



NORTHERN LIGHTS SCHOOL DIVISION No. 113

# CONNECTIONS

NLSD No. 113 NEWSLETTER

FALL 2009 ISSUE

## *WELCOME BACK, WELCOME BACK, WELCOME BACK, WELCOME BACK...*

On behalf of the NLSD #113 Board of Education, Ralph Pilz (Director of Education) and Staff a **HUGE** welcome to all students, teachers and staff members in our community schools.

Hope that you all had an enjoyable summer and now that the school year has started best wishes and many successes throughout the year.

### *NEW TEACHER INDUCTION*

The Board of Education and Senior Staff hosted a New Teacher Induction Workshop on August 18, 19, & 20 the theme "Set Them Up For Success" was held in Prince Albert.



Jason Young (Superintendent of Education)  
addressing the group



New teaching staff watching Harry Wong video

### *FOREVER IN YOUR HEART*

Although you're not their father or mother  
You care for them each day.  
You cuddle, sing and read to them  
And watch them as they play.  
You see each new accomplishment  
You help them grow and learn,  
You understand their language,  
You listen with concern  
They come to you for comfort,  
And you kiss away their tears.  
They proudly show their work to you  
You give the loudest cheers!  
No, you are not their fathers or mothers,  
But your role is just as strong.  
You nurture them and keep them safe  
Though maybe not for long-  
You know someday the time may come  
When you will have to part,  
But you know each child you cared for  
is forever in your heart

Author Unknown

## ***NLSD No. 113 RETIREMENT AND YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS CEREMONY:***

The retirement/years of service awards ceremony was held on June 10<sup>th</sup>, presentations were made to:

### **Retirees:**

- James Andrews
- Russ Campbell
- Penny Carriere
- Bev Cheechoo
- Theresa Dery
- Greg Hatch
- Stuart Keys
- Carolyn Laurin
- David LeBoeuf
- Jim Lennard
- Bertha McKay
- Debbie Mielke
- Janet Morris
- Joan Poole
- Margaret Powder
- Sam Rambaran
- Judy Shire
- Garry Syrnyk
- Faye Tam
- Chris Todd

### **15 Year Awards:**

- Karen Olson
- Judy Shire

### **20 Year Award:**

- Randy Erikson
- John Laliberte

### **30 Year Award:**

- Bev Cheechoo
- Jim Lennard
- Debbie Mielke
- Janet Morris
- Rick Sanderson

### **35 Year Award:**

- Corinne McConnell

Best wishes to the retirees your dedication to the education of our children is most appreciated.

Thank you to employees receiving years of services awards.

Presentation of awards (top to bottom): Frank Durocher and Ralph Pilz present awards to – Greg Hatch, Debbie Mielke, John Laliberte, Karen Olson and Corinne McConnell



## ***Career Transition – Housing Projects***

Honourable Donna Harpauer, Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Housing Corporation has committed funding support for the construction of three housing units in La Loche, Pinehouse and La Ronge.

Northern Lights School Division #113 (NLSD #113) in partnership with Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC) will provide high school students the opportunity to participate in house-building projects. La Loche Dene High School was previously involved in such projects in the 2007 and 2008 school years.

The unit in each of the communities will be owned by SHC and turned over to the respective Housing Authority for that community to manage on behalf of SHC.

This is a worthwhile initiative in which northern youth can learn about and experience hands-on construction. This will also allow students to obtain knowledge and experience that may want assistance in seeking future vocation in the building trades.

## ***Ospwakun School, Brabant Lake Rose Campbell, Principal***

Seven students went on a week long trip, first to Regina where we stayed at the Travelodge in pool side rooms. The students saw Dinosaurs Alive at the IMAX, toured the museum and went swimming. Tuesday we went to the RCMP Heritage Center.

We travelled back to Saskatoon and had supper at a restaurant where you could eat all you wanted. The children thought this was just great. We stayed at the Sheraton Cavalier and spent a lot of time on the water slides. The highlight of the trip was the zoo. The students had a great time at the zoo where they saw many different animals.

All in all they were happy to be home. Can't wait for next year.

## ***In-Service for Special Needs Unit***

Staff from the Special Needs Unit were in La Ronge on September 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> for in-service. This team of experts supports schools in accommodating students with special needs.



**BACK ROW:** Jerry Jenner (Coordinator of Special Needs), Mike White (Psychologist), Kyrsten Wells, David Huizer, Peter Trybus, Thomas Ferguson, Chris Defeijter (Special Needs Assistant)  
**FRONT ROW:** Lea Kattler, Peter Power, Curtis Chandler (Vice-Principal Pinehouse), Juanita Harris, Kate Johnstone

## ***H1N1 Flu Virus***

Teachers and staff members within the school division are asked to ensure that preventative measures are in place for hand hygiene, cough and sneeze hygiene, cleaning measures and children with influenza like symptoms in school and childcare settings.

It is recommended that schools continue to practice basic infection control and ask those that are ill to stay home. If there is an unusual number of sick children and staff then public health should be notified.

The Public Safety Canada website (<http://getprepared.ca/knw/kt/kt-eng.aspx>) provides information being prepared for emergencies at home as well as school. Saskatchewan Health and the regional health authorities are working hard to ensure the health and safety of children and its citizens. You may also contact your local regional health authority for any questions or concerns.

## GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER



Betty Ann  
Thunderchild

Superintendent of  
Education for:

- Bear Creek
- Buffalo Narrows
- Green Lake
- St. George's Hill
- Stony Rapids
- Uranium City

**Where are you from originally?** Originally, I am from Cochrane, a small town in northern Ontario. I moved to Saskatchewan in 1981 to be nearer my husband Irvin's family so our kids could learn about their Cree heritage. Most of my family still lives in Cochrane and I travel east several times a year to visit.

**How long have you been a staff member of NLS#113?**

I've been working for NLS#113 since 2002, 5 years as a Principal and now going into my 2<sup>nd</sup> year as a Superintendent of Education.

**What has kept you in the North all these years?**

I have been in the North most of my life and love it. It's not just the landscape which makes the North in any province exceptional but the people. As well as being close to nature and the gifts God has given us, there is a sense of family and community here that speaks to our connectedness and interdependence. In the cities it is too easy not to know your neighbour, but in the North we have to know them and rely on them to make our communities and our schools work.

**How has NLS#113 changed since you've been involved with the school division? What are some improvements?**

NLS#113 has become, in my opinion, more focused in the past few years. There are defined goals and plans which will continue to lead us on the path to improving student learning outcomes. I believe that our schools are becoming stronger as they begin to work more closely with our communities on doing the work of learning, which occurs at all levels from student to staff to parents and community members. By improving learning outcomes we are working to improve and strengthen our communities.

**What did you do for work before coming to the school division?**

I began my teaching career in Toronto too many years ago to count. Since coming to Saskatchewan I have taught for 14 years on 1<sup>st</sup> Nations reserves and 12 years in various Saskatchewan communities, most in the North.

I have worked for 16 years as Principal in a variety of settings and enjoy the chance to work with students, teachers and parents to build healthy schools.

**Do you serve on other boards/associations?**

Over the years I have been involved extensively in the Okema Society for Christian Development which runs Camp Okema on Emma Lake. We run summer camps for children, families and adults. I was treasurer of the Camp for 14 years. I continue to work as volunteer cook, camp leader or crafts person whenever I am able.

I was also actively involved in Community Drama in a number of communities and renowned for my "scream" in our production of MASH one year. For the most part I was behind stage as producer, stage manager or general go-fer? Remember, in theatre there are no small roles!

**Tell us about your family, your interests**

My family make up the core of my interests and activities outside work. Most of the things I have done have started as ways to spend time with my 4 children. The oldest is 28 and newly engaged to be married, he lives in Edmonton. The other two boys ages 23 and 21 are both based out of Saskatoon. They are working after 3 years each of university with no decision on life goals yet. My daughter is the youngest at 14 years old and lives with me and is attending grade 9 at Valley View School.

We all love to travel and keep in regular touch with one another.

**What do you want people to most remember you by?**

I think I want people to remember me by the good times, the sharing and the laughter. I have learned over the years that the good and the bad all roll together to make up our memories and give meaning to our lives. As long as the good still outweighs the bad, we are living in a positive realm and contributing to the overall good.



The gifts of mother nature