

A decorative horizontal border consisting of a repeating pattern of small, colored squares in green, yellow, red, and blue.

Annual Report

September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016

Presented to the Saskatoon Board of Education Trustees
On behalf of the Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors

January, 2017



Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation

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Saskatoon Public Schools (SPS) Foundation is an independent, non-profit charity dedicated to enhancing learning opportunities for students at Saskatoon Public Schools and celebrating the vital role that public education plays in our society. We partner committed businesses, organizations and individuals to support high-impact programs and initiatives that go above and beyond core educational services. Now in our eighth year of incorporation, the *2015-2016 Annual Report* describes how we continue to grow our impact to benefit the Saskatoon Public Schools community.

Throughout the year the Foundation has experienced significant growth with the addition of several new board members and staff, including the election of new board president Zeba Ahmad, and new executive director Alison Robertson. Also joining the Foundation team are two former directors of education, George Rathwell and Avon Whittles, who bring decades of experience in education to their new roles as executive consultants. Administrative assistant Stephanie Waldner came on board full-time to round out the staff team.

One of the Foundation's flagship initiatives, The Early Learner Literacy Tutor Program, marked a third successful year of providing intensive one-to-one support to young learners falling behind in their reading. With the support of private donors, the program expanded to offer 216 twenty-hour tutor sessions this year alone, bringing the total number to 459 sessions over three years. Students from 19 schools participated in the program and gained an average of three reading levels over one session. So far nearly 10,000 hours of individual tutoring has been made possible by the Foundation and the program's generous donors.

Another key Foundation program, the Summer Reading Camps, continued to grow thanks to a generous \$62,000 donation from Brian and Kathy Turnquist, supporters of the program since its inception. This year 186 children benefited from the two-week Summer Reading Camps hosted by fourteen schools across Saskatoon. A new math component was piloted at two camps and a partnership with SK Sport brought afternoon sports activities to four locations. All 14 participating schools hosted guest readers from our community.

PotashCorp's generous contribution of \$200,000 to the PotashCorp Food4Thought Nutrition Program was celebrated at a special springtime gathering. Throughout the year PotashCorp's contributions helped provide nearly 700,000 nutritious meals and snacks to students from 19 schools giving them the nutrition they need to be successful in the classroom.

Each year the Foundation provides grants to schools to support innovative, high-impact initiatives that fall outside basic curriculum. This year the Foundation's Program of Excellence Grants were awarded to 17 schools totalling nearly \$40,000. Projects include spoken word poetry and anti-oppression education at Royal West, an effort to enhance indigenous art, song and dance at W.P. Bate, North Park Wilson's Mural Mosaic Canada 150 project, promotion of leadership and healthy living by the DreamTeam at Fairhaven School, a Spirit of Youth group at Centennial Collegiate and math literacy at Silverwood Heights.

Increasing learning opportunities for new Canadians was the focus of a Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation special holiday season campaign. The Project Welcome campaign, launched in partnership with the Saskatoon Open Door Society, generated over \$5000 for enhanced learning tools, such as dual language books and picture dictionaries.

The Cameco Centre of Excellence completed its second year of programming at Bedford Road Collegiate. Thanks to the generous support from Cameco and excellent instruction by teacher Curtis Clements, students had opportunities to be trained in pneumatics, 3-D modelling, microcontrollers, robotics, electrical circuits, computer control, drafting and 3-D manufacturing. Teamwork is one of the underlying themes of the program and this year students had opportunities to work in teams to participate in a national design competition, a Minecraft design challenge, and their final master project. Through the use of team work, students are able to learn skills in communication, collaboration, time management and real world problem solving. This year 42 students completed the program and received a *Practical Applied Arts Credit in Design Studies 10*.

Contributions from the Foundation and the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists made it possible for the Eye See Eye Learn Optometric Clinic to begin operations at Confederation Park School. This year eye examinations were performed on 169 children, with approximately one third of them being recommended to wear glasses.

Over the year the Foundation facilitated numerous donor-directed gifts. For example, a generous donation of \$100,000 was directed to Pleasant Hill School by the Estate of Mr. Durward Seafoot. Because of this contribution, hundreds of children attending Pleasant Hill Community School for years to come will benefit from opportunities that go above and beyond the core services provided by the school.

The work of the Foundation is made possible by the support of motivated and committed donors who believe in the power of education and give generously to strengthen learning opportunities for children and youth. Along with numerous corporate and individual donors, the Saskatoon Public Schools Division continues to offer significant support in many ways. Nearly \$12,000 was donated by staff and trustees through our Payroll Giving Program, and fundraising efforts from schools and alumni continue to grow. For example, a generous gift from Willowgrove School where students raised an amazing \$8500 through a school-wide math-a-thon.

As we look back on the year, we are deeply appreciative of the support we receive from donors and inspired by the excellent work that teachers and students put forth to the programs we fund. The Foundation extends our sincerest gratitude to everyone who has made enhanced learning possible at Saskatoon Public Schools.

Board of Directors, 2015-2016

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