



MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The staff at Brooklands School are recognized with the 2020 Anne Lindsey Protecting our Earth Award, for their role in engaging young people in positive environmental action.

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First established in 1990, the Anne Lindsey Protecting Our Earth Award (affectionately known as the Earthies) is presented by the Manitoba Eco-Network annually in recognition of achievements in protecting and stewarding Manitoba's environment. In 2011, Anne Lindsey retired from the Manitoba Eco-Network after serving for 23 years as Executive Director. In recognition of her extensive service, the Board of Directors voted to rename Manitoba Eco-Network's Protecting Our Earth Award in her honour.

For over 20 years, Manitoba Eco-Network has provided recognition to groups and individuals for their contributions in promoting sustainability and protecting ecosystems with its annual award. The 2020 winners, the staff at Brooklands School, were nominated by their principal, Rex Ferguson-Baird, who explains that, "the team at Brooklands School has embraced their jobs as educators. They have a lens through which they design their lessons and learning experiences that is firmly rooted in growing a love of the Earth".

Inspired by conversations with other educators who had done a 'two-week outdoor challenge' with their own classrooms, in the spring of 2015, four classrooms held their own two-week outdoor challenge. Now, Brooklands School staff move their classrooms outdoors for six weeks each year, rain or shine. Bringing learning outdoors has allowed the educators to foster a love of nature in their students and deliver valuable lessons which cannot be learned in a regular classroom. Teacher Shannon Siemens explains, "Before I can teach my students to save the Earth and be environmentally responsible, for them to be global citizens, they need to know and love what it is they are being asked to save".

School staff also partnered with the Manitoba Eco-Network and other community-based organizations to depave an unused section of asphalt and build a community garden and outdoor classroom. During the growing season, these spaces bring together school staff, students, parents and community members, to learn, grow and eat together.

Brooklands School staff have also created a robust cycling program, which includes 80 bicycles available for student use. Cycling education to teach students about active transportation, cycling safety, and bicycle repair, is provided in partnership with community organizations like the WRENCH.

More information about the Earthies and past winners can be found at: <https://mbeconetwork.org/projects/anne-lindsey-awards/>

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