions that drove their entire class to deeper understandings of complex topics, such as injustice and racism embedded within the structure of capitalism. Stevie was deeply committed to make positive changes in their community and find ways to support people in need—not with words, but with actions. They were particularly passionate about pursuing social justice for the Indigenous peoples on whose lands we all live and work.

## **Jacqueline Taylor**

*Vimy Ridge Academy*

During her time at Vimy, Jacqueline was consistently among the highest academic achievers in the humanities, demonstrating her ability to combine her curiosity and engagement into exceptional work. She was a thoughtful and questioning learner, seeking to push her boundaries of understanding to continually develop as a student. The ability to connect theories and literature to that which is relevant in popular culture was an impressive trait as she ventured towards post-secondary education. Jacqueline demonstrated the ability to be a leader both inside and outside the classroom, navigating the rigours of Grade 12 academics with her dance schedule and performances.

## **Hailey Campbell**

*W.P. Wagner*

Hailey was an exceptional choice for this award as she exhibited exceptional skills in both social studies and English. In social class, she was one of the strongest writers at her grade level, achieving 100 per cent on the written portion of the diploma exam. Hailey passionately connected with the subject and collaborated with her peers. She was also involved in the community with her sports commitments. She coached and played soccer at a high level and showed that she was an engaged citizen. Within the school, Hailey was an active member of the United Nations club and established herself as a major signatory on a resolution.

# MATH/SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGIES AWARD

The Division Math, Science and Technologies Award is open to Grade 12 students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement in a subject area related to mathematics, science or technologies.

## **Ali Beeching**

*Braemar*

Ali was an exceptional leader and role model in her final year at Braemar. Whenever there was an opportunity to participate in planning and implementing school activities, Ali always stepped up. She helped prepare school lunches, actively engaged in Terra workshops and participated with her son in all school events. Her ability to balance being a young parent as well as a student made her an exceptional role model for all students at the school. In her science and math courses, Ali consistently strove to understand concepts at a deeper level, especially concepts related to the medical field. She approached her work with a growth mindset and enthusiastically absorbed everything that she learned. Ali is an incredible person who is sure to find joy as a lifelong learner in whatever she chooses to pursue.

## **Guneet Sangha**

*Centre High Campus*

As a Grade 12 student who recently moved to Canada, Guneet was always intrigued by the study of the human body and life in general; consistent academic performance fueled her aspiration of becoming a doctor. Living far away from her family in India is a testament to how much this dream means. Guneet is hopeful that any challenges and sacrifices will lead to a fulfilling and promising career in the medical field, and make these years of separation from the most important people in her life worthwhile.

## **Kaiyuan Yang**

*Dr. Anne Anderson*

Kaiyuan was an outstanding Grade 12 student who passionately demonstrated exceptional academic achievement in the subject areas of mathematics, science and technologies. What set him apart was his ability to not only excel academically, but also to apply his knowledge in innovative ways. Kaiyuan took on numerous extracurricular projects which included co-presenting a session on cultures of consent to the staff of the school. He gladly helped classmates with their work building a community of learning. Kaiyuan embodied the qualities of a driven and curious learner with a sharp intellect and a natural aptitude for problem-solving, a true asset to the school community.

## **Owen Annear**

*Eastglen*

Owen was a highly regarded, driven and inquisitive big picture thinker. He consistently learned material ahead of time because of his desire to engage with deeper concepts and challenge his own understandings. Owen possessed a very strong work ethic and was a collaborative member of his classroom community. His curiosity, passion and drive for excellence made him a joy to have in class.

## **Ella Thorsteinson**

*Edmonton Christian High*

Ella was a diligent and committed learner who set high goals for herself and put in the effort necessary to achieve them. She was very attuned to her own learning needs, asked for help and clarification when needed, as well as helped others on their own journeys to understanding. Ella was often involved in class discussions and went beyond the superficial content, really digging into the “whys” and the “hows” of the role of science and mathematics in the world. In science, her heart for justice and goodwill toward others were apparent as she engaged with socially difficult topics. Her leadership skills on the volleyball and badminton courts translated into the classroom, where she confidently took initiative in assignments and group work. Ella was an excellent servant leader and hard worker inside the classroom and beyond.

## **Miranda Lin**

*Harry Ainlay*

Miranda was an exceptional student who was dedicated to all aspects of learning. She was engaged in lectures and group work and actively integrated her understanding of concepts with class topics. Miranda was hardworking and organized, and a wonderful student to teach who consistently demonstrated an in-depth comprehension of concepts in class. Miranda’s interest and ability to excel in Calculus and Math 30 as well as all three sciences was second to none!

## **Hasan Hasnain**

*J. Percy Page*

Hasan was a generous, diligent, inquisitive and self-reflective student who took risks to further his understanding and worked on concepts until mastery. He displayed strong interpersonal skills to build and maintain collaborative and supportive relationships with other students. Hasan was a pleasure to have in class with his quick wit and good sense of humour. Always with a kind word to say, Hasan remained humble and modest despite his great successes. He completed all available science and math courses, most of which were in Advanced Placement, with exceptional academic achievement. As a testament to his academic focus, Hasan challenged Biology 35 AP despite not taking 20 or 30, and instead of shirking at the challenge, he embraced it and succeeded.

## **Cole Cook**

*Jasper Place*

Cole excelled in the advanced levels of computer science, chemistry and physics, as well as all advanced AP math courses, Math 30-1, Math 31 and Stats 35. He worked hard and challenged himself and his classmates to explore and learn beyond the given material. He further demonstrated his science and math mastery in his programming projects. Cole was creative and willingly took on complex projects that required a significant amount of extra time and effort. He built and managed several public and private Discord and gaming servers, with hundreds of users, collaborating with moderators to provide that service. He worked at IGA in stocking and cashier, and at JC Power Systems dealt with blueprints, waste byproducts and trim. Cole plans to pursue a computer science degree at the University of Alberta after working full-time for his gap year.

## **Maria Yaskina**

*Lillian Osborne*

Maria was very passionate about mathematics and science classes and went out of her way to explore and learn. She achieved a perfect score of 100 per cent on all IB math courses, including Math 31 IB. Maria had near perfect scores in Biology IB, Chemistry IB, Physics and Advanced Computer Science. All her teachers respected Maria’s character, humility and willingness to work collaboratively and help those around her. Beyond the classroom, she participated in math contests and attended quantum physics summer camps. Maria was accepted to the University of Toronto for mathematics and physical science.

## **Dina Darweesh**

*M.E. LaZerte*

Dina put forth great effort in her classes and extracurricular activities. She was enthusiastic, energetic and dedicated to learning and assisting her peers. Dina was not only an exemplary student achieving 100 per cent in each of her 30-level science diploma courses, her efforts went beyond the classroom as an active volunteer, researcher and community member. Her classmates and teachers learned so much from her as she asked thought-provoking questions to deepen her understanding of class material. Dina was always willing to learn new things and improve her skills. She was truly a model student.

## **Arielle O'Brien**

*McNally*

Arielle loved math and science classes, problem solving and learning new things about the world. She was intimately involved with curricular supports for her peers, reflected in her support of peer tutoring, open house and selection as the Governor General winner. Arielle excelled in all of her courses, but particularly in the maths and sciences where she completed every science to the highest level, in addition to calculus. Her excellence in the sciences is in part what led to her selection as the Fred McNally Award recipient, McNally's highest honour. Arielle is incredibly excited to pursue post secondary engineering.

## **Yeongchan Kim**

*Millwoods Christian*

Yeongchan demonstrated exemplary achievement in his math and science programming in his Grade 12 year. His commitment to his studies resulted in him being at the top of his class in Math 30-1, Math 31, Physics 30, Chemistry 30 and Biology 30. As a skilled problem solver, he made sure to have a complete understanding of the course material. Yeongchan was reflective, conscientious and keenly focused on the task at hand.

## **Farah Elgaweesh**

*Old Scona*

Farah, one of the school's top students, excelled in Chemistry 30 IB, Biology 30 IB and Math 31 IB. She was predicted to receive a seven in each of these subjects, a very rare and impressive achievement. Farah clearly loved science, exemplified by the questions she asked. She spent the summer before Grade 12 doing work at the university and used this knowledge to create an exciting project for chemistry. This high level of understanding and knowledge is also evident in Farah's work in biology and mathematics. She was exceptional in all three areas and consistently received accolades from her teachers. Farah significantly added to the school and surrounding community through her involvement in volunteer activities and events.

## **Caden Stolte-Aild**

*Queen Elizabeth*

Caden had a genuine love of anything math or science related and worked tirelessly to better himself. The qualities his teachers appreciated most were Caden's inquisitive nature and intellectual curiosity. He had a love and enthusiasm for all things STEM and would often challenge teachers to go deeper. It was common for Caden to want to discuss new technologies and engineering breakthroughs in class, and he would often share research he had conducted on his own time. These discussions were of benefit to Caden, but they also went a long way in enriching the learning environment for all.

## **Mila Pesevic**

*Ross Sheppard*

Throughout high school, Mila took every science and mathematics level and achieved academic excellence in each course. She did not require these classes for her post-secondary endeavours, but rather chose to take them to expand her knowledge and to better understand our world. These challenging courses forced Mila to confront what she believed were the limits of her capabilities. She worked ceaselessly to succeed, never leaving homework unfinished or questions unanswered. By showing up every day with a positive, ready-to-learn attitude, Mila developed strong connections to her teachers and peers, who recognized her hard work while continuing to encourage her. Collaboration within the classroom community helped her become a more ethical and open-minded student. Mila had no regrets over the amount of effort she poured into these classes; they have taught her countless lessons about herself as a human being, her academic capabilities and her place in the world.

## Max Leontiev

*Strathcona*

Max was one of the school's top academic students across all subject levels. Specific to this award, he held a 97.7 per cent average in the most advanced AP courses, including calculus, statistics, physics and computer science. He pushed himself beyond what was expected, even in these academic programs. Outside of the regular class timetable, Max pursued two AP Physics C exams and was in the AP Capstone Program where he focused on science and technology for his Capstone Project. He was the epitome of an engaged learner—Max was part of almost every related opportunity provided to him. His long list of extracurricular activities included computer science contests, robotics, science olympics (where he clearly was the team leader) and external conferences and projects. Max approached all of those endeavours with enthusiasm, diligence and exceptional skills.

## Hope (Glorious) Marigsa

*Victoria*

Hope was passionate about learning math and science. She had a strong growth mindset and was up for any challenge presented to her. Glorious enjoyed discussing what she was learning with her teachers, often looking for more information and, ultimately, a deeper understanding. Glorious stood out as one of the most resilient students. She always pursued the curriculum with a sense of eagerness to “get it” and a perseverance to never give up and to always ask questions when needed. Glorious was an example of what it means to have a great attitude and commit to one's personal goals despite any obstacles.

## Angela Corsaro

*Vimy Ridge Academy*

Angela demonstrated exceptional classroom attitudes. She worked hard, was tenacious in mastering all concepts and regularly went above and beyond assignments—she challenged herself beyond the scope of the curriculum. Angela respected and worked well with her fellow students, often explaining concepts to help them. She was a leader in the classroom and could be counted on to take initiative for herself and the group. Angela was proactive and succeeded even with her demanding schedule which often took her off campus.

## Matthew Zemp

*W.P. Wagner*

Matthew truly distinguished himself as an exceptional student and as an individual of exceptional character. Throughout studies in the areas of mathematics, science and technology, he excelled in his academic pursuits and demonstrated a commitment to excellence. He maintained an average of 99 per cent in Math 30 and high nineties for all 30-level science courses. Matthew displayed a passion for learning and a thirst for knowledge that drove him to excel in his studies. Beyond academics, he was an ethical student that valued integrity more than grades. Matthew sought to edify others through clean, respectful language, humbly refraining from bragging and endeavouring to keep an open and compassionate mind. He challenged himself to go above and beyond what was expected, and for that reason, was selected for this award.