

Golden Star Award Winners 2016

Salmon Arm Secondary

Project Name: Seniors to Seniors

The initiative for this winning group came from the students themselves. Most of these students began studying photography in grades 9 and 10. The 3rd and final (4th) year of the program focuses on professional careers in photography. The program culmination this school year was for the graduation of Grade 12 students at the high school. Professional portraits were taken of seniors from the Pioneer Lodge to display in the school hallway along with “words of wisdom” from those seniors to the graduating Grade 12 students. The students initiated contact with seniors’ homes, did the portrait “shoots” and photography editing. It also involved collaborative preparation of interview questions and editing the final words of advice. The students even did the framing of the portraits, which was combined with the advice. Seniors were each given a small framed portrait as a thank you. A second, larger portrait will be on display in the Graduation Hall’s main entrance. Students are also creating a video display to show on the School’s video monitors and website.

The award money will be used for supplies to pay for framing materials and printing cost for this ongoing project. It is also noteworthy that this project was the recipient of a BC Association of Art Teachers award in 2015 (see BCATA Journal 57 #2, 2015)

Shannon Lake Elementary School

Project Name: “Adopt a Grandparent”

Mrs. Sharon Foster has been taking her students to the “Village at Smith Creek” to visit with the senior residents since 1994. Initially she began with her kindergarten class at Westbank Elementary with the students singing, reading poetry, and sharing stories with the residents.

5 years ago she developed an “Intergenerational program” called “Adopt a Grandparent” involving her grade 2/3 class and the elderly at the Village. The children worked in pairs and visited the same grandparent with a different activity each month. Learning and socializing go hand in hand through reading, playing cards, board games, working puzzles, domino games, card games and childhood games like marbles and jacks. Each year there is a “trick or treat” at Halloween; special gifts at Christmas and Valentines. Through these activities the students develop communication, listening skills, and the ability to show empathy, kindness, respect and the understanding of others. Pictures are taken to document the activities.

The program ends in June with a scrapbook of photos, stories, and the interaction of the student’s activities with their “grandparent” throughout the year. Monthly artwork and projects are regularly displayed in the hallways at the Village. The program has also been featured in the local newspapers and the residence news bulletin.

The prize money will be used to develop future “intergenerational” projects. Funds would be allocated to bus transportation for visits by teacher and students; also art, gardening, crafts and other supplies for the program.

Lake City Secondary (Columnneetza Campus)

Project Name: Community Leadership

Community Leadership is a course for grade 8 at risk boys. Currently Williams Lake has a gang violence issue with younger men falling into a lifestyle that leads to violence, incarceration and the destruction of community. The program is designed to provide at risk students with opportunities to connect and give back to the community. There are several ways that the boys engage with older adults in the community. There are 35 boys in the program. The boys visit seniors at

Glen Arbor (an independent living facility) for three classes a week for five weeks. The boys are paired with a senior in order to interview the senior and gain an insight into what life was like during the senior’s early years. A positive relationship develops between the student and the senior. The older adults have benefitted from the visits and some have volunteered to have more students in the coming year. The boys benefit from the senior as a role model. After three visits, the boys create a Power Point presentation of what they have learned from their new senior friends. At the end of the visitation cycle, there is a Tea Party (the boys bake the goodies and serve the tea) during which the students present their Power Point presentations. Other activities with older adults in the community include playing games, shoveling snow in winter and helping with their spring cleanup of yards and gardens. The boys are involved in other community projects such as recycling and trail cleanup.

Funding will be used for supplies, cleanup equipment (shovels, rakes) and transportation.

H.J. Cambie Secondary School

Project Name: Cambie Health Science 12/Pinegrove Place Program

H.J. Cambie Secondary’s Health Science 12 Program in Partnership with Pinegrove Place Intermediate Care Home

For the past 19 years, H.J. Cambie Secondary’s Health Science 12 classes have partnered with the Therapeutic Recreation Department at Pinegrove Place Intermediate Care Home in Richmond. Students are responsible for organizing and running weekly programs such as personalised one-on-one visitations, Nails and Chit Chat, bingo, active games, running the tuck shop and assisting with the resident hand chimes music program. In addition, a number of special events, such as an annual spring tea, a table bowling tournament and carols at Christmas, have been implemented by the entire class. While interacting with older persons, students have acquired skills that will help them to pursue careers in health care; equally important, they have developed empathetic and social relationships with Pinegrove Place residents. For both students and residents, the Pinegrove Place partnership has been life changing.

Golden Star funding will be used primarily for a Music and Memories program: students will interview residents for music preferences, set up and maintain a music library and create individualized playlists for each resident. A portion of the funds will supplement the costs of the annual spring tea.

BCRTA Legion Golden Star Award

Sullivan Heights Secondary School

Project name: Youth Visions

“Youth Vision” is a long standing and innovative high school – community art partnership program.

This award-winning program is curricular based and serves grades 9-12 students enrolled at Sullivan Heights Secondary. It has a special projects focus on “big ideas” and “issues awareness” often threaded with an historical component and entails articulation with grandparents through interviews or surveys. The project includes networking with seniors’ organizations and attending veteran presentations, e.g. Remembrance Day and the Holocaust Symposium. Included are components of war years and the concept of patriotism.

The students have achieved their best ever showing in the Royal Canadian Legion’s National Remembrance Day Poster Contest (2005-15).

Their project, “Memories, Dreams and Reflections” focused on the wealth of knowledge and experience that seniors can pass on to youth, with an applied focus on documenting elders’ lives through narratives and photographs. The goal is to accumulate “Pearls of Wisdom” from a relative/neighbor that helps one to better understand them and therefore oneself.

The prize money will be utilized to fund a Canada 150 project entitled “MOSAIC”, a celebration of Canada’s Multicultural heritage through the generations. Students will be examining their intergenerational roots and creating collage based artworks that convey their family’s (and or community’s) unique contribution toward Canada 1867-2016.