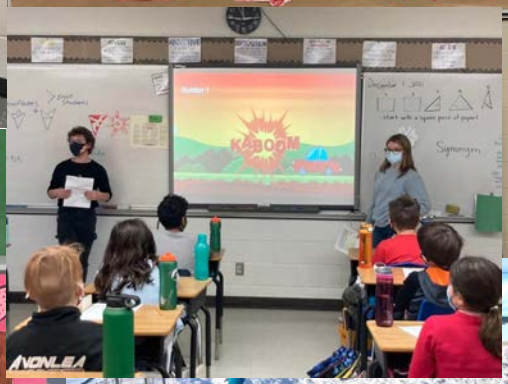
Prairie South Schools 210

PRAIRIE SOUTH CONNECTIONS

JANUARY 2022

HAPPY New YEAR



SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

Jessica Deringer is a part-time **Educational Assistant at Avonlea School**. She grew up on a farm just down the grid road in Ogema. Jessica attended the University of Regina and received a BA Honours Degree in Psychology. It has always been her intention to return to school and acquire her Masters in either Educational Psychology or Speech-Language Pathology, which is what led her to being an Educational Assistant in the meantime. Jessica has lived in a variety of small towns around the province over the years, and has been an EA in Wilcox, Grand Coulee, Pilot Butte, and Ogema Schools. When she became a mom, she took several years off, but missed the children and the fun school atmosphere so much that when the part-time position opened up in Avonlea in the summer of 2019, she jumped at the opportunity, and she is so glad that she did! Jessica says that Avonlea School is truly a wonderful school, with an amazing staff and fantastic students! On the days when she is not in Avonlea School, Jessica works part-time at Ogema Agencies, the local insurance broker and SGI Issuer office in her hometown. When she is not doing either of her jobs, she is a full-time mom to two wonderful little ladies, Chelsea and Isla, and spends as much time as she can with her daughters and her husband Derrick. They enjoy movie nights, game nights, camping in the summers and travelling when public health orders allow.

Deana Kempel began working for Prairie South in 2013 as the First Nation, Metis consultant. She also worked as a Student Support Teacher at Westmount and then Vice-Principal at Westmount. In 2018 she moved over to Empire as the Vice Principal and in March 2020 made the jump into her present role as **Principal at Riverview Collegiate**. Deana grew up in Moose Jaw on the east end of town and attended Prince Arthur School and Peacock Collegiate. Then she moved on to Medicine Hat College and the University of Regina. Deana started off her career as a paper girl and she also sold dickie dee ice cream at the air show. Her first official job was cleaning the tills up at Superstore at 5:00 a.m. before going to school! Deana and her husband Bret, who works as an Engineer for Saskpower in Regina, have been married for 14 years and have two daughters - Ada, 12 in grade 7 and Carly, 10 in grade 5. Casper the German Shephard is a rescue dog they fostered during the pandemic who is now an awesome addition to their family. You'll find Deana coaching many different sports and if you're an early bird, at 5:20 a.m. at the Ironwood Gym every morning. Deana's favourite vacation spot is Las Vegas where she loves to people watch on the strip.

Lise Williamson is the **Head Facility Operator at Mankota School**. Lise grew up on a farm outside Glentworth with her parents and three sisters and attended Glentworth School for K-12. After graduating she attended Artistique Beauty College in Moose Jaw. Lise's first job was as a lifeguard at Wood Mountain Regional Park for a summer then she moved on to cleaning the school in Glentworth back when it was in Golden Plains SD. She worked a few years in Glentworth then moved back to Mankota School where she is today. Lise has four grown, successful children from a previous marriage and Lise is now married to Chris, who manages the local stockyards and together they have a son, Cord, in Grade 1. They ranch in Mankota and live just outside of town. Lise also has one beautiful little granddaughter. Lise was once interviewed to be a stunt woman in a movie! She never got a call back, but she also never heard of the movie actually coming out! Lise enjoys reading and camping at Wood Mountain Regional Park.

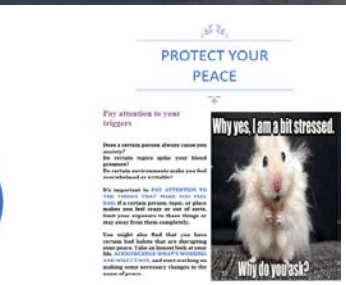
CENTRAL BUTTE SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

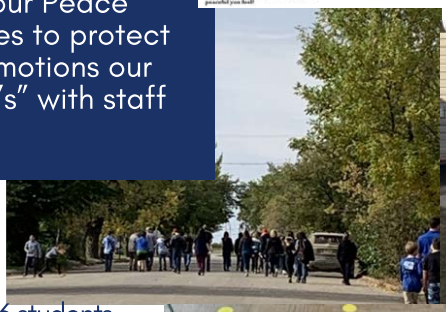
@centralbutteschool @cbbulldogs

Central Butte has a staff of 23 that includes classroom teachers, educational assistants, administrative assistant, library assistant & facilities. The welcome sign was created by the Grade 5&6 EAs, CT and students to help raise awareness about differences.

Inspire: Giving Back & Protecting Our Peace

As a school we believe that it is important to give back to our communities locally and beyond. Each year we participate in a variety of fundraisers and events such as the Terry Fox Run, at Halloween our senior students organize and participate in 'Halloween Treat or Eat' which delivers food items to the Moose Jaw and area Food Bank, and we collected items for a Winter Clothing Drive for northern communities. We have also been working on a Protect Your Peace program that helps us remember to set healthy boundaries to protect our own mental health. In addition to monthly peace promotions our high school students participate in monthly "Chill 'n Chat's" with staff and weekly mental strength check-ins.





Learn: Flexible Space, Flexible Pace

Picture above: Grade 1&2 Students learning about reconciliation and how we can all be better at understanding others' points of view.

Picture below: Grade 5&6 students acting as math mentors for Grade 3/4 students. Never too young or too old to be the teacher or the learner.

Picture at left: Kindergarten students during self-selected reading, a time to explore and read books that interest them. Agriculture roots run deep at CBS.

Picture above: The grade 7/8 social studies class exploring how a bill becomes a law. The class drafted a proposal to PSS with suggestions about how to incorporate more physical activity into the school day. Ryan Boughen attended the class presentation and explained the decision-making process in a School Division.

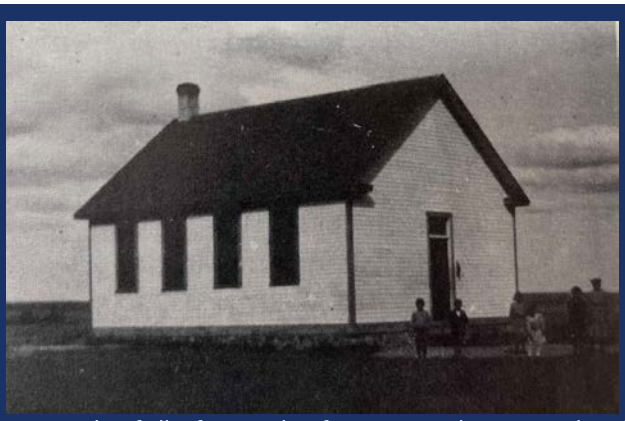
Grow: Student Leadership

At CBS we believe that everyone can be a leader in some way so each month a different grade/cohort takes a turn planning and then leading a school wide activity that is connected to our school goals. Some of our activities have included 'Games From Our Childhood' that focused on helping students feel engaged and connected with each other; a 'Family Feud' game that had all students and staff answer a series of questions about our school and the people in it; a scavenger hunt that led students to find rocks with important messages on them.

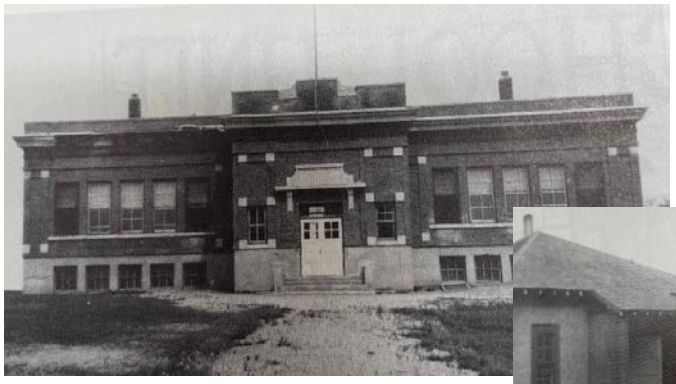
CENTRAL BUTTE SCHOOL HISTORY

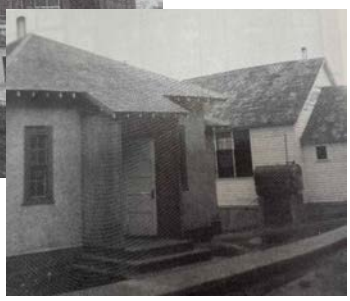
@centralbutteschool @cbbulldogs

Information summarized from: Our Heritage – A view from the Butte 1988 and Retrospect – Central Butte School yearbooks



Late in the fall of 1908 the first Central Butte School opened. It was originally placed on a farm outside of the townsite but was later moved.





In 1919 the brick 4-room school was opened. As the school population increased over the years the former Union Jack and Menzie schools were moved into town and used as satellite schools.

1959 saw the opening of the present high school with 3 classrooms, gymnasium/auditorium, home economics room, workshop, chemistry lab and library. In 1963 four additional classrooms were built on to the north end of the existing high school.

In 1966 the present elementary school opened with 9 rooms to accommodate the students from the old brick school and satellites.

As the student population continued to rise, 1969 saw the 4-room school from nearby Lawson moved in and attached to the north end of the school.

In 1975 the present gymnasium was built between the high school and elementary school to join the two.

In 1999 extensive renovations were completed to the school.