



DIVISION SCOLAIRE

LOUIS RIEL

SCHOOL DIVISION

LRSD RETIREMENT GALA

MAY 2026



DARLENE SMITH

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 26

Assignment(s): Human Ecology at Highbury School

Hobbies: Cards, games, reading

A quote I live my life by is: "Eat like your life depends on it."
— anonymous

Retirement in three words... Freedom to craft

Favourite memory of LRSD: Human Ecology events and PD's; getting together with other HEc teachers. Highbury school musicals.



DEBRA DANDENEAU

Retired: January 1, 2026

Years of Service: 16

Assignment(s): Educational Assistant

Hobbies: Cards, games, reading

A quote I live my life by is: Is it True, Is it Necessary, Is it Kind.

A song I know all the lyrics to is: We are the World

Retirement in three words... Time, Freedom, Family

Favourite memory of LRSD: There are so many, especially involving the students.



COLETTE DALEY

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 37

Assignment(s): Teacher, Vice Principal and Principal

Hobbies: Spending time with my children, grand-children and my entire family.

A quote I live my life by is: Live life by leading with kindness, listening with empathy and showing up for others.

A song I know all the lyrics to is: You're the One that I Want (Grease)

Retirement in three words... Looking after myself

Favourite memory of LRSD: Not one specific memory but the many, many students, parents and colleagues who enriched my experience every day.



KIM MELVIN

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 32

Assignment(s): Classroom Teacher 1994-2008, Coordinator 2008-2015, Vice Principal 2015-2026

Hobbies: Figure Skating

A quote I live my life by is: Treat others the way you want to be treated.

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Dancing Queen - Abba

Retirement in three words... Coffee, sleep-in, travel.

Favourite memory of LRSD: I have been very fortunate to work with many talented people during my career, and it is the personal memories we've shared that I will cherish.



RUBEN AGCAOILI

Retired: December 31, 2025

Years of Service: 20

Assignment(s): Head Custodian

Hobbies: Exercising & going to the gym

A quote I live my life by is: Never lose sight of the fact that the most important yard stick to your success is how you treat other people.

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Wonderful Tonight

Retirement in three words... Family, Freedom & Adventure

Favourite memory of LRSD: Working together with wonderful Principal, Vice Principal, teachers, and co-workers.



JOANNE KOLT

Retired: March 27, 2026

Years of Service: 24

Assignment(s): Victor Mager Family Centre Coordinator,
Archwood Family Centre Assistant

Hobbies: Travel, Gardening, Crafts and Reading

A quote I live my life by is: In school we have a positive impact on a child, in the Family Centre we have a positive impact on the whole family , that is generational change.

A song I know all the lyrics to is: American Pie

Retirement in three words... Family, Friends, and Flowers

Favourite memory of LRSD: Delivering Food Hampers on School Busses during Covid.



RANDY SAYIES

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 12

Assignment(s): STEP EASN

Hobbies: Wood working, crafting & guitar

A quote I live my life by is: Helping others helps yourself.

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Drift Away (Uncle Kracker)

Retirement in three words... No more work

Favourite memory of LRSD: Staff get together



DONNA DUDEK

Retired: January 16, 2026

Years of Service: 16

Assignment(s): Educational Assistant (IPSA, Behaviour Support, CO-OP)

Hobbies: Yoga and travel

A quote I live my life by is: It's not a mistake it's a learning opportunity!

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Oh Canada

Retirement in three words... I love travel!

Favourite memory of LRSD: My most rewarding time in the division was working in IPSA.



CINDY LO PRESTI

Retired: May 1, 2026

Years of Service: 28

Assignment(s): Administrative Secretary, Clinical Services for the majority of my years with LRSD

Hobbies: Paddle Boarding, Hiking, Travelling; Last, but certainly not least, spending time with my three grandchildren

A quote I live my life by is: Maintaining strong faith

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Girls Just Want To Have Fun

Retirement in three words or less... New beginnings

Favourite memory of LRSD: There are so many! I truly enjoyed my job and coming to work each day. Meeting and getting to know all the people I have worked with over the years.



First classroom 1993 Whitehorse, Yukon



Photo taken May 2026 at Collège Jeanne-Sauvé

MARTIAL LESAGE

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 28

Assignment(s): Mathematics Teacher

Hobbies: Beekeeping & Gardening

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Le petit coupeur de paille.

Retirement in three words... Relaxing, reading, and recreation

Favourite memory of LRSD: The PD days when all staff was together to listen to an invited speaker.



DARCY CORMACK

Retired: September 1, 2025

Years of Service: 36

Assignment(s): Teacher Grades 1-3, 7-8, Student Services, VP, P, DP, Assistant Superintendent

Hobbies: Baking, Golf, Travel

A quote I live my life by is: When you know better, do better.

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Title Holder~The Interrupters

Retirement in three words... Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!

Favourite memory of LRSD: Enduring friendships



JOANNE HUNT

Retired: December 12, 2025

Years of Service: 37

Assignment(s): Teacher Grades 2, 3, 4, & 5

Hobbies: I enjoy gardening, decorating, shopping, and going out on day drives.

A quote I live my life by is: "Just keep on swimming"

A song I know all the lyrics to is: "Let It Be" by the Beatles

Retirement in three words... Nothing but time!

Favourite memory of LRSD: I found joy listening to the children share their stories and experiences, and celebrating their achievements, no matter how small.



ELAINE BROWNING

Retired: June 30, 2025

Years of Service: 40

Assignment(s): Support/Library Clerk

Hobbies: Reading, crafts, bowling, listening to music & doing word search puzzles

A quote I live my life by is: Live each day one day at a time

A song I know all the lyrics to is: In the Garden

Retirement in three words... Rest, enjoyment and spending time with family and friends

Favourite memory of LRSD: Christmas parties, medieval feasts, spirit weeks & school musicals



THOR WEIDENBACHER

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 29

Assignment(s): 1995-1996 at Pinaymootang First Nation (7&8), 1997-1998 at Selkirk Junior High (7&8), 1999-2007 at Archwood School (7&8), 2007-2015 at Highbury School (7&8), 2015-2022 at Shamrock School (student services teacher), 2022-2025 at Shamrock School (7&8), 2025-2026 Sage Creek School (7&8).

Hobbies: Singing in the church choir, Fishing, Golf, Hockey, guitar, directing musical theatre productions, Navy League of Canada volunteer Officer, Freemasons of Manitoba, and figure skating!

A quote I live my life by is: "Each and everyday you have an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, that could last a lifetime." I'm grateful, as a teacher, to have had that privilege.

Favourite memory of LRSD: My favourite memory of LRSD is all the musicals I directed, the amazing actors, and the dedicated colleagues that I worked with. I was a part of incredible teams at four schools that brought the joy of musical theatre to hundreds of students over the years. Our teams helped musical theatre get established at the middle years level in our Division and I'm very proud that these programs will continue.

A song I know all the lyrics to is: One - By U2

Retirement in three words... Life of Service



LYETTE CARRIÈRE

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 33

Assignment(s): My journey in education began in the Seine River School Division, where I discovered my passion for teaching and learning in my first year. I then moved to what was then the St. Boniface School Division before becoming LRSD and spent 10 meaningful years at Provencher School, teaching Grades 6–8 and building the foundation of my career alongside students and colleagues who shaped my growth. My path into leadership began at École Julie-Riel, where I served as Vice-Principal for two years, learning the importance of service, collaboration, and community. That learning continued at Varennes School and later at Howden School, where I had the privilege of serving as Principal and supporting staff and students through moments of change and growth. I returned to Provencher School for seven years, grateful for the chance to give back to a community that had given me so much and ultimately came full circle at École Julie-Riel, where I spent my final seven years as Principal. Ending my career there has been a deeply meaningful way to reflect on a journey rooted in relationships, learning, and belonging.

Hobbies: Golfing, pickleball, reading, cooking, and travelling

Retirement in three words... Flexibility, Simplicity, Opportunity

Favourite memory of LRSD: Working alongside dedicated, caring colleagues who consistently put students' well-being and learning at the centre of every decision. More specifically my administration group who supported me every day. The lifeline that never failed.

A quote I live my life by is: Leadership is service, not position. Be there for others!

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Hear Comes the Sun
by The Beatles.



ANGELO MENDOZA

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 25

Assignment(s): Info Tech, Science, History, Social Studies, ELA, Spanish, Photography, Yearbook, Lancer 360, PysEd, Business Ed

Hobbies: Martial Arts, reading, travelling

A quote I live my life by is: Keep moving forward with maximum efficiency

Retirement in three words... Enjoy your life

Favourite memory of LRSD: Community building



NICOLA CUTRONE

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 34

Assignment(s): Physical Educator

Hobbies: Coaching, Gardening, Cooking, Travelling, Watching Hockey and Football, Vehicle Projects, House Renos

A quote I live my life by is: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." (Theodore Roosevelt). "Leave things better than I found them." My guiding belief has always been to make a difference by helping others reach their potential.

A song I know all the lyrics to is: In my mind, I think I know the lyrics to many songs, but then I start singing and realize I don't. Therefore, I know bits and pieces of many different songs, but a whole song that might be tough.

Retirement in three words... Freedom, Purpose, and Family

Favourite memory of LRSD: Honestly, it's every day moments. Like laughing with students, small wins, and building relationships that will be beyond the classroom.



SANDY ELHATTON

Retired: January 2, 2026

Years of Service: 20

Assignment(s): School Secretary/Clinical Services Secretary

Hobbies: Reading, travel, and long walks

A quote I live my life by is: Live life!

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Happy Birthday!

Retirement in three words... Relaxing and Relaxing

Favourite memory of LRSD: Social events with the great staff friends in clinical services!



NANCY LAVERGNE

Retired: January 9, 2026

Years of Service: 17

Assignment(s): EASN

Hobbies: Enjoying Summer

A quote I live my life by is: It Is What It Is

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Country Roads, John Denver

Retirement in three words... My own time

Favourite memory of LRSD: Going to camp with Grade 7/8



PAMELA TETLOCK

Retired: June 30, 2025

Years of Service: 40

Assignment(s): Elementary Music, Middle Years Music

Hobbies: Singing in choirs, painting my home, spending time with family and friends.

A quote I live my life by is: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

A song I know all the lyrics to is: You Have Made Me Glad

Retirement in three words... Adventure, Relationship, Reinvention

Favourite memory of LRSD: Going to a conference in Portage La Prairie with the staff of Victor Mager.



MARLENE YOUNG

Retired: April 6, 2026

Years of Service: 17

Assignment(s): Educational Assistant SLP

Hobbies: Reading, walking, & gardening

A quote I live my life by is: I'm going to have a good day

A song I know all the lyrics to is: She's a Lady (Tom Jones)

Retirement in three words... Slow & peaceful mornings

Favourite memory of LRSD: The friendships



LYNNE BAILEY

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 23 for LRSD, 40 years in total

Assignment(s): Speech Language Pathologist

Hobbies: Cooking and eating

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Ready to run by the Dixie chicks

Retirement in three words... Ready to go!

Favourite memory of LRSD: Looking for crocus on a retreat day



LOIS MACKAY

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 28

Assignment(s): Early Years

Hobbies: Outdoor adventuring, kayaking, going to the gym and reading.

A quote I live my life by is: Irving Berlin: "Life is 10 percent what you make it, and 90 percent how you take it."

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Goodbye Earl by The Chicks

Retirement in three words... NO MORE DIBELS!

Favourite memory of LRSD: Collaborating with the staff and students of Dr. Penner School, alongside a landscape architect parent and St. Vital Area Councillor Brian Mayes, to secure a \$65,000 investment in our outdoor classroom and forest learning space.



Grad 1981 Daniel McIntyre Collegiate

LUIGI BONAN

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 30 with LRSD 40 Years Total

Assignment(s): 12 Years Dakota Collegiate, 2 Years Frontenac, 1 Year St. George, 6 Years Windsor Park Collegiate, 9 Years J.H. Bruns Collegiate

Hobbies: Camping, gardening and cooking.

A quote I live my life by is: Believe it, achieve it, live it. - Irving Berlin

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Let It Be - The Beatles - Paul McCartney

Retirement in three words... Endless weekends begin

Favourite memory of LRSD: Biggest Impact of IP students Successes on school population. IP students taking part in school Colour Day/Student Leadership Celebration.



JENNIFER ENGBRECHT

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 31

Assignment(s): Music

Hobbies: Hiking, yoga, beading, reading, & music

A quote I live my life by is: "Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground." — Rumi

A song I know all the lyrics to is: I have to pick one? Blackbird.

Retirement in three words... Follow your bliss

Favourite memory of LRSD: So many amazing music performances, and students passionate about the environment.



Douglas Kyle

Retired: January 12, 2026

Years of Service: 42

Assignment(s): Assistant Director of Facilities

Hobbies: Fishing, golfing, anything outdoors

A quote I live my life by is: Better to keep your mouth shut and let them think you're a fool than to open it and leave no doubt.

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Stairway to Heaven

Retirement in three words... Fishing, Golf & Grandchildren

Favourite memory of LRSD: Bicycle trips with teaching staff.



LISA TATE

Retired: January 7, 2026

Years of Service: 18

Assignment(s): Finance Department including accounting for division and the international student department

Hobbies: Golf, curling, and hiking trails

A quote I live my life by is: Live life by what serves well and when you are working on something give it 110 percent

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Mama Mia by Abba

Retirement in three words... Easy breezy and light

Favourite memory of LRSD: My coworkers and taking on new projects



CAROLE JUNG

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 37

Assignment(s): Classroom teacher from grades 1 to 6

Hobbies: Reading & walking

A quote I live my life by is: Do your best and be kind.

A song I know all the lyrics to is: C'est la vie by Khaled

Retirement in three words... Relax, explore, enjoy

Favourite memory of LRSD: Laughing with students while learning together every single day and Colleagues who made work joyful



NICOLE POIRIER

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 33

Assignment(s): Grades 2-4 music, student services at École Provencher

Hobbies: Watercolor painting, running, and hiking

A quote I live my life by is: Happiness depends upon ourselves

A song I know all the lyrics to is: When I'm up (I Can't Get Down)
Great Big Sea

Retirement in three words... Freedom, purpose, adventure

Favourite memory of LRSD: Having the community come together to attend our annual music concert.



NANCY SMITH

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 28 years

Assignment(s): In LRSD: St. George - grade 7 (6.5 years), Minnetonka - grade 9(2 years), Dakota Collegiate - 9-12 math (since 2010)

Hobbies: Pickleball, gardening, travel

A quote I live my life by is: Live - everyday, Laugh - often, Love - always

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Hotel California

Retirement in three words... Renewal, Adventure, Relationships

Favourite memory of LRSD: All the fun and shenanigans with the St. George staff



LAURA IMPERADEIRO

Retired: June 30, 2025

Years of Service: 15 years

Assignment(s): Marion School, Frontenac School, various school terms and LRSD Summer Learning Program

Hobbies: camping & reading

A quote I live my life by is: Don't put things off that you can do today ...

A song I know all the lyrics to is: O'Canada (the one song I heard every morning)

Retirement in three words... Adventures, freedom & time

Favourite memory of LRSD: when a student would see you - outside of school and say look there my principal!! And the "Barbie head "from Summer School that sat on Mike's computer



CRISTINA ESTEVES-BRAGA

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 28 years

Assignment(s): Kindergarten, Grade 3/4, Reading Recovery, ERI, Student Services, Early Literacy

Hobbies: Crochet, knitting, reading and soon to be travel!

A quote I live my life by is: Do not worry about things that are out of your control

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Like a Prayer (Madonna)

Retirement in three words... Freedom to choose

Favourite memory of LRSD: I always love bumping into previous students or parents and hearing that they remember who their Kindergarten teacher was and that I made a difference in their life.



KIM ZAENALI

Retired: August 28, 2026

Years of Service: 25 years with Louis Riel & 10 years prior to starting with LRSD.

Assignment(s): My final speech-language assignment was to provide service to Archwood, Marion, Dakota (which included all the programs: IP classroom, COOP program, Tawaw program, LAL classroom and regular education classroom) as well as Springs Christian Academy (including both the elementary and high school campus).

Hobbies: Traveling, gardening, reading, party planning and activities with my family!

A quote I live my life by is: Laughter is timeless. Imagination has no age. And dreams are forever - Walt Disney

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Don't Stop Me Now by Queen

Retirement in three words... Transition, Leisure, Content

Favourite memory of LRSD: Extraordinary team building activities planned by the clinical services social committee including cooking class at Pine Ridge Hollow, a massage therapist, Tarot readers, car rallies, gardening class, pedicures, learning line dances, reflexology are just a few!



PAULINE REY-RIVARD

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 17 in LRSD, 26 total

Assignment(s): Student services teacher for 15 years,
classroom teacher prior to that.

Hobbies: Spending time with family, Reading, Learning & Walking

A quote I live my life by is: It doesn't cost anything to say thank you
and smile.

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now

Retirement in three words... Time for more

Favourite memory of LRSD: Helping out backstage for concert
performances and seeing students happy to sing and play music for
their families.



LISE-ANNE MANDALITI

Retired: June 27, 2025

Years of Service: 32 years total (first 9 in St-James-Assiniboia)

Assignment(s): Kindergarten

Hobbies: Reading, puzzles & games

A quote I live my life by is: La vie est un défi! Vis-la, sens, aime, ris, pleure, joue, gagne, perds, trébuche...mais relève-toi toujours et avance.

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Hotel California

Retirement in three words... Freedom to choose

Favourite memory of LRSD: Working with some of the best administrative teams.



ELAINE SOLINSKI

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 32 years - 25 years in LRSD

Assignment(s): Where- Frontier SD, Duck Mountain SD, O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation, Pine Creek SD, St Boniface SD and Louis Riel SD. Roles - Elementary Teacher, Reading Recovery Teacher, Resource Teacher, Divisional Student Services Coordinator, Vice Principal and Student Services Teacher.

Hobbies: Travel, reading, photography, hiking

A quote I live my life by is: "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." - Maya Angelou

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Life is a Highway by Tom Cochrane

Retirement in three words... New 3-Rs- Relaxation, relationships, and resilience

Favourite memory of LRSD: I have been blessed to have had so many positive experiences that I could write a book. The common themes were collaboration, problem solving, and caring relationships. Humor and hope were the foundations! I am humbled by the resilience of the students and families that I have served. I have had the privilege of working with exceptional staff members at all levels of education since the first day I started teaching. I can say being in school as a student and later as an educator for 50 years flew by! So grateful for every moment.



BERNICE FEELY

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 23

Assignment(s): Educational Assistant, Individualized Programming,
J. H. Bruns Collegiate

Hobbies: Reading, walking & baking

Retirement in three words... Relaxation, Opportunity, Exploration

Favourite memory of LRSD: I will always remember that the students facing the toughest challenges often gift us with the brightest smiles.



TRAVIS BARRE

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 29 years

Assignment(s): Grade 5/6 & Grade 7/8

Hobbies: playing music, gardening & painting

A quote I live my life by is: If you love someone, tell them proudly and often. You never know when it will be the last time.

A song I know all the lyrics to is: "Drift Away" by Dobie Gray

Retirement in three words... I've Earned This

Favourite memory of LRSD: PPDF Seminar in Minneapolis and seeing Henry Winkler as Keynote Speaker



JODI HUNT

Retired: October 3, 2025

Years of Service: 17 years

Assignment(s): Administrative Secretary St George.
Secretary Minnetonka School. Secretary Darwin School

Hobbies: Time with my family and travel

A quote I live my life by is: In a world where you can be anything... Be kind

A song I know all the lyrics to is: I hope you dance

Retirement in three words... Adventure begins now

Favourite memory of LRSD: Joining St.Vital and St.Boniface School Division to create LRSD.



WENDY MONSON

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 49 years

Assignment(s): Student Services

Hobbies: Reading and Sewing

A quote I live my life by is: "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." Mother Teresa

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Hard Fought Hallelujah

Retirement in three words... Time with family

Favourite memory of LRSD: My years as a Guidance Counsellor



HEATHER WARDROP

Retired: March 4, 2026

Years of Service: 17 years

Assignment(s): Secretary - Lavalee, Vic Wyatt, Vic Mager & Glenlawn

Hobbies: Gardening, reading, bowling & vintage thrifting

A song I know all the lyrics to is: A lot of the tv shows theme songs from my childhood

Retirement in three words... No more alarm

Favourite memory of LRSD: All the wonderful colleagues I've worked with



DAWN FARRANT

Retired: June 30, 2026

Years of Service: 26 years

Assignment(s): Skills for Living at GV and Shamrock, Itinerant EAL teacher and grade 3/4 teacher at Highbury

Hobbies: reading, spending time with my son and parents, traveling

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Save a Prayer- Duran Duran

Retirement in three words... flexibility, family, change

Favourite memory of LRSD: So many over the years, the children and staff that made inclusion happen in classrooms, special activities and in the community.



GREG SPEISER

Retired: June 26, 2026

Years of Service: 31 years

Assignment(s): Pierre Radisson Collegiate (legacy school), LRATC,
Nelson McIntyre Collegiate: Many subjects, mostly Math and Sciences

Hobbies: Backcountry canoe trips, travel, playing golf poorly with good friends

A quote I live my life by is: A quote I like to use for our school:
We may not be big, but we're small.

A song I know all the lyrics to is: 'No woman, No cry' Bob Marley

Retirement in three words... Still mostly unplanned

Favourite memory of LRSD: Having a hand in re-envisioning and rebranding Nelson McIntyre Collegiate 2016-2019.



CHRISTIAN MICHALIK

Retired: August 14, 2026

Years of Service: 32 years with Saint Vital/LRSD — 37 in public education total. Long enough to have survived fax machines, two pandemic variants, and the Great Pivot to Microsoft Teams.

Assignment(s): Teacher → Consultant → Vice-Principal → Principal → Director → Assistant Superintendent → Superintendent. Basically, collected every job title in the building like a very slow game of Pokémon.

Hobbies: Photography, hiking, skating, swimming, reading — and also technically painting, sculpting, and drawing, though at this point they are all more of a retirement promise to myself than actual hobbies.

A quote I live my life by is: "One must imagine Sisyphus happy." — Albert Camus, who knew he was describing the job of a superintendent.

A song I know all the lyrics to is: The entire Ms. Rachel catalogue. Every word. Every hand motion.

Retirement in three words... "Naps await me." No wait, Solange's naps await me.

Favourite memory of LRSD: Every single time a student said something that reminded me why any of it matters.



LESLIE MACCORBY

Retired: May 27, 2026

Years of Service: 26 in LRSD - 39 years teaching in total

Assignment(s): Music

Hobbies: Music & crafting

A quote I live my life by is: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart."

A song I know all the lyrics to is: Happy Birthday! :)

Retirement in three words... Exciting new adventure!

Favourite memory of LRSD: ...Making music with my students!