



## 2014 District Student Awards HONOURING STUDENT EXCELLENCE



### Message from the Board of Trustees and Superintendent of Schools

Tonight, Edmonton Public Schools has the chance to recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions students make to their classmates, schools, communities and District. This year's Student Awards Night recipients soar above and beyond their academic requirements. They thrive individually and as valuable members of their school communities whether they excel in their classroom studies, on the swim team, in a career and technology studies lab or on a performing arts stage. Guided by a strong sense of character, heartfelt determination and steadfast perseverance, these young adults truly embody our district's Cornerstone Values: equity, collaboration, integrity and accountability. Their impressive accomplishments attest to the nurturing, high quality learning environments that public education can provide and are a source of pride for our District.

Congratulations to the 2013-2014 District Student Awards winners! In addition to becoming leaders of tomorrow, you are already leaders of today. We hope you continue to challenge yourselves to reach new personal, social and intellectual heights and wish you all the best as you lend your hearts and minds to your future learning pursuits.

Sarah Hoffman  
Board Chair

Darrel Robertson  
Superintendent of Schools

### Michael A. Strembitsky Award Nominees

Breanna Makokis <i>amiskwacy</i>	Marissa Doroshuk <i>Jasper Place</i>	Kirtan Dhunnoo <i>Strathcona</i>
Heidy Jose <i>Centre High</i>	Hannah Zhang <i>Lillian Osborne</i>	Moira Wyton <i>Victoria</i>
Jamie Raichel <i>Eastglen</i>	Myles Usher <i>M.E. LaZerte</i>	Christina Popescu <i>Vimy Ridge</i>
Collin Messelink <i>Edmonton Christian</i>	Kurt Meeburg <i>Millwoods Christian</i>	Jared Barron <i>W.P. Wagner</i>
Salmaan Rashiq <i>Harry Ainlay</i>	Michael Zhou <i>Old Scona</i>	
Everett Sokol <i>J. Percy Page</i>	Akeel Khan <i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	

# Michael A. Strembitsky Award of Excellence

A gold (\$1,000), silver (\$500) and bronze (\$250) medal and cash award 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; and
- responsible participation in society.

## Gold Medal

**Moira Wyton** – *Victoria*

Principal Tami Dowler-Coltman says, "Moira exemplified true commitment to her learning journey – academically, artistically, socially and politically." She balanced these aspects through her commitment to study, service and extracurricular pursuits. She was an International Baccalaureate (IB) student who maintained Honours with Distinction in all her courses.



At Victoria, she was president of student activities, co-led the Helping Hampers campaign, co-captained the swim team and led the organisation of the Viesta carnival event, which raised money for their sister school in Uganda. Outside school, she played competitive soccer, was co-leader of the charity group Layout and Design, and was an avid debater. She was Minister of Recruitment for the TUXIS Parliament of Alberta (an organisation that allows youth to engage in parliamentary debate on topics important to Canada).

"Moira lives with intention and integrity," says her English teacher. She is committed to study and incorporating ideas into her everyday life and in her community. She brings an open mind and spirit into her relationships and collaborations.

She is currently pursuing a dual degree to which she was admitted because of her academic achievements, commitment to global citizenship and passion for international education. After two years at each university, she will obtain a Bachelor of Arts from Sciences Po in Reims, France and a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business.

## Silver Medal

**Michael Zhou** – *Old Scona*

"Michael had outstanding work ethic, integrity, dedication to excellence and the ability to collaborate," says Principal Lou Yaniv. He achieved honours standing his whole school career and graduated in the top three per cent of his class while completing a full International Baccalaureate (IB) program. He was always willing to mentor others and share his expertise and knowledge.



Michael was selected to participate in the Heritage Youth Researcher Summer Program, and for six weeks, helped with insulin producing experiments which could have a profound impact on diabetes patients. He is also a talented actor, performer and director, and acted in 12 school productions. He has directed and edited over 15 short films, won Best Screenplay at the Shanghai Student Film Festival and organized the Old Scona Student Film Festival.

He was part of the school's speech and debate team, and was on the school's basketball, handball and running teams. Michael also participated in the school's UNICEF, United Way, Brain Care Youth and Helping Hampers clubs. He served on Student Council throughout high school, serving as President in Grade 12. Outside school, Michael also volunteered for Canadian Blood Services. He is an accomplished pianist with Grade 10 certification from the Royal Conservatory of Music and is also a self-taught guitarist.

Michael is currently enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania College of Arts and Sciences.

## Bronze Medal

**Hannah Zhang** – *Lillian Osborne*

Hanna graduated at the top of her class while completing a full International Baccalaureate (IB) program, maintaining an over 95 per cent average.



"Hanna's determination, perseverance, initiative and joy of learning new things, allows leaders like her to be agents of change," says Principal Janet Hancock.

As a leader, Hanna was involved in many programs and initiatives. She was president of the Terwillegar Interact Club (Lillian Osborne's rotary club), she chaired the Lillian Osborne orientation program, volunteered in the Chatter program, was also an IB Ambassador and was a peer math tutor. She was on the Science Olympiad team, and was involved with the USummit High School Leadership Conference, Helping Hampers, WinterFest and Festival of Trees.

She had an internship at the University of Alberta through the Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology program, where she helped with the development of an educational tool. This past summer, Hannah was selected to attend a program hosted by the Google Company for future leaders interested in computer software development. She was also awarded the Scholastic Distinction Award of \$50,000 from the University of Alberta.

Hannah loves music and plays the piano, violin and guitar. She plays at her church and has been involved in school musical theatre productions. She is currently attending the University of Alberta.

# GRADE 12 HIGHEST HONOURS

STANDING AT EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
(co-winners)

In recognition of outstanding achievement and performance, an engraved plaque and \$500 are 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.

## Justin Haas – Ross Sheppard

Justin finished his Grade 12 year with a 99 per cent overall average.

Justin was on the swim team all three years, and in his senior year, was appointed as co-captain of the team. In this role, his responsibilities included: co-ordinating team events, collaborating with coaches, leading cheers at meets and setting an example at practices. He was also on the water polo team in Grade 11.

Outside of school he worked at the Castle Downs YMCA as a lifeguard and swim instructor for children, teens, and adults. He is also trained in first aid. He also continues to volunteer at the Canadian Blood Services clinic on the University of Alberta campus. Justin is a director for the YMCA Strong Kids International Student Group and he recently joined the Rotary Club to help fundraise for various causes and organize charity events.

He is currently an honours neuroscience undergraduate student at the University of Alberta. His future plans involve either going into medicine or doing research.



## Utkarsh Chauhan – Strathcona

In Grade 11, Utkarsh moved to Edmonton from Ottawa and started attending Strathcona. He completed his Grade 12 year with a 99 per cent average.

Utkarsh says he loves math and science. During his time at Strathcona, he primarily focused on the sciences. He achieved a 100 per cent average in Physics 20, Math 30, Math 31 and Biology 30, which was effectively one third of the courses he took at the school.

He also found time to participate in several extracurricular activities. He competitively played, coached and refereed basketball; orchestrated multiple cancer fundraising initiatives; excelled in music and band, especially the clarinet; and tutored math, English and science for several years.

Before moving to Strathcona School, Utkarsh had a 93 per cent average. He says, "I think it was the Strathcona teachers that helped me reach my potential. I wasn't as inquisitive or analytical before that experience."

Utkarsh is currently enrolled at the University of Alberta, majoring in physical sciences and minoring in philosophy. His goal is to pursue a career in criminal law.



# Top Students in District Programs

A certificate and \$250 are presented to these students who have demonstrated excellence in district programs.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (co-winners)

Kyle Johnston  
Strathcona

Connor Stephens  
Strathcona

## CAREER & TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

Madeline Schwartz  
Harry Ainlay

Robert Cassidy  
Jasper Place

Maya Allerle  
W.P. Wagner

Kira Kofluk  
W.P. Wagner

## FINE ARTS – ART

Kelly Chen  
Lillian Osborne

## FINE ARTS – DANCE

Robertson Wickins  
Strathcona

## FINE ARTS – DRAMA

Sonak Patel  
Old Scona

## FINE ARTS – MUSIC

Daniela Roth  
Old Scona

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (co-winners)

Jessica Cheng  
Harry Ainlay

Kristy Wang  
Old Scona

## INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES

Fawn Connell  
Strathcona

## L.Y. CAIRNS MOST OUTSTANDING SENIOR STUDENT

Sofia Khan

## METRO CONTINUING EDUCATION

Minsuk Kim

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Julian Karner  
Lillian Osborne

# SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL TOP ACADEMIC AWARDS

These students were identified by their schools as receiving top academic standing in Grades 10, 11 and 12 for the 2013-2014 school year.

## Grade 10

Adam Lamoureux  
Hunter Samis  
(co-winners)  
Academy at King Edward

Brittney Lapointe  
Alberta School  
for the Deaf

Kassandra Gower  
amiskwacy

Benjamin Christiani  
Argyll

Janessa Layton  
Eastglen

Robyn Woudstra  
Edmonton Christian

Aida Radu  
Harry Ainlay

Jennifer Galm  
J. Percy Page

Abbey Pagee  
Aly Valji  
(co-winners)  
Jasper Place

Muhammad Ayub  
L.Y. Cairns

Danielle Ma  
Lillian Osborne

Reem Almawed  
M.E. LaZerte

Willow Dew  
McNally

Nathan Hepas  
Millwoods Christian

Jessica Wang  
Old Scona

Gabrielle Gate  
Queen Elizabeth

Tamara Bojovic  
Ross Sheppard

Kaelin Koufogiannakis  
Strathcona

Angela Kong  
Victoria

Jacob Mydlak  
Vimy Ridge

Spencer Cholac  
W.P. Wagner

## Grade 11

Hudson Paulon  
Academy at King Edward

Langley McCaul  
Alberta School  
for the Deaf

Sydney Lush  
amiskwacy

George Fei  
Argyll

Chloe Martin  
Braemar

Tyler Ngo  
Eastglen

Danny Krol  
Edmonton Christian

Sakshi Bali  
Sofia Parrila  
(co-winners)  
Harry Ainlay

Komal Aheer  
J. Percy Page

Wendy Liu  
Jasper Place

Jordan Baird  
L.Y. Cairns

Nathan Jen  
Lillian Osborne

Anika Wong  
M.E. LaZerte

Isabelle Brisson  
McNally

Jayson Masse  
Millwoods Christian

Alice Xue  
Old Scona

Jamie Dublanko  
Queen Elizabeth

Callie Lissinna  
Ross Sheppard

Haley Dittmann  
Strathcona

Crystal Choi  
Rowan French  
(co-winners)  
Victoria

Parker Grant  
Vimy Ridge

Devon Saroya  
W.P. Wagner

## Grade 12

Kelby Ogryzlo  
Kaelen Thompson-  
Watson  
(co-winners)  
Academy at King Edward

Skyler Reichelt  
Alberta School  
for the Deaf

Janelle Spry-Papastesis  
amiskwacy

Holly Christiani  
Argyll

Jaycee Russell  
Braemar

Kobin Lim  
Centre High

Casey Letendre  
Jamie Raichel  
(co-winners)  
Eastglen

Abbigail Hofstede  
Edmonton Christian

Emily Konrad  
Harry Ainlay

Azka Ahmed  
J. Percy Page

Dallin McLean  
Jasper Place

Sofia Khan  
L.Y. Cairns

Hannah Zhang  
Lillian Osborne

Youssef Ataoui  
M.E. LaZerte

Simran Sodhi  
McNally

Madeleine Wiebe  
Millwoods Christian

Paul Li  
Juliana Wang  
(co-winners)  
Old Scona

Enrique Marroquin  
Son Ta  
(co-winners)  
Queen Elizabeth

Justin Haas  
Ross Sheppard

Utkarsh Chauhan  
Strathcona

Lauren Carter  
Camille Wiley  
(co-winners)  
Victoria

Amanda Greenwell  
Vimy Ridge

Jared Barron  
W.P. Wagner