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School Leadership Announcements

For immediate release – June 1, 2022

Northland School Division is pleased to announce new school administration appointments for the 2022-2023 school year!

“The Board congratulates Karen Davies, Nicholas Christofalos, Sheldon Bossert, Michelle Wile and Justin Grainger,” said Robin Guild, Board Chair. “We are pleased to see we have been able to recruit and retain such outstanding leaders for Northland schools. Being able to achieve excellence in leadership is essential to achieving our number one priority which is excellence in learning.”

“These educators have demonstrated the leadership qualities needed to continue to improve the instructional focus areas in the Northland School Division,” said Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras, Superintendent of Schools. As administrators, Karen, Sheldon, Michelle and Justin have accumulated much valuable experience working in the Northland School Division. They have all demonstrated the ability to be creative and innovative when it comes to improving student learning, infusing land-based learning and culture into the curriculum, developing relationships with families, communities and leading schools to student success. We wish them all the best in their new assignments.”

Also, please welcome Nicholas Christofalos to the Northland School Division. Nicholas brings a variety of learning experiences and successes from the schools he has been involved with in other divisions.



Karen Davies, who is currently Principal at Elizabeth School, will be the new Principal at Mistassiniy School. She brings 22 years of experience to the position. Karen’s leadership experience includes working as both a director and a principal at an Alberta accredited high school in China. She also served on the leadership team at Alberta Distance Learning (ADLC) as a resource maintenance teacher.

Karen holds a Master of Education in Leadership from the American College of Education, a Bachelor of General Studies with an education focus from Simon Fraser University and a teaching certificate from Northern Lights College. She also took some pre-speech pathology courses from the University of Alberta.



We are pleased to welcome a new member to the Northland School Division Team. Nicholas Christofalos will be the new Principal at Conklin Community School. Mr. Christofalos joins Northland after seven years of teaching and serving as an Acting Principal in Garden River, Alberta.

Nicholas, who has been an educator for 15 years, has taught in North America, Europe and Asia. He has experience teaching every level of math and science, nine years of experience as an I.T. instructor and also worked as a software technician. Aside from math and science, Nicholas also has experience teaching Career and Technology Studies courses such as photography and robotics.

Nicholas holds a Master's of Education Degree from Yorkville University and a Bachelor of Education from Burman University.



Sheldon Bossert, who is currently the Vice-Principal at St. Theresa School, will be the new Principal at Bishop Routhier School.

Sheldon, who has been working with NSD for the past three years as an educator, brings 14 years of teaching and leadership experience to the position. His previous leadership experience includes Chair of Academic Upgrading at Northern Lakes College, Provincial Coordinator of Private Schools, Guide to Education Coordinator with Alberta Education and Vice-Principal at Elk Island Public Schools.

Sheldon holds a Master of Education, a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Physical Education from the University of Alberta. He enjoys golfing and hockey.



Michelle Wile, who is currently Principal at Fort McKay School, will be moving into a Vice-Principal role at Anzac School and Bill Woodward School.

Michelle, who has been an educator for nearly 20 years, also worked in the central office as a Supervisor of Student Services and a Pedagogical Supervisor. Before transitioning to central office roles, Michelle taught grades two and four at St. Theresa School in Wabasca-Desmarais. During Michelle's time at St. Theresa School, she experienced First Nation, Métis language and culture and learned how to weave the knowledge into the classroom. She has also taken numerous professional development opportunities to increase her literacy and numeracy abilities.

Michelle holds a Master's Degree in Inclusive Education from Acadia University. She is working on completing an Interdisciplinary Master's Degree from the University of Calgary, with a focus on leadership and social justice. Michelle is also working towards completing a private pilot's license at McMurray Aviation.



An Anzac teacher will be moving into a school administration position full-time. Justin Grainger will be joining Michelle Wile as a Vice-Principal at Anzac School - Bill Woodward School.

Before this appointment, Mr. Grainger served as an Acting Vice-Principal. His leadership experience also includes implementing programs that have strengthened school attendance and promoting school spirit through athletics and extracurricular activities.

The majority of Justin's teaching career has been in rural or First Nations communities. He has experience teaching multiple grades, core subjects such as math, science, social studies, Career and Technology Studies programs like construction, woodworking, computer science, robotics and coaching extracurricular activities.

Justin completed his post-secondary education at Memorial University in St. Johns Newfoundland. He holds a Bachelors in Education conjoined with a Diploma in Technology Education and Bachelors in Physical Education with a Minor in Biology.

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