

## **School Recognition Program 2003-2004 (Information for Schools)**

### **Eligibility: Elementary Grades (K-5)**

Participants in the School Leadership Centre (SLC) at UBC and members of the Ministry of Education of the BC government acknowledge that there are many excellent schools, dedicated teachers, and successful students in this province. In order to recognize some of the many achievements in a more tangible way, the Ministry of Education has partnered with the SLC to design and administer a recognition program for the current year. The funding for this program comes from the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Education.

The following is a description of this year's program, the application process, and the criteria for making decisions on awards (each award will be in the amount of \$3,000 and will be available to the receiving school in February 2004). The 2003-2004 School Recognition Program is based on the following beliefs about educational excellence and educational change.

We believe that

- to be sustainable over the long term, change and innovation are collaborative and not isolated,
- educational excellence may be demonstrated in many ways using multiple criteria,
- student learning and success take many forms and may be demonstrated in various ways,
- no school can be considered truly successful if any sub-group of its population is failing to thrive within the educational environment of that school,
- it is important for educators to collect baseline data, to monitor school reform efforts, and to know whether a change is having the anticipated effects and whether there are also unanticipated outcomes,
- change must be carefully planned and implemented – no school can change everything well at the same time, and
- because improvement occurs over time, success must also be measured over time.

## ***Application Process***

Teachers and/or administrators in schools that have been engaged in specific school improvement initiatives at the K-5 grades, who have planned a further project designed to enhance student learning, and who believe they fulfil the criteria listed below, are invited to complete the attached application and return it to the School Leadership Centre as indicated on the form, with all sections filled in and all required signatures in place, on or before November 24, 2003.

## ***Criteria for the School Recognition Programme 2003-2004***

1. A school must have been engaged in a school improvement initiative and, have a proven record of improvement **and/or** a plan that offers high potential for improvement in student learning, that could be facilitated or enhanced by the receipt of \$3000.
2. Applicants must demonstrate that they have carefully considered how their proposed plan addresses the unique needs of their student body, that their evaluation plan will provide evidence related to the project's goals.
3. Applicants will also provide evidence of satisfaction with the school climate and learning environment as evidenced by data for two years from the parent, student, and teacher satisfaction surveys.
4. Clarity and feasibility of the project and evidence of a consistent and coherent plan for assessing its impact will be considered.
5. A plan that demonstrates collaboration between school constituencies (for example, parents, teachers, students, community, administration, district) is desirable.
6. An indication of an action-research focus that can assist school communities to understand the relationships between the specific initiative and desired outcomes.
7. Commitment to providing a summary report including: utilisation of funding, implementation, and progress of the project, by July 15, 2004.