

January 31, 2017

PRAIRIE VALLEY SCHOOL DIVISION'S BEV BJORNSON-KOWALCHUK WINS CANADA'S OUTSTANDING PRINCIPALS™ AWARD

Prairie Valley School Division's Bev Bjornson-Kowalchuk, principal at Emerald Ridge Elementary School in White City, Saskatchewan, is among a group of 40 elite principals who are being celebrated for demonstrating innovative leadership and an entrepreneurial spirit.

Bev has 26 years of service with Prairie Valley and legacy systems with five years in the role of principal. She has done outstanding work to improve student outcomes in reading and math by monitoring and analyzing data and then developing strategies and initiatives to support student needs. Bev's calm and professional demeanor helps to maintain the best possible environment for student learning, increased achievement from students and a high level of engagement from the community. She involves her staff in decision-making and has built a culture of trust and collaboration among staff. Bev's leadership and conscientiousness were essential to the preparations and planning that led to the smooth opening of a new elementary school in 2014, where she is currently the principal.

"The Board of Education is delighted that The Learning Partnership recognizes Bev Bjornson-Kowalchuk as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals™," said Board of Education Chair, Janet Kotylak. "We are grateful to Bev for her exemplary leadership in creating a learning environment that fosters engaged and effective staff and School Community Council members and helps students achieve success.

"Ms. Bjornson-Kowalchuk is a strong student advocate and believes that every child can achieve success," said Ben Grebinski, Director of Education/CEO of Prairie Valley School Division. "She demonstrates sincere compassion and empathy while maintaining a focus on leadership. Bev is also a meticulous and flexible manager and someone I have called upon a number of times to assist with system projects.

The Learning Partnership will honour their achievements at the annual Canada's Outstanding Principals™ gala on February 28, 2017 in Toronto. The winners also receive a five-day executive leadership training program on leadership and management at one of Canada's top business schools, the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management. For information about Canada's Outstanding Principals™, including a full list of the winners with biographies and photographs, visit www.thelearningpartnership.ca/cop-award-recipients.

Prairie Valley School Division serves almost 8,500 students in 39 schools throughout southeast Saskatchewan. In support of the vision "Leadership in Learning and Life", the Division offers a high-quality education that provides students with the tools to reach their potential.

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Leadership in Learning and Life

