

2014-2015 Annual Report





Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation

Annual Report September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015

On behalf of the Directors of the Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation, I am pleased to present the *2014-2015 Annual Report* describing how the Foundation, now in our seventh year, continues to benefit the Saskatoon Public Schools community.

The Early Learner Literacy Tutor Program, an initiative designed to provide intensive one to one support to young learners who are falling behind in their reading, has been a tremendous success in its second year. This year 162 grade two and three students from 15 different schools were supported, bringing the total number of students having participated in the program to 245. We continue to see the positive impacts this program is making for some of our community's most vulnerable children. This year grade level was achieved by about 40% of the children with the other 60% making significant gains. The Early Learner Literacy Tutor Program is made possible by the support of a generous donor who pledged \$100,000 per year for 5 years.

The PotashCorp Food4Thought program continued to operate throughout 2014-2015. Altogether, 910,000 servings of nutritious food was provided to students from 20 Saskatoon Public Schools in the form of snacks, breakfasts and lunches. Community Garden development continues to be an important priority for many schools with 9 out of 20 schools devoting a portion of their nutrition funding to further the development of their indoor/outdoor garden and learning spaces

The Foundation's Summer Reading Camp program took place August 4 – 14 with a total of 14 schools participating. This camp was made possible by a generous gift of \$45,000 from two community partners. Throughout the two weeks over 200 students in grades 1 to 4 participated and were able to become stronger, more confident readers.

The Literacy and Numeracy Coaching Program continued to great success. In the program's second quarter coaches provided 1251 hours of support to 111 students in a variety of subject areas. These interventions translated into a credit attainment of 66% or 151 credits. To date, the program has provided supports 2373 hours of support to 379 students. The Foundation facilitates funding for the Literacy and Numeracy Coaching Program through the Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan, Urban Partnerships fund.

The Celebrity Roast, the Foundation's primary fundraising event, experienced its most profitable year to date with over \$75,000 raised. This year Saskatoon Public Schools alumni Vaughn Wyant was the roastee. The success of the event can be credited to the many hours contributed from dedicated volunteers.



Enhancements to the Cameco Centre of Excellence in Science and Mathematics at Bedford Road Collegiate continued throughout the year. The Centre allows for a unique and innovative program in which students gain hands-on training using specialized equipment while exploring exciting science and mathematics-related careers.

The Foundation directed nearly \$50,000 to support unique and innovative initiatives through the Programs of Excellence grant. These grants give Saskatoon Public Schools members an opportunity to deliver valuable projects that are generally considered to be outside of basic education or core curriculum.

This year the Foundation received applications from 43 schools for the Enhanced Education School Grants. Each of those schools received a \$1000 grant to support unique learning opportunities in the areas of citizenship, student leadership, cultural responsiveness, healthy active living, the environment or visual or performing arts.

A valuable contribution to student health and wellbeing was made with a commitment to establishing the Vision for Learning Centre, an optometry centre to be located at Confederation Park School. The goal of the Centre is to detect vision disorders through eye health and vision exams, early intervention and treatments that will support learning. The school based optometric clinic will operate one day per school week and serve up to 400 children annually. It is estimated that approximately 35% of the children seen in the program will require vision correction. This program has been made possible by a generous contribution of \$20,000 by the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists to cover the equipment costs.

More than \$15,000 was gifted to the Foundation from the Saskatoon Public Schools employees through an employee payroll deduction program. These generous donations are a meaningful indicator of support for the Foundation's mandate. We appreciate this and the many other contributions to student success made by Saskatoon Public Schools staff.

This year the Saskatoon Public Schools bid farewell to the Executive Director, Carla Loney-Tindall. During Carla's tenure the Foundation experienced considerable growth and success. Thanks to her efforts the Foundation is well poised for continued success in the coming years.

Looking forward we are excited for the Foundation to continue to grow and evolve in 2015-2016 as we work to enrich learning opportunities for students of Saskatoon Public Schools.

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