

CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER

December 2023

Important Dates

December 1: No School
December 5: Board Meeting
December 8: A Nashville Christmas at Mae Wilson
December 21-Jan 3: No School
January 4: Classes Resume

Thank You RIVER STREET PROMOTIONS

River Street Promotions held their third annual Homestand concert on September 9, 2023. Prairie South, along with Holy Trinity, benefited greatly from this event. We received an astounding \$130,000 to support youth mental health initiatives! Our heartfelt gratitude to River Street Promotions, all the volunteers, and sponsors for this extraordinary event. On December 8, River Street Promotions is bringing "A Nashville Christmas" to the Mae Wilson Theatre with proceeds also going towards youth mental health initiatives. We are thankful for the partnership we have with River Street Promotions and thank them for their generosity.

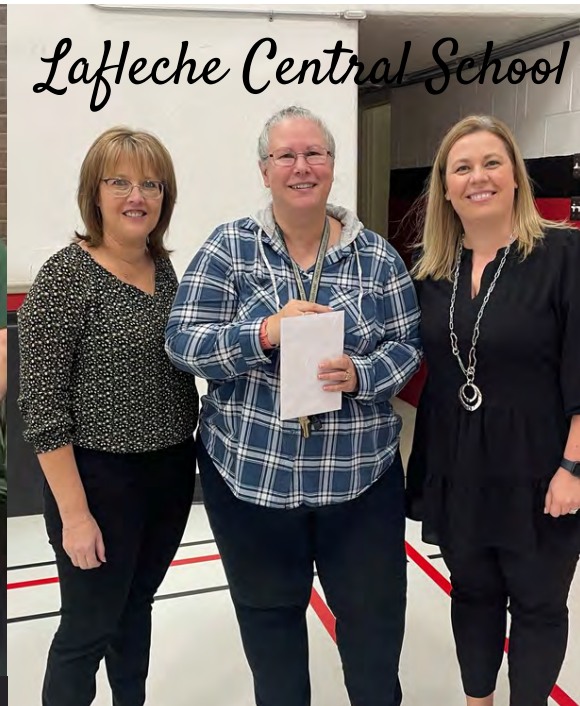


STAFF AWARD RECIPIENTS

Prairie South is proud to re-introduce Employee Service Appreciation beginning in the 2023-24 school year. We are recognizing employees with 10, 20 and 30 years of service with Prairie South. Senior Administration and Board Trustees presented employees with their gifts. Congratulations to all recipients and thank you for all you do!



A.E. Peacock Collegiate



Lafleche Central School

Brett Hagan, Trustee; Ryan Boughen, Director of Education; Crystal Froese, Trustee; Jana Polupski, Teacher-20 years; Mary Jukes, Trustee; Kirk Milani, Facility Operator-10 years; Derrick Huschi, Supt of School Operations; Lew Young, Trustee; Tana Arnott, Principal; Brad Raes, Vice-Principal

Giselle Wilson, Trustee; Jaylyn Elek, Teacher-10 years; Amanda Olson, Supt of Learning



Kincaid School



Empire School

Giselle Wilson, Trustee; Judy Corcoran, Teacher-10 years; Kathy Peterson, Educational Assistant-10 years; Amanda Olson, Supt of Learning

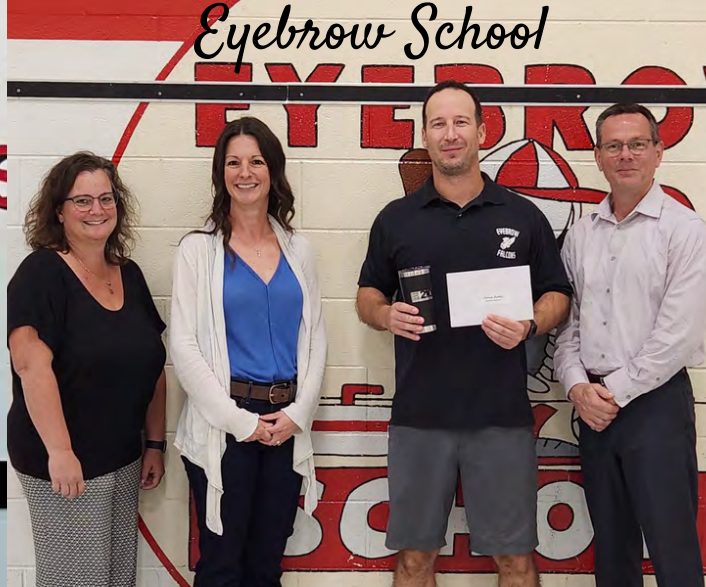
Ron Purdy, Supt of Business; Robert Bachmann, Trustee; Lew Young, Trustee; John Bumbac, Trustee; Chantie Lucyk, Vice-Principal; Mary Jukes, Trustee; Dana Ansell, Teacher-20 years; BJ Murphy, Head Facility Operator-20 years; Ryan Boughen, Director of Education; Crystal Froese, Trustee; Gillian Crocker, Principal; Darran Teneycke, Supt of School Operations



Central Office Staff

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Ryan Boughen, Director of Education; Darren Baiton, Facilities Manager; Kimberly Couperthwaite, Facilities Assistant-10 years; Mary Jukes, Trustee; Natalie Hazell, Accountant-10 years; Ron Purdy, CFO; Crystal Froese, Trustee



Eyebrow School

Eleese Aitken, Principal; Darcy Pryor, Trustee; Aaron Foster, Teacher-10 years; Derrick Huschi, Supt of School Operations



Lindale School

Ryan Boughen, Director of Education; Todd Johnson, Transportation Manager; Amy Johnson, Supt of Human Resources; Janet Mellor, Bus Driver-10 years; Karen Legler, Head Facility Operator-20 years; Crystal Cameron, Teacher-10 years; Eric Campbell, Principal; Robert Bachmann, Trustee



Eyebrow School

Derrick Huschi, Supt of School Operations; Todd Johnson, Transportation Manager; Ed Martel, Bus Driver-10 years; Darcy Pryor, Trustee; Eleese Aitken, Principal



Transportation Staff

Todd Johnson, Transportation Manager; Crystal Froese, Trustee; Mary Jukes, Trustee; Cory Turner, Mechanic-30 years; Jim Vetter, Bus Driver-10 years; Ryan Boughen, Director of Education; Amy Johnson, Supt of Human Resources



Craik School

Darcy Pryor, Trustee; Todd Johnson, Transportation Manager; Andrea Vibert, Bus Driver-10 years; Tamarra Erlandson, Principal; Derrick Huschi, Supt of School Operations

Bengough School



Dustin Swanson, Supt of School Operations;
Wivi Kesslering, Educational Assistant-20 years;
Giselle Wilson, Trustee

Central Butte School



Darcy Pryor, Trustee; Brennan Peterson, Principal; Tammy Klassen, Educational Assistant-20 years; Jessica Elez, Teacher-10 years; Kayla Van Den Bosch, Administrative Assistant-10 years; Derrick Huschi, Supt of School Operations; Todd Johnson, Transportation Manager



Sunningdale School

Darran Teneycke, Supt of School Operations; Durston McKenna, Vice-Principal; Crystal Froese, Trustee; Derrick Cameron, Teacher-10 years; Alysha Huschi, Teacher-10 years; Nathan Hazell, Teacher-10 years; Mary Jukes, Trustee; Lew Young, Trustee; Ryan Boughen, Director of Education; Dave Osberg, Principal

Cornerstone Christian School



Tanya Johnson, Vice-Principal; Crystal Froese, Trustee; Carrie Hlady, Teacher-20 years; Lee Behrns, Principal; Derrick Huschi, Supt of School Operations

Learning Department



Crystal Froese, Trustee; Lenea Okraincee, Advocacy and Behaviour Support Consultant-20 years; Amanda Olson, Supt of Learning; Ryan Boughen, Director of Education; Mary Jukes, Trustee; Lew Young, Trustee

Central Collegiate



Derrick Huschi, Supt of School Operations; Pamela Lys, Educational Assistant-20 years; Pat Kindiak, Educational Assistant-20 years; Scott Wicker, Teacher-10 years; Chantel Mack, Teacher-10 years; Paul McCorrison, Teacher-10 years; Shelby Mackey, Teacher-10 years; Courtney Rattee, Teacher-10 years; Nicole Rondeau, Educational Assistant-20 years; Ryan Boughen, Director of Education; Lew Young, Trustee; Mary Jukes, Trustee; Crystal Froese, Trustee

Rockglen School



Giselle Wilson, Trustee; Trina Waronek, Teacher-10 years; Patti Cristensen, Educational Assistant-20 years; Natasha Bouvier, Teacher-20 years; Amanda Olson, Supt of Learning

Ecole Palliser Heights School



Ryan Boughen, Director of Education; Kelly Logan, Principal; Mary Jukes, Trustee; Sandee St. Pierre, Administrative Assistant-20 years; Darla Smith Harkness, Teacher-10 years; Crystal Froese, Trustee; Amanda Olson, Supt of Learning; Lew Young, Trustee

Riverview Collegiate



Ryan Boughen, Director of Education; Crystal Froese, Trustee; Nicole Cossette, Educational Assistant/Library Associate-20 years; Deana Kempel, Principal-10 years; Mark Heisler, Educational Assistant-30 years; Derrick Huschi, Supt of School Operations; Mary Jukes, Trustee

Rouleau School



Derrick Huschi, Supt of School Operations; Mitch Singleton, Principal-10 years; Angela Krauss, Administrative Assistant-20 years; Darcy Pryor, Trustee

Facilities Department



Darren Baiton, Facilities Manager; Ryan Boughen, Director of Education; Brad Pagan, Handyman-10 years; Lew Young, Trustee; Mary Jukes, Trustee; Derrick Huschi, Supt of School Operations

Mortlach School



Darcy Pryor, Trustee; Rayleen Eberl, Principal-20 years; Amy Johnson, Supt of Human Resources; Derrick Huschi, Supt of School Services

ASSINIBOIA 7TH AVENUE SCHOOL



Aaron Hesjedal, Principal; Amanda Duxbury, Teacher-10 years; Geana Sognesand, Educational Assistant-20 years; Amanda Olson, Supt of Learning; Darran Teneycke, Supt of School Operations

Avonlea School



Robert Bachmann, Trustee; Christy Kuffner, Teacher-20 years; Charla Edwards, Principal; Derrick Huschi, Supt of School Operations



Lew Young, Trustee; Patricia Acker, Administrative Assistant-30 years; Pamela Elliott, Teacher-20 years; Patricia Veroba, Teacher-10 years; Jody Brown, Teacher-20 years; Kim Alexanderson, Teacher-10 years; Amanda Harper, Teacher-10 years; Trish Alexander, Principal; Crystal Froese, Trustee



Darran Teneycke, Supt of School Operations; Mary Jukes, Trustee; Heather Maitland, Educational Assistant and Library Associate-10 years; Crystal Froese, Trustee; Jill Tressel, Principal

Coronach School



Dustin Swanson, Supt of School Operations; John Bumbac, Trustee; Brianne Drake, Teacher-10 years; Sabrina Knoss, Educational Assistant-10 years; Nathan Beselaere, Principal; Ryan Boughen, Director of Education

Pathways School



Angus McIntosh, Principal; Tessa Willfong, Teacher; Ryan Boughen, Director of Education; Mary Jukes, Trustee; Logan Petlak, Teacher-10 years; Derrick Huschi, Supt of School Operations; Crystal Froese, Trustee

Mossbank School



Dustin Swanson, Supt of School Operations; Brett Tiffen, Principal; Katie Bumphrey-Letnes, Teacher-20 years; Carolyn Anderson, Administrative Assistant-20 years; Terry Clements, Library Associate-10 years; John Bumbac, Trustee; Ryan Boughen, Director of Education

CONGRATULATIONS

Meet Our Staff

Bert Redstone, Teacher



Bert grew up in Moose Jaw – he’s an east end kid and went to Prince Arthur School and then headed to Peacock for high school. He’s come full circle as he now lives in Moose Jaw again with his wife Amy, and their two kids, Jack and Georgia. They live in the house Amy’s dad owned while she was growing up, just a few blocks from where Bert grew up and right across the street from his best friend’s house in high school. Strange. Jack is in Peacock now, grade ten, while Georgia is in grade six French Immersion at Palliser Heights. Amy runs a YMCA daycare here in town. Bert is currently the art teacher at Peacock Collegiate, and teaches history as well. He earned his first degree from the University of Regina, a BFA in Visual Art. Since that time he’s seen a few different educational settings. His first teaching job was at Luther College high school in Regina. After his time at Luther College, he decided to travel overseas and teach English as an additional language in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

He spent two-and-a-half years there, teaching and traveling throughout China and South Asia. This is when he first thought about returning to school to get his education degree, as teaching there felt for the first time like a good career choice instead of a temporary job. If anyone is ever considering teaching overseas, go for it! He still misses the food, the people, and the night markets. Once he returned from Taiwan he moved to Calgary and worked in an interior renovation company started by another Peacock alumni, Rosy Sealy and his son Tori. Bert went to Peacock with Tori and they’d been friends since they played senior basketball together, so when he ended up in Calgary with no real plan Bert was happy to jump in and learn the trades from him. He spent several years doing that but ultimately he and Amy realized they were never going to be able to buy a home there and that’s when they finally decided to return to Moose Jaw, buy a house, and he’d go back to the U of R for his education after-degree.

Bert is the head coach for the high school football team at Peacock, so his late summer to fall months are dedicated to that role. But outside of football season he still paints and draws. Peacock was lucky to receive a kiln as a donation from Rob Froese, a ceramic artist from Moose Jaw, so Bert has been brushing up on his ceramics. Recently he’s taken up guitar – learning something totally new has been interesting and challenging! His whole family loves food as well, and they often head to their favorite restaurant in town – Mitsu – for some sushi whenever they can. Hard to believe Moose Jaw has one of the best sushi restaurants he’s ever eaten at right here!

Bert has received a lot of good advice throughout his 14 years or so as a teacher in Prairie South, and he’s been fortunate to work with some iconic teachers from Moose Jaw. One of the most important things about working in this field is sharing knowledge. Ideas for teaching, new strategies for working with a diverse array of students, how to become a successful coach – none of these things are on you alone. We don’t teach in a vacuum. Over the last few years Bert developed a website – redstoneclass.com – that has a lot of his ideas around teaching art from grades 9 to 12. Any teachers out there looking for ideas for an art classroom, feel free to check it out and steal away!

Karren was born in Estevan, Saskatchewan but grew up back and forth from Saskatchewan and Alberta. Estevan, SK to Westlock, AB, back to Estevan, then to Moose Jaw and from there to Olds, AB and then started her adult life back in Saskatchewan. Karren currently lives in Central Butte with her spouse, Ross. They have been together for 24 years and have three children: Rain, Autumn and Tyler. They also have a 2 year old granddaughter, Solaya, and another grandbaby on the way in February 2024! Karren was lucky enough to be a stay-at-home mom until her youngest child went into grade 1. From there, she worked a part-time job in Moose Jaw at the Temple Gardens Mineral Spa. During that time, a temporary part-time facility operator job came up at Eyebrow School. Karren lived in Brownlee so applied to get a foot in the door with Prairie South. That temporary job turned into a permanent Head Facility Job for 11 years. She has been HFO at Central Butte since 2020.

Karren Orser, Head Facility Operator



Karren is an Indigenous person from Treaty 4 territory (Whitebear First Nation). She loves to crochet, spend time outside camping, fishing, and hunting, visiting family and friends in BC and watching reality TV – too many to list but Survivor and Big Brother are top of the list. She also loves spending as much time with her granddaughter as possible! Her favourite food is comfort food – lasagna and Shepherd’s pie are two of her favourites. Karren’s advice: Try new things and don’t be so hesitant, there is no perfect time for anything. Trust your instincts and just go with it, everything usually works out for the best!!



Avonlea School

Address



The Circle of Courage, a First Peoples philosophy, promotes positive development in everyone. The central premise of this model is that a set of shared values and common language must be present in order to unify a community of learners. These shared values include belonging, independence, mastery, and generosity. The Circle of Courage is a unifying vision and a common language for all staff, students, and families. This language engages all members of the learning community fostering self-esteem, a sense of self-worth and inclusiveness. At Avonlea School, we support and help our students as they develop their personal beliefs and intrinsic motivations which will influence the choices they make and the behaviours they exhibit throughout their lifetime. The Circle of Courage and its four core values guide this important work with our students. The Spirit of Belonging: Each and every person needs to feel they belong to our School Community. The universal longing for human bonds is cultivated by relationships of trust so that the child can say, "I am loved." The Spirit of Mastery: Each person strives to be their best and achieve goals. This lets us all gain confidence in the physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual self. The inborn thirst for learning is cultivated; by learning to cope with the world, the child can say, "I can succeed." The Spirit of Independence: Each person is responsible for their own actions. We have the ability to make decisions, care for others, and solve problems. Free will is cultivated by responsibility so that the child can say, "I have the power to make positive decisions." The Spirit of Generosity: Each person appreciates receiving and feels even better when giving something good to be shared. This allows us to fully participate in our community. Character is cultivated by concern for others so that the child can say, "I am considerate of others."



Avonlea School was first established in 1912. The "new school" was built in 1961 which housed Grades 5-12 until 1982, then the addition was built, allowing all students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 to be housed in one building.

Our current enrollment sits at 134 students, with a teaching and support staff of 17. Avonlea School students enjoy a full complement of school sports, where our teams have experienced much success. We also have very active Student Leadership, SADD, and Yearbook Committees. Academics are in the forefront always, with a dedicated staff that works constantly to help students reach their potential. Our little school is always busy, whether it be hosting sporting events; planning for Remembrance Day services, Christmas concerts, or graduations; organizing and fundraising for trips; serving hot lunches, pancake breakfasts, and Welcome Back barbecues. There is always something on the go! But under all the bustle lie the tenets of integrity, accountability, learning, and communication.

Congratulations to all the volleyball teams who represented Prairie South at Provincials in November. Special congratulations to Rouleau boys winning Gold and Assiniboia boys winning Silver! You should be proud of your accomplishments - we are so proud of you!



Rouleau School 1A Boys



Assiniboia Comp High 3A Boys



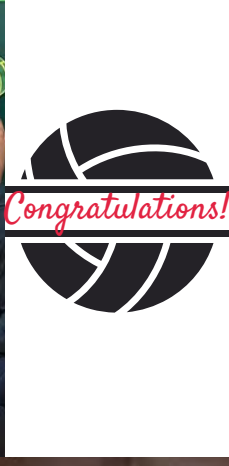
Central Collegiate 4A Boys



Cornerstone Christian 2A Boys



Ecole Gravelbourg 2A Girls



Bengough 1A Girls



Kincaid 2A Boys



Lafleche 1A Boys



Central Collegiate 4A Girls

If you have any stories or ideas to share in the newsletter, please email us at communications@prairiesouth.ca.