

THE DIVISION DISPATCH

Year 7 | NUMBER 6 | June 1, 2023



SUPERINTENDENT >

New superintendent appointed

Lethbridge School Division is pleased to announce Mike Nightingale has been appointed superintendent for Lethbridge School Division, commencing the 2023/2024 school year.

The process of hiring a new superintendent for the Division began in February, as the Board of Trustees interviewed and hired a consultant. Feedback was sought from stake-

holders regarding the candidate profile, and advertising went out Canada-wide.

"The Board was pleased with the quality and selection of candidates and was then tasked with the tough decision of selecting the candidate best suited for the Division," said Board Chair Allison Purcell.

Please visit the Division website for more information: [SUPER](#). ■

GRAD GALA >

Indigenous graduates celebrated

The 2022/2023 Indigenous Graduation ceremony at Chinook High School featured 49 Indigenous students graduate from Lethbridge School Division Schools.

Students from Victoria Park High School, Lethbridge Collegiate Institute, Winston Churchill High School and Chinook were honoured. Please visit the website to learn more about the even: [GRADUATION](#). ■



SCHOLAR SEASON >

Finalists named for ICE Awards Scholarship

Lethbridge School Division has announced the finalists for the 2023 ICE Awards Scholarship.

Eight projects were selected to advance to the judging phase. Winners of the \$1,000 scholarship will be announced on Tuesday, June 27.

To learn more about the eight projects, please visit the Division website to view the list of finalists and watch a video: [SCHOLARSHIPS](#). ■



HEALTH/SAFETY >

Health and Safety Corner

Storage wars:

It's that time of year to take stock of our classrooms and offices and store materials to prepare for summer cleaning by our caretakers.

- Declutter and organize: Begin by decluttering your classroom and getting rid of any unnecessary or outdated materials. Sort through items and determine what needs to be stored and what can be discarded.

- Use proper storage containers: Invest in sturdy, stackable storage containers that are appropriate for the type of materials you are storing. Clear plastic bins are ideal as they allow for easy visibility and protection from dust or pests. Label each container clearly with its contents to make it easier for caretakers to identify and handle them.

- Secure valuable items: If you have valuable or sensitive items ensure they are properly secured. Consider locking cabinets or desig-

nated storage areas to prevent unauthorized access.

- Clean and disinfect before storing: Before packing away any materials, make sure they are clean and disinfected. Wipe down surfaces, sanitize toys and manipulatives, and remove any food remnants. This will help prevent the growth of mold or mildew and ensure a fresh start next school year.

- Consider accessibility and safety: When storing materials, keep in mind the accessibility and safety for caretakers. Avoid overloading shelves or stacking items too high, as this may pose a risk of toppling over. Store heavier items closer to the floor and lighter items on higher shelves. Ensure aisles are clear and pathways are easily navigable for caretakers.

Follow these tips to create a safe and organized storage system that will assist caretakers in their cleaning efforts but also ensure longevity of your classroom materials for future use. ■



SUPT. MESSAGE >

Superintendent Cheryl Gilmore

This will be the last Division Dispatch communication that I have the privilege of writing.

I want to take the opportunity to express my gratitude for being part of an amazing school division over the past 10 years. It is interesting how we can take some things for granted when immersed in our day-to-day business that characterizes Pre-K/K-12 education with everyone stretched to the maximum.

I have been in many school facilities over the course of my years and can say with certainty that we are beyond fortunate to be able to walk into great learning spaces every day. Our facilities are well-maintained, there is ongoing planning and foresight to stretch infrastructure and maintenance dollars and vision combined with strong provincial relationships has moved us forward with capital projects. Our caretaking teams are beyond measure! We come into clean and polished facilities every day and can be proud when we have visitors.

When we walk into our facilities, the individuals that are often encountered first are the staff supporting the offices. I have observed these staff juggle myriad responsibilities while providing warm greetings to visitors, caring for sick or injured students, answering phone calls and managing student and staff inquiries. Our business support people in some of our high schools provide essential support for smooth monetary management.

Our students could not have more caring, skilled and committed education assistants providing guidance, learning opportunities and the kind of wholistic care necessary for students to thrive. Our EAs are essential for the success of many students. Our students are incredibly fortunate to have schools filled with teachers who possess the fine combination of knowledge, strong pedagogy, commitment and overflowing empathy to support successful pathways in education and life.

Our school Wellness Teams are invaluable for keeping kids in school and engaged with life. I think our students know that they could not have moved forward without you.

Our Early Education educators and support staff provide our youngest

with the best start possible thanks to their expertise and care.

I truly believe that we have the strongest school leadership teams in the province. Our administrators walk the talk with life-long learning, unwavering commitment to their staff, schools and families, skillful navigation of issues, community engagement and instructional leadership.

Our Indigenous Education team has been the momentum for moving this Division forward in a strong way supporting Indigenous Ways of Knowing and the success of our Indigenous students. The Education Centre is proud to have been gifted the Blackfoot name, Aakaipookaiski, meaning Many Children.

I will close with expressing my appreciation and high regard for the individuals that support the different departments in the Education Centre. Our support staff who are the first in line for calls and greeting people while juggling other demands are remarkable.

Instructional Services has deep expertise that gets pulled in many directions trying to meet the needs of schools and students. They are committed to kids and always patient with having more demands than time.

Business and Operations is truly the spine that holds together the body of the organization. We are often unaware of the breadth of expertise necessary to meet the operational needs of a large division including all areas of finances, payroll, transportation, resource acquisition and technology.

Human Resources could not be comprised of a more knowledgeable and approachable team of people who support staff in many capacities including hiring, induction, training, professional learning, staff allocations, negotiations, celebrations and HR challenges.

Thank you to the small team in International Education who has built a thriving program and the Communications Officer who magically does the work of many when compared to other organizations.

I retire proud of being part of Lethbridge School Division and I have the staff to thank for providing me with that privilege. ■



CHERYL GILMORE

BY THE NUMBERS >

Board passes Preliminary Budget

On May 29, the Lethbridge School Division Board of Trustees approved the 2023/2024 Preliminary Operating Budget.

Visit the website to learn more: [BUDGET](#).

More info on the Budget Meeting can be found here: [BUDGET MEETING](#). ■

PARR PATROL >

Sayyad recognized at banquet

In May at the annual banquet in Taber, Winston Churchill High School teacher Jamel Sayyad was recognized as the Lethbridge School Division nominee for the Edwin Parr Award.

Please see the video through the following link: [EDWIN PARR](#). ■