**JUNE 2024** 



### MRS. CHERYL ESKRA

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**

Mrs. Cheryl Eskra has been Invermay School's Online Learning Facilitiator (OLF) since January 4th of this year. All grade 10-12 students have a scheduled Distance Learning (DL) course each semester, allowing students to complete the necessary pre-requisite courses for post-secondary life, as well as being able to complete courses in their interest level.

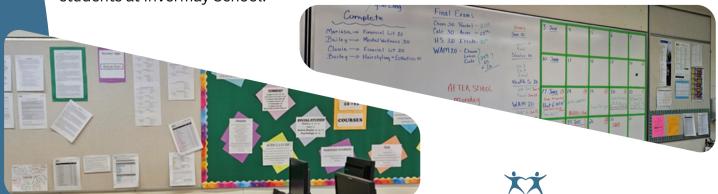


To support students in staying on track, Cheryl maintains a monthly calendar with individual reminders. She has taken the time to familiarize herself with the courses Invermay students are enrolled in, allowing her to assist them during their assigned DL periods. Cheryl actively circulates during her classes, checking in with each student. She generously offers to come in before school, during lunch, or after hours to provide additional support for completing assignments and projects.

Cheryl collaborates closely with the Invermay School staff, adhering to established rules and routines. Cheryl plays a crucial role in course selection for grade 9-11 students for the 2024-2025 school year. When a student expresses curiosity

about a particular course, she arranges a meeting to 'tour' the class, enabling informed decisions about DL course selection. Working closely with Melissa Grona, Cheryl follows guidelines for course selection and takes full responsibility for student enrollment.

Since January, DL students have greatly appreciated the dedicated workspace in the computer lab with Mrs. Eskra. They credit their semester's success to the OLF position. Cheryl encourages students by leaving sticky notes on their workstations and posting congratulatory messages on the whiteboard when they complete a course. Her kindness, consideration, and open-hearted listening make her a reliable confidante for high school students at Invermay School!



# FEATURED STAFF MEMBER



**JUNE 2024** 

### **LEANNE FISSEL**

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**



Leanne Fissel is an Educational Assistant at Victoria School in Kamsack.

Leanne has made significant contributions over the years at Victoria School. She has developed meaningful relationships with the students she works with, and her kindness, empathy, and dedication have helped create a positive atmosphere within our building.

Thank you for being a part of our Spartan team Leanne!





**JUNE 2024** 

### **RHONDA THOMSEN**

### Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments



Rhonda Thomsen is the Librarian at Victoria School in Kamsack.

Rhonda is an exceptional colleague. Her innate ability to create a sense of calm and understanding resonates with everyone she interacts with. Her passion for her job and love of reading ignites excitement among children visiting the library. Rhonda consistently generates innovative ideas that enhance the reading experience for our Spartans, and she actively contributes to staff groups and committees.

Thank you for everything Khonda!



# FEATURED STAFF MEMBER



**JUNE 2024** 

### **MELISSA ROLL**

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**

Melissa Roll is an Educational Assistant at Victoria School in Kamsack.

Melissa consistently goes above and beyond while working with the children at Victoria School. She can often be found playing outdoors with the kids, bringing laughter and putting everyone at ease. Melissa's keen eye for detail and her genuine, kind-hearted, and supportive approach make her a vital asset in any situation.



Thank you for all you do Melissa!





**JUNE 2024** 

### **SHARLENE FITZSIMMONS**

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**

The Student Services Team at GSSD recently highlighted Sharlene Fitzsimmons as an excellent Educational Assistant at Columbia School who excels at connecting with students and patiently helps them succeed, possessing a range of strengths. Sharlene demonstrates empathy by understanding students' needs and emotions, while also actively listening to

their concerns and learning styles.

Sharlene shows patience as a key attribute, as she works tirelessly to support students at their own pace, using positive reinforcement to celebrate their achievements. Sharlene excels in teamwork, collaborating effectively with colleagues and parents to provide comprehensive support. "Smiley Shar" is committed to continuous learning; she eagerly seeks opportunities for professional development to enhance her ability to support student success demonstrated by her commitment to complete her EA Certification Courses.

Sharlene excels in building connections with both staff and students through her genuine and compassionate demeanor. She actively engages in one-on-one interactions with students, taking the time to listen to their concerns, celebrate their achievements, and build trust. Additionally, Sharlene participates enthusiastically in group activities, fostering a sense of belonging and community among students. She is a leader at Columbia school and was instrumental in leading the School Community Council Playground Fundraising and installation. That leadership role propelled her into leading Columbia's School Community Council as the newly appointed Chairperson.



"Sharlene's dedication and genuine connection with students is truly inspiring. She goes above and beyond to ensure every student feels valued and supported in their learning journey."





**JUNE 2024** 



### **CHERISH LAZAROFF**

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**

The Student Services Team at GSSD recently highlighted Cherish Lazaroff, who is an Educational Assistant at Canora Junior Elementary School. Cherish has acquired proficiency in playing the ukulele and other musical instruments to assist in enhancing student development and communication. Additionally, she has dedicated effort to creating visual schedules and prompts specifically designed for non-verbal children. Cherish consistently seeks opportunities to improve her teaching practice with students and demonstrates flexibility by willingly accepting new schedules and assignments that cater to diverse student needs.



Cherish consistently demonstrates promptness and high accountability. She excels as a communicator, deeply caring for the students she works with. Always striving to enhance her work with and for students, Cherish advocates strongly for their needs. She operates as a valuable team player, seeking guidance when necessary and consistently going above and beyond. Her positive attitude shines through, especially in her passion for working with neurodiverse children.

"She is amazing at everything she does!"



# FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

**JUNE 2024** 



### **KRISTA DANCSOK**

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**

The Student Services Team at GSSD recently highlighted Krista Dancsok, a valuable asset as an Educational Assistant to Macdonald School. Krista's time and contribution goes above and beyond. Krista works with a student who requires extensive modifications to their programming. Krista can modify on the go and is flexible/adaptive to each and every moment of every day. "Every day is different" is a term Krista uses to describe her days. She makes this statement with a smile and an outstanding attitude. In addition to the extensive adaptations to programming, she is very alert and responsive to the medical needs of her student as well. She knows them better than anyone else and has put her heart into making school a great place for ALL students.

Krista takes initiative in all areas. She is exceptional at altering and adjusting instruction and assistance based on each student's needs even if those requirements change day to day based on the student's changing mood, health needs, etc. She fully understands that behavior is communication and responds accordingly. She consistently builds students up, boosting their self-confidence and building positive relationships with them.





"Frista is intuitive to the needs of others around, her. She often goes above and beyond to help teachers and students alike."



ESTERHAZY

**MAY 2024** 

## **CHRISTY HARRICK**

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**

Christy was recently chosen to attend the Juno Beach Centre's 2024 Summer Institute in Belgium and France, to explore and delve deeper into Canada's role in the war. Her focus within her application is on Indigenous veterans from Treaty 4 who fought and may not have made it home to Canada.

The following is an excerpt from the Summer Institute 2024:

"Christy was raised on a farm just outside of Ituna, SK where she attended grades K-12, which is located on Treaty Four Territory. She then completed her BEd, Undergrad in Special Ed, and MEd from the U of S in Saskatoon. Her Masters of Education Indigenous Land Based focus was on land based education and cross cultural methodologies.

Her cohort travelled to Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Manitoba, Hawaii, St'at'imc, BC, and their culminating land-based learning experience was a canoe excursion from Cumberland House, SK to The Pas, MB. Christy is completing her 23rd year of teaching. She has taught in Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and Saskatchewan. Christy is presently the Student Support Teacher at the High School in Esterhazy and teaches Grade 10 Indigenous Studies. She believes in a holistic education where inclusion of all students are respected and challenged to their own ability. She enjoys teaching and educating students about various social justice issues that are happening in Canada and love to discuss current events that are occurring in the world today with her students.



She is passionate about Indigenous culture, rights of veterans, the role Canadians have had in war and teaching her students about our past and present responsibilities as Canadian citizens. She was privileged to attend the Korean War Veterans Teachers Institute in BC last summer, is on the Executive for Canadian Geographic Education representing Saskatchewan for her second term, as well as a member of Social Studies Saskatchewan Executive."

**Congratulations Christy!** 



# FEATURED STAFF MEMBER



**MAY 2024** 

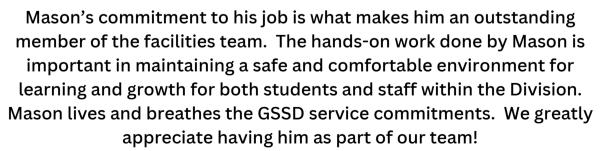
## **MASON BRADFORD**

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**

Mason is one of our dedicated facility technicians that works in numerous schools in the Good Spirit School Division. He is a Journeyman Carpenter and has extensive background experience in both concrete and construction. Mason's expertise greatly benefits him in his role within facilities as he tackles the wide range of service requests and projects that facilities handle.

From building fences, hanging whiteboards, fixing bookshelves, painting doors, securing basketball backboards, replacing windows, to fixing playground equipment, and everything in between, Mason works diligently and efficiently to complete the tasks. He approaches every service request with a positive, action-oriented attitude which is the force behind his solid work ethic.









# FEATURED STAFF MEMBER

**APRIL 2024** 



## **DAN ALSPACH**

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**

Dan Alspach is a respected and dedicated staff member within GSSD. His work is highlighted within the hallways and classrooms at Melville Comprehensive School. As GSSD Athletics Director, Dan coordinates and assists all aspects of the athletics program, dedicating countless hours as a support and coach. Dan is also involved at the Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association level, serving as a board member.

Mr. Alspach truly excels as a coach for both volleyball and basketball teams, consistently positioning teams near the top. His commitment extends beyond coaching hours; he tirelessly supports extracurricular activities. When faculty coaches are scarce, Dan leverages community connections to recruit new coaches, ensuring no program suffers. His oversight of the MCS Athletic Wall of Fame, now digitized, further demonstrates his dedication to student programs.



This leadership extends beyond Dan's own team. Opposing coaches and players recognize his respect, integrity, and genuine interest in their wellbeing. He acknowledges their skills and performance, even checking in on their development and past injuries. For Dan, healthy competition and sportsmanship are paramount, always taking precedence over mere team success.

Dan collaborates with the East Central District Athletic Association to manage the sports calendar. His focus extends to nurturing both coaches and officials, providing mentorship and courses. In all interactions, Dan approaches his role with care, attentiveness, and sensible judgment. His dedication surpasses expectations, benefiting not only Melville Comprehensive School and Good Spirit School Division, but also earning recognition from the Executive Director of SHSAA for maintaining a high standard of professional conduct province-wide!

EST 2017

**MARCH 2024** 

### KATRINA WASYLENCHUK

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**



Katrina began her career as a library technician, at Sturgis Saskatchewan, in August of 1986. She knew she wanted to be a librarian from the age of 11. Her hobbies include reading and scrapbooking.

At Sturgis Composite School, Katrina wears many hats. She is the in-school tech support, looking after the website, social media sites and digital screens. She manages book fairs, story hour and organizes the yearbook.

Her favourite part of the job is helping the students chose books and bringing excitement back into reading! She loves seeing the expressions on the children's faces when they find that perfect book!

She has created an amazing library space for students and staff with a warm and caring atmosphere. The resource centre is always humming with activity, and engaging visitors with its wonderful displays.

Katrina is one of the GSSD's most experienced library technicians. Her knowledge of everything library is unparalleled in the division. She is a mentor to other library technicians, always available to answer their questions and provide technical support when needed.

Katrina manages subject headings and overseas the clean-up and merging of cataloging records, for our Destiny platform, in the division.



She collaborates with our library team to assist with decisions and planning for our libraries. Her skills are invaluable to us, and we greatly appreciate all the work she does!





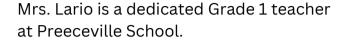


**MARCH 2024** 

## **MRS. TONILEE LARIO**

**Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments** 

'Exceeding Expectations'



She exemplifies excellence in creating an inclusive classroom environment for her students, going above and beyond and ensuring that each student feels valued and respected.

Through meticulous planning and collaborative efforts, she fosters a positive, solution-focused mindset, allowing her students to reach their full potential.

Mrs. Lario's impact not only enhances academic achievement, but she also cultivates a deep sense of belonging and acceptance among her students.

Even in the face of classroom challenges, her composed demeanor and skillful responses leave a lasting impression!



Thank you for all you do!



# FEATURED STAFF MEMBER



**FEBRUARY 2024** 

## MRS. JODI DENBROK

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**

Mrs. Denbrok is an exemplary administrative assistant who always strives to help our school office run more smoothly and effectively. She welcomes feedback, adapts to changes, and exceeds expectations in her role. She responds promptly to messages, even outside of work hours, and shows care and dedication in everything she does.



During her six years at EHS, Jodi has gained valuable corporate knowledge and streamlined processes. She can handle almost any question that comes to the office by staff, parents, and students with efficiency and professionalism.

Jodi also connects with our students and supports their needs. She alerts administration or the school counsellor of any concerns regarding students she speaks with, such as the need for a lunch or wellness check.

Jodi is the vice-chair of our School Community Council and has secured various grants/funds for sports equipment and nutrition. She always shares innovative ideas to benefit our school, such as a progressive 50/50 for the football field that raised a lot of money. Her knowledge, experience, and work ethic make her a valuable member of our school community.

Jodi is reliable, efficient, and collaborative. She has an amazing memory, learns fast, and manages busy days in the office with ease. She has enhanced the organization of our office and her hard work is greatly appreciated by staff and administration!





**JANUARY 2024** 

## MRS. KORPATNISKI

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**

Mrs. Korpatniski is a dedicated and passionate teacher who has made exceptional contributions in the lives of so many students and staff members of GSSD. She taught for 38 years and continues as a substitute teacher today.

Faye's willingness to learn new things and adapt to the changing curriculum and routines is remarkable! Faye is committed to lifelong learning and takes initiative to ensure she adapts to new programs. Faye worked additional hours to learn more about a new phonics program being implemented, and now willingly teaches the program in the classrooms she subs in. She is always willing to learn and try new things in the classroom!







Faye's dedication to her work is evident in the extra effort she puts in as a substitute teacher. She devotes extra time after school to grade schoolwork and leaves detailed notes for the classroom teacher. She diligently follows the classroom routines and plans left for her. Classroom teachers can contact her at home to discuss plans for the day. She truly goes above and beyond expectations!

Faye's commitment to her students is reflected in the connections she has developed with them. She has excellent relationships with the students in every classroom in Victoria School. Students love when they are told Mrs. Korpatniski will be their sub. She says she still subs because she loves working with the kids!

Faye, your dedication is inspiring! Thank you for all you do at Victoria School and for GSSD!





# FEATURED STAFF MEMBER



**JANUARY 2024** 

### MICHELLE MORLEY

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**

Michelle is a Digital Learning Consultant with the Good Spirit School Division. Her commitment to supporting others is evident in her willingness to go the extra mile. Michelle possesses an incredible depth of knowledge and yet remains humble in her interactions. She has a natural way of guiding and uplifting others!

Michelle is a natural fit for this position. She has consistently championed dignity, respect, and the well-being of students and staff, demonstrating commitment to the best interests of students. As an early technology adopter, Michelle embraced its use during its early stages. Over time, she has evolved alongside technology and remains as intrigued and committed to its use as ever.

A remarkable trait of Michelle's is her willingness to share knowledge and coach individuals at all levels. While higher-level users may feel frustrated or reluctant to assist those at lower levels, Michelle is always there. She remains patient, kind and willing to help individuals at all levels!



Thank you Michelle for all you do!



Good Spi

SCHOOL

**DECEMBER 2023** 

# **KELLY BECKER & ROB GRAFF**

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**

At the heart of the Good Spirit School Division, our commitment to student safety and well-being is embodied by the incredible work of our staff members. We are proud to feature two exceptional individuals who play a crucial role in our transportation services: Kelly Becker and Rob Graff. Stationed in our Yorkton and Melville bus garages, Kelly and Rob are the unsung heroes ensuring our fleet is always ready to safely transport over 2,800 students, 184 days a year.





keen eye for detail and a relentless commitment to safety, Kelly ensures that every bus in his charge meets the highest standards of operational excellence. His meticulous approach to maintenance and safety checks makes him an invaluable asset to our team. Kelly's work is not just about keeping buses running; it's about guaranteeing that every journey our students take is safe and comfortable. In Melville, Rob Graff brings his extensive knowledge and passion for mechanics to our fleet. Known for his problem-solving skills and a hands-on approach, Rob tackles every challenge with a positive attitude and an unwavering focus on safety. His ability to diagnose and repair even the most complex issues quickly ensures that our buses spend more time on the road and less time in the garage. Rob's dedication extends beyond the engines he fixes; he is deeply committed to the safety and well-being of every student who steps onto a Good Spirit School Division bus.

Kelly and Rob represent the best of what the Good Spirit School Division stands for - dedication, safety, and community. Their work behind the scenes is pivotal in our mission to provide reliable and safe transportation for our students. They don't just maintain buses; they build the trust and peace of mind that parents, teachers, and students rely on every day. Their tireless efforts ensure that over 2,800 students across our division are transported safely to and from school, extracurricular activities, and educational trips. The consistency and reliability of our transportation service, operating smoothly 184 days a year, are a testament to their hard work and dedication.

Your commitment to excellence and the safety of our students does not go unnoticed. You are not just maintaining buses; you are helping to shape a safe and conducive environment for learning and growth for thousands of students. Thank you, Kelly, and Rob, for being exemplary members of the Good Spirit School Division family and for all that you do to keep our fleet moving and our students safe. Your dedication is a shining example for us all!





**NOVEMBER 2023** 

# MRS. BISSCHOP

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**

Mrs. Bisschop is the Librarian at Canora Composite School (CCS). Over the past 10 years, she has dedicated herself to growth and excellence in her role. She advocates for CCS by highlighting its strengths and achievements. She accentuates the school's positive aspects, and she contributes to a sense of pride and community spirit by creating a vibrant and supportive educational environment!





Mrs. Bisschop's dedication in creating the Witness Blanket (pictured above) is admirable. By bearing witness to the stories carried by the Witness Blanket, CCS collectively carries their truth forward into a future that takes responsibility for the injustices of the past. The Witness Blanket serves as an educational resource for teachers to use as a guide to help students learn, empathize, and act together. Mrs. Bisschop's efforts in establishing this powerful symbol of truth and reconciliation contributed significantly to fostering awareness and understanding.

Mrs. Bisschop's commitment to her school community is inspiring! Her presentations have enriched students' learning experiences. By suggesting resources to teachers, she ensures that the educational environment is enriched and engaging. Her assistance to Distance Learning students demonstrates her willingness to help students. Whether it's academic guidance or emotional support, Mrs. Bisschop plays a vital role in creating a supportive and nurturing school environment.

Her involvement in the school yearbook has been crucial for preserving memories and celebrating student life and her encouragement of student participation in photography fosters creativity and self-expression.

In summary, Bisschop's diverse contributions touch various aspects of the school community, making her an invaluable asset. Her ability to listen to students while presenting factual information helps them see both sides of the issues, fostering critical thinking and informed discussions!

Thank you for your all your hard work and dedication Mrs. Bisschop!



# FEATURED STAFF MEMBER



Good Spirit

**NOVEMBER 2023** 

### SHEILA TILLMAN

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**



In the dynamic world of education, certain individuals stand out for their commitment and impact. Good Spirit School Division (GSSD) is delighted to honour Sheila Tillman, Lead Librarian and Receptionist at the Learning and Resource Centre, for her exceptional dedication, work ethic, and warm demeanor that not only enriches GSSD's educational environment but also significantly contributes to the learning and well-being of over 6,000 students and more than 800 staff.

Sheila's role extends far beyond the traditional duties of a librarian and receptionist. Her understanding of the library system and its potential to enhance learning is nothing short of remarkable. With her extensive knowledge, she has become an invaluable asset to both the Resource Review Committee and the Library Mentor Program, providing guidance and support that is instrumental in the development of GSSD's educational resources.

Sheila's willingness to go the extra mile is evident in every aspect of her work. Whether she is assisting in the drafting of procedures and practices or offering her expertise to various committees, her efforts are always in service of enhancing educational standards. Her contributions are pivotal in shaping an environment conducive to learning, directly impacting the success of GSSD's students and the effectiveness of staff.

At the heart of Sheila's work is her incredibly friendly attitude. Her presence at the Learning and Resource Centre is like a beacon of positivity, making everyone feel welcomed and valued. Her ability to manage the demands of her role with a smile, offering help wherever needed, creates an atmosphere of warmth and accessibility.

Sheila's competence is particularly evident in her handling of the Birch Room, Aspen A/B Rooms, and the numerous guests that visit these spaces. Whether it's a small meeting or a large gathering, her organizational skills ensure that every event runs smoothly. Her attention to detail and proactive approach in these settings exemplify her commitment to excellence.

Sheila is a central figure in GSSD's educational community. Her work touches every facet of the division, from the smallest administrative task to the larger goal of ensuring the highest quality of education and resource availability.

To Sheila, GSSD extends our deepest appreciation. Your relentless dedication, friendly demeanor, and willingness to always provide that extra bit of assistance do not go unnoticed. You play a crucial role in the success of the GSSD, impacting the lives of thousands of students and staff.

Thank you, Sheila, for being an exemplary member of our team and for all that you do to make our Learning and Resource Centre a source of knowledge, efficiency, and warmth. Your contributions are invaluable, and GSSD is grateful for your presence within the division!



**DECEMBER 2023** 

## MRS. MICHALCHUK

### **Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments**

Mrs. Michalchuk is a Grade 3/4 teacher at M.C. Knoll School (pictured below, far right)





Mrs. Michalchuk is so much more than a teacher...to many she is a trusted lifeline. Her impact extends far beyond the classroom walls, weaving a tapestry of trust and compassion. Her soft-spoken, kind ways draw students back to her long after they've left her tutelage!

Mrs. Michalchuk is always willing to listen without judgement to her students, whether it is a celebration in their lives or a hurdle that is causing difficulty. She respects the student's privacy and is willing to dedicate whatever time is needed to assist with the problem. You will often find her sitting on the floor next to a student, listening and guiding them through whatever issue is being faced.

These heart-to-hearts often culminate in not just solutions, but also in changed mindsets and - most importantly - a hug. Karen's heart is always in the right place, and she shares her passion and positive attitude with all of those who have the pleasure of knowing her.

Thank you, Mrs. Michalchuk, for your tireless commitment and unwavering care!

