AUTUMN SOCIAL AND CELEBRITY ROAST RAISES $40,000 FOR SPS FOUNDATION

Nearly four hundred guests gathered to enjoy the Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation’s major fundraising event, the 6th Annual Autumn Social and Celebrity Roast, which took place October 6, 2016, at historic Nutana Collegiate. It was a memorable evening for all as Roastmaster Darrell Utley led a light-hearted roast of notable Saskatoon Public Schools’ alumni Pat Atkinson and Spencer Early. Students from Nutana’s tourism class helped transform the high school gymnasium into a stunning space for guests to enjoy a delicious meal, take part in silent and live auctions and be entertained by Dr. Murray Scharf and the Honorable Don Morgan roasting Pat Atkinson and Mavis McPhee and Al Bond roasting Spencer Early. An impressive $40,000 was raised to support Foundation programs and initiatives, such as Summer Reading Camps, Early Learner Literacy Tutors and Programs of Excellence Grants.

The Foundation extends its sincere appreciation to our leadership sponsor, Flynn Canada, and the many other sponsors, donors, volunteers and attendees for making the event a success. We particularly want to acknowledge the amazing team of staff and students at Nutana Collegiate, who went far above and beyond to make the day a success. We are humbled by your support! We extend a special thanks as well to the Saskatoon Public Schools and the staff who shared their time and talents both this year and prior years, including Rob Kunz, Shawn Monahan, Rod Drabble, Erin Sarauer, Cheryl McDougall, Estelle Allington, Trevor Draude, Daelene Guttormson, Traci Toth, Chantel Johnson and many more!

Check out our Facebook page or click here to see photos of the event, including the impressive transformation of the gym (left) with the help of Nutana students.
SPS FOUNDATION SUMMER READING CAMPS GROW IN 2016!

There is much to celebrate about SPS Foundation’s Summer Reading Camps. Now in its fourth year, the Summer Reading Camps have expanded to welcome over 230 students at two-week camps hosted at 14 schools within the Saskatoon Public Schools division. This year we added a special math component at two pilot locations and a new partnership with SaskSport made it possible to offer afternoon sports activities at four camp sites.

Summer Reading Camps are designed to keep children reading and active over the summer months and prevent learning loss over the summer. In fact, last year 87 percent of children participating reported no learning loss, with many actually making gains.

Summer Reading Camps are made possible by the generous support of donors, including a significant gift of $62,000 from founding contributors Brian and Kathy Turnquist. SaskTel Pioneers provided a very generous contribution of children’s books. The success of the camps is a credit to the dedication of Saskatoon Public Schools staff, including Lisa Fleming, Lorraine Bentham, Line Remillard, Stephanie Waldner, Donna Kayseas-Brown, Mackenzie Firus, the talented reading camp teachers and so many more committed individuals who went above and beyond! Congratulations to all of the dedicated young learners for their hard work!

POTASHCORP INVESTS IN STUDENT SUCCESS

We are excited to announce the return of the PotashCorp Food4Thought Nutrition Program for the 2016-2017 year. This year PotashCorp is donating $150,000 for healthy breakfasts, snacks and lunches and school gardens. We encourage you to share this good news with your school community in your newsletters so that we can recognize the significant support PotashCorp has committed over the years.

PAYROLL GIVING NOW ONLINE

We’ve heard your requests for an online form for Saskatoon Public Schools employees to sign up and manage payroll donations, and we are happy to tell you it’s here! Payroll giving is an easy and seamless way for SPS employees to support the Foundation’s work, such as Summer Reading Camps, Early Learner Tutors, and Programs of Excellence. Your contributions will come directly off your monthly cheques from September to June and can be canceled or updated at any time. To sign up or manage your payroll giving preference please visit the “Donate” page on our website at www.spsfoundation.ca.

Did you know 100% of the funding for SPS Foundation programs and initiatives comes from committed private individuals, businesses, and organizations?
FUNDRAISING NEWS

Last winter SPS Foundation mobilized to offer support for new and existing refugee students through our Project Welcome Campaign. Thanks to all who donated, the campaign raised over $5,000 to support learning opportunities. Your donations have already been put to use to purchase backpacks, school supplies and dual language books.

This spring we were thrilled to learn the students and staff at Willowgrove School were inspired by our Project Welcome campaign and decided to donate half of the proceeds from their school-wide math-a-thon, an amazing $8,500, to support refugee students and Summer Reading Camps. Click here or visit our Facebook page to see the amazing teachers at Willowgrove School “shake it up” to reward students for their hard work and generosity!

PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE GRANTS

Congratulations to our 2015-16 Programs of Excellence grants recipients! Last year SPS Foundation granted nearly $40,000 to 17 schools for innovative and diverse projects, including:

- Spoken word poetry and anti-oppression education at Royal West
- Indigenous art, song and dance at W.P. Bate
- North Park Wilson’s Mural Mosaic Canada 150 project
- Fairhaven School’s DreamTeam to promote leadership and healthy living
- Spirit of Youth group at Centennial Collegiate
- Math literature at Silverwood Heights

We are looking for ways to improve our grant program and welcome your feedback. If you have experience applying or reporting for a Programs of Excellence grant, please consider taking a short two-minute survey to help us improve the process in the future. Please click here or contact us to take the survey and watch for the new and improved grant process coming this November!

New Strategic Focus Areas

Following a series of conversations with our stakeholders, we are happy to announce three new areas of focus for growing our impact: Literacy, Healthy Active Schools and Empowering Innovation.

Stay tuned over the coming months to learn more about our exciting future plans!
Faces and Places

6th Annual Autumn Social and Celebrity Roast

October 6, 2016

Superintendents Charlene Scrimshaw and Dave Derksen lead a rousing game of Heads and Tails, raising an additional $1600 for the Foundation (see left).

Pictured right, Roastmaster Darrell Utley poses with SPS Chief Financial Officer Garry Benning. Garry is a founding member and former president of the SPS Foundation board of directors.

A view of the spectacularly decorated gymnasium at Nutana Collegiate (below).