



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***The Pine Creek School Division***

The beginning of the 2017/18 school year has come very quickly to the Pine Creek School Division, as many changes have taken place recently. Pine Creek welcomed Mr. Bruce Lyons to the team as the Division's Superintendent, and he began his work in the division in May 2017 working alongside former Superintendent Mr. Brian Gouriluk, who has since retired. Mr. Lyons was able to enter into the Superintendent role on July 1<sup>st</sup> with an awareness of the unique culture of the Pine Creek School Division and overview of the ongoing initiatives in the Division.

In preparation for the first day that students were expected back in their clean and polished classrooms, Maintenance Coordinator Rick Tritthart sent a "shout out" to congratulate the entire maintenance and custodial team on their hard work over the summer that resulted in a job very well done. Many new projects were overseen in all of the public schools, including Plumas Elementary School's renovated computer lab and Gladstone Elementary Schools' roof replacement. School Custodians are all to be commended for providing staff and students the privilege of returning to bright and clean learning spaces the morning of September 6th. Their hard work contributes significantly to a sense of pride in our local schools that is shared among all members of our communities.

The Division's Maintenance team and Computer Technicians pooled their efforts and expertise to install the division's new Voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) telephone system and Local Area Network in all public buildings over the summer months. The IT team also began updating the division's website [www.pinecreeksd.mb.ca](http://www.pinecreeksd.mb.ca), in an effort to modernize the site and ensure that it is a useful resource for families, staff and constituents of the Division.

Teachers and students have now returned to classrooms to begin another year of hard work achieving curriculum outcomes. The Division is hopeful that this year, coaches will again lead our MacGregor and Gladstone High School teams to Provincial championships in many sports, including soccer, basketball, badminton, curling, baseball and track and field.



The Pine Creek School Division's Board of Trustees held its Inaugural Meeting of the 2017/18 school year on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Trustees elected Marlene Craik as Board Chairperson in the coming year, with Diedrich Toews supporting her in his role as Vice-Chairperson to the Board. School Board meetings are open to the public and held each second and fourth Thursday of the month beginning at 5:30 pm.

The 2017/18 budget will be a difficult one to navigate for the Pine Creek School Division, as this is the year that the Government of Manitoba announced a 2% cutback in overall provincial funding. This is significant for us here in Pine Creek due the fact that although Education funding has not seen an increase to PCSD revenues in the last five years, we are now facing our first enrollment increase in recent history.

PCSD Board Chair Marlene Craik

For more than ten years, Pine Creek has seen continually declining enrolment counts, dropping to its lowest ever (990 FTE) in September 2016. However, one year later the count that will be reported to the government by October 15<sup>th</sup> has risen significantly with the initial count reporting in at 1014 FTE. Based on past funding models, this upsurge in enrolment should translate to increased general revenues for the 2018/19 budget.

However, uncertainty is in the air. Until the Board of Trustees hears an official announcement from the Manitoba Government, they will enter into the 2018/19 budget deliberations with status quo revenue projections in mind. By the time the education funding announcement is released to the public, the Board will be well into the process of establishing their priority areas.

As the new school year begins, the Board will take some time to review their strategic plan and current policies, consult with local parent councils and invite municipalities and other local organizations to join them at the Board table to discuss next year's focus. In an effort to establish the best possible 2018/19 budget for our students, from now until January 31<sup>st</sup> the Board will be committed to a review of all areas of education deemed as priorities in our communities.

With Marlene Craik at the helm as Chair, the Board of Trustees is embarking into the second of a four-year strategic plan developed in the fall of 2016, with initiatives in the areas of literacy and numeracy, post-secondary preparedness, safe schools and advanced learning opportunities for all students in the forefront. The Pine Creek School Division Board of Trustees looks forward to governing the Division into yet another successful year of ***Learning for Living!***

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**For more information, call the Pine Creek School Division Office at 204-385-2216.**