

Welcome back

at the start of a new school year

Message from the Board Chair and the Director of Education

Welcome back to another year of learning together in Prairie Spirit School Division! For our teachers and in-school support staff, we trust this week with your colleagues before students arrive will be invigorating and inspiring for you.

Our students will return to school on Tuesday, September 1, **Provincial Students' Day**. The Minister of Education designates Provincial Students' Day each year to acknowledge the importance of all students and to alert drivers that students are back in school. This special day to recognize students was proposed by the Prairie Spirit Board of Education in 2009. As a result, Provincial Students' Day has been proclaimed throughout the province at the start of each new school year.

School division growth and change

The 2015/16 school year marks the tenth consecutive year of enrolment growth in our school division. We are projecting an enrolment of over 10,900 students in Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12, an increase of over 300 students from last year.

In fact, Prairie Spirit's total enrolment has increased by over **2,000** students since the school division was first created!

Prairie Spirit will mark its tenth anniversary in 2016. Prairie Spirit was formed through the amalgamation of three rural school divisions in 2006.

Happy birthday, Prairie Spirit School Division!

Please go to the next page to see a graphic that gives a sense of Prairie Spirit "by the numbers" in 2015.

Work over the summer

Construction and repair projects have been underway at several schools throughout the spring and summer. Thank you to the Facilities staff who have been leading this work to ensure our schools are safe for staff and students. We expect there will be more work undertaken at a number of our schools as funding becomes available.

Thank you to our IT staff as their work over the summer will ensure technology is ready for students and staff this fall.

We also want to acknowledge and thank our caretaking staff who have been working hard throughout the summer to clean our schools and get them ready for students and staff.



Staff commitment:

Service Awards 2015

We would like to congratulate those staff members throughout the Division who have reached significant milestones in their employment with Prairie Spirit this year.

Please go to the following [link](#) (posted on the All Staff portal) to see the list of employees who have reached 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of employment as of September 1, 2015.

These staff members will receive information about their service award options from Nadine Meister, Assistant to the Director, via Prairie Spirit email over the next several weeks.

Thank you to each person on this extensive list for their dedicated work for our students!

Student achievement

We are very proud of the academic achievements of our students. We continue to report student achievement at a level that exceeds the provincial average. We believe high expectations for both student and adult learning will lead to even greater achievement.

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education's strategic [plan](#) details our learning priorities in the areas of literacy, numeracy, high school completion and First Nations/Métis achievement.

We will continue to focus our work on these critical learning priorities for 2015/16.

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Board update

We want to ensure Prairie Spirit staff members are well informed regarding our financial situation. The Prairie Spirit Board of Education submitted a deficit budget to the Ministry of Education in June. The Board will continue to work with the Ministry to resolve Prairie Spirit's funding shortfall.

The provincial government has directed a review of the provincial education funding model, the results of which will determine Prairie Spirit's funding for the 2016/17 budget year. We will continue to provide budget updates to staff.

Best wishes as you start a new school year and thank you once again for your work for our students. We look forward to learning together throughout 2015/16!

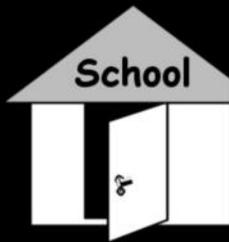


Larry Pavloff
Board Chair
Prairie Spirit Board of Education



John Kuzbik
Director of Education
Prairie Spirit School Division

Prairie Spirit by the numbers



45 schools

Over 10,900 students



1,300 Prairie Spirit
staff members



Over 140 Prairie Spirit buses
take 5,000 students to school,
covering 22,000 km every day!

Over 900 students will start
Kindergarten this fall



700 students will
graduate in June, 2016

