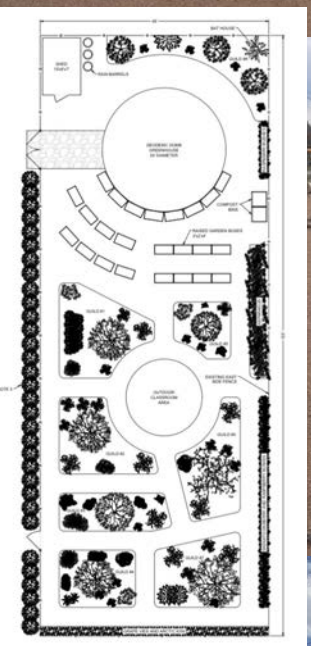
Prairie South Schools 210

PRAIRIE SOUTH CONNECTIONS

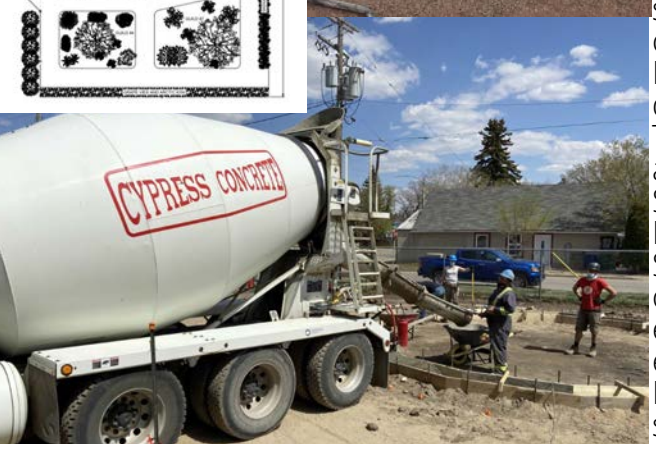
MAY 2022

SHOWCASE ON PRINCE ARTHUR COMMUNITY GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE DOME

The Prince Arthur Community Garden and greenhouse dome came from a collaborative vision for a year-round garden that our students and community members could access. Initially, the idea came up at a staff meeting. Then, former Vice Principal, Mr. Brad Raes took the idea to the School Community Council and planning began. Mr. Raes and Carmen Kaweski, Executive Director of Moose Jaw River Watershed Stewards (MJRWS) decided to apply for funding. The Innovation grant was applied for and rewarded, as well as the Co-op Community Spaces grant. MJRWS wanted to build a Food Farm and community garden space to teach students, the surrounding community, and visitors on sustainable gardening in the face of climate change. Arctic Acres, a Canadian company, makes year-round greenhouses and is who Mr. Raes purchased the dome from. Once funding was in place and materials were purchased, the community came together to make this vision a reality.



Beyond the greenhouse dome, the Co-op Community Farm project was being built around it. The MJRWS staff, students and staff at Prince Arthur &many community members worked collaboratively to build this portion of the project. MJRWS hired Keri Fox of Regenerative Land and Garden Design to help design the food forest guilds based on permaculture concepts. The plants complement one another within the individual guilds and feature many native plants, trees, and shrubs from Saskatchewan. One unique feature is the Native Plant Spiral and Learning Circle. It features plants that are native to Saskatchewan and will support our native pollinators. This is the only area of the garden that may feature plants that are not edible, otherwise the entire Food Farm features plants that are either edible, medicinal, or both. The Co-op Community Food Farm has other features that support pollinators & biodiversity, such as the bee bath, the bird bath and the bat house!



PRINCE ARTHUR COMMUNITY GARDEN & GREENHOUSE DOME

CONT'D

In spring, the students start seedlings to eventually transplant into the garden boxes in the greenhouse and garden area. These seedlings are the plants that have a longer growing season. Then, once the seedlings are ready to be transplanted the students will move them to the garden boxes outside of the greenhouse. At this time, they will also plant any of the vegetables we are going to grow that have a shorter growing season. Garden maintenance will happen throughout the summer and then harvesting in the fall. The garden will be open to community members throughout the summer. This schedule will be shared once it is confirmed.

Today, the garden and dome project is still being completed. Compost bins were recently installed and rain barrels are being installed in the coming weeks. There will be a rinse table for the children to rinse their vegetables on. We are also looking into purchasing leaf cutter bees through a Saskatchewan based company, Backyard Pollinator. The interior of the greenhouse is still being designed to best use the space for growing fruits and vegetables that require a longer growing season, as well as starting plants. There are also some trees that are going to be replaced and any other plants that did not survive over winter will be replaced. The staff and students are creating a garden club with a vision of eventually selling products in a Farmer's Market style!

Without the support of our community, this garden and greenhouse project would not be to the point it is at today. The following is a list of community contributors: All n' All Construction, Barry Farms, Cypress Concrete, Co-op Staff Volunteers, JKR Exteriors, Keri Fox Regenerative Land and Garden Design, Peacock School Shop Class, Strictly Fences, Tom Bradly, and Wakamow Valley Staff. Mr. Raes and Carmen Kaweski supported all these companies through the planning and construction process, spending countless hours working alongside them. We are beyond thankful for the community support with this project and look forward to seeing how it grows in years to come.

PRINCE ARTHUR SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

@PrinceArthurMJ @PrinceArthurMJ

At Prince Arthur school we are "Growing a Community of Learners". We pride ourselves in creating a safe, welcoming, and community focused school environment in which all kids can succeed. In our classrooms you will find staff providing and students engaging in student-centered learning. We currently have 213 students enrolled from Pre-K to grade eight.

A highlight to kick off our year was an outdoor family movie night! We had fantastic attendance and the night went off seamlessly. It was such a great way to start the year and get our school community back together. As the year continued our staff and students participated in numerous school activities including the Terry Fox Run, Education week, spirit days, and different holiday activities. Different classes took part in field trips including ice fishing, going to the Science Center and a snowshoeing day at Wakamow. Our staff and students all love a dose of friendly competition. You can find us playing staff versus students games at the end of a sports season, as well as outside at recess. The whole school comes together cheering each other on and having fun as a community.

Outside the classroom, we offer a variety of extracurricular activities for our students including cross country, volleyball, badminton, basketball, SLC, chess club, girls club, reading club, art club, and track and field. Currently, we are in the process of starting a gardening club to provide students with the opportunity to take on a leadership role with our greenhouse dome and community garden. It is our goal to provide a variety of extracurricular activities to meet the vast interests of all our students.

As a school, we look forward to what the rest of the year has in store as we enter the home stretch of the 2021/22 school year.

PRINCE ARTHUR SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

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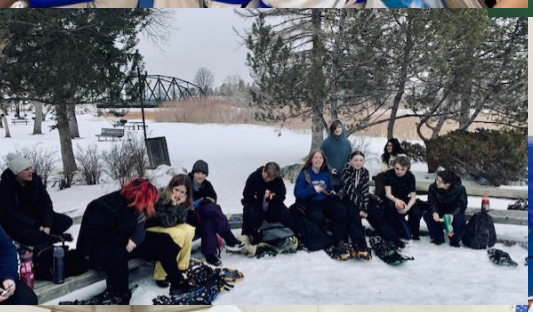

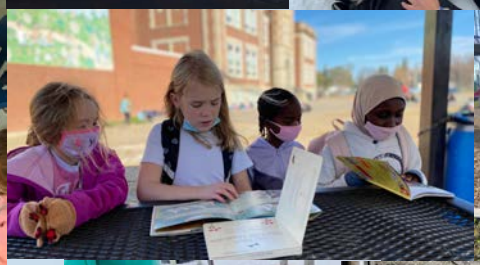

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

Sandra Baldwin started working with Prairie South in 2020 as the **Principal at Central Butte School**. Next year she will be moving to Prince Arthur School as the VP. Sandra grew up on a mixed farm west of Simpson where she attended school from K-12. She attended the University of Saskatchewan where she completed undergraduate degrees in Agriculture and Education and a Masters degree in Educational Leadership. Her first teaching job was in Davidson School where she taught middle and senior math and science. Sandra is married to Tony and they have three daughters and one son-in-law. Their eldest Nicole and her husband Rylan currently live and work in Toronto - they are fortunate to have positions that allow them to work remotely so they will be moving back to SK in the fall. Their middle daughter, Kimberley, has been working as an engineer with Water Security Agency but is moving to Calgary this spring to complete her master's degree in software engineering. Their youngest Kaitlyn is also on the move, after completing her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree at the U of S, she accepted a hospital pharmacy resident position at Vancouver General so will be moving to Vancouver in June. Sandra was a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, Navy (reservist) and trained as a diesel mechanic during her first undergraduate degree. Her home unit was HMCS Unicorn in Saskatoon, but spent most of her summers onboard ships sailing the west coast based out of CFB Esquimalt, Victoria, BC. After her first degree she spent a year teaching at the Department of National Defence Naval Fleet School and considered making the military her full-time career. Sandra enjoys travelling, exploring new places, reading non-fiction math and science books, and coaching sports.

Paul Dumont is a **Bus Driver** at **Lafleche Central School**. Paul was born in Gravelbourg and grew up on a farm south of Lafleche. Paul's mom took her nursing training in Dauphin, MB so Paul attended Kindergarten in Ethelbert, MB, 40 minutes from Dauphin. Paul grew up speaking mainly French and Ethelbert was a Ukrainian town where they either spoke Ukrainian or English! After Kindergarten, Paul attended Gr. 1 & 2 in Lafleche and then they moved to Regina and he attended Elsie Dorsey School (Gr. 3-7) and Campbell Collegiate (Gr. 8-11). While in high school Paul worked for a concrete company building basements - he helped build basements of some of the largest homes in Wascana! Paul's family moved back to Lafleche and his parents lived in the town of Lafleche and Paul stayed on the farm for his grade 12 year, by himself, and went to Glentworth School. He went from a class of 360 graduates at Campbell, to a class of 12 graduates in Glentworth! After graduation, Paul stayed on the farm, where he remains today. Paul has been driving school bus since 1998 - he's essentially had the same route the entire time. He is now driving kids of the kids he once drove! Paul has been married to Aline for 33 years. They have a daughter who is 32 years old and lives in Assiniboia. She is married to a rancher and farmer and she is a funeral director and embalmer. They have two children, aged 5 and 2, and Paul and Aline are happy to live close by, so they are available to help out when work life gets too busy. They also have a son, Darcy, who is 29 and is a lawyer in Moose Jaw. When Paul was a teenager in Regina, he was a rated chess player - he had a ranking! His trig teacher challenged him to a chess game while the rest of the class was doing trig, and yes, Paul won! Paul even had the opportunity to play against a Russian, who he wasn't successful at beating. Paul has been riding dirt bikes since he was 9 years old and his children also enjoy riding and they spent many hours riding dirt bikes together! Paul and Aline have visited Hawaii a couple times and loved it so much they can't wait to go back!

Randi Ruthven is a **Speech-Language Pathologist** based out of the Assiniboia Office. Randi grew up in Weyburn and attended school there. When she was 15, she worked at a shoe store in the Weyburn Mall - Bata/Athletes World! After high school, she moved to Minot, North Dakota to play volleyball and softball for Minot State University where she received her undergraduate and graduate degrees. She started working as a Speech-Language Pathologist in Assiniboia and completed her practicum in the schools she still works in today! Randi has worked for the division for 13 years. She is married to Brian, who is the principal at Assiniboia Elementary School and they have two boys, Emery (9) and Lynden (7). Randi enjoys playing and coaching volleyball, golfing, playing catch and basketball with her boys. In 2011 Randi and Brian ran with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain! They love the sun and water, whether it's the ocean or at their cabin at Katepwa Lake.

#LEARNINGTOGETHER IN OUR SCHOOLS

Bengough School

Empire School

Kincaid Central School

Assiniboia Comp High

Riverview Collegiate

Central Collegiate

Avonlea School

Assiniboia Elementary School

Assiniboia 7th Avenue School

Eyebrow School

Central Butte School

Coronach School

Westmount School

Lindale School

Sunningdale School