



# PRAIRIE LAND PRIDE

*Small schools preparing students for big futures.*

Prairie Land Public School Division

Volume 10, Issue 5 ~ June 2025

## Students Take in Special Areas Careers & Trade Days

**S**tudents from across Special Areas (Prairie Land along with students from South Central High School in Oyen) had the opportunity to explore the wide variety of careers and trades employed by Special Areas on April 14 and 15. All Grade 10 and 11 students in Special Areas attended the event held in Youngstown at the community hall and Special Areas Service Center.

Each day was structured identically with students taking in sessions from the agricultural field-people, trades, road construction and protective services. Each day began with greetings from the chair of the Prairie Land board and Brent Fecho, supervisor of the Special Areas Service Center who gave a brief history of the Special Areas and the scope of its operations. Over the course of the day, students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of agricultural simulations at the hall, ranging from catching grasshoppers for surveys to donning personal protective gear and using a backpack sprayer.

The majority of the sessions were held at the Service Center where students were introduced to the various trades employed by Special Areas as well as tours of the heavy duty, auto service and welding shops. Students also met with staff about the importance of safety and the benefits of careers in the trades.

A highlight of the day was the opportunity to explore and learn about the wide variety of heavy equipment and see brand new units, some of which cost in excess of a million dollars.

Students were able to try Finning Caterpillar's state of the art grader simulator. The fully automated simulator uses actual grader controls along with computer screens to emulate driving their latest grader, as well as responsive haptics which moved and shook the seat and controls as if they were actually operating a live unit. Bringing the simulator to Youngstown for the event was the result of a great deal of organization and expense on the part of Special Areas and Finning Caterpillar.

Protective services introduced students to the role and importance of the volunteer fire departments in Special Areas and encouraged them to explore the various equipment and vehicles utilized. Students also received instruction in correct fire extinguisher use and were able to use extinguishers to fight a fire in a live-fire training prop.



*Finning Caterpillar's state of the art grader simulator was a highlight at the Special Areas Career & Trades Day.*

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# Future Career Opportunities in Special Areas

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The hall where students enjoyed a gourmet hotdog lunch was also the location of several other supporting organizations. CAREERS was on hand to provide information about RAP programs, career exploration, internships and developing a better understanding of the trades.

Medicine Hat College had students doing hands-on practice with a house wiring simulator, as well as learning about the trade training available at MHC. Special Areas had both economic development and the other careers found in the organization represented.

The Altario Agricultural Academy was also on hand to outline dual-credit opportunities with Lakeland College - programs which will become increasingly important as Prairie Land

works towards gaining collegiate school status.

The day was made possible by the hard work of not only Special Areas staff, but by the other organizations as well. Special Areas has always been a big supporter of Prairie Land and it is equally important that our students understand the role of—and opportunities in—Special Areas. Funding for the event came from CAREERS, Special Areas and Prairie Land School Division. The lunch was put on by the Friends of Youngstown Society and students received the best chili cheese dog they could ever ask for.

A special thanks goes out to Jesse Williams, Brent Fecho and Ross Crowle from Special Areas for their massive efforts in bringing the event together and organizing the staff and facilities to make it possible.



## JCC Takes Third Place at Zones

The JCC Hawks Senior High Girls Basketball team placed 3rd at ones. Pictured are Coach Lajoie, Emily Wright, Karris Olsen, Erika Rosin, Hannah Beasley, Hallee Rasmussen, Sawyer Olsen, Brianna MacPherson and Coach Haines. Front row: Tate Bevans, Gradie Hutton, Callie Mashon and Rylee Rodgers.



# Veteran School Principal has Made Impact Across Division

**V**eteran School principal Silke Wissner has been in education for 39 years and she will be retiring at the end of the month.

"Silke has been a passionate advocate for doing what is right for students," says Superintendent Cam McKeage.

"Her decisions have always been rooted in what would best serve their growth, learning, and well-being."

McKeage notes that Wissner is "a skilled and thoughtful educator, who consistently sought innovative ways to support teaching and learning in the classroom."

Wissner has spent nine years in Prairie Land, with seven being at Veteran School.

"Some of my favourite memories are the school's Christmas and Easter dinners," said Wissner.

For retirement, Wissner plans to move to Calgary and spend time at the family condo in Canmore.

"I'm also looking forward to having more time to enjoy my quilting / sewing."

McKeage says that Wissner is known for her genuine care and compassion.

"She consistently looked out for both students and staff, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment at Veteran School. Her empathy and attentiveness to others' well-being were part of what made her leadership so valued and respected."

He adds that her ability to connect theory to practice and implement new approaches has made her a strong instructional leader and a trusted voice among her colleagues.



JCC Hawks Senior High Golf team attended Zones, where the Senior Girls team placed second and Natalie Karg qualified for Provincials. Pictured above are Nate Campion, Zach McAfee, Hayden Kohlman, Sawyer Olsen, Addison Viste, Natalie Karg, Kaleb Owens and Reid Hickie.



JCC Hawks Senior High Boys Basketball team attended Zones. Pictured above are Coach Gregson, Elias Rodgers, Logan Mogridge, Liam Finch, William Hart, Darian Price, Jeffrey Orr, Joezef Capuz, Kaiser Beck, Coach Goulet, Coach Hart, Kyler Bond, Ben Buchwitz, Micheal Philipchuk, Dan Cleto and Ronan Quaschnick.



JCC Hawks Senior High Cross Country team represented by Kalli Cooper, Natalie Karg, Jada Benedict and Kalin Cooper participated in Cross Country Zones.



JCC Hawks Junior High Boys Basketball attended Zones. Pictured above are Coach Howe, SJ Lee, Drake Godziuk, Trey Hickie, Ryley Hickie, Denton Hutton, Emmitt Olsen, Coach Kyle Olsen, Prince Cabe, Remi Risling, Levi Gall, Lukas Bietelspacher and Brenzy Biscarra





## Delia Bulldogs South Central Zone Champs!

The Delia Bulldogs brought home the South Central Zone banner for girls JV volleyball. Pictured are Coach Megan Bevans, Mani Bevans, Logan Raugust, Olivia Hansen, Taryn MacDougall, Aubryn Stanger, Ryan Marshall, Tayler Meyer, Daelyn Lock, Hailey Seidler and Coach Laura MacDougall.

## Youngstown Falcons South Central Zone Champs!

Congratulations to the Youngstown JRH Basketball Team won South Central Zones. It has been 18 years since the school has brought home a banner.



## Penguins place Second at Rugby Zones

Congrats to the Prairie Land Penguins Rugby team who placed second at Zones.

Pictured back row: Manon Besnard, Kora Bohdan, Jilayna MacMillan, Sabrina Cormier, Brianna MacPherson, Ciana Rosin, Katie Hickie, Sarah Meyer, Mailin Strube. Front row: Coach Sarah Palmer, Jada Benedict, Kinzy Quaschnick, Kennedy MacMillan, Lila Riviera, Coach Shaun Fielding.





# CONNECT WITH YOUR SCHOOL TODAY

## Al-Amal Academy

Phone: 825-996-5399

Address: 9 Royal Vista Drive NW, Calgary, AB T3G 0E2

## Al-Amal High School Online Academy

Phone: 825-996-5399

## Altario School

Phone: 403-552-3828

Address: General Delivery Altario, Alberta T0C 0E0

## Berry Creek Community School

Phone: 1-844-566-3743

Address: General Delivery Cessford, Alberta T1R 1E2

## Consort School

Phone: 403-577-3654

Address: Bag Service 1002 Consort, Alberta T0C 1B0

## Delia School

Phone: 403-364-3777

Address: Box 236 Delia, Alberta T0J 0W0

## Green Dome Islamic School

Phone: 403-900-5445

Address: 4616 80 Ave NE, Calgary, AB T3J 4B7

## Hope Christian School

Phone: 403-897-3019

Address: Box 269 Vulcan, Alberta T0L 2B0

## J.C. Charyk Hanna School

Phone: 403-854-3642

Address: 801 4th Street West

Box 1270 Hanna, Alberta T0J 1P0

## Morrin School

Phone: 403-772-3838

Address: Box 10 Morrin, Alberta T0J 2B0

## Veteran School

Phone: 403-575-3915

Address: Box 649 Veteran, Alberta T0C 2S0

## Youngstown School

Phone: 403-779-3822

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## Prairie Land Online Academy

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## Prairie Land Outreach School

Phone: 403-854-3642

## Morrin School Celebrates a Year of Growth, Success and Exciting New Beginnings

It's been a banner year for Morrin School, marked by growth, adventure, and a renewed sense of community pride as students and staff settled into the beautiful new school building.

With a vibrant learning environment and expanded programming, it's no surprise that the school saw a 25% increase in enrollment — a sure sign that the future is bright in Morrin!

Throughout the year, students took full advantage of an enriched curriculum supported by engaging field trips.

From the magic of live theatre productions to the challenge of hiking and skiing trips, every opportunity was designed to build both knowledge and character. Visits to Calgary's Studio Bell and various character education programs added even more depth and excitement to the learning experience.

Athletics also took center stage this year, with Morrin's Senior Girls Volleyball team making headlines.

The team proudly hosted Regionals, finishing in 3rd place, and went on to earn an impressive 2nd place finish at 2A Zones. Junior boys' volleyball and basketball teams brought energy and sportsmanship to the league, while Morrin athletes also made their mark at badminton Regionals and Zones.

Looking ahead, anticipation is building for the grand opening of the HUB facility — a game-changing addition to the school.

The HUB will include a state-of-the-art CTS Shop, a fitness facility complete with a batting cage, and a dynamic Science & Art Lab.

These new features will empower students to explore hands-on learning, creative innovation, and physical wellness in exciting new ways.

And there's more good news for sports enthusiasts — this fall, Morrin School will introduce a baseball option to complement its already popular hockey program.

With strong academic programs, expanding opportunities, and a committed community, Morrin School continues to be a place where students grow, achieve and thrive.



The Senior Girls Morrin Mustangs Volleyball team earned an impressive 2nd place finish at 2A Zones.



## PLOA Student has Successful Year in Reining and Working Cow Horse Competitions

Faythe Webster is an avid horse enthusiast. Currently enrolled in Grade 8 at Prairie Land Online Academy, she has found the freedom available to her with this type of homeschooling very beneficial in assisting her attend reining and working cow horse competitions throughout the year.

In 2024, Faythe and her Appaloosa gelding “Spencer” qualified to compete at the Calgary Stampede Working Cow Horse Spectacular and ended up besting the field of talented youths to

win the coveted Championship. They took home an oversized cheque and her favourite win buckle to date.

Additionally she rode her other mount, Whiz N Starlight (also known as “Bob”), to qualify – and win – the 2024 Reining Alberta Green Reiner Saddle Shootout in a sudden death finals, later in the fall.

Throughout the course of the 2024 year, Faythe earned herself four buckles, a spot to run in Taylor Sheridan’s Run For a Million competition in Vegas and qualified to compete at the 2025 National Reined Cow Horse Association World Championships in Fort Worth, Texas. She was also awarded the Sportsmanship Award at Canada’s Greatest Cowgirl Competition – a honour bestowed on to Faythe by her peers after being the youngest in the entire event that consisted of cutting, reining, roping and boxing.

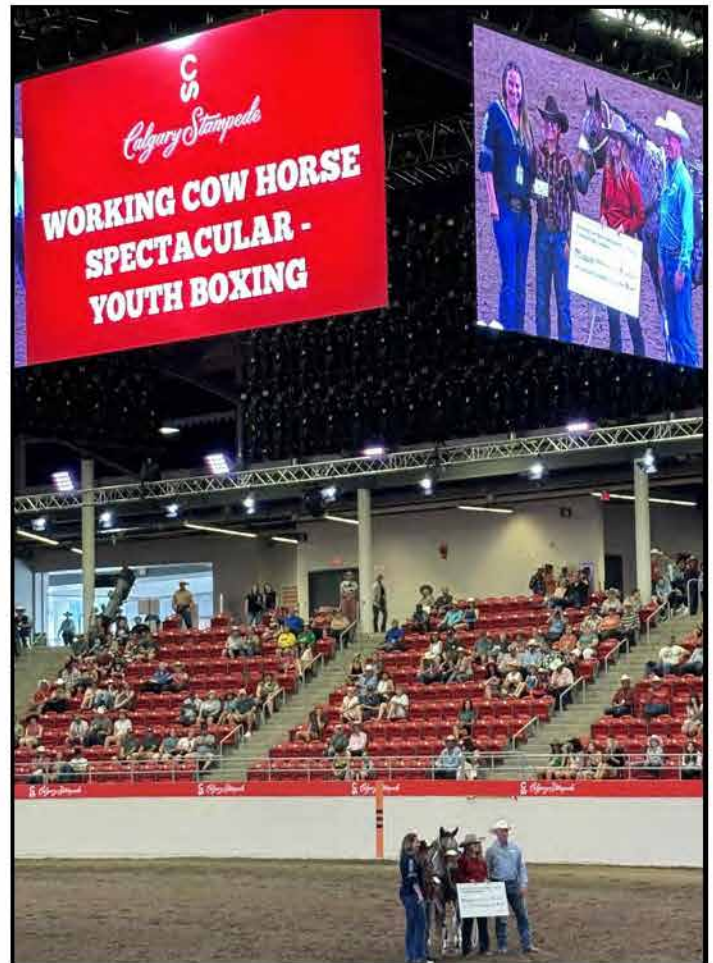
This year has just geared up for Faythe but she recently started it off with wins at the Alberta Stock Horse Association May show in Youth 13 & Under Boxing and Youth Limited Boxing. This young cowgirl loves anything to do with animals (except chickens!), is honing her skills in the branding pen and with a rope and has big dreams for her upcoming colts in the future.



## Delia School Attends the South Central Zones



Delia School brought home the bronze medal at the South Central Curling Zones. Pictured above are Aubryn Stanger, Olivia Hansen, Taylor Meyer and Emily Brady.



What an accomplishment! PLOA student, Faythe Webster won the Working Cow Horse Youth Spectacular Championship at the 2024 Calgary Stampede.



# J.C. Charyk EA Loves to see Students Learn

**R**oxanne Willford has enjoyed her time working in education.

"I love to see children learn and grow," says Willford.

She received her certificate in 2008 and has worked in schools in Alberta and Saskatchewan, including a Hutterite Colony School.

While she has worked with both junior and senior high students, she enjoys working with elementary students the most.

"Being able to build a relationship with students and see them respond is such a joy," she says.

She also explains that she likes to learn and use different strategies that can support her students.

She also enjoys collaborating with others to help students be successful.

Willford will retire at the end of June.

"I'm looking forward to getting up in the morning and sit with a cup of coffee and start my day slowly."

She also is looking forward to spending time with her family and friends and occasionally go to the mountains.

Willford says she will miss both the staff and students at JCC.



Prairie Land Pride



The Hawks Archery team had another successful season. Highlights include Lukas Bietelspacher placing 2nd in 3D in Provincials and 3rd in Nationals for Middle School Boys as well as placing 3rd in Bullseye in the Provincial and National Tournaments for Middle School Boys, Emily Campbell placing 3rd in Bullseye for Senior High Girls in the Provincial Tournament, and Natalie Karg placing 1st in 3D for Grade 12 Girls. Congratulations are also extended to Coach Jessa Heatherington, Rylyn Bond and Emily Campbell as they travel to Namibia, Africa to compete in the African Genesis Archery World Tournament this summer.

Back row: Coach Christensen, Dalton Ayrey, Natalie Karg, Emily Campbell, Owen Liboiron, Alex Sewell, Emma Renaud, Ava Gallagher, Ernie Stahl, Coach Wales, Coach Karg. Middle row Coach Heatherington, Tori Hoare, Kara Bond, Elizabeth Heilman, Rylyn Bond, Marlee Young, Natalie Orum, Burton Griffith, Jaxon Quaschnick, Coach Heilman. Front row: Lukas Bietelspacher, Christian Fernandez, Megan Allaire-Gosselin, Gavin McAfee, Lucas Gladdish, Kayla Sand

## Provincial Silver Medalists



The Hanna Hawks Senior Boys Football brought home the silver medal at Provincials. Pictured above are Coach Buchwitz, Coach Haines, Coach Howe, Coach McKeage, Coach Judson, Coach Mohl and Coach Schnurer. Next row: Ryder Schewe, Logan Moggridge, Jack Gall, Nate Campion, Chace Meyer, Kevin Cavenagh. Middle row: Jeffrey Orr, William Hart, Kaleb Owens, Ronan Quaschnick, Tripp Warburton, Sam Vredegoor, Nate Bramfield. Next Row: Tyson Hickie, Evan Stevens, Kale MacMillan, Colby Scott, Conner Campion, Zach Slorstad, Kaiser Beck. Bottom row: Kyle Kingcott, Jaidan Boos, Marek Godziuk, Lane Hagel-Wideman, Darian Price, Easton Scheerschmidt, Parker King, Davin Zabolotney