

## EIPS teacher chosen as a finalist for the Excellence in Teaching Awards

**Sherwood Park, AB** — Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is proud to announce Theresa Wells-Taylor, a teacher at Woodbridge Farms Elementary, has been selected as a finalist in the 2016 provincial Excellence in Teaching Awards.

“I feel honoured to be chosen as an award recipient for such a prestigious award,” says Wells-Taylor. “To be recognized among the many amazing teachers in Alberta is humbling. I consider myself incredibly fortunate to be able to do what I love to do each and every day.”

Wells-Taylor was one of 20 nominees selected as a finalist in this year’s Excellence in Teacher Awards, which was determined by a selection committee made up of educational professionals and based on set criteria regarding innovative approaches to teaching and leadership. Wells-Taylor stood out for her creative learning practices, her skill of engaging the school community, her capacity to instill confidence in students, and her innate ability to foster a love for learning.

“We are very proud of Theresa and of the work all of our staff do in our school,” says Sven Danzinger, the principal at Sherwood Park-based Woodbridge Farms Elementary. “Theresa uses her passion for children’s literature to integrate literacy into all aspects of the curriculum, and our students love it. She certainly personifies the excellence that we strive for each day.”

The Excellence in Teaching Awards is an annual program aimed at recognizing the innovative and outstanding teaching that takes place in classrooms across Alberta. Throughout the winter parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, and community members from across the province submitted nominations naming an outstanding teacher, or principal, who made a difference in their lives. In total, 10 EIPS teachers were nominated for the award, four of which were selected as semi-finalists in April.

Wells-Taylor was announced as a finalist during the Excellence in Teaching Awards dinner on June 4, 2016. All finalists will receive \$4,000 to use for professional learning and various monetary rewards for their respective schools. To learn more about Alberta Education’s Excellence in Teaching Awards visit, <https://education.alberta.ca/excellence-in-teaching-awards-eta>.

Congratulations Theresa Wells-Taylor for a job well done!

*EIPS is one of Alberta’s largest school divisions, serving more than 16,900 students in 42 schools. We are proud to be an integral part of our communities including Sherwood Park, Fort Saskatchewan, Vegreville, Strathcona and Lamont Counties, and the western portion of the County of Minburn.*