

Special Announcement

May 2022

2022 Outstanding Employee Contribution Award Recipient

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that four (4) recipients have been selected to receive the **Outstanding Employee Contribution Award**.

Audrey Seymour-Spence (School Secretary – Wanipigow School)

Madeleine Cook (Teacher – Grand Rapids School)

Laura Kelly (Vice Principal – West Lynn Heights School)

Donna Barker (Teaching Principal – Barrows Junction School)

The criteria for this award includes proficiency in responsibilities, contribution to the Division and community, evidence of leadership, and personal and/or professional growth.

Subsequent announcements will provide information about the other recipients.

DONNA BARKER

Donna is a graduate of the Adult Education program at the former Mountain View School. She started working for Frontier School Division as a Custodian at Mountain View School in 2001 and has worked at the school as a Youth Mentor, Educational Assistant, Lunch Hour Supervisor, Library Page, Substitute Teacher and School Secretary. As Donna continued to work full-time in the school, she began the Bachelor of Arts program at the University College of the North and then enrolled in the Kenanow Bachelor of Education program and graduated with distinction in 2018 with a Bachelor of Education Degree. She was appointed to the Teaching Principal position at Barrows Junction School on September 4, 2018 where she continues to teach.

Donna works tirelessly at her school ensuring that her students receive the best education she can give them. She runs a breakfast program, meets her administrative requirements, spends time connecting with parents and her school committee, and finds time to coach for the Frontier Games.

Donna has spent countless hours helping her community as well. Some examples include organizing Coffee Houses to raise money for the community homecoming, organizing the Music Festival, coaching for the summer games in Swan River and serving as secretary for the Manitoba Metis Federation local. With all she does, it is no wonder that Donna has been described as a kind-hearted role model who cares deeply about students, their families, staff and the community of Barrows Junction. Her hard work and dedication are an inspiration to all.

Testimonials provided the following insights into Ms. Barker's contributions:

"Donna is an exceptional employee who works relentlessly and tirelessly all the while doing so quietly without ever wanting to be acknowledged and far too humble to speak of her own self. Donna is a remarkable, determined and generous woman and I believe it is time to throw the doors wide open and get this best kept secret out!"
(Robert Chartrand, Area 2 Superintendent)

"Donna has done every job in the school and has done each with genuine enthusiasm and care. She has gone above and beyond the scope of each job to make Barrows Junction School a safe and caring environment for the children of our community."
(Members of the Barrows Junction School Committee)

"Donna goes above and beyond. She is willing to perform any extra duties to help enhance the education of her students."
(Geraldine Munro, Former Employee, Barrows Junction School)

"I have witnessed her unwavering commitment and care for her school division, community, staff and most importantly her students. She has devoted herself to each and every student and takes time to know so much about them and works tirelessly to support them educationally, physically and emotionally."