



# NEWS RELEASE

Friday, January 31, 2014

## **Fortosky named one of Canada's outstanding principals**

SASKATOON, (Jan. 31, 2014) – Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools is proud to announce that Owen Fortosky, principal of St. Mark School, has been named one of Canada's 40 Outstanding Principals for 2014 by a national educational organization.

"This special person in our school was nominated by the staff, students, parents, and community for the excellent work he does at St. Mark School. He is being recognized for his excellence in leadership, partnerships with parents and community, innovative thinking resulting in improved student achievement, and support of successful change," vice-principal Laura Cey told staff and students who gathered in the gym Thursday to celebrate Fortosky's selection.

Fortosky began his teaching career with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools in 1991. He has been an in-school administrator since 1998.

The outstanding principals are selected by a group of Canadian education, community and private-sector leaders. The program award is overseen by The Learning Partnership, a national charity dedicated to supporting, promoting and advancing public education in Canada.

The Learning Partnership posted the following bio of Owen on its website:

"Owen Fortosky brings a unique perspective to the job and under his leadership, St. Mark is personalizing learning. He is integrating Brain Rules, Multiple Intelligences, technology, literacy strategies and math into the 21st century learning approach. The school has acquired SMART Boards, SMART tables, a digital camera for every classroom, a document camera and four mobile labs. Levels of engagement have risen as student voice and choice have increased.

"A Home and School Liaison serves St. Mark's diverse population by assisting with language and acculturation for newcomers and culturally responsive programming for Aboriginal students. Colleagues say 'Owen encourages teachers to use their skill sets to help the school grow.' One supporter aptly described what makes him outstanding: 'Owen sees a need and fills it .... He is proactive, not reactive.' "

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