

MEDIA RELEASE

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Prairie Spirit recognized for leadership in music education

Prairie Spirit School Division and its staff have been recognized provincially and nationally for innovative work in music education.

Prairie Spirit was awarded the **Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence in Education** at the Saskatchewan School Boards Association annual meeting on November 16 in Regina. The award was presented in recognition of the Division's innovative work in music education, called Resonate.

"A culture of music is growing throughout Prairie Spirit School Division and this brings us great pride and joy," said Sam Dyck, Prairie Spirit Board Chair. "The Board is very proud of this innovative approach that supports equitable access to music education in the Division."

Resonate started in the school division in 2015 and is designed to be an inclusive approach to music programming. Resonate promotes music education through a number of channels or outlets, including a student music conference, teacher professional development, performances and other events. Resonate is designed to increase student engagement and develop communities of young musicians. This work is led in the school division by Dave Carter, Coordinator, Kendra Worman, Music Education Facilitator, and a team of teachers.

"In Prairie Spirit School Division, music matters and music is for everyone! In fact, music makes it better!" said Lori Jeschke, Director of Education.

The annual Resonate Student Music Conference encourages students from around the Division in grades 7 through 12 to become more engaged in music and to provide students with access to music opportunities not available in their own schools and communities.

The inaugural two-day conference was held in 2015, with 170 Prairie Spirit students registered from 19 different schools. The conference has continued to grow and expand to include three days and over 260 students from Prairie Spirit and other school divisions in 2018.

The conference provides students with the opportunity to choose their sessions from a variety of options, based on their musical interests. These sessions are presented by music industry professionals, designed for students with a range of musical ability and knowledge. Session topics have included: song writing, guitar, drumming, digital recording, instrument repair, hip hop, jamming, wind band and many others.

Since its inception, Resonate has grown to include a Resonate Junior Conference for students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 and various live events and workshops throughout the school year.

Resonate encourages students to explore musical genres, styles and instruments, for both students with music experience and for those who have not had any musical training or experience. Through Resonate, students are finding their passion for music and the Division is providing authentic opportunities for students to perform.

In 2017, the impact of Resonate was featured in The Teacher Project, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation video series, in a video called "Austin's Story".

Developed in 1999, the Premier’s Award recognizes educational innovations and improvements focused on student achievement that have been advanced or directed by boards of education. The \$3,000 prize is to be used to support or extend the innovation or project.



Prairie Spirit Board Chair, Sam Dyck (holding award on left), accepted the Premier's Award from Todd Goudy, MLA

Canadian Music Educators’ Association (CMEA) Award

Kendra Worman, Music Education Facilitator in Prairie Spirit School Division, was also recognized for her work in promoting and developing music education. She was awarded the **Canadian Music Educators’ Association Builders Award** during the Saskatchewan Music Conference in Saskatoon on November 17. The national award is designed to recognize an educator “who brings honour to the profession.”

Worman is a leader in the Division’s Resonate music programming, which includes a student music conference, teacher professional development and a variety of other channels, including authentic performance opportunities for students. In addition, she teaches music, band, jazz and guitar throughout the Division.



Kendra Worman with her CMEA award