

RECOGNITION PROGRAM

ONE VISION TEAM

GOAL CASTA DESTRUCTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

EDSON & AREA | GRANDE CACHE | HINTON | JASPER | LOBSTICK | TRANSPORTATION

Celebrating

5 years

PAULA MURPHY | Crescent Valley

NATALI OKOLI | Crescent Valley

CAMELIA BEJENARU | École Jasper Elementary

AMANDA LEGARY | École Mountain View

JAMIE YAKIWCHUK | École Mountain View

LYNDEN TUCKER | École Pine Grove Middle (PGMS)

BROOKE THOMPSON | École Westhaven

DIANE SCHWIRTZ | ESC - Inclusion

JACKSON KENDRICK | ESC - Facility Services

DANI HAMILTON | ESC - FSLC

KAREN RIGGS | ESC - BEST

SCARLETT NELSON | Evansview

JACEY MASKELL | Grand Trunk High

ANASTASIA HOSKIN | Grande Cache Community High

CATHERINE CARNAGHAN | Harry Collinge High

CHANDRA MOIR | Harry Collinge High

HAYLEY THOMAS | Harry Collinge High

AMANDA YAWORSKI | Harry Collinge High

LEE ANN CROSS | Jasper Junior/ Senior High

CHERISE FRON | Mary Bergeron Elementary

JESSIE JOHNSTON | Mary Bergeron Elementary

KRISTIN BASARABA | PCHS/PGMS

CARMEN LEGGETT | Parkland Composite High (PCHS)

STEVEN RIPKENS | PCHS/PGMS

SEAN SOMMERFELD | Parkland Composite High

TWILA ARNDT | Transportation

GAYLE CALDWELL | Transportation

SHANNON LAPIERRE | Transportation

10 years

BECKY KOSS | École Jasper Elementary

MICHELLE ROY | ESC - Human Resources

ROBERT DEROCHE | École Mountain View

COLIN BULLOCK | Grande Cache Community High

KIMBERLY TEN EYCK | Grande Cache Community High

JARED MADSEN | Harry Collinge High

MARINA HAGLER | Mary Bergeron Elementary

JENNA ROBINSON | Niton Central

NICOLE BERUBE | Parkland Composite High

ERICA SMITH | Parkland Composite High

JENNIFER PATRICK | Sheldon Coates

VAL BLUM | Transportation

JERRI-LYN VANDERHOEK | Transportation

MIRAKID HOLDINGS | Transportation

15 years

KYLE WINTERMUTE | Crescent Valley

MICHELLE BEAUCHAMP | École Jasper Elementary

TRUDY POON | École Mountain View

LISA BUSH | École Pine Grove Middle

LAURA-LEE JONASSON | École Pine Grove Middle

LYNNE LEGGE | École Pine Grove Middle

FRANCINE LENNOX* | École Pine Grove Middle

BRYAN WILLIAMS | École Pine Grove Middle

HEIDI ZADDEREY | Grand Trunk High

JOHN HAMMER | Grande Cache Community High

GREG NOLAN | Grande Cache Community High

MARK CROZIER | Jasper Junior/ Senior High

Celebrating

15 years, continued

LIZ ARNDT | Mary Bergeron Elementary

JENN CLARIDGE | Mary Bergeron Elementary

CHERI LADOUCEUR | Mary Bergeron Elementary

BOBBI SEMOTIUK | Mary Bergeron Elementary

TRISH DAY | Parkland Composite High

ROSE DYCK | Parkland Composite High

JILL HAMMER | Sheldon Coates

20 years

LISA BONNETT | Summitview

MORINA LAWSON | École Jasper Elementary
IRENE PROULX | École Mountain View
ROSANNE VRIEND | École Mountain View
LYLE LEE | ESC - Technology Services
CHANTAL TUTTLE | Grand Trunk HIgh
DEBBIE CORLESS | Harry Collinge High
SHERRY HANSEN | Mary Bergeron Elementary

SHELLY IRWIN | École Jasper Elementary

30 years

JOHN WARENYCIA | Grande Cache Community High DONNA CAMERON | Transportation STUART GRAHAM | Wildwood

35 years

CHRISTIANE DEMERS | École Mountain View SHARON DRYSDALE | Transportation

50 years

MIKE BIEHLER | Parkland Composite High

25 years

GEORGES DAVI-DIGUI | École Pine Grove Middle
BILL DICK | ESC - Technology Services
LIZ JARDINE* | Transportation

NOTE: Contents may be subject to change.

* retired as of the 2022/2023 school year



SHFLLY IRWIN

Shelly began teaching with GYPSD at Harry Collinge High School in Hinton in 1997 as the Home Economics teacher. She admits that she was terrified of burning down the school in her first year and would never get another teaching job again. She continued to sub for GYPSD for a few years until she started full-time as the Grade 5 teacher at École Jasper Elementary School. Shelly's love for the Oilers and playful attitude has inspired many students over the years. Any of her former students will be quick to tell you about some prank or joke she played on them while simultaneously recounting how much she cared and made them feel special and unique.



MORINA LAWSON

Morina began teaching Grade 8 at Jasper Junior/ Senior High School. She taught mostly PE and options for the first few years until she began splitting her time between JHS and EJES school. While at the elementary school, she fell in love with the little ones and taught the Kindergarten class for many years. Morina is well known for her peaceful and calm approach to dealing with children. The more they elevate, the more she remains calm. Children who have spent time in Morina's class understand the importance of caring for their class family and that kindness is the most important value.



IRENE PROULX

No writeup available at time of publication.



ROSANNE VRIEND

Rosanne has a stellar 20 years of service at École Mountain View School. Rosanne has taught Grade 2 and 4, but has spent the majority of her career in Grade 3. Rosanne has always been a strong advocate for the French Immersion program. Rosanne is a master teacher. She teaches all FRIM subject but does a great job of weaving Math and French Language Arts throughout all of her subjects. She is very supportive of her students as they learn in a second language, but she also has high expectations. A highlight for Grade 3 students is to have your story published in a book which she has coordinated for many years. Countless students have an illustrated copy of the book from their Grade 3 year. The stories are created, edited, and illustrated by all students. Rosanne works with her class so that the stories are personal, captivating, and well structured. The book launch is a highlight for the students and their parents and is a great culminating activity. As Rosanne's time with École Mountain View has progressed, she has become a mentor for many new teachers. These teachers have worked through the knowledge skills and attributes necessary to be a quality FRIM teacher, and Rosanne has helped each of them through this growth. Rosanne has shared her passion for the French language but also for the drive for ongoing professional development. Recently, Rosanne completed her Level 1 Orton and Gillingham training. This training has helped to solidify her methodology for teaching all students. It has also allowed her to run intervention groups for French Immersion students in several grades.



LYLE LEE

Lyle Started his career in 2003 and moved his way up from System Analyst I to System Analysist V through his passion for learning and technology. Lyle became the Director of Information Technology Services in 2021, ensuring that the technology needs of the Division are being met on a day-to-day basis as well as long term. Lyle has led the technology team through many improvements such as new security camera's, Bus Wifi, Access Point replacement and much more. He is always looking for efficiencies and ways to improve technology for student learning and making sure the Division has the right structure in place to support students and staff. Lyle's role as Director of Technology started just in the midst of COVID which posed many challenged for the technology team as the need to support students virtually became a high priority overnight. Lyle was able to successfully lead his team and the Division through this world-wide pandemic. As serious as Lyle is about technology and supporting the Division, he likes to make sure the technology team is always having a good time, they often refer to themselves as the I.T. Crowd, for those of you that have seen the show. Lyle has been married for 33 years to Brigitte Lee and they enjoy spending time with their dog Tikka and two cats. Lyle also enjoys building and flying model FPV Quadcopters in his spare time.



CHANTAL TUTTLE

Chantal began her career by volunteering at her own children's school at Evansview before getting hired there in November 2002. Chantal worked as an educational assistant as well as in the office before transferring to GTHS as an EA in 2008. Chantal quickly established herself as an outstanding office administrative assistant with a wealth of knowledge, a 'go-to' for new secretaries, and a constant source of support for community members and students. The entire staff depend on Chantal and her expertise, laughter, and kindness as she runs the school. Chantal plays a heavy role in GTHS students' lives and is a constant mentor and solid support as they grow into young adults. She has coached soccer, managed her son's hockey team, and created and ran a non-profit dance studio, Evansburg Dance Club, for ten years so that her four daughters could have the chance to experience dance. Along with immersing herself in the community she loves, and continuing to be a fantastic office administrative assistant, Chantal also spends memorable time enjoying her farm and five grandbabies.



DEBBIE CORLESS

No writeup available at time of publication.



SHERRY HANSEN

Sherry started her career in Edson in 2003 as an EA at Jubilee School, and since that time, has done and seen almost everything as an educational assistant. She has had the privilege of working at a number of Division schools over the past 20 years including Parkland, Pine Grove, Westhaven, Fulham, A.H. Dakin, and most recently, Mary Bergeron, for the past six years. Throughout her career, she has worked with staff and students in pretty much every grade and in all subject areas. When asked about the favourite part of her job, she is quick to respond that it has always been having the opportunity to see the excitement on students' faces when they learn a new skill, overcome a challenge, or get a chance to demonstrate their learning to others. She is always a staff member that is eager to help and can be counted on to lend her support and talents to help make classroom activities, student projects, and school events the best that they can be. She has a passion for art and loves to find ways to pass that on to the staff and students that she works with. She has spearheaded a number of school-wide art projects aimed at giving back to our community, and to a number of worthy causes around the world. When asked what her future holds, she smiles and says, 'more of the same' - and that's good news for kids.



GEORGES DAVI-DIGUI

Georges is often recognized for his outstanding commitment to athletics and education. As a young man who grew up in Togo, West Africa, he played University and National Team Basketball, competed in the first Division National League Soccer, and was on the track team in the 100 and 200 meter sprint where he competed in the Fourth African Games. Georges is well respected by his peers, students and their parents. It is not uncommon to see students who have moved to the high school walk through the doors in order to reconnect with Mr. Davi-Daqui. Georges' early connection to students continues through his ongoing commitment to extra-curricular sports programs. His involvement in basketball, refereeing, and track and field, is always appreciated, and his willingness to share with new teachers will ensure that this programming continues on to the next generation of athletes. He is a long serving basketball coach, and has the distinguished honor of being the only coach to coach the GYAC championship team five years in a row. Georges' professionalism is well respected and his willingness to provide positive and constructive input to the decision-making process make him a valued staff member. Georges' sense of humour and caring demeanor provide guidance to new staff and add to the collegiality enjoyed by all around him.



BILL DICK

Bill joined the GYPSD Tech Team in July 1998. He is very service oriented and always goes above and beyond to assist users with technical challenges. In 2001, Bill received an award for Outstanding Service. He was integral in converting Grande Yellowhead's network to the Alberta Supernet fibre optic network from the initial DSL phone lines that previously connected all our sites. Bill can always be counted upon to have a cache of unique and crucial parts that we need and are no longer in production. He has been in the computer industry for 36 years. Bill's interests include camping, golfing and scouting. He has also volunteered countless hours coaching PCHS and PGMS basketball teams. The PGMS Girls team recently won gold under Bill's leadership.



LIZ JARDINE - RETIRED

Liz started driving a school bus in 1994 as she was drawn to the flexible schedule that this offered her; it was perfect for raising her children. She had all the same days and holidays, and she loved having the summer off to relax and prep for the upcoming school year. She loved driving bus, but had to retire as winter driving conditions became too much. She misses her bus students very much but she is enjoying her retirement!



JOHN WARENYCIA

John's dedication to his students and the teaching profession is seen in his everyday interactions with students, parents, and his community. He is a kind and empathetic teacher who builds strong relationships with his students and is always willing to support student learning after school, or during his lunch hour. He has a strong understanding of the curriculums that he teaches and he continually strives to professionally develop himself through extensive work with Alberta Education taking part in contract and committee work on marking diploma exams, item writing, and validation of PATs and diploma exams. He has supported his school in many ways and is always there to listen and suggest options and support, leaning on his experience as an Assistant Principal and an AISI Lead Teacher/Instructional Coach. He is passionate about student success and achievement in his Physics, Science 9 and Science 30 courses, but he is just as passionate about supporting student literacy growth and he often uses good literacy teaching strategies in all of his courses.



DONNA CAMERON

Donna started driving bus because "it is an awesome job when you have little kids". Her favourite part is having summers off. She drove as a spare for three years before she got a full time run. She likes to run (trail running is her favourite) and work out. She trained this spring for a run in the Crowsnest that was in July. And, of course, she loves to spend time with her grandson, Eddie.



STUART GRAHAM

Having completed his primary and secondary schooling in Edson, Stuart returned home and joined GYPSD in 1993 as the Divisional Co-operative Education Coordinator. In 1995, he helped to establish the first outreach school in the Division and became the principal of the new Edson Off-Campus Centre. Over the following years, Off-Campus expanded and rebranded, and Stuart served as principal of The Learning Connection (TLC) with centres in Edson, Evansburg, Grande Cache, Hinton and Jasper. Stuart became a real champion for alternative education and loves working with students and staff in the unique environment that was TLC. He is recognized province-wide as an authority on alternative education and is regularly contacted by other school divisions for suggestions and advice to establish and/or improve storefront schools. Stuart was also closely involved with The Palisades Centre where TLC supported the offering of locally developed courses to students not only within Grande Yellowhead but nationally and internationally. A proponent of life-long learning, Stuart completed his Master of Education degree in 2017. After a two year interchange at Alberta Education, Stuart returned to GYPSD as the Principal of Wildwood School where he remains today. Stuart thoroughly enjoys the energy, enthusiasm and hard work that an elementary school provides and he continues to be a champion for the families and students in the Wildwood area.



CHRISTIANE DEMERS

Over the last number of years, Christiane has spent a lot of her time being a classroom supervisor. She can always be counted on to do the best for the students every day, no matter what classroom she is in. During the day, Christiane can be found helping students finish their work as to ensure that no one goes home without receiving the necessary help. Christiane continues to split her time between her role as a teacher assistant and library assistant. In the classroom, Christiane's French language skills are a valuable asset in assisting students in the French Immersion program. She has worked with small groups of students in Math and French Language Arts, helping them be successful. Christiane is also adept at helping students stay on task and be focused in the classroom, ending disruptions guickly and guietly. Christiane is also very diligent in regards to the library. Christiane has helped to train other Library Assistants when she has had to cover in the classrooms. She has helped to make sure that library resources are always catalogued and accounted for. When books are not returned on time, she follows up and ensures that everything is back so that others can access the materials, whether it be a novel or classroom resources. Christiane makes sure that the library is an inviting place for students. She has a selection of student created science projects on display, and ceiling tiles show off students' artwork as well as her own artistic talents with painted characters and quotes.



SHARON DRYSDALE

Shirley began her Grande Yellowhead career driving school bus after her girlfriend suggested it! She likes to drive and loves kids. She enjoys the students; watching them grow up and the changes they go through. She enjoys spending time with her family, camping, hiking and riding her horses in the mountains.



MIKE BIEHLER

When asked to describe Mr. Biehler, students say that he is fun yet strict, helpful, hardworking, knowledgeable, talented and they enjoy his great stories. Mike became a teacher because he had discovered two things he loved: wood-working and teaching. He had been instructing young soldiers to use explosives, and they were highly motivated to learn. Now, he runs a smooth production line supplying Edson with quality picnic tables. He enjoys the fast pace and the one-on-one attention of the wood shop. He has also taught drafting, electronics, photography, math, physics, and his favorite, philosophy. He has served as grad, newspaper and yearbook advisors, has organized earlymorning floor hockey at Parkland, and has been active in the community in kids' clubs, and as a soccer and hockey coach. His greatest joy is being a dad.





SANDY AXMANN

Sandy began teaching math and science in 1986 at Jubilee Junior High School until she transferred to Pine Grove Elementary School. In 2000, Sandy moved to A.H. Dakin, where she taught grades three and four. In 2002, Sandy once again returned to Pine Grove Elementary School where she taught grades 2 to 6 science. In 2003, Pine Grove School was re-designated from an elementary to a middle school and Sandy became their Assistant Principal for the next eight years. Sandy obtained her Master Degree in Educational Leadership from Walden University in 2009. Sandy implemented a number of the strategies from her program into initiatives such as the Edson Bully Free Program. Sandy moved into Central Office as a Supervisor for Learning Services in 2012. Her portfolio was diverse including Curriculum and Assessment, Instruction, First Nations Métis and Inuit Liaison, Dual Credit Program, Health and Wellness, and Indigenous Relations. Sandy was a committed educator who always puts students in the centre of her work.



TONI BARRASS

Toni joined the Division in 1990 until her retirement this year.



DOROTHY BOCK

Dorothy began her career in 2011 at Grande Cache Community High School, before leaving the Division this year.



STEPHEN BOCK
Stephen began his career in 2010 at Grande Cache Community High School, before leaving the Division this year.



PENNY DUNN

Penny was proud to be a part of GYPSD for almost 50 years. From supporting young students at the beginning of her career, to piloting the first school-based accounting software, to expertly troubleshooting the latest student records software, Penny has been a stalwart in Hinton. What is remarkable, is not the length of the career, but rather the care, compassion and competence she brought to it everyday throughout it. She quickly established herself as an outstanding records secretary who managed and maintained the school's records but also provided guidance and mentorship to other secretaries across the Division. Most recently, Penny, took over the reins at The Learning Connection - Hinton where she seamlessly integrated into the school and staff. There - in what turned out to be her last year - she continued to learn, develop and improve. This life-long learning has been one of the hallmarks of her career.



SANDRA (SANDY) EVANS
Sandy began driving for the Division in 2011 until her retirement this year.



JILL GLOVER

Jill worked for the Division as a valuble member of the team as an educational assistant since 2013 until she retired this year at École Pine Grove Middle School.



REBEKAH GULLASON

Rebekah started with Grande Yellowhead in November of 2000 at A.H. Dakin as a Teacher Aide in Kindergarten. She quickly transitioned into a secretary position, and in 2001, moved to Parkland Composite High School. Her roots in PCHS run deep, having graduated there in 1984. Both of her sons also attended Parkland, graduating in 2007, and 2010, and she is excited to have welcomed her son Dylan as a colleague in the school for the 2020/21 school year. Over the years, Rebekah has most valued her relationships with staff and students. She took pride in the accomplishments of Parkland students, and particularly enjoyed celebrating graduation each year.



FRANCE HAMELIN

France came to GYPSD in 1994 as a new teacher from Slave Lake, AB. France provided significant leadership in the promotion of French Immersion in Edson. She has taught in French Immersion classrooms from Grades 1 to 6. She participated in the GYPSD Leadership Cohort and was also a part of the vice-principal team at Westhaven School for two years. She served on various school and divisional committees, including the Assessment and Reporting Committee. In the past, she has also served on the local ATA committee. She was a leader in outdoor education, French literacy and art at Westhaven School. She helped students before and after school and provided literacy interventions through the FRIM Reading Recovery and LLI programs. She loved working with the children on their academics and enjoyed spending time with her students during field trips. She mentored student teachers in their final practicum years to encourage new teachers and to promote Edson as a great place to work as a FRIM teacher. France enjoyed contributing to staff meetings and PLCs and was always willing to express her opinion on various topics related to the school.



KATHERINE HICKS

Katherine began subbing as an EA in 2001. She received her Specialty in Signing Language in 2002 which led to working full time at Westhaven, assisting hearing impaired/hard of hearing students, starting from K and following them up to the high school. Her passion for art led her to assist with Art Club, guiding students to paint a mural on the foyer wall. In addition to assisting students and teachers, she presented Sign Language during Friendship Circle, accompanied the choir with guitar, and had the pleasure of teaching guitar to the teacher who was a very quick study, as well as assisting her with guitar lessons to the Grade five students. Her career was cut short due to health issues, and she moved to Leduc to be closer to family where she continues to enjoy creating art and music, balcony gardening, fishing and camping.



ELIZABETH (LIZ) JARDINE

Liz started driving a school bus in 1994 as she wass drawn to the flexible schedule that this offered her; it was perfect for raising her children. She had all the same days and holidays, and she loved having the summer off to relax and prep for the upcoming school year. She loved driving bus, but had to retire as winter driving conditions became too much. She misses her bus students very much but she is enjoying her retirement!



CRYSTAL KEAYS

Crystal worked for GYPSD since 2012 at both École Jasper Elementary School and Jasper Junior/ Senior High School in a variety of roles. At the high school, Crystal spent many years working and organizing their library before moving to the role of full time student support. She had a quiet way of working with students which created special connections. Over the years, staff witnessed many students who just dropped by to talk to her in the library, or in the hallway for a needed chat. She also had the ability to always maintain her composure when an assigned student became unregulated. Crystal enjoyed interacting with students, parents and staff and often covered the front office when the school secretary was away.



FRANCINE LENNOX

Francine joined the Division in 2007 where she worked at École Pine Grove Middle School before leaving the Division this year.



MANON LUCAS

Manon started her career with GYPSD in 1986. Her first assignment was as a teacher assistant in the French Immersion program at Evergreen School. Manon then worked for the next 31 years at Evergreen School, first as a bilingual teacher assistant, and starting in 1996, as the school secretary. She sat in the school secretary chair for the next 20 years until Evergreen was closed in 2016. At Evergreen she earned the reputation of being a welcoming presence in the office with a twinkle in her eye, a fun sense of humor, and the person you could always count on when you needed something done or the answer to any question you had. She thought about the possibility of retirement when Evergreen closed, but couldn't resist the opportunity to help open up a new school and to train yet another unsuspecting principal. She decided that she would do one more year and joined the staff at Mary Bergeron Elementary in 2017 where she stayed until her retirement this year.



KATE OTTOSON

Kate started her career at Jubilee Junior High School in 2002. After the closing of Jubilee, Kate moved over to PCHS in the fall of 2003 and was an integral member of the their staff ever since. Kate excelled in every aspect of her job but her strengths and passion can clearly be seen in any English or Social Studies classroom she was a part of. She was dedicated to helping students and persistently encouraged them to do their best and never give up. Kate had a positive influence on students and coworkers and this could be seen when she patrolled the hallways during breaks and at lunch. Every year, Kate organized Education Week, part of which involved cooking and serving Alphagetti for the entire school. She volunteered countless hours as well as her decorating skills for the PCHS Christmas Parade floats. Since the addition of the Grad Commencement Ceremony in the school, staff welcomed Kate's exceptional decorating skills in transforming the PCHS gym into a venue deserving of this prestigious event. She never hesitated to lend a helping hand to anyone in need, taking the initiative to step up and make things happen.



LORI THOMAS

Lori joined Grande Yellowhead at Jasper Junior/Senior High School in 2004. She demonstrated her kind, caring, and compassionate manner in a number of ways over the years. It was these traits that made her so impactful when working with high needs students. Lori was a huge part of these students' great success learning some life and social skills because of her ongoing dedication. Lori also worked with small groups of students and helped students in some of the school's larger junior high classes. Lori was always proud of her East Coast heritage and her family. She was quick to tell you about her sons with a smile on her face that reminded you she was a good person to have on your team. Lori worked well with all staff and was willing to pitch in wherever possible. Sometimes she would do a little more than her share in the shared spaces of the school, like the staff kitchen, where she would clean and tidy up just to keep everything running smoothly in the school.





This event is proudly hosted by the Grande Yellowhead Board of Trustees (left to right)

Yvonne Oshanyk, Hinton | Dale Karpluk, Board Chair, Jasper Melodie Bobilek, Lobstick | Darrel Delisle, Grande Cache | Jocelyn Pettitt, Edson | Shirley Caputo, Hinton | Fiona Fowler, Edson |



Special Recognition

JENNIFER ALBRECHT - Graduate Certificate in School Leadership

GLEN ALLEN - ATA 2022/23 Distinguished Leadership Award from the

Council of School Leadership

LACIE REILLY - Payroll Compliance Practioner (PCP)

JAIA STHANKIYA - 2023 Edwin Parr GYPSD Nominee

Thank you for your dedication!