

June 16, 2016

BRSD Board says “thanks” to Friends of Battle River

The Battle River School Division Board of Trustees wanted a way to recognize and celebrate those individuals or organizations who have contributed in outstanding ways to the success of students in BRSD schools so the Friends of Battle River Awards were created.

This is just the second year these awards have been given. Two types of awards are available - one for individuals or organizations which are being recognized for contributions to a specific school or area within BRSD and a division-wide award for those whose contributions span a larger geographic area.

The school division is grateful for the commitment that communities demonstrate to supporting school programs and projects. This is just a small way for us to recognize and celebrate some of the special partnerships. All nominations are submitted by BRSD staff members.

Beaver County award: Beaver County / Village of Ryley councils.

This year we have a joint award being given from the geographic region of Beaver County, to acknowledge the joint support of both Beaver County Council and the Village of Ryley Council in revamping the Ryley School library into a Learning Commons. Both councils were quick to jump on board with the project and matched each other in financial support. Their assistance was a great kick-off to the school’s fundraising campaign and both the County and the Village continue to be enthusiastic ambassadors for the innovative learning environment Ryley School is striving to create.



BRSD Trustees Tracey Boast Radley (left) and Rebecca Heiberg (right) say “thanks” to Brian Ducherer of the Village of Ryley and Beaver County Reeve Kevin Smook.

Camrose County: Bashaw School Enhancement Project Committee

Since the time we received the good news that a replacement school was going to be built in Bashaw, the Bashaw School Enhancement Project committee has been hard at work, helping ensure the school is the best it can be. The committee is made up of people from the Town, local business, Bashaw and District Support Services, Bashaw School Council, BRSD and the Bashaw community. As a team they've provided ideas an input into the school plan and they have also been the champions of raising funds for ensuring the new school will have the gymnasium it requires, as well as other amenities which will enhance students' opportunities to learn and grow.



BRSD Trustee Kendall Severson says "thanks" to Christine Beulow (left) and Terri Brown-Gust (right) of the Bashaw School Enhancement Project committee.

City of Camrose – Evraz Camrose Works

Battle River School Division has a solid belief that literacy is a key component to the success of all students. As the expression says, children spend the first three years of school learning to read, and the rest of their school years using their reading skills to learn. Evraz willingly took on a two-year project with Jack Stuart School in Camrose to enhance students' opportunities for reading, by supporting the purchase of new books and new furniture for the school's library. There are books of appropriate skill for all grade levels and in a wide range of topics, to entice students no matter what their area of interest. The furniture purchase has allowed a cozy reading corner within the library where students can go – so they can begin to truly understand the pleasure of curling up with a good book. Evraz has also worked with other Camrose schools in the past and is looking forward to working with more schools in the years ahead.



Trustees Norm Erickson and Lorrie Sitler say "thanks" to Amy Adams and Hildy Hoffman of Evraz Camrose Works.

Flagstaff County award: FIRST (Flagstaff Initiative to Relationship and Spousal Trauma)

Over a period of many years, FIRST has been integral to the success of bullying prevention programs in Flagstaff County schools. They have helped bring in speakers, organize specific events and also donated tens of thousands of dollars to support this philosophy. The Olweus bullying prevention program is now being used in several Flagstaff schools and speakers as diverse as Holocaust survivors and Entrepreneurs such as David Chilton from Dragon's Den. Just last week FIRST supported an Artist in Residence program at Sedgewick School to create a mural which will embody and proudly display the spirit of collaboration and community and teamwork that all schools strive to achieve.



Trustees Susan Chromik (left) and Laurie Skori (right) say “thanks” to FIRST representatives Lynne Jenkinson and Gunner Albrecht for their support.

Division-wide Award: Augustana Campus, University of Alberta

Augustana has been a great educational partner to Battle River School Division for many years. They make it a priority to welcome BRSD students of all ages, from all communities, to their campus. From sending students free passes to Augustana events to hosting Science Fairs, Augustana wants local children to begin to feel at home on the university campus from a very young age. Augustana also makes their students available to our schools through Community Service Learning Projects, and next year will be starting a program to have athletes from their different teams visit schools to help students build confidence and skill. Augustana allows free use of their gym facilities for BRSD tournaments, etc. We’re also talking about a future program that could see BRSD hosting International Students at Augustana in a unique summer learning camp experience. Perhaps the biggest partnership between BRSD and Augustana is in the provision of Reading University, which serves grade 2 and 3 students from schools across our division who are not yet reading at grade level. We give the children a range of experiences in that program and one of those is the opportunity to visit the campus regularly and feel like it’s possible for them to belong at a university.



Trustees Norm Erickson and Lorrie Sitler acknowledge the strong partnership between BRSD and Augustana, represented by Anne-Marie Link and Tim Hanson.

For more information contact
Diane Hutchinson, Communications
dhutchinson@brsd.ab.ca; 780-672-6131 ext. 5248
780-608-6632 (cell)