

# PRAIRIE SOUTH CONNECTIONS

FEBRUARY 2022

## SHOWCASE ON MAGNET PROGRAM

In 2013, the three school administrators of Kincaid, Glentworth and Mankota were tasked with finding a solution on how to provide pure practical and applied arts programming in the area. The Division had funding set aside to support student access to PAA courses in the rural communities and were very willing to allow for a creative approach to delivering these courses. Many meetings later, and under the direction of Barb Compton, the idea of the Magnet program was born.



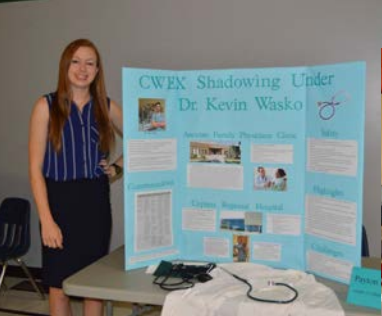
Schedules, timetables, transportation and teaching expertise were all considered and it took the willingness, collaboration and out-of-the-box thinking for these three schools to come together to make a unique and exciting opportunity for the students in the south. Essentially, Mankota School became the Magnet (host) and students from Kincaid and Glentworth joined the Mankota students one day in a six day rotation. Each school would send one teacher to offer a different PAA course so students were given an option of three PAA courses.

# SHOWCASE ON MAGNET PROGRAM CONT'D

With generous support from the Division and the RM of Mankota, we offered the first Magnet classes of welding, commercial cooking, and cosmetology in the fall of 2014. Welding has been the flagship course, being offered at the RM shop in Mankota each year. Over the years, different PAA classes have joined welding and have been accessed by our students such as photography, graphic arts, CWEX, and sometimes a survey course.



The Magnet Program has been going strong for almost 7 years and numerous students have benefited from this collaborative and unconventional approach to PAA.



# SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF



**Lorry Okraincee** grew up in Flintoft, which is only about 30 miles north of the U.S. border and now lives on a mixed farm, seven miles east of Glentworth. She went to school in Wood Mountain and then attended SIAST in Moose Jaw for Office Education. Lorry's first job was with Red Coat Trail School Division in 1994 at Limerick School. Then she moved to Assiniboia 7th Avenue and Assiniboia Elementary as an Educational Assistant. In the fall of 1995 she began her career at **Glentworth School** where she's still employed as an **Educational Assistant**. She's worked with Prairie South for 27 years! Lorry's been married to her husband for 26 years and together they have 3 beautiful children. Makinley is attending the U of S and studying for her doctorate in Pharmacy; Hadley is graduating high school this year and he hopes to attend Polytech in Saskatoon for Industrial Welding; Owen, is in grade 7 soon to be a teenager! Lorry's passion has always been music - she loves to sing and has written and composed her own songs. She loves to camp at the Wood Mountain Regional Park which is home to the oldest continuous rodeo in Canada!

**Michelle Wicker** started working for Prairie South in October 2008 as a part-time School Assistant at King George School and shortly after went on the casual Administrative Assistant list. In 2014 she started working at **Central Collegiate** as an **Administrative Assistant** where she remains today! Michelle moved to Moose Jaw when she was 5 years old and attended King George School and Vanier Collegiate. Her first job was working at Moose's Restaurant as a hostess. Michelle married the love of her life, Scott and they have four beautiful children, Taiya, Ciara, Wyatt and Jack, along with 2 dogs, a cat and a fish. Recently they renovated her childhood home. Not only is it her childhood home, but it's her dad's as well and his dad's home. It was built in 1913 and no other family has ever lived in it. If only the walls could talk! Michelle enjoys yoga, art, dancing and spending time with the people she loves. She coaches the Central Collegiate senior girls' volleyball team and cherishes the opportunity to connect with students. Her favourite place in the world to visit



is Kona, Hawaii, with the stunning palm trees, beautiful sandy beaches, and the most gorgeous seawater. It is the most laid back place she's ever visited. She enjoys all that The Big Island has to offer and dreams of making many more memories there. "Hang Loose."

**Eleese Aitken** grew up in Richmond, Saskatchewan and started working for Prairie South in 1999 after her first daughter, Josee, was born. She started in **Eyebrow** teaching Phys-Ed and middle years math, science and French then after two years she took on the **Principal** role.



She has taught every subject except Chem from grade 3-12! Eleese and her husband, Rob, have two children, Josee and Justene. They live on a farm just south of Eyebrow and in their spare time manage leaf cutter bees and sell certified alfalfa seed. They also have two dogs, three horses and a barn full of cats! Josee attends King's College at Wilkes-Barre, PA where she went for hockey. She has a degree in Environmental Science with a Science Major and minors in Chemistry, Biology and Geography. She went back for her 5th year of hockey as her team was unable to play last year. She is now working towards her masters doing field study in environmental studies. Justene is in grade 12 and also skates - but she is a figure skater and is on the Saskatchewan High Performance Figure Skating Team and is working on her triple jumps. Justene got accepted into the College of Nursing for the fall of 2022. Eleese has tried bungee jumping and she loves it! She hopes to one day skydive. In the summer you will find the Aitken crew at their cabin at Lac Pelletier Regional Park, out on their "water tractor" (aka boat)! She enjoys doing anything outside, and in particular she loves to ski (water and snow), ride horses, play volleyball, baseball, badminton and garden.



# RIVERVIEW COLLEGIATE SPOTLIGHT

[f @RiverviewCollegiateschoolcommunity](#) [t @RVCIMJ](#)

Riverview is a grade 9-12 high school that offers a wide variety of classes in a cozy atmosphere. Our school motto is "where everybody is a somebody" and it truly is the feeling that you get when you enroll at Riverview. Teachers are able to get to know all students on a first name basis because we have a smaller school population. Some of the unique programs that we offer over at Riverview are cosmetology, wildlife management, rock band, and gender and sexual diversity.

We offer a wide variety of extra curricular activities including volleyball, basketball, curling, archery, badminton, track, Dungeons and Dragons, Treaty Four group, SRC, drama, board game club, and much more.

