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# REPORT

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## **Recognition of Excellence**

***Donald Young School  
Student Leadership***

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***Regular Board Meeting:***  
March 7, 2017

***For further information, please contact:***  
Al McManaman, Superintendent of Education  
Kelly Forbes, Principal, Donald Young School



## RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### Student Leadership at Donald Young School

**Date:** March 7, 2017  
**To:** Rainy River District School Board Trustees  
**From:** Kelly Forbes  
Principal of Donald Young School

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the report be received for information only.

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#### STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Emotional well-being and positive school culture are foundational for student achievement.

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#### CONTEXT

Student leadership at Donald Young School is helping to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students.

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#### SUMMARY

Students at Donald Young School are taking advantage of a variety of leadership opportunities within the school, and thus creating a positive culture within the school. Some of the student-led initiatives include:

- a recycling program
- weekly spirit days
- buddy reading
- buddy supports for events such as our Christmas dinner and Terry Fox Run
- organized physical activities through the PALs program
- lunchroom helpers
- preparation of breakfast program
- delivery of hot lunch

These programs offer leadership opportunities to a wide range of students in a number of grades. Additionally, the programs also provide opportunities for students to interact with students outside of their classroom that they may not have the opportunity to build relationships with otherwise. The programs offer students the opportunity to contribute positively to the school community in way that builds a sense of accomplishment, and pride.

Students have played a key role in determining the programs that are offered, with staff offering support and guidance. Each program idea was brought forward by the students of Donald Young School, and students have taken responsibility for facilitating, and implementing the programs. These programs have provided them with meaningful leadership opportunities that allow them to give back to other students within the school. Our presentation was created by the students, and outlines the impact that these

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opportunities have had on all students within the school. The programs have been received positively in the school.

At our first annual Christmas dinner, younger students were partnered with older students where each table was arranged with multi-age seating. The responsibility of the older students was to make sure that the younger students were taken care of by walking with them to the venue, cutting their turkey, getting them drink refills, and having positive interactions and conversations with them. Afterwards, older students expressed that they felt great about how they were able to be positive role models for the younger students and the younger students said that they were excited to spent time and be friends with the “big kids.”

The recycling program is another great example of student initiative. Students in the Grade 7/8 classroom expressed their desire for Donald Young School to be more environmentally friendly and brought forward their proposal to have recycling throughout the school. The students determined how many more recycling bins were required at the school, the locations where the bins could be purchased, delivered the bins upon arrival, and called to arrange for weekly pickup with the town of Emo.

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**ROUTING**

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Board

March 7, 2017

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