



May 26, 2011

Press Release

### **Dan Hird, GHSD Teacher is Award Recipient in the 2011 Excellence in Teaching Awards**



Golden Hills School Division is pleased to announce that Mr. Dan Hird, Teacher from Drumheller Valley Secondary School is an award recipient in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Excellence in Teaching Awards sponsored by Alberta Education in cooperation with the Alberta School Councils' Association, the Alberta School Boards Association, the Alberta Teachers' Association, the Association of Alberta Deans of Education, the Council on Alberta Teaching Standards, the Edmonton Journal and the SMARTer Kids Foundation.

Mr. Hird is one of the 23 final award recipients selected from the 135 semi-finalists that were recognized in April and selected from 326 eligible nominations. As an award recipient, he will be honored in Edmonton on May 28th at a dinner and awards ceremony. He is also awarded up to \$4000 for professional development.

"It is an honor to have been nominated. The fact that I was selected as a finalist is a tribute to the many wonderful teachers and students that I have worked with over the years. I love to work with students and I truly believe learning something new is fun. I try each day to pass this passion on to my students." Hird said.

As a result of Dan's teaching styles and ability to motivate students by utilizing many different teaching techniques in mathematics, the students at the school traditionally score higher in Pure Math 30, Applied Math 30 and Math 31. It has been said that one of his greatest strengths as a teacher is in making math fun. Whether coaching volleyball or golf, supervising school dances, participating in the Terry Fox Run or helping with student council, Dan recognizes the need to reach "the whole child". His graduating students express that "Mr. Hird's classes were the highlight of their school careers".

"Mr. Hird is an exemplary teacher who inspires students and colleagues to strive for excellence. He is a quiet, unassuming, masterful teacher who makes a positive difference every day. Golden Hills is honored, too, by the provincial recognition of Mr. Hird as a finalist in the Excellence in Teaching Awards." Dianne McBeth, GHSD Superintendent said.

Curtis LaPierre, DVSS Principal said, "Mr. Hird has been teaching at the Drumheller Valley Secondary School, formerly Drumheller Composite High School, for the past 27 years. During this time Mr. Hird has taught and inspired thousands of students and has always strived in the perfection of the art of teaching. DVSS is honored to have Mr. Hird on staff and he models daily his practice of teaching."

Congratulations Dan on being selected as an awards recipient for the 2011 Excellence in Teaching Awards!