CB McMurdo Receives $20,000 Technology Grant

C.B. McMurdo School has received a $20,000 technology grant from the Alberta Community Initiatives Program. On September 16th, 2010 Verlyn Olson MLA, Wetaskiwin – Camrose constituency was in attendance to present Mrs. Sandra Wilson, Vice Principal of C.B. McMurdo with a cheque for $20,000. This grant is funded by the Government of Alberta through the Alberta Lottery Fund and is intended to be used to build strong communities and enhance the quality of life for Albertans. This grant was awarded to further the C.B. McMurdo One to One Laptop Initiative and will be used to purchase laptops and other technology to enhance basic programming.

The C.B. McMurdo One to One Laptop initiative is part of the Division’s Learning Cycle initiative that focuses on engaging students in a learning environment that is relevant to them. Today’s children and youth are immersed in technology and there is often a disconnect between the home environment where students have access to cell phones, gaming systems, iPods, and home computers to the school environment where students are normally restricted to two or three computer classes a week.

The C.B. McMurdo One to One Laptop initiative is intended to bridge this disconnect between home and school where a class set of laptops was purchased for the junior high in the 2009/2010 school year. The students have shown an increase in the level of engagement in the classroom. Research shows that when engagement is increased; learning increases and students experience more success. Students who have daily exposure to laptops as learning tools are well prepared to succeed in the twenty-first century.

A second objective of the grant is to provide parents and community members with opportunities to embrace technology. Parents may not understand the electronic environment in which their children are part so C.B. McMurdo School has plans to provide parents and community members with learning opportunities to expand their understanding of technology. As the initiative develops and grows, the school expects to offer classes on a wide variety of twenty-first century skills, including basic computer and internet skills, texting and online safety.

The Alberta Community Initiatives Program grant will be used to purchase a mobile classroom set of laptops for the C.B. McMurdo School’s elementary students, allowing the one to one laptop initiative to expand from its original objective to reach more C.B. McMurdo students. The C.B. McMurdo staff is planning on offering community computer classes this fall.

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