

CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER

November 2023

Important Dates

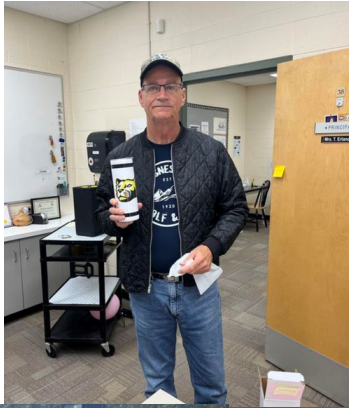
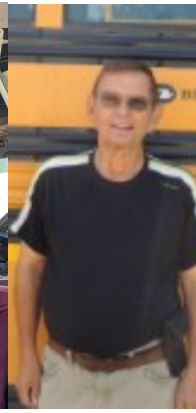
- November 7: Board Meeting
- November 10: Prep/LIT Day (No School for Students)
- November 11: Remembrance Day
- November 13: No School
- November 21: Special Board Meeting & Board Planning Meeting
- November 22: Board Planning Meeting
- November 29 & 30: School-based Administrators' Meeting

We celebrated Education Week, Library Week, and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in October. Thanks for sharing your posts on social media!





THANK YOU!



SPOTLIGHT ON VTEC (Voices to Encourage Change)

Each year, a group of grade 10 and 11 students are invited to meet with Senior Administration to discuss items of interest or concern to them. During that meeting, students have the opportunity to discuss and share these items with the students from other schools. They identify the top items that they would like to share with their fellow students for additional feedback and a broader perspective.

From there, they create a process of engaging students in their own building to gather this additional data. This information is then brought back to Senior Administration, and it is collated and discussed. From the data, themes are formed, and students create a process for messaging this information to the Board.

During one of the regular Board Meetings, students present to the Board and answer any questions the Board may have regarding their presentation.

Students have been involved in budget items for consideration, strategic planning, FNMI engagement, and most recently, becoming a World-Class Organization.

Below is a photo from the VTEC Students' presentation to the Board at the June 6, 2023 regular Board Meeting.





Central Collegiate hosted their Academic Awards ceremony on October 17, where they celebrated over 80 academic awards and accomplishments from the 2022-2023 school year. CCI is known for their arts programs and sports teams, but academics is predominantly the reputation with their Tradition of Excellence.



The Academic Awards ceremony is a way for the school and community to recognize the result of hard work, resilience, and determination which has led to success.



Congratulations to all the award winners and thank you to the community sponsors!



Meet Our Staff

Samantha Roszell, Administrative Assistant at Ecole Palliser Heights School



Samantha Roszell grew up in Durban, South Africa. She moved to London, Ontario and has lived in Moose Jaw for the last 19 years. Sam is married to her husband, Todd. Her stepson Jacob, 26, lives in Kelowna, BC where he is a chef. Her daughter Sarah is 16 and is in grade 12 at Riverview Collegiate in Moose Jaw. Her sister, brother and mother still live in South Africa.

Sam is currently an Administrative Assistant at Ecole Palliser Heights School, where she has been for the last 9 years. Prior to that she was at Sunningdale School and a substitute Administrative Assistant. She has worked for Prairie South since 2007.

In her spare time, Sam enjoys going to Boot Camp, watching her daughter play volleyball, reading, camping in the summer in BC and going for walks and hikes. She loves eating seafood and visiting Maui, Hawaii. Sam lived in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt for a year and worked in a Scuba Diving shop and enjoyed diving the Red Sea.

Sam's advice to all is don't be afraid to try new things – life is short, don't waste it!

Ashley Gagne, Teacher at Coronach School

Ashley grew up in Tisdale, a beautiful little gem in Northeast Saskatchewan, so Coronach is a long way from home. She currently lives in Fife Lake with her husband and drives into Coronach each day. It is just the two of them, but they stay quite busy operating their business – Gagne Grain Cleaning – travelling, golfing, and camping.

Ashley started at Coronach School in 2008 after completing two degrees, Bachelor of History and Bachelor of Education, at the University of Saskatchewan. She travelled down to Coronach for her interview and immediately fell in love with the building, the kids, and the staff! They let the kids paint on the walls – she knew then she was going to accept the job if they offered it to her! She moved to Coronach August 1, 2008 and it has been her home ever since. She was hired to teach high school humanities and she taught those classes, with of course some Health, Career and other electives thrown in, for the last 16 years. She is very actively involved in the school and has coached basketball, volleyball and golf; been staff advisor on SRC and SCC and her personal favorite – staff party planner.

Ashley and her husband love hosting staff parties and they host several each year. She loves cooking and entertaining! She also loves bringing food to school: chocolate cake with brown sugar icing and lasagna are among the staff and students' favorites! Every summer, she travels to Mexico with her husband – people think they are nuts, but they love it! It's the only place they both really unplug and relax ... and NO, it isn't that much hotter than Southern Saskatchewan in August.

Her only piece of advice to others in education is to form relationships. Kids don't care how smart you are, how fancy your lessons are, how many hours you spent prepping for them—all they need to know is that you love them. The rest always, always works itself out! Oh, and take some time to laugh at yourself...no one is perfect!





Assiniboia 7th Avenue School

300 7th Avenue W, Assiniboia

The staff at Seventh Avenue is always working to provide our students with the best educational opportunities possible. Our newly revamped mission statement provides us with our direction to support students both academically and socially.

“Our mission at Assiniboia Seventh Avenue School is to provide a caring community where all students will grow academically and socially to the best of their ability, now, and for the future.”

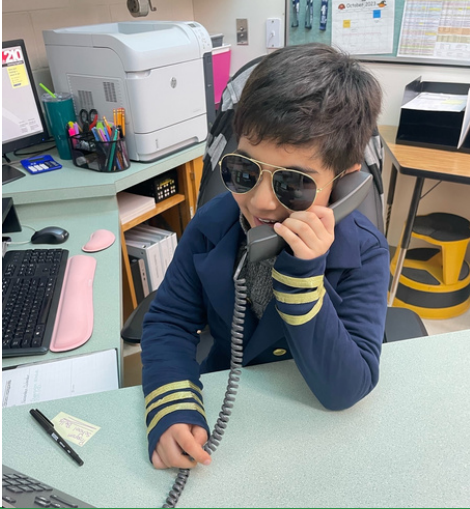
Assiniboia Seventh Avenue School was officially opened on March 11, 1992, replacing the old Seventh Avenue School. Our school currently has an enrollment of 193 students, however, in recent years that number has peaked to over 250 students at its highest point. We are one of three schools in the town of Assiniboia and house the Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 4 classrooms in our community. The Seventh Avenue mascot fits in with the local theme. Assiniboia Composite High School has the “Rockets”, Assiniboia Elementary School has the “Jets”, and we are the “Spitfires”. This year each of our classrooms have chosen a name for their classroom team. The names that represent each room are: The Dots, Cowboys & Cowgirls, Super Skittles, Sour Patch Kids, Smarties, Dragons, Wrecking Balls, and Snack Shack. All these names are woven into our school culture and used for some friendly competition in our Monthly Assemblies.



Our School Community Council helps to support our school culture in a variety of different ways. When there is a hot meal being served or a slip and slide being set up, our SCC members are hard at work in the background. They also collaborate with our school staff and students to put on our school's Christmas Concert. This is an annual event that brings our families together to celebrate the holiday season. It's always a packed house and a great way to spend time with our school families.

Seventh Avenue School also hosts a variety of clubs that provide our students with extracurricular activities. These clubs are typically focused on sports, academics, and arts. Our school also has a Spirit Club, this group of students works together to plan spirit days and other activities for everyone to take part in. These days are lots of fun for everyone and help make sure our smiles are just a little bigger on these special occasions.





Our school has some great culture pieces that make it unique and add a little character. Each morning our day starts with one of our "Seventh Avenue Pilots" sharing our boarding information with our students and staff (aka Announcements). It fits our Spitfire theme and adds a little bit of energy to the start of our day. Each month we have a Spitfire Assembly. The focus of each assembly comes down to one word, "fun". We do our school cheer at each assembly, mix in a couple other items, then focus most of our energy on games that are intended to connect our Spitfires together. Another unique part of the culture of Seventh Avenue School is our Welcoming Assemblies. These disappeared for a while but are being reintroduced this year. Every student or staff member who attends Seventh Avenue joins our welcoming circle and is officially inducted into the Seventh Avenue School family.

This year our Learning Improvement Plan is focused on literacy, math, and a well-being goal. Our literacy goal has been focused on expanding our instructional practices in phonics and phonemic awareness at all grade levels. This work also includes a focus on the encoding skills that our students require as part of their phonics development. Teachers have adopted the Really Great Reading resources to support instruction in the classroom and as part of our Response to Intervention process. Our team is also working to purchase more decodable texts that can support our reading goals, and ensure our students are progressing in relation to the targeted skills. We are looking forward to seeing how these plans develop, and how our student's learning is impacted. All these goals take time and commitment to professional growth from our staff members. We are thankful to have a staff who is committed to our students and their growth.



At the heart of our school is the school library, which houses an amazing collection of picture books and novels for young readers. Our shelves are quickly stocked with the most anticipated releases, as well as many long-time favourites that our students check out routinely. It is also the heart of our school because it is the place where we gather with colleagues, families, and community members throughout the year.

We are proud to be Spitfires at Seventh Avenue School and we are thankful for the amazing work that our staff and students do every day. It's a great place to learn and an even better place to belong. GO SPITFIRES!





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