



# Calgary Educational Partnership Foundation

## OVERVIEW OF THE CALGARY EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION

The Calgary Educational Partnership Foundation (CEPF) is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities in Calgary and area schools.

Since our establishment in 1991, the CEPF has helped educators gain access to resources needed to deliver strong educational programs to students.

The CEPF is involved in diversity of curriculum enhancing programs which involve over 300 businesses and organizations, 170,000 students and six school districts (Calgary Board of Education, Calgary Catholic School District, Foothills School Division, Golden Hills School Division, Rocky View School Division and the Canadian Rockies School Division).

The following is a short synopsis of five of these programs. Information on all of the CEPF's programs and events can be obtained from our website at [www.cepf.calgary.ab.ca](http://www.cepf.calgary.ab.ca).

### **Employability Skills Portfolio**

The Employability Skills Portfolio Project was created by the CEPF to assist students in identifying and developing the skills required achieving future success. Each year it is introduced to the grade 9 students within the six school districts and is intended to be a working document as students complete their Junior high and High school years

### **School Resources Program**

The CEPF School Resources Program was created to assist the six school districts with acquiring furniture, school/office supplies and technology. Companies in Calgary can donate these items to the program and the CEPF will then distribute them to the six school districts in and around Calgary.

### **Mayor's Excellence Awards Gala Dinner**

The Mayor's Excellence Awards Dinner recognizes and celebrates the efforts of business, community and education working together to improve the quality of

public education in our community. The Mayor's Excellence Awards are symbols of achievement, which are presented to partnerships that stand as benchmarks by continuing to positively impact the education of our children.

### **Reading... Give it a shot!**

Reading... Give it a shot! is a literacy program offered to grade 4, 5 & 6 students in conjunction with the Calgary Flames. The program runs from January to March. Students record their reading time of books, newspapers, magazines, computer programs, or the Internet. After every 100 minutes read, students are rewarded with a bookmark featuring one of their favourite Calgary Flames team players. Counting minutes rather than books allow all students, regardless of reading ability or speed, to participate.

### **Stay in School Ski Day**

The Stay in School Ski Day is a CEPF initiative designed to assist students to develop a positive attitude about school and school completion. It has one central goal: to get students, educators and the entire community working together to help young people complete their education. 300 students identified as being at risk of dropping out of school are matched with mentors recruited from the business community to participate in a day of skiing and fun with a central focus towards encouraging the students to stay in school. Over 25 sponsors come together to make this day happen. This year, **Microsoft Canada is our Monster Mogul Sponsor.**

### **Women in Technology**

In response to this alarming trend, IBM (Canada Ltd.) and DeVry Institute of Technology have teamed up to offer a one-day workshop entitled "Women In Technology." The goal of this workshop is to enlighten the students to the many exciting opportunities in information technology, while encouraging them to continue education in mathematics and sciences. This workshop also offers the students interaction with female role models working within the industry and female students pursuing education in the technology industry as well as hands-on experience with the latest computer technology.

The most important message we hope to get out to as many girls, parents and teachers, is that Math, Science and Technology are highly rewarding fields for women. Further, the importance of computer skills extends across many fields and careers.

### **On-Line Safety Week**

The Goal of this initiative that ran from February 5 – 9, 2007 was to generate public awareness regarding the safe use of the internet for children along with the dangers associated with it

For further information on specific programs and the CEPF visit our website at [www.cepf.calgary.ab.ca](http://www.cepf.calgary.ab.ca)

## **Class Act**

**The Class Act Program** identifies the best all-round individuals in each of the high schools in the six school districts. Students are recognized for their extraordinary accomplishments and potential to distinguish themselves beyond high school. Awarded students display all-round excellence, not just the highest academic average. The Class Act Program awards not only scholars but musicians, athletes, artists, counselors, scientists and those who excel in public speaking, volunteerism, and communications.

Student achievements are highlighted in daily feature articles published in the Calgary Herald and recognized at the Calgary Herald Class Act Awards ceremony that is held at the end of June

## **Calgary Herald Newspapers in Education**

The CEPF is one of the Presenting Sponsors of the **Calgary Herald Newspapers in Education** which is an award-winning program and has served Southern Alberta schools for 17 years. This program offer free daily newspapers to classrooms and provide supplementary newspaper-based guides and activities to teachers.

When the Calgary Herald is used in the classroom with the accompanying curriculum guides, students gain a better understanding of their community and the world around them. They cultivate critical thinking skills, writing skills and problem-solving techniques through a variety of reading, writing and math activities. Research shows that students achieve higher test scores and increase their reading skills by using newspapers in their classrooms.

This program is also used in conjunction with the Reading Give it a Shot Program.