



MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 28, 2009

\$2,000 Grant Awarded To Justina So and Sandra Wu of York Region District School Board

(Toronto) – Curriculum Services Canada is pleased to announce that Justina So and Sandra Wu of Unionville Meadows Public School, in Markham, Ontario, are the recipients of a grant from The Curriculum Foundation. Their innovative resource proposal, Character Really Matters! will model how to use student-created music to develop ten major character traits—respect, responsibility, honesty, empathy, fairness, initiative, perseverance, integrity, courage, and optimism.

“We wanted something that could simultaneously engage students learning, increase motivation, continue to support the literacy initiative at our board, trigger students’ imagination and creativity, and vocalize the importance of music,” explains Justina So, when asked about the source of inspiration for the resource.

The resource will help teachers guide elementary students in further developing their literacy skills, imagination, and creativity while learning about the importance of these character traits in their lives through engaging, motivating activities in the Arts.

Teachers will be able to download Character Really Matters! for free from the Curriculum Services Canada website. Free high-quality resources are available on the Teacher-Developed Resources page of our website, www.curriculum.org. This past school year, our high-quality resources have been downloaded more than 89,000 times.

The Curriculum Foundation is the charitable arm of Curriculum Services Canada, the Pan-Canadian standards agency for quality assurance in learning products and programs. TCF is a registered charity that accepts donations which are used to provide teachers with the funding necessary to develop high-quality learning resources that enrich learning for students.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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Nancy Adams, Durham District School Board, Awarded \$2,000 Grant

(Toronto) - The Curriculum Foundation (TCF) is pleased to announce that Nancy Adams, of Romeo Dallaire Public School in Ajax, Ontario, is the recipient of a \$2,000 grant for her unique resource proposal, Equity and Critical Media Literacy. The resource aims to develop critical thinking skills in young learners as they explore equity-related concepts presented through characters in the media.

"Watching how my students wanted to emulate the characters and celebrities they see in the media, I became concerned about how they accepted these often stereotypical images and personas without question. I wanted to teach students to think critically about these images and question who is being included and excluded and how they are being represented," says Adams.

Equity and Critical Media Literacy will provide teachers with support in addressing diversity, helping their students create change, and moving toward taking social action.

Teachers will be able to download Equity and Critical Media Literacy for free from the Curriculum Services Canada website. A number of free high-quality resources are available on the Teacher-Developed Resources page of our website, www.curriculum.org. This past school year, our high-quality resources have been downloaded more than 89,000 times.

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\$2,000 Grant Awarded to Rebecca Penner to Develop Resource Based on First Nations' Sacred Teachings

(Toronto) – The Curriculum Foundation (TCF) is pleased to announce that Rebecca Penner of Hearst, Ontario, is the 2009 recipient of the Janice Thomson Memorial Grant. Her creative curriculum resource, *The Seven Sacred Teachings*, will show how puppets can be effective tools for improving literacy skills in learners, with special focus on communication, both oral and written.

Penner says: "...I taught in a First Nations school and learned a lot about the culture and Cree teachings. The Seven Sacred Teachings are very special and important to the Native culture. Because a lot of non-Native Canadians don't know a lot about the Native culture, I thought of combining the Seven teachings into puppet scripts."

Using the Seven Sacred Teachings of Aboriginal cultures—wisdom, respect, love, honesty, bravery/courage, humility, and truth—as the basis for creating puppets and producing scripts for plays, learners will become more comfortable speaking in public as they also learn important skills of collaboration, cooperation, and decision making.

Teachers will be able to download *The Seven Sacred Teachings* for free from the Curriculum Services Canada website. A number of free high-quality resources are available on the Teacher-Developed Resources page of our website, www.curriculum.org. This past school year, our high-quality resources have been downloaded more than 89,000 times.

The Janice Thomson Memorial Grant is awarded annually to an Ontario secondary school teacher for the development of creative and innovative learning resources that meet a set list of criteria. Janice Thomson was a respected and well-known Ontario educator, administrator, and author, and was a tenacious advocate for special needs students and programs. Her family and friends initiated the grant after she passed away from cancer in 1999.

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