



Peace Wapiti Public School Division

OCTOBER 2017

DIVISION UPDATE

Central Office, 8611A-108 Street, Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V-4C5 | www.pwsd76.ab.ca

Inspiring all learners to become confident, collaborative and ethical citizens motivated with a passion to achieve a sustainable future.

STAFF UPDATE

New Principals welcomed
at PWSD schools



Rod Vanstone,
Principal of Penson School



Theresa Simmonds,
Principal of Bonanza School.



Tina Sauder, Co-Principal
of Savanna School



Chris Young, Co-Principal
of Savanna School

Danelle Boychuk moved from Acting Principal to Principal of Woking School;
Anna Nelson moved from Co-Principal to Principal of Beaverlodge Regional High School; and former Savanna School Principal **Paula Taylor** is Co-Principal of Eaglesham School.

TRUSTEE ELECTION 2017



OFFICIAL RESULTS

Election 2017 – Meet your Trustees for the 2017-2021 term

Kari Scheers, Ward 1

Representing Eaglesham, Rycroft and Woking, Trustee Scheers was acclaimed during Election 2017.



Sharilyn Anderson, Ward 2

Representing Bonanza, Savanna and Spirit River, Trustee Anderson was acclaimed during Election 2017 and has served for 10 years, including as Vice-Chair during 2010-11.



Lori Grant, Ward 3

Representing Beaverlodge and Elmworth, Trustee Grant was acclaimed during Election 2017.



Kim Moodie, Ward 4

Representing Hythe and LaGlace, Trustee Moodie was acclaimed during Election 2017. She was first elected in 2010.



Wendy Kelm, Ward 5

Representing Grande Prairie West and Wembley, Trustee Kelm was re-elected for a fourth term during Election 2017. She was first elected in 2008.



Dale Crane, Ward 6

Representing Sexsmith and Teepee Creek, Trustee Crane is entering his second term. He was acclaimed in 2013 and 2017.



Stefanie Clarke, Ward 7

Representing Grande Prairie East and Grovedale, Trustee Clarke was re-elected for a second term during Election 2017. She was first elected in 2013.



Robert Knull, Ward 8

Representing Ridgevalley, Trustee Knull has served for seven years, including as Vice Chair during 2016 - present. He was acclaimed in Election 2017.



Dana McIntosh, Ward 9

Representing Clairmont and Bezanson, Trustee McIntosh was acclaimed in Election 2017. She has served for 13 years, including as Board Chair during 2014 - present, and Vice Chair in 2007-08 and 2013-14.



Joy Joachim, Horse Lake Representative

Representing Horse Lake First Nation and its students, Representative Joachim has served for three years.



Read full biographies at www.pwsd76.ab.ca/Board/boardmembers.



STAFF UPDATE

New Assistant Principals
at PWSD schools

Jenny McAusland,
Whispering Ridge
Community School.



Abby Stillwell, Whispering
Ridge Community School.



Kim Schellenberg,
Harry Balfour School.



Scott Bowen, Clairmont
Community School.



Penny Calvert, Beaverlodge
Regional High School.



Randy Nagel, Sexsmith
Secondary School.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

New Classroom Improvement Fund focusing on reading, community
wellness at PWSD schools

The Classroom Improvement Fund (CIF) was part of the central agreement reached between the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) and the Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) in May 2017. Under the agreement, school boards and teachers created a joint proposal for how the CIF funding will be used by Alberta's school authorities during the 2017-2018 school year.

A total of \$75 million in funding was announced by the Government of Alberta on June 20, 2017, of which PWSD received \$730,000, based on student enrolment for the 2016-2017 school year.

A collaboration between Northern Spirit ATA Local No. 6 and PWSD Administration was highly effective. Teachers were invited to supply input via email.

As a result of the collaboration, two projects were identified by the ATA Local and PWSD Administration.

A district-wide remedial reading program to support students with word reading disabilities is being implemented in larger schools using the Empower™ Reading program, administered by a certified teacher to groups of six students over the course of the school year. In smaller schools, Toe by Toe programming is supported by an Educational Assistant under the supervision of a teacher, and is delivered to individual students.

The second project, Community Wellness, will address the emotional and mental health needs of students, while reconnecting families to schools as a critical element of children's academic success. This portion of the CIF grant will increase available specialized Community School Liaison Worker support, both in the classroom and one-on-one with individual students.

PWSD's Community School Liaison Workers

With funding supplied through the CIF grant, PWSD welcomed three new Community School Liaison Workers (CSLWs), joining three existing staffers, to increase available specialized support, both in the classroom and one-on-one with individual students.

Collaborative Response Model (CRM) meetings, implemented during the 2016-2017 school year as part of PWSD's Student First Framework for Learning, provided time for teachers to work together to identify supports and services for students. Through collaboration, there has been an increase in identified needs and referrals which placed additional demands on PWSD's mental health services. Now, more students are supported through the process.

CSLWs work directly with teachers, and provide mentorship, guidance and specific classroom strategies for supporting students with social-emotional and mental health concerns. In supporting individual students, there will be increased student, school and family access to CSLWs, enhanced connections between school and home; improved student mental health support; and links to community-based services.



Darrell Willier



Shayna Gorber



Emily Kostiuk



Kendra Siggelkow



Amanda Allen



Kara Bolch

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Beaverlodge Regional High School alumni named
2017 Belcourt Brosseau Métis Award winners

Three Beaverlodge Regional High School alumni from the Class of 2017 received Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards at a gala event in Edmonton on September 23. Pictured left-right are Jesse Villiger and Ty May (missing from photo: Shalynn Wolansky).

The awards, ranging between \$2,000 and \$10,000, are open to Métis students entering their first year of post-secondary education. Of this year's 450 applicants, 170 students were presented with awards.

Spirit River Regional Academy student selected to
2017-2018 Minister's Youth Council

Congratulations to Olivia Sekulic, Grade 11 student at SRRA, on being named to the 32-member 2017-2018 Minister's Youth Council. A total of 232 junior and senior high students applied during the recruitment period.

"I look forward to bringing my rural perspective to the Council," says Miss Sekulic. "My goal is to promote positive change in our educational system to equally benefit all schools and students across Alberta."

Principal Dawne Kurtz-McNaught says SRRA is very proud of Olivia. The Council will meet three times in Edmonton during the 2017-2018 school year.



2017-2018 Education Officers receive school leadership portfolios



Each school year, PWSD's executive team members are assigned schools as part of their leadership portfolio.

Pictured (l-r): **Superintendent Sheldon Rowe** will oversee schools in Sexsmith, Teepee Creek, LaGlance, Rycroft, Woking and Spirit River; **Deputy Superintendent Bob Stewart** will lead schools in

Grande Prairie, Clairmont, Grovedale, Bezanson and the Hutterite Colonies; **Assistant Superintendent Heather Putio** will manage schools in Bonanza, Savanna and Ridgevalley; **Assistant Superintendent Darren Young** will lead the Peace Academy of Virtual Education (PAVE), along with schools in Wembley, Elmhurst, Beaverlodge, Hythe and Eaglesham.

Enrolment and Utilization Report

Enrolment at PWSD schools has increased by 41 students over last September, sitting at 5,081.

Despite adding three new modular classrooms, Bezanson School is 93.48 per cent utilized. A school is deemed fully utilized when enrolment reaches 85 per cent of capacity. Wembley Elementary School is also above the mark at 91.2 per cent, creating pressure on resources as they strive to accommodate growth.

At 84.87 per cent, Beaverlodge Elementary is close to the recommended capacity. Computer and fine arts rooms could be repurposed to accommodate further growth, however, the projected increase of five students per year will elevate utilization to 88.09 per cent within the next three years.

Due to declining enrolment at Rycroft School, the Small School by Necessity Grant may be eliminated by the government in the 2018-2019 school year, given the school's proximity to Spirit River Regional Academy.

PWSD schools generate nearly \$50,000 for cancer research at annual Terry Fox Run events



Students from Harry Balfour and Whispering Ridge Community Schools participated in a combined Terry Fox Run event that raised \$13,414 for cancer research.

PWSD schools honoured the 37th anniversary of the Terry Fox Run with fundraising campaigns and school run events this fall, generating a total of \$49,460.22 for cancer research. For totals by school, visit <http://bit.ly/TFR2017-PWSD>.

COUNCIL CORNER

Role of School Councils

The ASCA School Council Resource Manual provides guidance to school council members. View it online at <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/public/download/documents/40732>.

A school council is a vehicle to support meaningful parental involvement in decisions that affect the school and its operations. School council provides the venue for parents to reflect the wishes of the broader community for the education of its students and to actively participate in giving advice and support to the principal in the operations of the school.

The actual decision-making authority of the school council is limited to:

- Determining the school council operating procedures.
- Setting policies to govern school council activities at the school level, as described in the *School Act*.
- Planning engagement activities that align with school council's legislated purpose.
- Choosing to provide advice to the principal and school board.

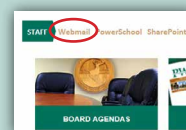
– Source: *ASCA School Council Resource Manual*, © Sept. 2016, Updated Aug. 2017

YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

Did you know all PWSD School Council Chairs are expected to regularly check their Division-issued generic email accounts for important information?

Here's how:

1. Visit www.pwds76.ab.ca.
2. In the Staff section, click Webmail.
3. Enter your username and password.



For detailed instructions, visit <http://bit.ly/webmail-how2>. If you have forgotten your username and/or password, contact Ivy Dube, Central Office, (780) 532-8133.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

RCMP honoured at ASBA Zone 1 Awards event



PWSD Trustees recognized members of the three local RCMP Detachments in Grande Prairie, Beaverlodge and Spirit River for their contributions to education at the The Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 1 Awards luncheon in Peace River on September 14. Board Chair Dana McIntosh (right) and Trustee and Zone 1 Chair Sharilyn Anderson (left) presented PWSD's 2017 Friends of Education Award to Constable Daniel Hine of the Grande Prairie RCMP Detachment, who accepted the award on behalf of his colleagues.

Communications Officer wins national award



In October, PWSD Communications Officer Angela Sears (second from left) was awarded a Bravo Award of Merit from the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE) for her work on PWSD's "I Will Be" viewbook. The national program recognizes outstanding work in the field of communications. In June, Ms. Sears was invited to present her communications strategy at the Public School Boards' Association (PSBAA) Spring General Assembly.

SCHOOL NEWS

Teepee Creek School Principal selected for Teachers Institute

Principal Casey Brown has been selected to participate in the Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy in Ottawa on November 5-10, 2017.



Junior High students prepare food for Saddle Hills residents through Community Kitchen initiative



Grades 7-8 students at Savanna School are building relationships and gain skills outside the classroom through a monthly Community Kitchen initiative at Fourth Creek. Students work alongside adults to create frozen meals for Saddle Hills County residents who are unable to cook for themselves, or who are limited in their ability to use cooking utensils. Their first opportunity to assist took place on October 13.

PWSD students vote in Election 2017

Students learned about their civic responsibility during Election 2017 by participating in the province-wide Student Vote. Pictured: Grade 6 student Aurora Fisher of Whispering Ridge Community School.



PWA's Painted Ponies class completes Emergency Equine First Aid certification



Peace Wapiti Academy offers a Painted Ponies class to Grades 8-10 students interested in therapy horses and their care. On October 16-17, the class completed Emergency Equine First Aid certification, led by Leah Batchelor of Safe Have Stables in Sexsmith.

Unique approach to math

Ms. Godel's Grade 1 class at Hythe Regional School have been learning to sort based on one attribute. This included taking apart VCRs to remove and sort as many objects as possible. The activity was hard but students had fun.



Annual 'Night in the Trenches' planned

Eaglesham School teacher Mr. McKay and Grades 7-12 students will march from Eaglesham School to the Ag Society Fairgrounds on Friday, November 10 at 3:30 p.m. for their annual 'Night in the Trenches' event.

Bezanson student first in Legion essay contest

Grade 9 student Elena Ewert was recognized at the Legion's First Poppy Ceremony in Calgary on October 21, for placing first in the 2015-2016 Legion Remembrance Day essay contest. Her essay, *If Ye Break Faith*, scored first at all three Legion levels in the province – Local, District and Command.



Mentorship Program brings together new and experienced teachers

PWSD, in partnership with the Northern Spirit ATA Local No. 6, offers a valuable mentorship program that pairs protégé teachers with experienced teachers for two full days of workshops annually. Pairs met on October 11 and will meet again in February.



Tower gardening at Helen E. Taylor School

HET is integrating tower gardening as part of their General Living Skills program. Students will grow, harvest and cook their produce for the school.

Orange Shirt Day observed at PWSD schools

Pictured: LaGlace School on Orange Shirt Day 2017.



SRRA students prepare annual Thanksgiving lunch

Harvest soup is an annual Spirit River Regional Academy Thanksgiving tradition. K-Grade 6 students supplied the vegetables for the school-wide soup lunch on October 6. Grades 1 and 2 students and the Foods 30 class baked apple tarts.



PWSD DIVISION UPDATE

PWSD Division Update is a report on news from Peace Wapiti Public School Division, produced for the Spring and Fall General School Councils' Meetings.

Content and Design:
Angela Sears
Communications Officer
angela.sears@pwsd76.ab.ca



UPCOMING EVENTS

Merv Crouse Coats for Kids

Distribution: October 2-31
Towne Centre Mall, Mon. - Sat.
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

PWSD Board Meetings

Organizational meeting of the 2017-2021 Board, 10:30 a.m., Thursday, October 26, followed by a regular Board meeting at 11:30 a.m. Upcoming meetings: 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 30 at Central Office and Dec. 14 at the Spirit River Sub-Office.

District Professional Development Day – no classes
Friday, October 27

Remembrance Day / Day off in lieu of Parent-Teacher Interviews – no classes
Friday, November 10

International Education Week
November 13-17

PSBAA Fall Events:
Advocacy Bootcamp
Wednesday, November 15
Student Voice
Wed. - Thurs., November 15-16
Trustee University I
Thursday, November 16
Annual General Meeting
Friday, November 17
DoubleTree by Hilton, 16615-109 Ave., Edmonton. More info/register at www.public-schools.ab.ca.

Transitioning into life after high school

Thursday, November 16
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Charles Spencer High. Parents and caregivers of students moving into adult services should plan to attend. More info: <http://nrlc.net/>.

Sign up for school bus route notifications by email



Receive timely alerts on the status of your route. Visit <http://transportation.pwsd76.ab.ca>. Select your bus route number(s), enter your email address, and click 'Subscribe'. Please ensure that a valid email address has been entered. Your email provider may file the initial notification in your junk email folder – approve it in your "Safe Senders List".