

## School Catchment Areas and Transportation

Since 2012, Park West School Division has had catchment areas which define school attendance boundaries. Students within a particular catchment area have a school assigned to them as their home school. Transportation is provided to this school if required.

The Division has been asked to consider changes to catchment areas on a few occasions since 2012. Trustees re-examined these areas to ensure that they are appropriate and meet the terms of the original transportation review.

At the October 12 Board meeting, Trustees passed the following motion which was carried by a unanimous vote: Whereas we have reviewed the catchment area policy and the reasons for it, we endorse the current policy and structure.

The Board spent considerable time reviewing our catchment areas. Our position continues to be that we will adhere to our current transportation procedure. We remain committed to the original reasons for creating the existing catchment areas, which included the following:

- Catchment areas to be defined and available to the public
- Clear definition of catchment school and schools of choice
- Realized transportation efficiencies
- Protection of each school's catchment area

The maps for our divisional catchment areas may be found on our website at [www.pwsd.ca](http://www.pwsd.ca)

## Student Citizenship Award Nominations

Park West School Division supports the Manitoba School Boards Association Student Citizenship awards. These awards recognize individual and groups of students that demonstrate their commitment to the values of citizenship through various activities.

The nomination forms will be distributed to schools in November. A reminder that *a Park West School Division student, staff, or community member may nominate a student and/or group for these awards.* If you are interested in submitting a nomination, please contact your school principal to make them aware of your intent.

### Award Criteria

The following criteria is considered when selecting the applicants:

1. Volunteer service to the community (i.e. service to health care facilities, senior citizen groups, shelters, day care centers).
2. Involvement in citizenship or character building organizations.
3. Participation in student government programs or activities.
4. Leadership ability to motivate others to actions to benefit the community.

Nomination forms require:

### A. Student Application

- completed application form (including activity summary page)
- an essay (maximum 500 words) from the student or group that defines what citizenship means to them, and/or describes how the student or group has tried to live out the concept of good citizenship in school and community

### B. Two Sponsoring Letters as follows:

1. A letter from an official at the student's or group's school that:
  - describes the context in which the sponsoring official has known or worked with the student or group
  - describes how the student's or group's actions at school demonstrate good citizenship
2. A letter from a representative of a community organization that:
  - indicates the individual's relationship with the student or group
  - describes how the student's or group's actions in the community demonstrate good citizenship

### C. Digital pictures

- Please submit up to 5 digital pictures to accompany your application

# Park West Publisher

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LEARNERS TODAY, LEADERS TOMORROW

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*A message from our  
Board Chair*



On behalf of the Board of Trustees for Park West School Division I would like to welcome everyone back for the 2017-2018 school year. At our inaugural meeting in September, elections were held and I was newly elected as the Board Chair. Tiffany Priestley was also newly elected as Vice Chair. Thank you so much to our fellow trustees for appointing us to these leadership positions; we are truly honored. I would like to thank Darren Naherniak and Newell Johnston for their previous work in these roles. We have big shoes to fill and look forward to their mentorship in the future.

The Board has made Quality Teaching and Learning a priority in our divisional strategic plan. In order to reach the goals outlined in our plan, we provide professional development opportunities for our staff. Professional development days assist educators in strengthening their knowledge and skills to better teach our students. Please refer to the article, "Lifelong Learners" to read more about this topic.

Trustees are always working on strategies to improve our communication with the schools and communities within Park West. We will continue to meet with our students, staff, and communities in the upcoming year. Please keep an eye out for community consultation meeting dates to join us for conversation and coffee. Our regular board meetings are held twice a month on the second and fourth Thursdays, with some exceptions. These meetings are always open to the public. We would be so honoured to have your presence at one of our Thursday meetings. Please check our division website for upcoming meeting dates and join us.

*All the best, Carole Shankarak*

## Lifelong Learners

The Importance of Professional Development Days

During the school year, there are 10 days for all Manitoba school divisions in which students do not have regular classes. Five of these are for administrative purposes, including parent-teacher conferences and the first and last day of the school year. The other five days are for teacher professional development.

Professional development encompasses all activities that teachers undertake to direct their own learning and to enhance their professional practice. PD days are scheduled training days for educators. Just like many other professions, education is changing and our staff needs to continue to grow to meet these changes. To maintain their standards of excellence, teachers need to be continually and actively engaged in their own learning throughout their career.

Of the five divisional PD days, one is reserved for in-school use while another is used for a day in October in which all Manitoba teachers participate. In October, educators may attend sessions locally or access the larger professional development conferences available in either Brandon or Winnipeg. A committee consisting of divisional and school representatives plans the framework for the remaining three PD days. This committee determines areas of focus using staff input and the divisional strategic plan as guidelines.

Here is a snapshot of this year's pd. On September 22, Sandra Herbst shared her expertise in student assessment with teachers. For our December day, teachers will select from several topics including using technology effectively, assessment, and data-informed planning and instruction. Finally in February, divisional teachers will have two options; a regional technology conference in Virden or an in-division session on health and wellness.

Teachers also have the option to attend personal PD sessions throughout the year. This gives them the opportunity to learn about topics related to their own unique assignments and professional growth plans.

Educational Assistants also receive professional development during the school year to help them to be more effective in their support of students and teachers. Most recently, divisional EAs attended a PD workshop in Russell. During this session, Erika Wainright from the Department of Education presented on reframing behaviour in the classroom.

In Park West School Division, we value our people. We believe in investing in our staff and supporting them as lifelong learners. The most powerful way to raise student achievement is through professional learning.

We will bring the world to our **students**

to prepare our students for the **world.**



## New Career Education Options for Students

Manitoba Education and Training is pleased to release Career Development Internship (CDI) credit and Credit for Employment Guidelines (CFE) credit which may be implemented by schools on a voluntary basis, starting in September 2017.

The Career Development Internship (CDI) credit provides students with the opportunity to earn up to two high school credits for an unpaid internship. *The CDI credit option is intended to recognize and encourage the skills development and experience students acquire through internships.*

Career Development Internship Guidelines are intended to help educators oversee the planning, monitoring, evaluating, and reporting of student experiences related to the CDI. The guidelines also provide information for those in the key role of on-site internship supervisor. On-site internship supervisors are workplace employees who are

responsible for welcoming and supporting the student throughout the internship.

Because students can gain valuable skills development and experience through on-the-job work experience, the Credit for Employment (CFE) credit is available to provide students with the opportunity to earn up to two high school credits for paid employment. CFE can enrich students' understanding of the relevance of education and the importance of developing career readiness.

Credit for Employment Guidelines is not a curriculum document. It is a set of guidelines for educators who wish to offer students an opportunity to earn a credit through CFE. This document is intended to help educators (teachers/CFE facilitators) oversee the monitoring, evaluating, and reporting of student employment experiences related to the CFE. This document also provides information for those in the key role of employer.

### DIVISION OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

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Rosburn Elementary  
Mary-Ann Mitchell-Pellett  
Principal

Mary-Ann Mitchell-Pellett has been an educator since 1991. She has worked in a variety of roles such as a classroom teacher, guidance counsellor, learning support teacher, and school-based administrator. For the past 13 years, she worked for the Calgary Board of Education and Rocky View schools.

Previously she lived and worked in Manitoba with a variety of school boards. She is a graduate of Brandon University (B.ED & M.ED) and completed her PhD in school leadership at the University of Calgary in 2013. She recently returned to her hometown of Rosburn and is taking on the role of Principal at Rosburn Elementary School. Just prior to this, Mary-Ann was an instructor at the Werklund School of Education since 2014, teaching both undergraduate and graduate students. She has a passion for innovative teaching and learning approaches such as design thinking, as well as ensuring that the needs of learners are addressed in a holistic way.

Mary-Ann enjoys spending time at her cottage near Grand Beach with her husband Scott, and visiting her adult children in Alberta.



Birtle Collegiate  
Stacie Stonehouse  
Principal

Stacie Stonehouse has started her new role as principal of Birtle Collegiate. Mrs. Stonehouse previously worked at Strathclair Community School in senior years, before moving into Grade 5 at Birtle Collegiate last fall. In addition to her principal duties, she has started coaching both junior varsity and varsity girls volleyball. Stacie is excited to be a part of such a great school community and looks forward to what the year will hold.

## From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

### 2016-17 Financial Results

The financial results from the 2016-17 school year have recently been audited, approved by the Board of Trustees and reported to the Province. Here are the highlights:

- Our operating revenues exceeded our operating expenses by approximately \$57,000
  - This surplus is added to the approximately \$47,000 reduction in our non-vested sick leave liability at June 30, 2017 as compared to June 30, 2016, to arrive at our total operating surplus for 2016-17 of approximately \$104,000
  - This brings our accumulated operating surplus to approximately \$571,000 at June 30, 2017
  - This accumulated operating surplus represents 2.3% of our operating expenses, which is under the maximum 4% allowed by the Province.
- Please see our website for the financial statements submitted to the Province and notes to the financial statements. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me.

### Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs)

Did you know the federal government provides

grants as an incentive for parents, family and friends to save for a child's post-secondary education? Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) amounts depend on the contributions made to an Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP).

- The lifetime maximum grant is \$7,200 per child
- You can start contributing as soon as your child is born and you have obtained a Social Insurance Number for your child
- The federal grants and earnings on the savings plan are not taxed until withdrawn, and are included in your child's income when withdrawn which will presumably be taxed at a lower rate than parents' income
- Savings can be used to pay for tuition, room and board, school supplies, computers and transportation

For more info on RESPs and CESGs contact your financial institution or go to: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/registered-education-savings-plans-resps.html>

~ Dorelle Fulton

## Park West Fibre Optics Co-op Inc



Several communities in southwestern Manitoba have fibre optic internet connectivity thanks to the efforts of a partnership between municipal governments and Park West school division.

The Park West Fibre Optic Co-op (PWFOC) has installed and is the owner of 60 strands of fibre that has linked the communities in our region. The fibre co-op is comprised of Hamiota Municipality, Prairie View Municipality, the Rural Municipality of Yellowhead, and Park West School Division. The schools in the division are now connected to the fibre network. This includes schools in non-member communities.

This partnership between the municipalities and the school division is unique and is among the first of its kind. Partnerships of this nature

will allow rural communities to receive a level of broadband connectivity found in large urban areas. In fact, we have the same level of bandwidth or more compared to Brandon or Winnipeg school divisions.

Connectivity in the network will be up to 1,000 megabits, or one gigabit, per second. In addition to providing world class connectivity to its member communities and schools, the PWFOC is able to support individuals, businesses, and internet service providers.

With the installation of the new fibre infrastructure, Park West will save approximately \$25,000 per year. This initiative will provide our school division with connectivity that far exceeds what we currently have for significantly less cost than what we had previously been paying.

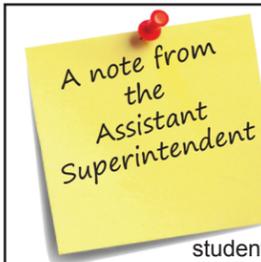
## Lockdowns

Staff, students and visitors have the right to learn, work, and be present in a safe and secure environment. The Park West Board of Trustees is committed to keeping the schools safe from unwanted intruders and requires all visitors to report to the school office upon entry to a school building. School safety plans shall specify staff responsibilities to be followed when intruders appear on school property.

Last year, divisional staff received training on lockdown procedures and school safety. As a

result of this training, we have implemented some new elements to our school lockdown procedures. The new additions include options for barricading doors and classrooms and/or evacuating the building, if reasonable to do so. Ultimately, our main goal is to keep everyone safe.

Please view the full Administrative Procedure 710 - School Intruders and Lockdowns on our website at [www.pwsd.ca](http://www.pwsd.ca)



Welcome back everyone. I hope you had a good summer. I know we have had a great fall back with our students and staff. I want to welcome all of our staff and students but particularly those new to our division. We hope you have a great experience at Park West for this year and years to come.

I want to give you a brief update on what we do when it comes to numeracy and literacy in Park West. We feel these are important aspects of your child's education and we work with our teachers a great deal on always trying to improve our students in

these areas. We track our early and middle years students Reading two times a year and our Numeracy at the end of the year. We use these results to track our students progress. We compare to previous years to see where we need to get better. Principals are given the data for their own school and work with staff on areas needing extra support. We are working on continuously improving our data analysis techniques.

Literacy and numeracy are very important areas to improve on for all learners. We are extremely excited about using this data to help our instruction at a divisional and school level. I wish you a great fall. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

~Jon Zilkey

## Partners in Education Conference

Waywayseecappo First Nation and Park West School Division have a unique educational partnership which has greatly enhanced educational outcomes for our children.

We are hosting a joint conference on November 14-15 in Russell to provide information about our partnership. The conference will focus on the history of the partnership and the benefits for students and partners. Our keynote speaker will be Phil Fontaine, former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.



Community Connector  
Maureen Twovoice  
Indigenous Education  
Facilitator

Maureen is the new Community Connector/ Indigenous Education Facilitator for the school division. In her role, she assists schools in making educational connections to Indigenous cultures and traditional practices.

Maureen will provide support and assistance to schools regarding Indigenous content, histories, and activities. She hopes to connect each school with outside resources such as Elders and community members who may share their knowledge and teachings from an Indigenous perspective.

Maureen looks forward to working with each school to help build those positive relationships and connections.

## Scholarship Applications

Applications forms for the MacPhail/McCormick Memorial Fund and Lauman Scholarship are now available on our website at [www.pwsd.ca](http://www.pwsd.ca).

**Application deadline is November 15, 2017.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tanya Thompson at the Division Office at 204-842-2102.

## Grit: a key to happiness and success

At each regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, one of the board members or administration team members presents a brief opening. The opening is intended to be thought-provoking and/or inspiring. The presenter is appointed at the previous Board meeting. At the October 26, 2017 Trustees' meeting, the opening was presented by Tanya Thompson. She shared a TED Talk video by Angela Duckworth about her research on Grit: the power of passion and perseverance. Jenny Williams wrote about "What Is Grit, Why Kids Need It, and How You Can Foster It". Here are some excerpts from her article:

You've probably heard the word grit mentioned several times in the recent years in the context of raising kids who go on to fulfill their potential. Today's mounting research on grit suggests that your child's ability to work hard, endure struggle, fail, and try again may be the key to determining his or her long-term success and happiness.

As word of Duckworth's research has spread, grit has become a hot topic in education and parenting circles, and supporters want to know how to build grit in children. Although Duckworth herself says she doesn't know definitively how to increase grit in young people, she is hopeful it can be taught. She and her team are working

with researchers and schools across the country to find out how.

Although the terminology may be different, the Army includes this concept in the evaluation of even its most elite soldiers. Duckworth's husband tells the story of his qualification to attend the U.S. Army's Ranger School, its premier small-unit leadership course.

In the final exercise before soldiers were chosen to attend the school, he and his fellow soldiers were told to "ruck up" with 35-pound packs and start walking. The instruction was something like, "We're not going to tell you how far you

have to walk or what the cut-off time is, but if you don't finish under time, you're going home." The would-be Rangers started walking, fast.

Finally, after hours of walking, the soldiers came to the spot where they had begun. From a distance, it looked like the finish. But as each man approached the sergeant yelled out a time and then said, "Good work. One lap down." More than one soldier crumbled there, dropping his pack and surrendering his spot in Ranger School. But those who continued walking found that the real finish was just around the corner, a few hundred yards away.

"Never quit in a valley," says Angela Duckworth. Indeed, had those soldiers who quit maintained the fortitude to go on and move past that low-point they would have secured their spots in Ranger School.

To learn more about grit, see Angela Duckworth's TED Talk, "Grit: the power of passion and perseverance" and Jenny Williams' full article, "What Is Grit, Why Kids Need It, and How You Can Foster It."