

Welcome

at the start of the
2020/21 school year

PRAIRIE SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



Welcome back!

On behalf of the Prairie Spirit Board of Education, I would like to welcome you into a new school year with a newness like none of us has experienced before.

If you are new to Prairie Spirit, thank you for joining us on this learning journey.

None of us have been trained in how to live in this new world, much less how to do the work we are called to.

Author James P. Carse looks at life through the lens of play, with there being two kinds of play: finite and infinite games. To quote Carse: "To be prepared AGAINST surprise is to be trained. To be prepared FOR surprise is to be educated".

I came across a recent media interview with a parent who was prepared to be surprised. This parent said it well: "School in a new way could actually be great and we just don't know that yet. I think we have to allow it to be its own kind of great".

That is the kind of hope the Board has for all teachers, for all staff and for all students.

After six months away, our students returned to school on Tuesday, September 8, which was **Provincial Students' Day** in Saskatchewan. 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 2020

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, 2020. 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.

A year like no other

When I imagine June 30, 2021, on the horizon, I visualize you will be surprised by how well we came through the school year.

You will have in your memory, positive experiences that you never had believed possible, images of all the right people surrounding that problem you agonized over and solving it the Prairie Spirit way and stories about students who accomplished more than anything in your wildest dreams.

The Board wishes for each of you a year filled with curiosity and hope as we enter into this new school year.



Sam Dyck
Board Chair
Prairie Spirit Board of Education



Grade 6 students from Walter W. Brown School getting outside on their first day of school

Grade 3 students from Aberdeen Composite School using nature for their art project

Grand opening for the new Rosthern Community School with the Premier and Minister of Education

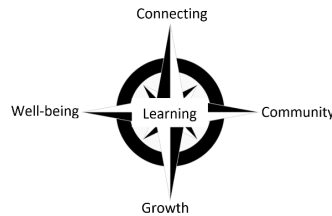
Learning Everywhere Together

I am deeply humbled and filled with gratitude for each Prairie Spirit team member, both for who you are and also for all you have done over the past many months to serve the big and small learners in Prairie Spirit.

You have again stepped in and stepped up as we launched a most unusual start to a new school year.

Our entire Prairie Spirit team, including teachers, school support staff, Counsellors, Learning Support Services, Finance, Facilities, Technology, Transportation, HR, senior leadership and the Board of Education, commit to continuing to share the work of **connecting, community, growth and well-being**.

You will recognize those commitments as part of our compass, which guided us during Supplemental Learning earlier this year. These commitments will become part of the Division's values in our strategic plan. Stay tuned!



Beautiful constraints

There is a story about a children's author, Theodore Gisel, who was given a bet that he couldn't write a book with the constraint of only being able to use 50 words. At first, he was indignant – that's impossible and ridiculous he thought, but... he took the bet.

The first line in the book is "I am Sam..." can you guess the book? The author? He modeled that you CAN...IF...

He made the constraints that were given him to him into something beautiful!

How will we take the constraints that are before us right now – and make them beautiful?

In Prairie Spirit School Division, we are about Learning. We have and continue to... **LEARN... EVERYWHERE** and most importantly, we **LEARN TOGETHER!**



This will be our theme for our unusual year!

Thank you for supporting students and impacting learning in Prairie Spirit this year.



Lori Jeschke
 Director of Education
 Prairie Spirit School Division