

FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

May 2025

KERRILYN TROST

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

CARING & FRIENDLY - EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS - EXPRESSING EMPATHY - SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT - THE POWER OF "YES" - TAKING TIME TO LISTEN



May is Early Childhood Educator Month, and while we are incredibly grateful for the outstanding early childhood educators across the Good Spirit School Division, we also want to take a moment to recognize the important work of our Early Years Consultant, Kerrilyn Trost.

Kerrilyn provides invaluable support to all early years programs within our division, including Prekindergarten, Early Learning Intensive Support, Preschool and Parent Education Program, Michief Early Language Learning Program, and Kindergarten. In addition to her work within schools, she also serves as a co-chair of the Thrive to 5 Early Years Network, playing a vital role in connecting families with children aged 0–5 to the resources and supports they need to flourish.

Kerrilyn exemplifies a quiet, thoughtful, and intentional form of leadership. She is always ready to lend a listening ear, model effective instructional and assessment strategies, and even roll up her sleeves to transform a learning space alongside classroom teachers.

We sincerely thank Kerrilyn for her dedication, passion, and commitment to the early years!

FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

May 2025



JENNIFER BISSCHOP

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

CARING & FRIENDLY - EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS - EXPRESSING EMPATHY - SINGLE POINT-OF-CONTACT - THE POWER OF "YES" - TAKING TIME TO LISTEN

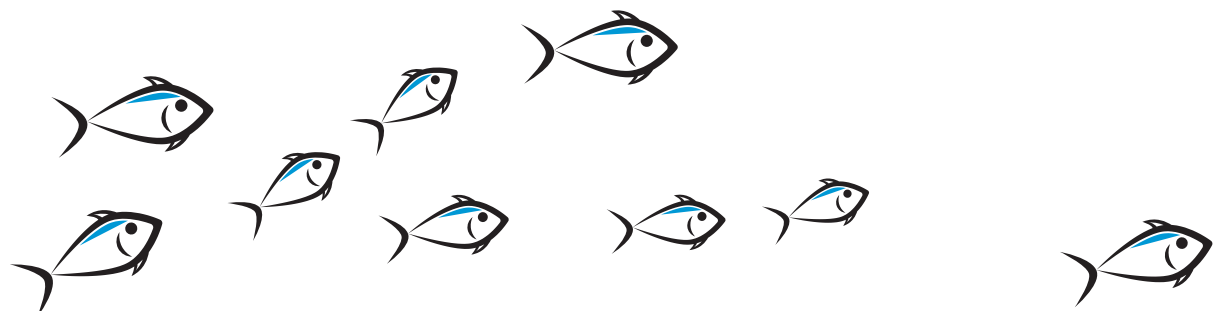


Jennifer Bisschop's dedication to her students and colleagues, passion for sustainable education, and commitment to inclusivity have profoundly impacted the Canora Composite School community. Her leadership was key in the school receiving the RCESK Education for Sustainable Development Recognition Award and the "Lyle Benko Future Generation Award," bringing pride and recognition to our school.

Jennifer also introduced the Fish in Schools (FinS) program, setting up a fish tank in the library with support from the Buchanan Wildlife Federation and Canora Fish and Game. This project has enriched students' learning experiences and connected them with nature.

Known as a "safe place" for students, Jennifer is always available to listen and support those in need. Her warmth and approachability make her a reliable figure for comfort and guidance. She fosters inclusivity by creating bulletin boards that celebrate diverse cultures, ensuring every student feels valued and respected.

Jennifer's efforts to support staff unity through team bonding activities have strengthened our school community. Her dedication to sustainability, inclusivity, and community support has created an environment where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally!



FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

April 2025



LEE BOWES

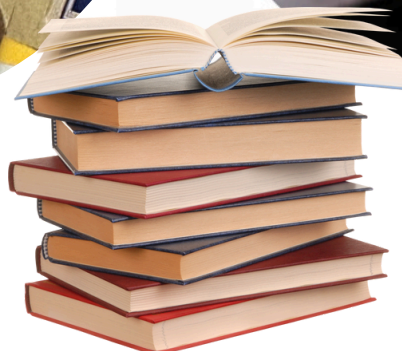
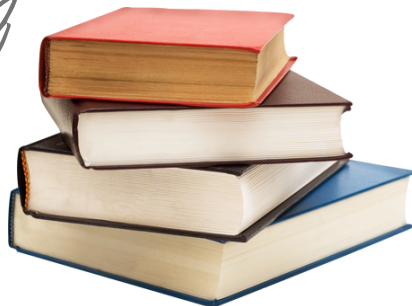
Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

Lee Bowes is an Educational Assistant at Kamsack Comprehensive Institute who consistently goes above and beyond.

She is the dependable team member that other EAs can always rely on — ever ready to share her expertise and offer assistance wherever it's needed.

What sets Lee apart is her willingness to step into any classroom with an open mind and a genuine eagerness to learn alongside the students. Her dedication ensures she provides the most meaningful and effective support possible.

Thank you, Lee, for your commitment and positive spirit—you truly inspire us all!



FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

April 2025



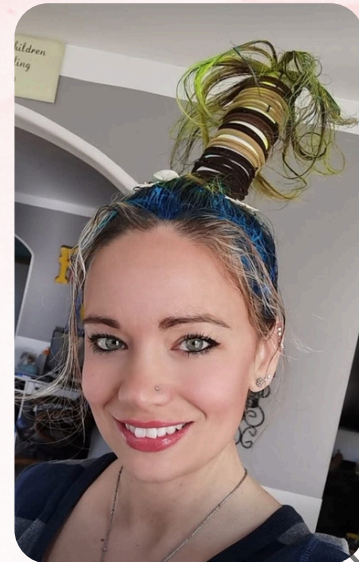
MRS. CASSI MIRANDA

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

Mrs. Miranda, Educational Assistant at Grayson School, goes above and beyond in all her endeavors. She is particularly celebrated for her extraordinary spirit day outfits!

Creative, outgoing, and brimming with energy, she infuses our school with joy and excitement. Whether donning a themed costume or sporting a clever accessory, everyone eagerly anticipates her next ensemble.

Her enthusiasm and school spirit are truly one of a kind!



FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

March 2025



MR. LEE SEATON

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

CARING & FRIENDLY - EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS - EXPRESSING EMPATHY - SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT - THE POWER OF "YES" - TAKING TIME TO LISTEN



Mr. Lee Seaton is the Physical Education and Sports Academy Teacher at Dr. Brass School. Mr. Seaton coaches multiple sports, demonstrating a deep commitment to fostering athletic skills and teamwork among students.

His willingness to assist colleagues whenever needed highlights his collaborative spirit and dedication to the school community. Mr. Seaton goes above and beyond to ensure that every student he interacts with feels valued and important, creating a supportive and inclusive environment.

Mr. Seaton engages with everyone, leaving them feeling uplifted and appreciated. Whether he's on the field or in the classroom, his positive influence and support makes a significant impact on both students and staff.



FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

March 2025



MRS. CINDY BASKEN

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

CARING & FRIENDLY - EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS - EXPRESSING EMPATHY - SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT - THE POWER OF "YES" - TAKING TIME TO LISTEN



Mrs. Cindy Basken is the administrative assistant at Churchbridge Public School (CPS). Mrs. Basken consistently goes above and beyond her job description, expertly guiding parents through online platforms like School Cash Online and Edsby. Her helpfulness and extensive knowledge make her an invaluable resource for students, teachers, and the community.

Mrs. Basken has been a driving force behind our CPS Hot Lunch program, collaborating with community partners to keep costs affordable for families. Her tireless efforts ensure that everyone is well-fed.

Each morning, Mrs. Basken is the first person everyone sees, and her smile and warmth are truly radiant. She is a welcoming presence with a wonderful laugh that puts everyone at ease.



Mrs. Basken runs our office with complete competence, all while greeting everyone with a smile!

FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

March 2025

MRS. JULIE SMIDT

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

Mrs. Smidt is a Speech-Language Pathologist for the Good Spirit School Division. She consistently goes above and beyond to support school staff. She generously shares her ideas and expertise, helping colleagues meet the diverse needs of our students. Even when she's not physically present, Julie is just an email away, always ready to offer her assistance. Her sunny disposition and positive outlook are truly infectious, making us incredibly fortunate to have her on our team.



Mrs. Smidt freely shares her ideas and resources, always approaching challenges with a solutions-oriented mindset. She's the first to ask, "How can I help?" and her uplifting attitude makes a significant impact. Julie deserves recognition for her dedication to supporting both students and staff.

As an expert in her field, she consistently strives to support everyone she works with. Julie truly embodies a spirit of excellence and dedication!

FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

March 2025



VICTORIA SCHOOL

BETH DIX

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

Beth is an exceptional Educational Assistant at Victoria School in Kamsack. Her extensive knowledge and vibrant spirit make her an invaluable asset to our team!

Beth's passion for the students she works with is evident in her commitment to supporting their individual goals. Her sense of humor fosters a friendly atmosphere, creating a cheerful environment for everyone.



FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

February 2025



VICTORIA SCHOOL

KATHLEEN GRILL TULLOCH

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

CARING & FRIENDLY - EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS - EXPRESSING EMPATHY - SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT - THE POWER OF "YES" - TAKING TIME TO LISTEN



Kathleen Grill Tulloch is an exceptional Grade 3 teacher at Victoria School, with a remarkable 30-year career in education.

Her unwavering dedication to her students has been the cornerstone of her teaching philosophy. Kathleen's kind heart and gentle demeanor make her incredibly approachable, creating a welcoming and calm atmosphere for everyone she interacts with. Her ability to connect with students and colleagues alike fosters a nurturing and supportive environment, making her a beloved figure in the school community.

Kathleen's passion for teaching and her genuine care for her students' well-being truly set her apart as an outstanding educator!

FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

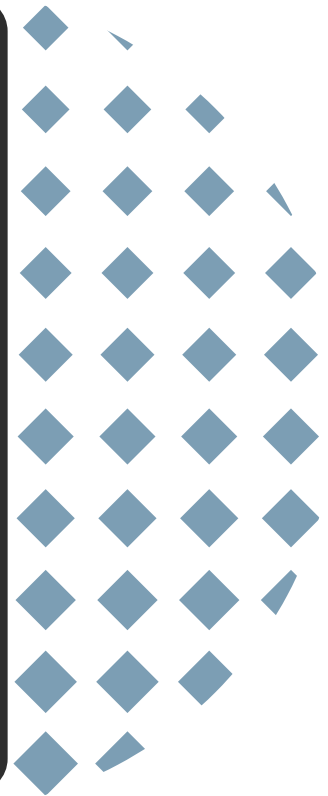
February 2025



RHONDA VANDENAMEELE

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

CARING & FRIENDLY - EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS - EXPRESSING EMPATHY - SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT - THE POWER OF "YES" - TAKING TIME TO LISTEN



Rhonda Vandenameele is an Educational Assistant at Langenburg Central School, known for her warm and welcoming presence. Each day, she greets students with a friendly smile and a hug, taking the time to listen to their stories and respond with kindness. Fondly referred to as "Mrs. V," she always prioritizes the students' needs, both during school hours and beyond. Whether she's bringing an extra pair of shoes for a student with a sore toe or helping a child find a new book series in the library, her genuine love for children shines through.

Rhonda is also the beloved "snack cart lady," bringing treats around at lunchtime, which is the highlight of the students' noon hour. Additionally, she stays late to tidy and organize the staff room, ensuring it is clean and ready for the next day.

Mrs. V's dedication to her job and her caring nature make her a cherished member of the school community, loved by all!

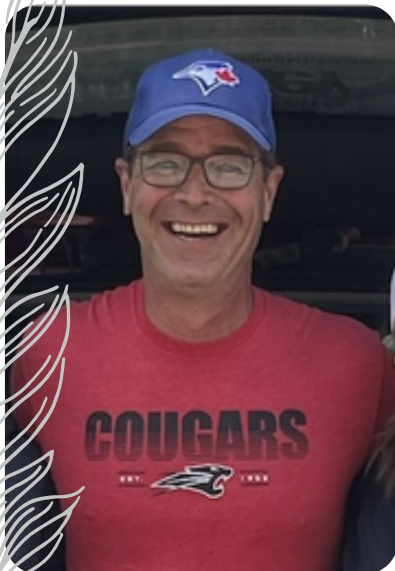
FEATURED STAFF

February 2025

MR. CRAIG FOLK

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

CARING & FRIENDLY - EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS - EXPRESSING EMPATHY - SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT - THE POWER OF "YES" - TAKING TIME TO LISTEN



Mr. Craig Folk, the School Counsellor at Canora Composite and Norquay Schools, is an exceptional professional dedicated to providing trauma support to students and families whenever needed. His commitment goes beyond the call of duty, as he often meets with families and students outside of work hours. Craig has worked tirelessly to build and maintain strong relationships with all the students and families he supports.

Mr. Folk frequently volunteers to support students and staff on field trips, understanding the value of land-based activities and their positive effects on students. For instance, he recently shared his ice fishing expertise and fishing shack at Crystal Lake to take a group of students fishing, fostering relationships and connections.

A master at leading school teams through traumatic events, Craig collaborates with our First Nation partners to develop consistent trauma support in times of need. He has been instrumental in providing guidance and support to students and staff, helping them learn regulation strategies. In Norquay, Craig works with students to utilize the sensory space as a tool for self-managing their emotions and behaviors.

Mr. Folk's dedication is unwavering: he always has time to listen and support both staff and students. His sense of humor and positive attitude help reduce anxiety and create a positive environment that prioritizes empathy and compassion for all!

FEATURED STAFF

February 2025



YORKTON & MELVILLE

GSSD TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

CARING & FRIENDLY - EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS - EXPRESSING EMPATHY - SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT - THE POWER OF "YES" - TAKING TIME TO LISTEN

- Christine Hawley (Transportation Assistant)
- Becky Hoffmann (Transportation Routing Assistant)
- Kelly Becker (Shop Supervisor)
- Rob Graff (Shop Supervisor)
- Trevor Council (Technician)
- Cory Hancock (Technician)
- Kendall Buhler (Technician)
- Ryan Hall (Transportation Manager)

The GSSD Transportation Department deserves recognition for their exceptional commitment and service to the Good Spirit School Division. The department consistently prioritizes feedback from stakeholders. Driver in-service meetings in August aligned staff with division goals by addressing policies, procedures, and expectations. Responding to feedback about ride times and capacity concerns, they added a new route in the Stockholm attendance area to better serve students and families.

From ensuring the safe operation of over 100 buses and 98 routes to tackling challenges like bus driver recruitment, the team goes above and beyond. Proactive measures, including recruitment incentives and celebrating Bus Driver Appreciation Day with thoughtful tokens, highlight their commitment to exceeding expectations. The Bus Garage Teams prioritize safety by maintaining buses in excellent condition through regular servicing.



The team's solutions-focused approach is evident in their efforts to lower ride times and provide 15-passenger van training, finding ways to address operational challenges while prioritizing safety.

The department values appreciation and recognition, demonstrating care through meaningful gestures like celebrating drivers and collaborating with schools. Their involvement in community events, such as the Santa Claus Parade, showcases their friendly and approachable reputation, reflecting GSSD's values of belonging and diversity.

By listening to families and students and incorporating feedback, the department adapts to meet the division's evolving needs.

In summary, the GSSD Transportation Department plays a vital role in transporting "precious cargo" safely and reliably, rain or shine, 184 days a year. Their tireless efforts and dedication embody the motto Students Come First, making them truly deserving of this recognition.

FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

January 2025



TRACY HUCKELL

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

Tracy displays exceptional dedication, integrity, and commitment to Esterhazy High School. As the principal, she has consistently demonstrated excellence in education, leadership, and compassion. Tracy is retiring at the end of this school year, marking the end of a distinguished career in various roles, including classroom teacher, student support teacher, student support coordinator, and superintendent.

Throughout her tenure, Tracy has worked tirelessly to ensure a positive and nurturing educational experience for all students. She is known for her unmatched work ethic, personal connections with staff and students, and her ability to balance professionalism with a sense of humor. Her integrity and fairness in handling challenges, along with her support for staff, have made her a respected leader.

Tracy's ability to balance her demanding career with her family responsibilities further highlights her strength and resilience, and her passion for education and positive influence on school culture.



Tracy's leadership has left a lasting impact on Esterhazy High School. Her dedication to fostering a supportive and engaging environment has not only enhanced student success but also strengthened the sense of community within the school. Her legacy of compassion, integrity, and excellence will continue to inspire both current and future generations of educators and students. Tracy Huckell truly embodies the spirit of a dedicated leader!

FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

NOVEMBER 2024



VICTORIA SCHOOL

MRS. ANNA CYMBALISTY

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

Mrs. Anna Cymbalisty is the Administrative Assistant at Victoria School in Kamsack.

Despite her busy schedule, Anna always makes time to assist others. She is incredibly kind and consistently goes out of her way to find solutions and offer support.

Anna's empathetic nature naturally attracts people to her, and her caring personality creates a warm and welcoming atmosphere for everyone!

CARING & FRIENDLY - EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS - EXPRESSING EMPATHY - SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT - THE POWER OF "YES" - TAKING TIME TO LISTEN

FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

DECEMBER 2024

MR. NATHAN SEGHERS

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

Mr. Seghers is the Grade 5-12 Band Teacher at Sturgis Composite, Preeceville, Canora Composite, Invermay, and Norquay Schools.

Recently, Mr. Seghers was the recipient of the Canadian Music Educators Association (CMEA)/ACME Builders Award for 2024.

The CMEA/ACME award is a prestigious honour presented by the Canadian Music Educators' Association to recognize exceptional contributions in music education across Canada.

This award celebrates individuals and groups who have significantly advanced the field through community building, innovative practices, effective collaborations, and exemplary leadership.

By acknowledging these achievements, the CMEA fosters a culture of excellence and progressive change in music education, highlighting the dedication and impact of educators nationwide.

Congratulations to
Mr. Seghers on his
outstanding work and
dedication to enriching
music education in GSSD!



photo credit: Nathan Seghers

FEATURED STAFF MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 2024



MRS. JOHANSON & MRS. SCHREINER

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

Mrs. Melissa Johanson, Principal of Macdonald School, is known for her advocacy of experiential learning, particularly in outdoor education. The outdoor classroom she envisioned and brought to life for the Macdonald School community has become an active and beloved hub for learning and community engagement. Melissa consistently demonstrates professional leadership by embracing innovative and non-traditional educational practices.

On Orange Shirt Day, Mrs. Megan Schreiner organized a school gathering in this outdoor space to honor the journey of truth and reconciliation. Students engaged in spiritual practices such as smudging and offering tobacco in gratitude. They gathered around the fire with their cross-grade buddies to roast Bannock, share stories, listen to music, weave bracelets, and strengthen their bonds.

For staff, it was truly moving to witness everyone connecting with nature and each other, fully immersed in the spirit of the event!



FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

NOVEMBER 2024



VICTORIA SCHOOL

MRS. JODI-LEE JAMES

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

CARING & FRIENDLY - EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS - EXPRESSING EMPATHY - SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT - THE POWER OF "YES" - TAKING TIME TO LISTEN



Mrs. Jodi-Lee James is a teacher at Victoria School who is known for her eagerness to embrace new experiences. Her open-minded and positive approach in the classroom, paired with her kind-hearted leadership, fosters a truly welcoming environment.

Mrs. James consistently greets everyone with a warm smile and a friendly attitude, making her a beacon of positivity. Her calm demeanor ensures she is approachable and easy to talk to, creating a supportive and engaging atmosphere for both students and colleagues.

FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

NOVEMBER 2024

PAYROLL SUITE

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

RAQUEL SPILCHUK, DEB BURAK, NICOLE BURWASH, JAIME KENNEDY, AND KIM DAVIS



Payroll is a time-sensitive department. If essential information, like tax forms and direct deposit details, isn't provided by their cut-off dates, employees risk missing their compensation. Despite these deadlines, the payroll team is dedicated to ensuring everyone gets paid. This often involves multiple emails or calls, all while managing the payroll for other employees.

It's common for payroll associates to contact pension providers for clarification on employee inquiries. Employees often feel overwhelmed by the details of their plans, but with associates confirming the intricate aspects, they can feel reassured.

The payroll suite team understands that many interactions stem from difficult or unexpected situations. They take the time to listen, validate, and offer support, recognizing that every concern, big or small, deserves attention. Their goal is to create a space where employees feel understood and supported as they navigate any issues.

Starting a new job can be overwhelming, but the payroll suite team is there to make the transition smoother. Their caring and approachable nature helps ease employee concerns about wages, taxes, benefits, leaves, and more, significantly reducing stress!

FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

NOVEMBER 2024

MIKE SYVRET

Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

GSSD would like to acknowledge Mike Syvret, our Caretaker Coordinator at the Good Spirit School Division, for his exceptional dedication and efforts. Mike's commitment to our schools, staff, and students is extraordinary and extends well beyond his expected duties.

Mike consistently rises to the occasion, often working additional hours and assuming extra responsibilities to ensure our learning environments remain clean, safe, and welcoming. It is not uncommon for Mike to complete his day as Caretaker Coordinator and then travel, sometimes up to an hour away, to assist a school in need when a caretaker or substitute is unavailable. Without hesitation or complaint, Mike undertakes these tasks with a positive attitude and a strong sense of service, ensuring our students and staff can begin each day in a well-maintained environment.

Mike's commitment embodies the values we cherish at GSSD and exemplify our mission of putting students first. His dedication to supporting our schools is an inspiration to us all.

Please join us in recognizing and thanking Mike Syvret for his outstanding contributions to our division. His efforts do not go unnoticed, and we are deeply grateful for all he does to support our staff, students, and communities!

