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'I just handed in all my work,' student with 98% average says



CBC Photo: Budding research scientist, musician and radio show host Jennifer Wang of Saskatoon has made headlines...

Thu Jan 4, 6:55 PM

SASKATCHEWAN (CBC) - Budding research scientist, musician and radio show host Jennifer Wang of Saskatoon has made headlines before and now she's back in the news.

This time, the 18-year-old has been recognized by the Saskatoon public school system as its top student.

Wang, who's in her first year at Yale University, was in Saskatoon Thursday to receive the school system's award of excellence.

Last year, Wang graduated from Walter Murray Collegiate with a 98 per cent average.

"You know, to be cliché, I guess I just handed in all my work and studied for exams and really put a lot of effort into going to school," she said.

However, Wang is no bookworm. The young woman dedicated a lot of time to extracurricular activities.

She's a talented musician, having played piano competitively for years. She won a national science fair award for a study of how sarsaparilla - an herb found in root beer - could be beneficial in fighting cancer.

She won a national talent search to become, at 17, a guest host on CBC Radio's As it Happens.

Ray Logan, a high school counsellor who coached Wang on the debate team, described her Thursday as a one-of-a-kind student, unbelievably active in school events.

"Anything that was done in the school, she was involved," he said. "She's a real doer."

The award comes with a \$3,000 scholarship, money that will come in handy as Wang completes her degree at the Ivy League university.

As for the future, Wang is keeping her options open but says she sees herself working with people.

Wang said she's not sure she'll find work in Saskatchewan, but plans to return to Canada.

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