



Warman High School

Welcome

at the start of the 2018/19 school year!



PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION

Learning together



On behalf of the Prairie Spirit Board of Education, I would like to welcome you back to another year of learning together in Prairie Spirit School Division!

Our students will return to school on Tuesday, September 4, which is **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 and has been proclaimed throughout the province at the start of the school year ever since.

Staff commitment: Service Awards 2018

We would like to congratulate staff members 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 or 35 years of employment as of September 1, 2018. We would like to thank everyone on this list for being a member of the Prairie Spirit team and for their dedicated work to support learning!

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.

Our learning journey

The *My Prairie Spirit Classroom (MPSC)* document is significant in Prairie Spirit's learning journey.

MPSC is our learning focus and it provides us with a common language and practice for all of the learning opportunities in our Division. This document reflects our core beliefs about deep learning for both students and adults.

Through this work, we have been transformed from students, staff members and trustees to become **learners together**.

Who will you meet, what inspiring idea will you have on your learning journey this year? It may be an inflection point in your life!

The Beatles took a trip through India in 1968. On a personal level, the journey opened George Harrison's heart to poverty and the plight of the people. This inspired him to organize the Concert for Bangladesh, which raised \$15 million for UNICEF.



For J. K. Rowling, a four-hour train ride gave her a few crucial hours to contemplate an idea for a book that popped into her head, and the now-famous Harry Potter was born.

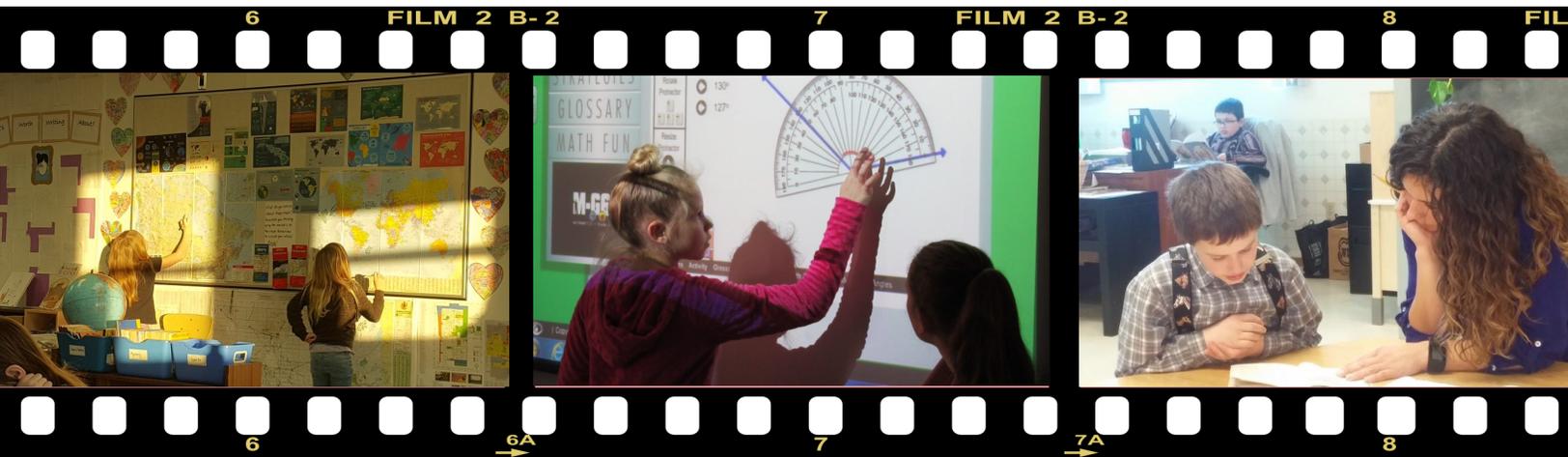
May each of you travel well this year!

Sam Dyck, Chair
Prairie Spirit Board of Education



Lake Vista Public School

Pride and joy in work in Prairie Spirit School Division



Venture Heights Elementary School

Prairie View School

Hillcrest Hutterite Colony School

Welcome to the 2018/19 school year!

As I meet and connect with people across our Division in various communities, areas of work, schools and classrooms, I am struck by the exemplary work ethic, attitude, and craftsmanship evident in the people who call this Division “home.”

I am reminded of a saying we display in our household: “What do you get to do today?” I have shared this with many of you before but I share it again because it connects to something that is very near and dear to my heart... my desire for everyone in Prairie Spirit to feel valued and to find value in their work.

Pride and joy in work

This has led to a Division focus on an important phrase which we have also turned into a hashtag – **pride and joy in work** ([#psdprideandjoy](#) on Twitter). No matter who you are, how tall you are, or what your role is in Prairie Spirit, you are a valuable member of our team and your work matters.

Do you take pride in the work you do in Prairie Spirit? What gives you joy in your day as you go about your work? What causes you to go the extra mile to finish something well? If somebody asked you what gives you pride and joy in your work, could you give them an answer?

We are all learners

As a school division, our focus will always be on learning and learners – and that includes all of us! In order for us to have a positive impact on the students we get to learn alongside, we need to know what we are about, where we are going, and we need to feel confident that we can make a difference – **all of us!**

Our [My Prairie Spirit Classroom](#) document provides us with descriptions of what learning and learners look like in our classrooms, hallways, gymnasiums, buses and beyond.

As we continue to unpack the “how” of that work, we have created a visual that depicts a three-sided room with learners—big and small—engaging in the joy of learning! Each school has a large poster of this graphic and we will be talking a lot more about it this year!

In our graphic, the fourth wall is missing because we believe that learning happens anywhere and everywhere. Because of that, every person working in Prairie Spirit has an impact on learning.

There is young boy on YouTube who calls himself [Kid President](#). He has inspirational messages for all of us regarding how we go about living and learning in education. In one of his posts, he asks the question: “What are you teaching the world?”

He goes on to say: “You’re teaching the world what it looks to be awesome!” He reminds us that: “No matter who you are, somebody’s learning from you. Everybody’s a teacher and everybody’s a learner!”

Author George Couros reminds us that people are the most crucial element in education and that means YOU!

Our learning journey

As we continue on our journey as learners for life in Prairie Spirit, how will we celebrate our work? How will you celebrate one another?

How will we work together to create daily joy-filled learning experiences for all?



It gives me much pride and joy to get to learn and lead in Prairie Spirit School Division alongside each and every one of you!

Create a fabulous year!

**Lori Jeschke, Director of Education
Prairie Spirit School Division**