



From Teacher to Trustee

Maria Santos talks about her continued commitment to student futures.



After teaching for 29 years, Maria Santos finally retired in 2022. That wasn't, however, the end of her connection to the Seven Oaks School Division.

"I had always wanted to be an educator," reminisces Santos. "But I got married and had my daughters. I wanted to be home with them during those early years."

"Then, when my youngest daughter was two and my oldest was five, I decided to pursue my degree in Education."

"At the time, earning that degree was supposed to take four years, but I did it in three! I pushed myself because teaching had been my lifelong dream."

After years of teaching, Maria brought her in-class experience and knowledge to the

SOSD Board of Trustees, helping guide key decisions that benefitted local families. One accomplishment she is especially proud to have been part of is helping the Aki Centre (Blue Thunderbird Land-Based Teachings Learning Centre) get its start.

"I originally heard another school was considering a similar idea, and I thought it was so important that I brought the idea forward to our Board," recalls Maria.

"We also talked about the Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre (SOPAC), which – after years of dreaming – we helped make a reality"

As a Trustee, Maria has seen the opening of two MET Schools at Maples Collegiate and in the Exchange District of Winnipeg. With her fellow Trustees, the Division has been proactively purchasing additional land for new developments such as a new school to be built in West St. Paul and the École Mino Pimatisiwin School slated to open in 2026. The Division is seeing incredible progressive growth propelling student success forward.

At the same time, Maria began to turn her attention to something relatively new to her: the Seven Oaks Education Foundation (SOEF).

As Maria got to know more about SOEF and the work being done to provide Seven Oaks students with access to post-secondary education via scholarships, she knew she wanted to be involved.

"I'm passionate about education and it should not matter where a student lives or how much money they have," says Maria. "They all deserve an education if they want one. It's important that we provide them the opportunity to do so, and so I decided to apply."

"We try and do whatever we can to ensure all students - no matter what background they have - are able to access quality education," says

Maria speaking as both an SOSD Trustee and a member of the SOEF Board. "We are elected officials. We want to make things accessible for our students - we are community-oriented."

As for her personal goal as part of the Seven Oaks Education Foundation, Maria says, "I'm looking forward to building more capacity for more scholarships. Maybe start fundraising in a different way - building on what we do and going from there."

"I find the Foundation does a great job in providing many students with scholarships, but we can always use more. There are many more kids that need scholarships."

Our 2024 Scholarship Recipients

The recipients of these scholarships exemplify the hard work, determination and dedication found throughout the entire Seven Oaks School Division. Congratulations to all!

ADULT LEARNING CENTRE		
David Smeltzer Memorial Scholarship	Shaniqua Edwards	\$1,000
Elder Mary Courchene Pow Wow Scholarship	Lindsay Laroque	\$500
Seven Oaks Education Foundation	Jaspreet Kaur	\$500
Winnipeg North Liberal Riding Association	Michelle Manion	\$200
Total		\$2,200
ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE		
Elder Mary Courchene Pow Wow Scholarship	Echo Beaulieu	\$500
Elder Mary Courchene Pow Wow Scholarship	Dawn Jackson	\$500
Elder Mary Courchene Pow Wow Scholarship	Reece Stevenson	\$100
SOEF Scholarship	Ruth Berihune	\$500
Total		\$1,600

MET SCHOOL

Devi Sharma Leadership Award, City Councillor, Old Kildonan	Santino Buffone-Magro	\$250
Elder Mary Courchene Pow Wow Scholarship	Storm Thomas	\$500
Mondetta Scholarship	Storm Thomas	\$1,000
R.M. of West St. Paul Scholarship	Rasnoor Singh-Goraya	\$300
Seven Oaks Education Foundation Scholarship	Rasnoor Singh-Goraya	\$500
Wayne Shimizu Scholarship	Breland Ferguson Thomas	\$500

Total **\$3,050**

MAPLES MET SCHOOL

Architects At Play Inc Scholarship	Isaiah Ducut	\$500
Devi Sharma Leadership Award, City Councillor, Old Kildonan	Bhavika Bansal	\$250
Elder Mary Courchene Pow Wow Scholarship	Aurora Nicholas	\$500
J. G. Janitorial Services Ltd. Scholarship	Damian Nernberg	\$250
Lisa Santos Outstanding Projects Award	Dominic Eidse	\$500
Lisa Santos Outstanding Projects Award	Arhaan Aggarwal	\$500
Maples MET Internship Award - In Memory of Gene Germain	Arpit Sharma	\$400
Maples MET Internship Award - In Memory of Gene Germain	Devank Soni	\$400
Mintu Sandhu Award	Yuvraj Dhanoa	\$500
MLA Brar Award	Mary Bondoc	\$300
Mondetta Scholarship	Beque Patrick	\$1,000
Santos Harrison Inspirational Student Scholarship	Stephanie Palma	\$500
Santos Harrison Inspirational Student Scholarship	Mireya Tolentino	\$500
Seven Oaks Education Foundation Scholarship	Stephanie Palma	\$500
Winnipeg North Liberal Riding Assoc.	Kush Kamboj	\$200

Total **\$6,800**

MET CENTRE FOR ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

Elder Mary Courchene Pow Wow Scholarship	Taelyn Herselman-Hupe	\$500
Seven Oaks Education Foundation Scholarship	Elijah Luna Warkentin	\$500

Total **\$1,000**

CATEP PROGRAM

Elder Mary Courchene Pow Wow Scholarship	Matthew Cardinal	\$500
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Total **\$500**

WAYFINDERS PROGRAM

Fabian Suarez-Amaya Scholarship	Beque Patrick	\$1,000
Fabian Suarez-Amaya Scholarship	Hailey Valiquette	\$1,000
Fabian Suarez-Amaya Scholarship	Anne Marie Catalla	\$1,000
Fabian Suarez-Amaya Scholarship	Raison Alday	\$1,000
Wayfinders Program Scholarship	Anne Dominique Catalla	\$500

Total **\$4,500**

GARDEN CITY COLLEGIATE**Seven Oaks Education Foundation / Seven Oaks School Board Awards:**

Ann and Paul Ruta Scholarship	Yvonne Cunanan	\$500
Arnold G. Minish Anniversary Award	Amanda Flores	\$500
Francis Standil Memorial Scholarship	Gabriella Lupu	\$500
Glen Proudlove Memorial Scholarship	Amelie Valcourt	\$500
Graham Murray Memorial Scholarship	Ayanna Gualdrapa	\$500
Greg Zazulak Memorial Scholarship	Sarah Manabat	\$500
Howard & Sari Sinaisky Memorial Scholarship	Aiden Peters	\$1,000
Jake Yakmission Memorial Scholarship	Alyssa Celestino	\$500
John Trevenen Memorial Award	Karishma Karamchand	\$500
Lindsay C. Ulrich Memorial Sports Scholarship	Amelia Rosentreter	\$750
O. V. Jewitt Memorial Scholarship	Bianca Alarilla	\$500
R.D. Bell Memorial Award / Maltz Family Award	Saihaj Brar	\$500
Robert Jolly Memorial Award	McKenzie Stirling	\$500
S.O.S.B. Scholarship - John Leaman Memorial Scholarship	Sanbir Sandhu	\$500
Seven Oaks School Board Scholarship	Marcuz Bernardino	\$500
Seven Oaks School Division Scholarship	Owen Paulic	\$500
Vince Leah Scholarship/A. E.Wright Memorial Award	Carlosmiguel Castro	\$500

Seven Oaks Education Awards

Elder Mary Courchene Pow Wow Scholarship	Sarah Thomas	\$500
Opening Doors Scholarship	Raeanne Severight-Houle	\$2,000
Seven Oaks Education Foundation Creative Arts Scholarship	Jaken Nelson	\$500
Seven Oaks Education Foundation Technology Scholarship	Albert Reyes	\$500

Other Scholarships funded through Seven Oaks Education Foundation

Adam Kalechyn Business Scholarship	Caeli Palmer	\$1,000
Andrew A. Ban Fedorkiw Memorial Scholarship	Casey Kulczycki	\$500
Ann Peterson Memorial Scholarship	Chloe Kergen	\$500
Claudia Sarbit Scholarship	Alphonse Chua	\$500
CUPE 731 Scholarship	Jordyn Alexa Sorenson	\$500
David Allen Ball Memorial Scholarship	Francheska Ragca	\$600
David B. Oster Memorial Scholarship	Logan Lamoureux	\$500
Devi Sharma Leadership Award, City Councillor, Old Kildonan	John Camunggol	\$250
Garden City Collegiate 50th Anniversary Reunion Scholarship	Jayde Magus	\$1,200
Garden City Collegiate 50th Anniversary Reunion Scholarship	Anthony Contreras	\$1,200
Jerry Maslowsky Memorial Scholarship	Jackson Romanchuk	\$500
Julian Himick Memorial Scholarship	Katerina Matyja	\$1,000
Kendra Latzkitsch Memorial Scholarship	Abigail Pott	\$700
Lion's Club of West St. Paul Scholarship	Juliana Radocaj	\$500

Lydia Hedrich Scholarship	Anthony Contreras	\$500
Miriam & Philip Maltz Scholarship in English Studies	Tanya Nguyen	\$500
Mondetta Scholarship	Isaiah Torres	\$1,000
Mynarski Citizenship Scholarship	Ava Kriskovic	\$500
Nellie & Ben Zaidman Memorial Scholarship Fund	Lydia Traczuk	\$600
Platinum Jets Scholarship	Khadejah Hayes-Clarke	\$1,500
R.M. of West St. Paul Scholarship	Colby Hlatky	\$300
Ramona Gallos Scholarship	Livia Jones	\$500
Ramona Gallos Scholarship	Marcus Maranan	\$500
Seven Oaks Optimist Award	Jocelyn Blanco	\$300
Susan Popeski Memorial Scholarship	Kali Chartier-Barkley	\$500
Toby Cracknell Award	Alexander Logan	\$750
Zach Smith Passion Scholarship	Xander Boulard	\$500
Total		\$30,150

MAPLES COLLEGIATE

Seven Oaks Education Foundation / Seven Oaks School Board Awards:

a) Vocational	Aleah McLeod	\$500
b) Faculty of Education	Isabella Sousa	\$500
c) Faculty of Arts / Science	Prabhleen Saini	\$500
Faculty of Arts / Science	Freedom Rosales	\$500
d) University I (a first year Post Secondary Program)	Jose Miguella Abalos	\$500
Jake Yakmission / O. V. Jewitt Scholarship	Owen Preteau	\$500
Jake Yakmission / O. V. Jewitt Scholarship	Anika Thapar	\$500
Ken Seaford Award	Patrick Arnuco	\$500
Maples Scholarship Leadership Award	Madison Docouto	\$500
Maples Scholarship Leadership Award	Medh Modha	\$500
Maples Scholarship Leadership Award	Kareena Bedi	\$500
Maples Scholarship Leadership Award	Raynard Peralta	\$500
Seven Oaks Education Foundation Classic Scholarship	Navdeep Brar	\$500
Seven Oaks School Board Bursary	Kaynat Sayeedzada	\$500
Seven Oaks School Board Bursary	Jasmine Bedi	\$500
Seven Oaks School Board Bursary	Kushpreet Singh	\$500
Vince Leah / Maples Letterman Sports Award	Christine Huynh	\$500

The Seven Oaks Education Foundation Awards

a) Campus Life / Future Paths	Shahzad Mohajeri	\$500
b) Creativity in the Arts	Yuan Suniga	\$500
c) Technical Trades	Michael Zielke	\$500
Early Years Education Scholarship	Dante Brambilla	\$500
Elder Mary Courchene Pow Wow Scholarship	Hunter Ross	\$500

Judy Silver Memorial Scholarship	Arela Dastas	\$500
Truth & Reconciliation Scholarship	Alenah Eugenio	\$250
Truth & Reconciliation Scholarship	Alenza Eugenio	\$250
Other Scholarships funded through Seven Oaks Education Foundation		
A Scholarship Named Desire (The Mel Collins Scholarship)	Maria De Leon	\$500
Birchwood Auto Group Scholarship	Sukhraj Sandhu	\$500
Bobbi-Lynn Haegeman Memorial Scholarship	Anne Dominique Catalla	\$500
Brian O'Leary Scholarship Fund	Raison Alday	\$1,000
Cody Joss Memorial Scholarship	Al-Dean Cuevas	\$500
CUPE 731 Scholarship	Joaquin Hipolito	\$500
CUPE 949 Ray Ciwko Scholarship	Feb Beatriz Batario	\$1,000
CUPE 949 Scholarship	Khushpreet Singh	\$1,000
CUPE 949 Scholarship	Sahejpreet Singh	\$1,000
David B. Oster Memorial Scholarship	Sarah Ocharuk	\$500
Devi Sharma Leadership Award, City Councillor, Old Kildonan	Evan Holgate	\$250
Dr. Kanwal Saran Prairie Trails Medical Centre Award	Feb Batario	\$500
Elizabeth Schachter Memorial Scholarship	Gurleen Kaur Brar	\$875
Elizabeth Schachter Memorial Scholarship	Maria Sophia De Leon	\$875
FMAACI Music & Arts Leadership Scholarship	Marvin Aguila	\$500
Friesens Printers	Zariah Cabuhat	\$500
Gwen Birse Scholarship	Radha Patel	\$500
Helen Himick Memorial Scholarship Fund	Polo Pizarro	\$1,000
Jack Winters Memorial Scholarship	Jiya Arora	\$500
Luther Home Scholarship	Jemma Mercado	\$500
Mae Mendoza Scholarship	Ravnoor Gill	\$850
Mae Mendoza Scholarship	Anne-Luise Placido	\$850
Mae Mendoza Scholarship	Jonah Pagtalunan	\$850
Maples Collegiate Alumni Scholarship	Jasper Munoz	\$1,400
MLA Burrows Leadership Scholarship	Kaden Vongxay	\$300
Mondetta Scholarship	Hailey Valiquette	\$1,000
Nellie & Ben Zaidman Memorial Scholarship Fund	Hargun Uppal	\$600
Partridge Family Scholarship	Gabrielle Casillan	\$500
Pat Stefanchuk Scholarship	Kedan Thomas	\$500
Platinum Jets Scholarship	Alberta Palisoc	\$1,500
Seven Oaks Optimist Award	Kritika Sharma	\$300
SOFEA Inc. Scholarship	Venice Chloe Manalo	\$200
Verland Force Scholarship	Arshdeep Karwal	\$500
Total		\$34,350

WEST KILDONAN COLLEGIATE**Seven Oaks Education Foundation / Seven Oaks School Board Awards:**

Arthur E.Wright Award for Technology & Applied Arts	Eric Cure	\$500
Guy De Caire Scholarship	Amy Klos	\$500
Ian Dordick Memorial Award for English	Sarah Yang	\$500
Jake Yakmission Memorial Scholarship	Aidan Bento	\$500
James C. Anderson Award	Shaun Pearson	\$500
John Leaman Memorial Scholarship	Rachel Miller	\$500
O. V. Jewitt Memorial Scholarship	Claudia Otulak	\$500
Olive & George Allen Memorial Scholarship	Yandrei Cabrera	\$500
SOSD/SOEF Faculty of Arts and Science Scholarship	Sophia Sumbillo	\$500
SOSD/SOEF Faculty of Education Scholarship	Juliana Larocque	\$500
SOSD/SOEF Scholarship	Stephanie Sumbillo	\$500
SOSD/SOEF Scholarship	Erin Gonzales	\$500
The Bailey Family Computer Science Award	Iain Park	\$500
Vince Leah Sports Award	Mya Pilat	\$500
West Kildonan Collegiate Student Recognition Award	Abigail Bergagnini	\$500
West Kildonan Kiwanis Club Scholarship	Abigail Bergagnini	\$500

Seven Oaks Education Foundation Scholarships

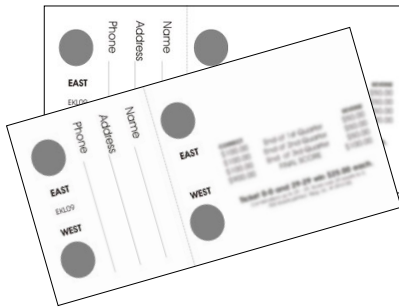
Elder Mary Courchene Pow Wow Scholarship	Violet Thompson	\$500
Next Step Scholarship	Davian Shupena	\$2,000
Seven Oaks Education Foundation Creative Arts Scholarship	Samuel Klos	\$500
SOSD/SOEF Campus Life Scholarship	Izabella Dela Cruz	\$500
SOSD/SOEF WKCI Citizenship Scholarship	Sophia Sumbillo	\$500

Other Scholarships funded through Seven Oaks Education Foundation

Barber Family Scholarship	Dan Leduc	\$500
Bill McGowan Scholarship	Samantha Benevides	\$500
Claudia Sarbit Scholarship	Elizabeth Olishevskia	\$500
CUPE 731 Scholarship	Hunter Mota	\$500
Edie Wilde Scholarship	Alazar Girma	\$1,000
Evelyn Myskiw Scholarship	Adrich Lacson	\$500
Evelyne Bemben Memorial Scholarship	Aurora Lubkey	\$1,000
General Monash Branch No.115 - Royal Canadian Legion	Rachel Mickall	\$500
General Monash Branch No.115 - Royal Canadian Legion	Aurora Lubkey	\$500
Kevin Kwasny Football Scholarship	Scott Anderson	\$1,500
Lion's Club of West St. Paul Scholarship	Kristine Crampton	\$500
Lion's Club of West St. Paul Scholarship	Yuri Wiebe	\$500
Louise Evaschesen Memorial Scholarship	Sean Menezes	\$500

Marjorie Jean Sanders Bursary (Platinum Jets)	Valentyn Slobodian	\$1,500
Mondetta Scholarship	Ava Russell	\$1,000
Mynarski Citizenship Award - Councillor Ross Eadie	Stephanie Sumbillo	\$500
Nellie & Ben Zaidman Memorial Scholarship Fund	Amanda Villiers	\$600
Partridge Family Scholarship	Isabella Pereira	\$500
R.M. of West St. Paul Scholarship	Aiden Bento	\$300
R.M. of West St. Paul Scholarship	Rachel Miller	\$300
Ric Dela Cruz Memorial Scholarship	Shaun Pearson	\$500
Seven Oaks Optimist Award	Drew Sorochnynski	\$300
Steven Hurst Creative Arts Scholarship	Austin Marriott	\$1,350
Toby Cracknell Award	Amara Hees	\$750
Trustee Teresa Jaworski Scholarship	Lawrence Agapito	\$500
West Kildonan Curling Scholarship	Abigail Bergagnini	\$500
West Kildonan Curling Scholarship	Devan Monasterski	\$500
William Finley Memorial Scholarship	Samuel Klos	\$1,000
WKCI 50th Anniversary Scholarship	Ryan Hay	\$875
WKCI 50th Anniversary Scholarship	Jordan Stuart	\$875
Total		\$32,350

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED \$116,500



GREY CUP RAFFLE TICKETS

Grey Cup Raffle tickets will be available at the Seven Oaks Board Office, 830 Powers St. from Monday, November 4 until Friday, November 15.

Tickets cost \$5 each, with proceeds going to the Seven Oaks Education Foundation.