



REMEMBER  
VISION  
LEAD  
ACHIEVE  
CELEBRATE  
DISTINCTION  
INSPIRE  
PERSEVERANCE  
REACH  
ENJOY  
MERIT  
EXCELLENCE  
honest  
awesome  
honour  
integrity

2015

District Student Awards

HONOURING STUDENT EXCELLENCE



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Michael A. Strembitsky Award of Excellence

These awards are presented to three students who are completing their schooling and who best exemplify:

- excellence in personal, social and academic endeavours
- keen interest in a broad selection of subjects and activities
- willingness to seek meaningful change
- initiative, courage, confidence and a commitment to excellence
- co-operation with other students, staff and community members
- potential to provide leadership throughout life
- responsible participation in society

## School Nominees

Joey Supernault  
*amiskwaciy*

Natalie Eng  
*Harry Ainlay*

Anika Wong  
*M.E. LaZerte*

Daniel Welsh  
*Strathcona*

Zeynep Ozdemir  
*Centre High*

Kelsea Sterling  
*J. Percy Page*

Edwina Liu  
*Old Scona*

Jordann Stevenson  
*Victoria*

Abril Rodriguez-Valle  
*Eastglen*

David Campbell  
*Jasper Place*

Spyridon (Spiros)  
Sakellariou  
*Queen Elizabeth*

Zachariah Empson  
*Vimy Ridge*

Johannah Ko  
*Edmonton Christian High*

Taylor Mitchell  
*Lillian Osborne*

Callie Lissinna  
*Ross Sheppard*

Margaret Tran  
*W.P. Wagner*

# GOLD Medal



Daniel Welsh  
*Strathcona*

“Daniel Welsh was undoubtedly one of the most impressive high school students I have met,” said Principal Van Ginhoven. “He was mature, balanced, confident and had a genuine and engaging personality...honed through a rich, wide range of challenging leadership roles.”

Daniel used his talents, energy, time, creativity and resources to drastically improve the lives and the communities in Edmonton and around the world.

He worked closely with a teacher leader to coordinate teams of students to stage a wide range of events for the whole student body of 1,500 students—everything from pep rallies and talent shows to Open House and Puttin’ on the Ritz.

He had exceptional skills chairing meetings, was a great motivator and was able to maximize positive relationships.

Daniel was the fulcrum of the Treehouse Project which supported an endangered community in the rain forest of Ecuador. He developed a video and website that campaigners could use when seeking sponsorship. This campaign was extremely effective as a total of \$352,000 was raised—a Canadian school record! Daniel raised \$18,000 himself—the highest single effort.

In athletics, he was a member of the volleyball, cross-country and rugby teams. He was also co-editor of the school’s year book.

In the summer of 2014, Daniel helped out with an iLab project in Liberia, to provide Liberians with Internet access. He created a promotional video and website to help Liberians attract foreign donors. His skills were used to mentor and train a team of fundraisers. While in Liberia, he was also tasked with promoting a series of five women’s business courses. He produced and presented these materials.

Daniel was also involved in film making. He started Boreal Productions with the main goal of promoting Edmonton and all the great things this city has to offer.

During all this, Daniel maintained an average of well over 90 per cent.

Daniel had an intuitive and mature sense of doing the right thing.

Principal Van Ginhoven said, “Daniel embodied Strathcona’s school motto: ‘As one who serves.’”

# SILVER Medal



David Campbell  
*Jasper Place*

Principal Stiles said, "David was a gift to have in our school. He was a magnificent human being and really was the 'soul' of our school."

David was known for his outgoing nature and ability to build meaningful relationships wherever he goes. He demonstrated this ability by his involvement with numerous school clubs and associations.

To name just a few of those...David was president of the school's GSA, an executive member of the Interact club and Grad Council, lead tenor saxophone in the jazz band and a member of JP's Changemakers club.

David was instrumental in helping MLAs and members of the public understand why GSAs are so important to students in our schools. He is articulate and media savvy, participating in TV interviews and conversations with politicians about this topic.

David also managed to achieve impressive academic results, maintaining Honours with Distinction and being one of just 50 students in Alberta to be accepted into the Heritage Youth Research Summer Program last year. This allowed him to work alongside university researchers in the U of A's experimental oncology lab.

David's passion for learning and commitment to social justice came together through his participation in FinAI, a partnership between the Finnish and Albertan education systems. His involvement included student exchanges and a project to open dialogue about sexual and gender minorities, which will help lead to better supports for students and staff in the Finnish education system who identify as gender and sexual minorities.

# BRONZE Medal



Anika Wong  
*M.E. LaZerte*

Anika believes life is about seizing opportunities and gaining experiences to grow as an individual.

Principal Backs said, "Anika was an exemplary leader. Her involvement in the school extended to almost every department including students' union, fine arts, technology and athletics."

She is a team player with amazing interpersonal skills. These traits helped Anika excel academically as well as athletically. She was a great asset on the many sports teams she was part of: badminton, handball, track and field, and rugby. In addition to being a skilled athlete, Anika has a knack for analyzing students' athletics performance and give them tips to help improve, so she volunteers as a track coach and swim team manager at a local junior high.

Anika's many achievements off the field included being selected by the UNESCO Associated Schools networks to be one of four Canadian students to attend an international forum on education for sustainable development in Okayama, Japan in 2014.

That's on top of receiving the Highest Academic Achievement award in Grade 10 and 11, and attending the Career Pathways symposium in October to help our District develop this exciting initiative. Anika is also very involved in her community outside of school, volunteering for events like the Festival of Trees, Edmonton Heritage Festival and the CIBC Run for the Cure.

# GRADE TWELVE HIGHEST HONOURS

## STANDING AT EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In recognition of outstanding achievement and performance, this award is presented to the Grade 12 student who achieves the highest overall average in the qualifying subjects: English 30-1 or 30-2, plus any four of Pure Mathematics 30, Applied Mathematics 30, Mathematics 31, Science 30, Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Physics 30, Social Studies 30, or one language other than English at the Grade 12 level.



Rowan French  
*McNally*

Rowan completed her Grade 12 year in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program with an overall average of 99 per cent. Throughout high school, she was on students' union and was involved in a variety of school-related activities like open house, pancake breakfast and the bike-a-thon. Outside school, she volunteered at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory and contributed bird census data to Project FeederWatch. This past August, she was selected as one of six successful applicants from across Canada—and the only one from Alberta—to attend the Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop. Attendees received a scholarship called the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award. Rowan is also an accomplished pianist and singer.

She earned a total of \$24,500 in scholarships: Chancellor's Entrance Citation (\$15,000), Florence Mackenzie Memorial Entrance Scholarship (\$3,000), Faculty of Science Academic Excellence Scholarship (\$3000), IB Diploma Scholarship (\$1,000) and the Rutherford Scholarship (\$2,500). Rowan is currently enrolled in the Honours Animal Biology program at the University of Alberta.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) Award



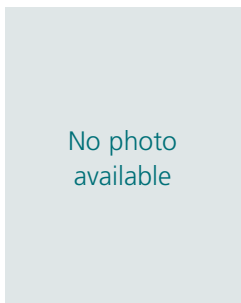
Alex Mackenzie  
*Strathcona*

The District Advanced Placement Award is presented to the student who achieves the highest average on a minimum of four Advanced Placement examinations. During his years at Strathcona, Alex wrote 10 AP exams, and scored seven 5s and three 4s on a 5 point scale.

Alex was a curious and self-motivated student with boundless determination. He set high goals for himself and then worked diligently to achieve them. He continually aimed to understand why, not just how, and always searched for practical applications for his knowledge. These characteristics, combined with his problem solving penchant, brought him academic accolades in his Grade 12 year.

The combination of his confidence and academic ability will no doubt lead to continued success in his post-secondary career. Alex is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Science program at the University of Alberta.

## CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES Awards



Shania Fowler  
*Jasper Place*

Shania is the recipient of a Career and Technology Studies Award in the area of Cosmetology and Hair Styling. Shania was extremely gifted in hair styling, make-up artistry and design. Her creativity, dedication and positive attitude allowed her to grow, adapt to new situations and provide excellent customer experiences. She was a team player who was always pushing the limits and striving to do better.



Vincent Hunter  
*Jasper Place*

Vincent is the recipient of a Career and Technology Studies Award in the area of Construction and Fabrication. Vincent was meticulous and well respected. He was always supporting his classmates and also helped build numerous tables to improve the shop along with customer service projects. His excellent carpentry skills earned him a spot in the SKILLS Canada regional competition. Vincent plans to finish apprenticing as a sheet metal worker.

## CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES Awards



Alisha Thomas  
*Lillian Osborne*

Alisha is the recipient of a Career and Technology Studies Award in the area of Communication Technology. Alisha showed consistent enthusiasm and maturity in her design and photography work. She attended to every detail, ensuring her designs not only looked great but were functional and appropriate to the specified audience. Her designs were used to promote several school initiatives. Alisha hopes to continue her studies in either architecture or design.



Aike Zhumagulova  
*Harry Ainlay*

Aike is the recipient of a Career and Technology Studies Award in the area of Fashion Studies. She was passionate, creative and skilled, and had a constant desire to learn. She spent hours perfecting her designs. She participated in the school's grad fashion show and twice in the Ready to Shine fashion show. Aike also took advanced fashion studies and assisted in the Fashion Studies 10 class, even teaching a couple of the lessons. She also completed internships at AIDAI Asangulova Design Studio (wool and felting arts) and WORKHALL Design Studio. She plans to pursue a career in the fashion industry.

## FINE ARTS Art Award



Alice Schoenberg  
*Strathcona*

Alice received a mark of 99 per cent in Art 10, Art 20 AP and Art 30 AP. She also has been taking art lessons outside of school for 10 years. She participated in art shows outside of school as well as student organized art shows. She was accepted to the Alberta College of Art & Design, where she hopes to grow as an artist and discover her place in the artistic community.



## FINE ARTS Dance Award



Sarah Emslie  
*Strathcona*

In the three short years Sarah had been dancing, she grew tremendously because of her enthusiasm, work ethic and constant drive to improve. Her passion radiated and she approached every performance with rigor. Her energy was infectious. She was involved with numerous dance showcases and musicals, both inside and outside of the school. In Grade 12, she also branched into dance improvisation and choreography. She said, "I know without a doubt that as I move into a career in the performing arts, dance will be there with me every step of the way. I couldn't escape it even if I wanted to."

## FINE ARTS Drama Award



Abigail (Abi)  
Stushnoff  
*Victoria*

Abi was a wonderful role model to her peers and earned a reputation for risk-taking, tireless work ethic, consistency and dependability. She exuded humble confidence and attacked each goal with amazing joy and thirst to grow. She took on key roles in performances, moved into directing and wrote a documentary play called Out of the Shadows. Abi is enrolled in Humber College's Theatre Performance program and after the three years will transfer to York University to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. She believes art is for telling stories that will question the perspective of the world we live in.

## FINE ARTS Music Award



Che-Min Lee  
*Old Scona*

Che-Min was a very gifted, passionate and talented student, as well as a great leader in class. In the school, she was a member of the concert band and jazz band. Outside school, she was part of the University of Alberta's High School Honour Band, the Edmonton Youth Orchestra and a woodwind duet group. She performed at various school events and in numerous music festivals. Che-Min is pursuing a career in the health sciences (her other love) but said, "Music has allowed me to come out of my shell and has become a world where I can freely express who I am."

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) Award



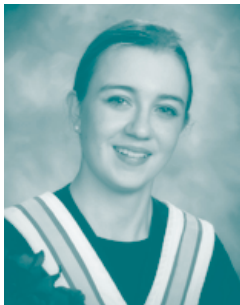
Crystal Choi  
*M.E. LaZerte*

The District International Baccalaureate Award is presented to the IB student who achieves an IB diploma and obtains the highest overall point total. An IB Diploma student must complete six courses at the IB level within a variety of dimensions. They are also required to complete hours of volunteering, enrol in the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and complete an Extended Research Essay on a topic of their choice. Each course is graded on a scale of one to seven with an additional three points for the essay and TOK, for a maximum score of 45 points.

Crystal earned a score of 7 in English - Lit HL, History HL, Chemistry SL and Math SL, and earned a score of 6 in Biology HL and French B SL. She also earned an A on both her English Extended Essay and the TOK course to give her a bonus score of 3 and an overall grade of 43 out of a possible 45 points on her IB Diploma.

She earned a total of \$16,500 in scholarships: \$2,500 from the Rutherford Scholarship, \$1,000 from the IB Diploma Scholarship, \$3,000 from Academic Excellence and \$10,000 from Scholastic Distinction. She is currently enrolled at the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Arts, with a major in sociology and a minor in political science.

## INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES Award



Elizabeth Ellehoj  
*Strathcona*

Elizabeth is being recognized for her accomplishments with the German language—a language she just started learning in Grade 10. “She studied, excelled at and demonstrated brilliance in both Spanish and German throughout high school,” said her German teacher. She was part of the Scona Serves volunteer group, where she used her language skills to connect with new immigrants. She was awarded an all expense paid month-long exchange to Germany where she learned the language along with other top German learners from around the world. She also participated in the German language proficiency exam that verifies German university level language competency. Languages are her passion.

## L.Y. CAIRNS MOST OUTSTANDING SENIOR STUDENT Award



Jordan Wilson

Jordan was thoughtful, positive and confident. He was committed to learning and persevered until he understood. He was always willing to share and help others. Jordan was a leader in the automotive shop where he took on a mentoring role with classmates. He was also passionate about woodworking in the construction shop. He regularly challenged himself with increasingly more difficult projects, going into the shop at lunch to work on the projects. Jordan proved himself to be a reliable and valued employee throughout all six of his work experience placements. The school is proud of Jordan and are certain his future is bright.

## METRO CONTINUING EDUCATION Award



George Fei

The District Metro Continuing Education Award is presented to the top student completing schooling through Metro Continuing Education. The recipient for 2015 is George Fei.

George has been a student at Metro for the past two years. During that time, he has completed a number of math and science courses in the evenings while being employed during the day. Most recently, George completed Math 30-1 and Math 31 with a combined average of 95 per cent. He is currently enrolled in Chemistry 30 and Physics 30 and plans on applying to the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Alberta for September 2016. George credits the fantastic teachers at Metro for helping him achieve his goals.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION Award



Emily Cliff

*Lillian Osborne*

Emily achieved honours throughout high school. She was an active member of the school's track & field and handball teams. She also belonged to a track club and had a personal trainer she worked out with twice a week. Department Head Craig Harle said, "She constantly motivated others around her to get involved and try new activities. Her innate sense of fair play, cooperation and leadership made her a role model for all physical education students."

Emily said, "Because of the teachers, coaches, teammates, volunteers and referees involved in physical education, my life has been greatly impacted in so many positive and inspiring ways." She is currently enrolled in the University of Alberta's Physical Education and Recreation program and is a member of the university's track & field team. Her goal is to own a business catered to fitness for the elderly.

# GRADE TEN TOP ACADEMIC AWARDS

This award category is for the Grade 10 students who studied hard and achieved the top academic standing for their respective high school in 2015.

## Recipients

Thomas MacGregor  
*Academy at King Edward*

Charlou Delos Santos  
*Alberta School for the Deaf*

Dennis Moyah  
*amiskwaciy*

Latisha Smith  
*Argyll*

Pauline Tolentino  
*Eastglen*

Emma Huyser-Wierenga  
*Edmonton Christian High*

Daisy Xu  
*Harry Ainlay*

Helen Ma  
*J. Percy Page*

Taylor Peters  
Tomasz Schang  
*(co-winners)*  
*Jasper Place*

Matthew Wurzer  
*Lillian Osborne*

Ivy Nhan  
*M.E. LaZerte*

Molly French  
*McNally*

Madison Vandermeer  
*Millwoods Christian*

Savanna Blade  
*Old Scona*

Mudassar-Bin Javid  
*Queen Elizabeth*

Cindy Leung  
*Ross Sheppard*

Jia Tang  
*Strathcona*

Erica O'Neill  
*Victoria*

Alexander Wright  
*Vimy Ridge*

Amanda Buchner  
*W.P. Wagner*

# GRADE ELEVEN TOP ACADEMIC AWARDS

This award category is for the Grade 11 students who studied hard and achieved the top academic standing for their respective high school in 2015.

## Recipients

Hunter Samis  
*Academy at King Edward*

Megan Lapointe  
*Alberta School for the Deaf*

Mahala Morris  
*Argyll*

Lexi Brynn  
*Braemar*

Janessa Layton  
*Eastglen*

Robyn Woudstra  
*Edmonton Christian High*

Odessa Kretzschmar  
*Harry Ainlay*

Adegbemiro Adegbuyi  
Tashini De Silva  
*(co-winners)*

*J. Percy Page*

Aly Valji  
*Jasper Place*

Danielle Ma  
*Lillian Osborne*

Ruth Pohl  
*M.E. LaZerte*

Willow Dew  
*McNally*

Kayla Warkentin  
*Millwoods Christian*

Jessica Wang  
*Old Scona*

Jayden Platt  
*Queen Elizabeth*

Daniel To  
*Ross Sheppard*

Ben Hallworth  
*Strathcona*

Yan Kong  
*Victoria*

Jacob Mydlak  
*Vimy Ridge*

Spencer Cholak  
*W.P. Wagner*

# GRADE TWELVE TOP ACADEMIC AWARDS

This award category is for the Grade 12 students who studied hard and achieved the top academic standing for their respective high school in 2015.

## Recipients

Hudson Paulon  
*Academy at King Edward*

Trista Colebank  
*Alberta School for the Deaf*

Marc Jobin  
*Argyll*

Brooke Somer  
*Braemar*

Camille Wiley  
*Centre High*

Tyler Ngo  
*Eastglen*

Lucas Nieuwenhout  
*Edmonton Christian High*

Sofia Parrila  
*Harry Ainlay*

Shakara Khawaja  
*J. Percy Page*

Bethany Wollin  
*Jasper Place*

Raymond Kim  
*Lillian Osborne*

Crystal Choi  
*M.E. LaZerte*

Rowan French  
*McNally*

Caleb Loo  
*Millwoods Christian*

Alice Xue  
*Old Scona*

Osama-Bin Javid  
*Queen Elizabeth*

Suzana Trac  
*Ross Sheppard*

Alexander Kuebel  
*Strathcona*

Madeline Yee  
*Victoria*

Parker Grant  
*Vimy Ridge*

Dhruvi Dave  
*W.P. Wagner*