

2020

**Community Sponsored Awards**

RECOGNIZING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Recipients Guide



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# 2020

## Community Sponsored Awards

RECOGNIZING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Edmonton Public Schools recognizes that student success is a team effort. The Division and broader community share the responsibility to support our 105,000 students on their K–12 educational journey. Edmonton Public Schools works closely with community partners to find creative and beneficial ways that individuals and organizations can invest in the success and well-being of our students.

We are grateful to the community for generously supporting awards and scholarships that recognize what Division students are learning and achieving. Each community sponsored award and scholarship has its own criteria and application requirements. Every year, adjudication teams review applications to determine which student best exemplifies the specific criteria.

Congratulations to the 2020 recipients of the community sponsored awards and scholarships on your well-deserved success!

# Betty Finch Scholarship

The purpose of this scholarship is to assist a student who is completing high school while receiving specialized support to accommodate a learning disability, and who also requires financial support to attend a post-secondary program. Betty worked for Edmonton Public Schools for three decades, mainly as a specialist who focused on students with learning disabilities. This scholarship was established to recognize her commitment to education.

## Recipient



### **Tristin Holly**

*Academy at King Edward*

Tristin is known for his ethics, inclusivity, community involvement and resilience. He was chosen to represent his school as a Student Senator and was also appointed to serve as one of three Division Student Trustees. Tristin's principal describes him as a positive light in the school who helps other students. Tristin is being recognized for his leadership skills and for promoting a culture of kindness, acceptance and dedication. His goal is to become a teacher who supports students with learning disabilities, to help them conquer the same challenges he was able to overcome. Tristin aspires to be a lifelong learner and looks forward to attending Concordia University of Edmonton to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree.

# Catherine and Robert Povaschuk Scholarship

This scholarship recognizes a Grade 12 student who has honours in academic courses, demonstrates commitment to extracurricular and community involvement and will attend the University of Alberta. Catherine and Robert Povaschuk wish to assist scholarship recipients with expenses associated with proceeding with their studies.

## Recipient



### **Manav Batta**

*McNally High School*

As a community leader and volunteer, Manav has a breadth of experiences and an incredible ability to support others. He received honours in all academic courses and the highest overall average at McNally in Grades 10–12. Manav showcases leadership skills and a positive attitude and has a deep commitment to engaging others, including through his work as a Student Senator. He has worked tirelessly to mobilize youth through community initiatives, events and projects. Manav also helped coordinate his school's Youth Engagement Focus Groups, building the leadership capacity of future students. He has also volunteered his time in local, provincial and international community service initiatives, and has demonstrated special commitment to supporting public healthcare. Manav plans to attend the University of Alberta to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in physiology.

# Esther and Peter Cunliffe Scholarship

This scholarship recognizes a Grade 12 student who demonstrates excellent academic performance, outstanding personal and leadership qualities and who requires financial support to attend one of the following post-secondary institutions: University of Alberta, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology or MacEwan University. In the spring of 2000, Esther and Peter Cunliffe made a commitment for a portion of their estate to be made available for scholarships for students graduating from Edmonton Public Schools.

## Recipient



### **Hussain Alhussainy**

*Queen Elizabeth High School*

Hussain has maintained an honours standing throughout his academic journey. He is an extraordinary advocate for himself, for others and for change. He capitalizes on every opportunity available to him and contributes to his many communities. Hussain is involved with his school through science leadership, speech and debate and the leadership program. In his roles of Student Senator and Student Trustee, Hussain has presented reports to the Board of Trustees on mentorship, substance abuse and life after high school. He also shared his concerns at City Hall about the city's ecological footprint, discussed options to reduce carbon emissions and successfully launched a bicycle and scooter ride-share program. While Hussain was a board member with the Iraqi Canadian Association of Edmonton, he helped youth plan a cultural exchange festival to strengthen multiculturalism. Hussain led a Cerebral Palsy awareness conference at Killarney School and Queen Elizabeth School to teach others about Cerebral Palsy, and that disabilities do not define a person's abilities. He looks forward to studying political and biological sciences at the University of Alberta.

# French Bilingual Awards

The purpose of the French Bilingual Award is to recognize one Grade 6 and one Grade 9 French Immersion student, and one Grade 12 student enrolled in French programming. These students demonstrate overall performance in French and have positive attitudes towards learning French. This award was made possible by the Edmonton French Bilingual Education Society (EFBES).

## Grade 6 Recipient



### **Anya Le**

*Holyrood School*

Anya has attended Holyrood School's French Immersion program since Kindergarten. Teachers and peers know Anya as a conscientious student who always strives for excellence and uses various tools to help her perfect her French. Anya's great attitude and dedication goes beyond the classroom where she fulfills a variety of student leadership roles. She reads in French with students in younger grades, volunteers to supervise groups of students during lunch, and takes every opportunity she can to interact with staff in French. Her teacher says Anya's actions have had a positive impact on the Holyrood French Immersion community.

## French Bilingual Awards *(continued)*

### Grade 9 Recipient



### **Simon Wong**

*Avalon School*

Simon is extremely proud of his heritage and his Francophone culture. He is described by one of his teachers as being exceptionally devoted to learning French. His teacher also says he embodies pride and love for the language and its culture. By studying French, Simon has a chance to affirm a part of his identity and to help others learn the language. Simon continually asks questions in and beyond French Language Arts to improve his knowledge of grammar and vocabulary. His interactions with his teachers, including emails, are in French. Upon finishing high school, Simon plans to pursue his studies in French at the University of Alberta's Campus Saint-Jean.

## French Bilingual Awards *(continued)*

### Grade 12 Recipient



### **James Shi**

*Old Scona Academic*

James began learning French as a Second Language in Grade 7 and says he didn't appreciate the language at first. However, he became inspired to speak French fluently. His French 30 IB teacher says James demonstrates a variety of qualities that serve him well in academics, in language learning and in life. James is consistently engaged in and enthusiastic about learning, and volunteers to read aloud and help classmates. He adds an energy to the class, likes to make friends laugh and enjoys French music. James has published a French video about life in a day of quarantine. He seeks out French language opportunities beyond the classroom, such as national French language contests and French conversations online, to test his language abilities and become a more confident speaker and writer. He looks forward to continuing to integrate French as a part of his identity as he moves on to the University of Toronto.



# Garth Worthington Memorial Scholarship

The Garth Worthington Memorial Scholarship recognizes a high school student with outstanding talent and skill in vocal or choral music, who is also actively pursuing vocal or choral music studies. Garth spent three decades teaching music in Edmonton Public Schools, conducting thousands of students in school bands and choirs. He was also a talented musician and singer. The Garth Worthington Memorial Scholarship fund was established to keep his passion for music alive.

## Recipient



### **Amelia Chan**

*Victoria School of the Arts*

Amelia is a passionate and multi-talented musician and a skilled choral vocalist and singer-songwriter. She plays guitar, trumpet, French horn and ukulele. Amelia considers the music community to be her family, and the highlight of each day is for her to play music with people she loves and cares about. One of her defining characteristics is curiosity—she approaches problems with an open mind and a huge drive to understand complex information. Amelia’s music teacher says Amelia has good ears, a good understanding of the voice, a good mind and a good heart. Amelia gives back to the music community, taking a leadership role and fostering a love for music. She will attend MacEwan University’s Bachelor of Music Program in Jazz and Contemporary Popular Music.

## Garth Worthington Memorial Scholarship *(continued)*

### Recipient



### **Emma Yee**

*Victoria School of the Arts*

Emma’s dream is to sing and dance her heart out on Broadway one day—music is clearly a priority. Her dedication translates into a broad range of commitments including choral, musical theatre and dance. One of Emma’s teachers describes her as a staple in Victoria School’s choir program, singing in Choral 7, 8 and 9, as an alto in the High School Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and as a soprano in Concert Choir. Emma learns music quickly and has the ability to lock in on complicated harmonies and maintain her vocal line. She participated in Victoria School’s mainstage musical production of *Mary Poppins*. As an ensemble member, Emma provides strong leadership to younger members and models the importance of learning music and lines in a timely manner, being punctual for rehearsals, and taking direction to create strong, memorable characters on stage. Emma also has natural acting skills and instincts. She has been studying ballet since age three, and fondly remembers the proud moment when she reached a high enough level to earn her pointe shoes in 2018. Emma’s post-secondary plans are to study out-of-province, possibly to pursue a degree in voice or musical theatre studies.

# James P. Jones Scholarship

The purpose of this scholarship is to recognize a Grade 12 student who completes French courses to the 30 level, has a positive attitude toward learning French, a sincere interest in continuing French language studies beyond high school and who demonstrates excellent academic performance and citizenship. James (Jim) P. Jones worked for Edmonton Public Schools for nearly three decades, mainly as a supervisor of second languages. Jim’s friends and family, along with language teachers in the Division, established this scholarship to acknowledge his tremendous work and dedication.

## Recipient



### **Chiara Concini**

*Strathcona High School*

Chiara began learning French in Grade 7. She practices enthusiastically and continues to improve both in class and through extracurricular and community pursuits. Chiara’s principal describes her as a student who thrives under pressure and when facing challenges. She is the head page at the Alberta Legislature, where she gives presentations in French to elementary students. She achieves over 90 per cent in all her high school French courses, has completed two internationally recognized French exams, and does all of this while nurturing personal connections with her classmates and teachers. She eagerly uses opportunities to practice French in casual and formal conversation. She seeks out opportunities to read and view authentic French resources, ranging from reading the news daily in French to watching French films and television shows. Chiara will continue her studies in French at the University of Alberta’s Campus Saint-Jean.

# LeRoy Warden and Associates Scholarship

This scholarship is for a Grade 12 student who is in need of financial assistance, who has clear career plans and who will attend one of the following post-secondary institutions: University of Alberta, MacEwan University, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology or University of Alberta Campus Saint-Jean. When LeRoy Warden is asked what motivated him to establish the scholarship, he replies, “I simply want to help because it resonates with my soul, and lending a helping hand may make the world of difference for one person.”

## Recipient



### **Kezrah Thiessen**

*Victoria School of the Arts*

As an aspiring nurse practitioner, Kezrah holds a sincere desire for meaningful human connection. Her core values of perseverance and compassion are deeply rooted in her natural inclination to serve others. From a young age, Kezrah has been planning her future and dreaming of a career in the medical field. She conducted an extensive career investigation while in the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program, and discovered nursing is where her heart truly lies. She understands the importance of a strong commitment to physical, mental and emotional health. Kezrah models the power of staying positive, not limiting yourself and never giving up, because the harder you work, the closer you get to your goals. Her passion for lifelong learning and self development have led her to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at MacEwan University, followed by a Master of Nursing at the University of Alberta.

# Margaret T. Stevenson Talented Young Writer Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize a Grade 8 student who exhibits a sincere dedication to the literary arts and demonstrates personal growth as a writer. Dr. Margaret T. Stevenson served as a Language Arts supervisor with Edmonton Public Schools for 10 years. In recognition of her work, colleagues, friends and family established this award in 1994 and continue to make donations to the fund.

## Recipient



### **Elizabeth Chen**

*Grandview Heights School*

Elizabeth is a talented young writer who submitted five original pieces of work in five different genres, including a free-form poem, an essay, an opinion piece, a reflection and a short story. Her work demonstrated precision and clarity of voice, allowing the reader direct, effortless access to learn and feel. Elizabeth's writing centred around five main subjects, a compilation of what her life has been for the past few years, and makes up a large part of her identity: basketball, music, debate and advocacy, service, and literature. Throughout the variety of styles, her writing shows great depth of thinking, intelligence and self-knowledge, with excellent use of language. Her love of reading is apparent. Elizabeth shared how straying away from the fiction shelf into uncharted territory such as historical fiction, self-help books, biographies, and memoirs of people she looked up to, unlocked the profound ideas behind a lot of things she already knew about in her life. Elizabeth experiences writing as creative liberty—a way to make sense of one's own thoughts and enrich the lives of others. Elizabeth believes no matter how ubiquitous life is, nothing comes easy and the only way to achieve something is through hard work.

# Opportunity Through Education

## Sandra B. Woitas Scholarship

This scholarship assists a Grade 12 student who has attended Edmonton Public schools for at least four years, demonstrates a commitment to volunteering, has a positive attitude toward school and their studies, and requires financial support to attend a post-secondary institution in Edmonton. Sandra B. Woitas served as Director of the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation from 2009 to 2014. This scholarship was established by Sandra's colleagues, friends and family in recognition of her hard work and many contributions.

### Recipient



### **Hussain Alhussainy**

*Queen Elizabeth High School*

Hussain, who is also the recipient of this year's Esther and Peter Cunliffe Scholarship, exemplifies what it means to be an active, solution-oriented community member. His extensive school and community volunteer experiences have taught Hussain the fundamentals of leadership, including mentorship, team leading, advocacy, inclusivity and co-operation. He is a determined young man who has learned to be persuasive and assertive while navigating complex systems of government and bureaucracy to get the right results for himself and others. Hussain has volunteered in multiple roles including as a school leader, Student Senator, Student Trustee, conference planner, presenter, advocate for people with disabilities, board member with the Iraqi Canadian Association of Edmonton, buddy reader for Kindergarten students, scientist, speech and debate participant, actor, director, scriptwriter, planner and a clinical research study participant. Hussain strives for excellence in his educational journey and serves his community for a brighter future. In the fall, he will attend the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta to study political and biological sciences.

## Opportunity Through Education

### Sandra B. Woitas Scholarship *(continued)*

#### Recipient



### Ziad Zahoui

*M.E. LaZerte High School*

Ziad has an unwavering desire to motivate youth and contribute to positive social change. His extraordinary discipline helps him stay focused on achieving his academic goals and volunteer commitments. In the short span of three years, he volunteered hundreds of hours and organized, led, participated in and energized many school committees and clubs. As president of his school's student union, his interests demonstrate diversity and acceptance. Ziad's leadership style champions the power of student voice and the importance of staff and student involvement to create an overall welcoming environment. Ziad's contributions help make the school community feel like a second home. He is well respected by his peers and models hard work. He excels in his studies and is a great friend. Ziad has spent the last three years helping the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation raise funds for full-day Kindergarten. Ziad's teacher describes him as kind, generous and approachable. His bright smile and empathetic nature make people feel welcomed and included. Ziad is looking forward to pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the University of Alberta.

