

Recipients of Arts Recognition Awards – 2007-08

Elementary Dance **Melanie Baker-Lesage**, a long-time strong supporter of the Arts at Emily Carr Middle School, taught her challenging Gr. 8 class a set of dances which she had picked up at a teachers' workshop. Although at first reluctant, the boys and girls all perfected the moves of the "Cha Cha Slide" and "Cotton-Eyed Joe". With enthusiasm they then picked up the challenge of teaching all the other classes in Emily Carr the dances. The thrill of dancing prompted the entire school population to join in unison to do the numbers at various school functions.

Elementary Integration of Arts **Astrid Johnson** joined the Jack Donohue Public School staff four years ago as a Learning Support and Special Education teacher. Astrid feels passionate about learning through the arts and assists the classroom teachers in finding cross-curricular connections to bring the Arts into all aspects of student learning. Ingenious techniques make learning Math, Social Studies, Science, Literature, Physical Education fun and meaningful.

Elementary Drama **Dale Hayward**, the Drama teacher at Fisher Park / Summit Alternative School, managed to direct 100 students in *Remembering Korea* for Remembrance Day, coach monologues from *Ebony Road* for Black History Month, stage manage the OCDSB's Drama Festival involving students from across the system, co-chair the Intermediate Dance Committee which provides PD for Drama and Dance, as well as directing and choreographing the hugely successful *High School Musical*, the most ambitious production ever staged at Fisher Park/Summit.

Elementary Music – P/J In the five years that **Leslie Bricker** has been at Terry Fox Elementary School, she has developed a remarkable arts program for all grades. She has pioneered a number of teaching techniques, introduced her students to a recorder program, utilized the Orff method to enhance the students' understanding of music, organized coffee houses and music ensembles, visual arts open houses and made a tradition of carol singing on Taffy Lane.

Elementary Music – Int. **Ginger Jacobson** has created an outstanding Intermediate instrumental music program at Broadview Public School over the past 7 years. Working tirelessly, she has taught every intermediate student to play an instrument. Her extra-curricular band program has grown to four groups, including an award-winning concert band which involves almost half of the Gr. 8 students of the school. Her groups participate each year in the Capital MusicFest and qualified for the National Music Festival in Toronto this year. Her partnerships with Nepean High School, Dovercourt Recreation Centre and Saywell Public School in Oshawa have enriched the students' education and outlook.

Secondary Dance **Allison Carrier & Kathy Tsarouhas** have developed a remarkable Dance program at Woodroffe High School over the past two years. While introducing their students to a very wide range of styles, they have broadened the concept of dance and showcased the students' work at numerous school functions. Recognizing the multi-cultural and economically diverse school community, they have made taking part in the shows affordable and meaningful for all, even instituting a Women Only Dance show which allowed Muslim dancers to perform without hijabs. African Dance, Latin Dance and Asian-inspired Dance made the performances all-inclusive.

Secondary Drama Over the last 2 years **Matt Minter** has through outstanding leadership raised the profile of Drama at Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS by engaging both students and staff to demonstrate a wide range of talents in productions that are a source of pride to the whole community. In the past year he produced two major shows – *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Music Man*, both of which drew on the artistic and technical talents of a wide range of students. He has been active in the Cappies program to promote high school theatre and served as the assistant director of the Cappies Gala.

Secondary Literary Arts For the last three years **Thomas O'Connor** has served as the Cappies mentor and Cappies Critics Leader at Merivale High School, during which time the group of student critics received several nominations for group and individual Cappies critics. Last year Merivale received the Top Critic Team award. Over the years many of his students had their reviews printed in the Ottawa Citizen, a testament to his skill as an inspirational teacher. Tom is also to be commended for his involvement in student success initiatives and literacy projects. Tom has returned this year to his native Kitchener-Waterloo district to continue teaching English.

Secondary Music Having served for many years as an outstanding music educator, **Jean-Francois Fauteux** has brought his remarkable talent for inspiring excellence to the students at Nepean High School for the past few years. This year he placed special emphasis on having students connect with their community through music. To this end, his bands performed more than ever before, at a variety of locations including a church, a seniors' residence, Westfest, and numerous schools. Each event served to give the students valuable performance experience as well as learning first hand of the incredible power of music to touch others in so many ways. The students have been incredibly enriched by their experiences this year.

Secondary Visual Arts **Bonnie Mahony** has been a remarkable Visual Arts teacher for thirty years, the last 18 of which have been at Rideau High School. Whether it be inspiring countless students over the decades to express themselves in ways they had not dreamed of, or nurturing individuals during lunchtimes in her studio, or opening the world of art history through trips to the gallery or beautifying the school with murals and displays, Bonnie has made an indelible mark on

Ottawa. Running the Art Club, working with the Arts Subject Council, writing curriculum, encouraging students to excel in the Ikea Chair contest or engaging in her own inspiring art work – Bonnie enriches those around her.

Leadership in the Arts Award As the lead teacher in Visual Arts at the Ottawa Technical Learning Centre, **Sheila Williams** has tutored and mentored her less experienced colleagues, University of Ottawa Student Teachers. She has also been active over the years with the OCDSB Arts Subject Council and influenced the new Ministry Guidelines for The Arts. Her classes, filled with students with a range of physical, mobility, maturity and cognitive abilities, were fulfilling artistically to all her students, whether they worked on traditional drawings or paintings or in creative projects in metal, clay or jewelry. Her innovative teaching style has been passed on to all those who have come in contact with her.

Community Arts Award After graduating from Merivale High School, **Andrew Hawryshkewich** returned as a volunteer to assist with the drama, music and visual art programs. While studying at Carleton University, Andrew assisted on Merivale's school newspaper and helped with the Com. Tech. course. For the past four years he has scripted, filmed and produced a special DVD of Merivale's theatrical productions. He has also recorded several CDs for Music students and produced a DVD profiling the arts at Merivale High School. Andrew has since left to study for his masters degree in Interactive Art and Technology at Sir Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.

Elementary School Event The "**Latin Music Project**" organized by **Dianne Van Den Brekel** at Stittsville Public School made the visit of MASC artists *Colores Andinos* meaningful and exciting for all the students and staff. In preparation for the four-day visit of the band whose members come from the Andean region of South America, all classes of the school were supplied with materials to help integrate the concerts into the various curricula, such as art and social studies. Each class was instructed by the band members in Latin music techniques and an after-school workshop for teachers was held. The festival ended with concerts for all members of the school. The enormous task of coordinating the school, fund raising for the concerts and supplying the teachers with material was undertaken with meticulous attention by Dianne Van Den Brekel.

Secondary School Event Nepean High School's production of "**Chicago**" under the direction of **Jeff Kanter** and musical direction of **Rocco Romeo** set new standards for high school musicals. Playing to sold out audiences, this polished production resulted from a huge group effort that consumed an entire school for an entire year. This great show was recognized by the Cappies organization with 14 nominations in a wide variety of categories such as sound, orchestra, acting ensemble and lead actress and actor. It won 6 awards for costumes, stage crew, choreography, featured actress, best song and, of course, best musical of 2008.

Marjorie Loughrey Lifetime Achievement Award

The distinguished 30-year career of **Cheryl Woods** deserves our recognition. Beginning as an itinerate music teacher in the Ottawa system, supporting classroom teachers and exciting students with her infectious enthusiasm, Cheryl created for many a life-long love of music. Throughout her 20 years at Broadview Public School Cheryl has provided music instruction to all grades, directed Primary, Junior and Intermediate choirs, conducted recorder ensembles, produced musicals and coordinated special presentations. As well as her busy classroom and extra-curricular commitments, Cheryl has extended her musical talents to the community, working as an organist and choir director at Woodroffe United Church and as rehearsal accompanist for the Orpheus Society. Her great leadership abilities, boundless energy and positive attitude have combined to make Cheryl an inspiration to both students and colleagues.