



## **HPSD Teacher Melissa Isaac selected as recipient of the 2009 ASBA Zone 1 Edwin Parr Teacher Award**

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*HIGH PRAIRIE, AB* – The Alberta School Boards Association Zone 1 selection committee has chosen High Prairie School Division (HPSD) Teacher Melissa Isaac as the 2009 recipient of the Edwin Parr Teacher Award.

Isaac, who teaches Grade 1 at High Prairie Elementary School, was announced as the winner at ASBA's Zone 1 meeting and awards luncheon Sept. 17 in Peace River.

She was one of seven eligible Zone 1 nominees for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award.

"Melissa is an outstanding new teacher with significant community involvement," says Ralph Wohlgemuth, Zone 1 Chair of the Alberta School Boards Association. "She engages her students in an energized classroom where students are comfortable taking risks as part of their overall learning process."

Isaac was selected as HPSD's nominee to represent the division at the ASBA Zone 1 level this past spring based upon her impressive teacher credentials, including a commitment towards student teaching and academic preparation.

These distinctive teaching qualities made her the ideal candidate to receive the 2009 Edwin Parr Teacher Award in Zone 1.

"High Prairie School Division is extremely pleased with Melissa's selection as the recipient of this very prestigious award," HPSD Superintendent Laura Poloz explains.

She adds the award is a significant feather in the cap of the school division and Northern Lakes College (through its Teacher Education Program) with respect to shared standards of excellence and professionalism towards the teaching profession.

Lenny Richer, Vice-Chair of HPSD's Board of Trustees also offered a high level of praise to Isaac on her recent achievement.

"I want to once again extend my congratulations to you (Melissa) on being the Zone 1 Edwin Parr winner," says Richer.

"It was very impressive to hear about your path to becoming a teacher. HPSD prides itself on quality teachers and you exemplify that ten-fold. You have made your family, community, school and school division very proud," he adds.

Isaac says her reaction to being chosen for the award was one of shock, pride and gratitude.

"The group of nominees this year was incredible. It made me so proud knowing my children will benefit greatly from being educated in Northern Alberta," she says.

Isaac adds the award wouldn't have been possible without the ongoing support of her community, family, mentors and HPSD staff.

“I’m grateful to my community of East Prairie for always believing in my dreams and for all of its support.

“I’m grateful to my family for helping me through this past year whenever I needed it, and I am grateful to the staff at HPSD for their friendship, guidance and support. Lastly, I am so grateful to my idol, Joanne Baird, who taught me how to really laugh and enjoy my profession.”

Isaac is one of six Edwin Parr Teacher Award winners for 2009. The last HPSD teacher to be recognized for the award was Shane Clark of Roland Michener Secondary School back in 2004-2005.

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***For further information please contact HPSD Supervisor of Instruction Brenda Stafford at 780-523-3337 or HPSD No. 48 Communications Officer Kevin Laliberte at 780-837-6638.***