

news release

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CBE music teacher honoured with Prime Minister's award for teaching

CALGARY— Lord Beaverbrook High School music teacher Ross McIntyre has been honoured as one of 21 national-level winners of the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence in Ottawa.

McIntyre was chosen for being more than a music teacher and challenging his students to work together with others who have different interests. He expands their focus, identifies their strengths and pulls together innovative, cross-disciplinary projects.

"Mr. McIntyre tells us that he pushes us so that we feel good about ourselves because we are never going to feel good about ourselves unless someone makes us realize finally we can do this!" says one of his students for his nomination.

Inspired after meeting astronaut Robert Thirsk, McIntyre engaged his students in the creation of a hardcover fictional children's book, audio book and e-book entitled *From Blue to Red* about the first human mission to Mars. The 2012 project accurately depicted space and space travel, and was funded by the Canadian Space Agency and supported by its scientists. Students worked in teams, becoming scientists, writers, visual artists, composers, engineers, and also worked with a journalist to turn the process into a video documentary.

McIntyre also developed a recording arts program at Lord Beaverbrook that he implemented with the Banff Centre for Performing Arts. The implementation of the program included designing and building an in-school recording studio to enable students to study recording arts and how it is applied to careers in television and the music industry. The relationship also provides his students with additional instruction with recording students from the Centre.

"I would like to congratulate this outstanding teacher whose work exemplifies the importance of personalized learning at the CBE. He, and all our teachers, are focused on student success and we are delighted to see this recognition," says Naomi Johnson, CBE chief superintendent.

The Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence recognize outstanding teachers who, through the innovative use of information and communications technologies, help Canadian students meet the challenges of a 21st century society and digital economy. The 2013 Awards were given to 60 educators from across Canada.

CBE congratulates Mr. McIntyre for this outstanding achievement.

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