



# PRAIRIE SOUTH CONNECTIONS

OCTOBER 2021

## SHOWCASE ON SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Prairie South welcomed Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe who talked about her book "Calm Within the Storm: A Pathway to Everyday Resiliency" at our division-wide inservice. In her book and presentation, she spoke openly about her long journey to find resilience and offered many practical suggestions on how others can do the same. Dr. Robyne concluded her presentation with her inspiration mantra of "I can do hard things." Whether you are thinking of yourself, loved ones, or those you serve, her work is an inspiration for finding a path through the uncertainties we all face. Thank you, Dr. Robyne, for sharing your inspiring work with us all!



On September 30 we participated in **Orange Shirt Day**. Especially considering the heartbreaking confirmations of unmarked graves we've witnessed this year, this day represented an opportunity for each one of us to think about residential schools, expand our understanding of this history and commit to growing together through education toward reconciliation.



Prairie South is partnering with the Prairie South Teachers' Association to bring you **Not Myself Today**, a program designed to educate and start the important conversation about workplace mental health. We are focusing on reconnection and it's extremely important to make sure you are taking care of yourself and helping each other along this journey. If you haven't had time yet, please check out [www.notmyselftoday.ca](http://www.notmyselftoday.ca) and get yourself set up!



# SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF



**Giselle Wilson** is the Board Chair for Prairie South Schools. She has been on the Board since 2013 representing the areas of Bengough, Coronach, and Rockglen. Giselle's dad worked for the Coop and they moved around a lot throughout her childhood. Giselle's family settled in Coronach when she was in Grade 10 and has lived there ever since! She met her husband, Todd, while attending Coronach School and together they have two children, Kyle and Karlie. Kyle is married and living in Dickinson, North Dakota where he works as an electrician. Kyle and his wife had Giselle's first grandbaby, Rhett! Giselle's daughter Karlie lives in Regina with her boyfriend where she works as the Assistant Manager for Leopold's Tavern while going to university to become a psychologist. When Giselle isn't working as a trustee, she works part-time at the pharmacy and coffee shop in Coronach. Giselle enjoys reading and spending time with family and friends.

**Darren Baiton** is originally from Moose Jaw and his family includes two adult sons and a spouse Sherry. Darren has worked in education for 30 years. He first started working as a maintenance person in the legacy Thunder Creek School Division before moving into the role of **Manager of Facilities** with Prairie South for the past 15 years. Darren loves working with all the schools, staff and students and brings a strong sense of humour to work each day! Something you might not know about Darren is that he is a passionate automotive enthusiast. In fact, he has recently downsized his car collection to just 8!



**Michelle Marcenko** is the principal of **Rockglen School** and has been in that role for the last 9 years. Michelle is originally from Craik and Moose Jaw and studied at the University of Regina. Michelle and her husband reside on a ranch southwest of Rockglen just to the north of the U.S.A. border. They have three adult children who live in Montana and in Southern Saskatchewan. Michelle first began working for the school division in 1996 and taught in Coronach and Rockglen before becoming a school administrator. Something you might not know about Michelle is that she is passionate about rodeo! Her entire family is involved in competitions regularly. In fact, several of her children have earned scholarships for rodeo and continue to compete actively today.



# WELCOME BACK!





# Mental Health Matters

Practice forgiveness, even if it's just forgiving the person who cut you off during your drive to work. People who forgive have improved health and peace of mind.



*We need the words and the tools to talk about it.*

[www.notmyselftoday.ca](http://www.notmyselftoday.ca)

