



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 6, 2018

### **Rainy River District School Board recognizes volunteers and employees**

At its June 5, 2018 Board Meeting held at the Education Centre in Fort Frances, the Rainy River District School Board announced the recipients of the Recognition of Services awards, honouring the 2018 Employees of the Year, Bus Driver of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and Community Partner of the Year.

Brooke Caul, secretary at Atikokan High School and Angela Petsnick, Intermediate teacher at Fort Frances High School, were named Employees of the Year. Ms. Caul was recognized for her helpful, professional, and caring manner when dealing with members of the school community, while Ms. Petsnick was recognized for always striving to provide engaging learning experiences for her students.

The Bus Driver of the Year award was presented to Terry Newman, who drives for Iron Range Bus Lines. Mr. Newman was noted for demonstrating a concern for safety each day as he navigates the hilly and winding roads on his route, transporting students to Robert Moore School and Fort Frances High School.

Corey Hayes, a parent at Atikokan High School, was named Volunteer of the Year. Mr. Hayes has chaperoned multiple school trips to Toronto and Confederation College, constructed items that were used for fundraising, and drove gear truck for the Outers Program.

The Community Partner of the Year was Ge-Da-Gi-Binez, a section 23 Youth Facility, who has been a community partner with the Rainy River District School Board for 9 years. The team at Ge-Da-Gi-Binez works hard to provide culturally relevant opportunities for students, including sweat lodges, wild rice processing and practicing with traditional medicines. They work closely with an Elder to provide men's teachings to the students in order to help them with their mental health and well-being.

"The triumphs and successes of our students are by no small measure due to the support, commitment, and dedication of the staff, community partners, and volunteers in our schools who give of their time, energy and talent to support a wide variety of student endeavors both inside and outside the classroom," said Board Vice Chair Michael Lewis. "They support and enhance the work of the Board; without them, many programs, activities and events just couldn't happen."

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Mission: *"Together, we empower all students to believe in themselves, to achieve, and to dream."*

Vision: *"The Rainy River District School Board is an innovative community, nurturing hearts and minds, to build a foundation for tomorrow, today."*

*This publication is available in accessible formats upon request.*