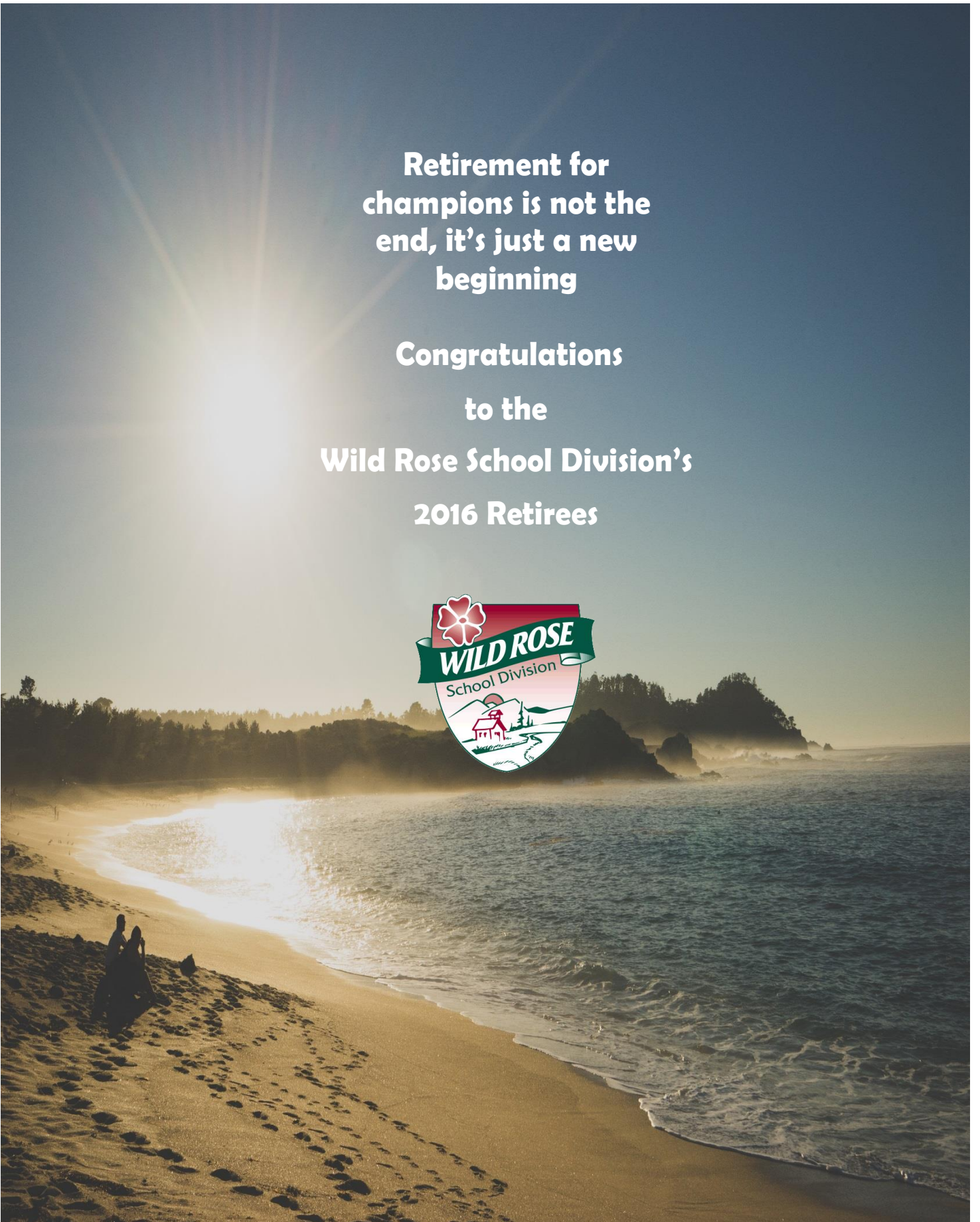


**Retirement for  
champions is not the  
end, it's just a new  
beginning**

**Congratulations  
to the  
Wild Rose School Division's  
2016 Retirees**





## Wendy Davies

I grew up in Stettler, Alberta, married Peter in 1982 and began my teaching career in 1984 at Sunchild O'Chiese School. After a couple of years teaching and living on the reserve, a year of commuting from our new house in Rocky Mountain House, and a new baby (Melissa) I was hired by the first of 7 superintendents I worked for to teach at Lochearn. I have been attending that building almost every day since I was 26 years old.

I started teaching half time resource room then had another baby (Owen). I also completed my Diploma in Fine Arts in music methodology at the University of Calgary during these early years. During my time at Lochearn I have taught music to all grades, grade 2, 4 and 5 classroom as well as pre-K and developed our first learning commons program. I have also directed the Lochearn Choir for all of those years. I have learned to use ditto masters, filmstrip projectors and tape recorders. I began my teaching career without ever having seen a computer. My 7 year olds do things I couldn't even begin to imagine doing on our first school Commodore 64...which had 64K of memory. My teaching life has never been boring or without opportunities to learn along with the students.

I am looking forward to continuing this learning journey in my retirement. I am a nationally certified rules official for Golf Canada and will have more time to work at their tournaments. I have been studying photography and traveling to interesting places within North America. My children have finished their educations. Melissa earned a PhD and is teaching in California. Owen earned an MBA and is living in Texas with his wife Megan. Peter and I plan to travel to Thailand next winter and explore Asia. I feel much like I did when I graduated high school and looking forward to the next learning chapter in my life.



## Erin Hickman

Southern Alberta-born and raised, I attended the University of Calgary, graduating in 1983. I was a stay-at-home mom for 5 years, raising two daughters, Emily and Cate, while husband Russ began his teaching career in Saskatchewan. In 1988, we returned to Alberta, and were fortunate to find employment with the County of Parkland. We settled in Drayton Valley, where I began my career as a Special Education teacher at HW Pickup Jr. High, where I remained for 5 years.

During that time, we completed our family when daughter Leah was born. In 1993, I made the change to elementary education at Eldorado, again as a Special Education teacher. Over the years, I have taught Special Education, Grades 4, 5, 5/6, and 6, spending most of this time with Grade 6 students. My favourite part of teaching has always been the connections made with wonderful students, colleagues, and parents. This is what I will take with me. I look forward to spending lots of time with my family, and to travel adventures!



## Pat Jeffery

Pat was born and raised in Taber, Alberta. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics with a major in Family Studies at the University of Alberta following by being awarded a teaching certificate by the University of Lethbridge.

She began her teaching career in 1976 by working for the County of Lacombe, teaching in Bentley School and Lacombe Composite High School for three years. She and her husband, Bill, then moved to Olds, Alberta where they raised their 4 children and became the owners of a dairy farm. Pat started working as a teacher at Olds High School in 1988, shortly after her youngest daughter was born. She started by teaching junior high language arts and social studies as well as home EC classes, followed by working as the guidance counsellor at the high school for five years. After earning her Master of Education degree from the University of Lethbridge in 1997, she worked as the Vice-Principal of Olds High School until 2002, at which time she and her family sold the dairy and purchased a farm in the Drayton Valley area.

In 2002, Pat accepted a position as the Vice-Principal of Warburg School, a K-12 school, where she worked for one year before being offered the Vice-Principal position with Evergreen Elementary in Drayton Valley, a position she held for five years. This was followed by one year working out of WRSD District Office as the District Administrator before being placed at H.W. Pickup as Principal for the year. She then accepted the Principal position at Frank Maddock High School, followed by her final position as Principal of Drayton Valley Community Outreach School.

Pat has spent 40 years as a teacher, guidance counsellor, and school administrator encountering some amazing individuals and experiences. One highlight has been the opportunity to work with students from kindergarten to grade 12. Another important part of her career was the time spent working with the students at Outreach. Those students taught her about the importance of believing that we can turn “Cant’s into cans and dreams into plans”!

She looks forward to having the time to repay her family for all their support during her career. Her husband, Bill, looks forward to homemade baking treats and her four children, Laura, Kevin, Scott and Erin, will see more of their Mom! And, the best part is that Pat will be able to focus her energy on being the grandmother of eight beautiful grandbabies!



## **Brenda Nicholson**

I taught briefly in the NWT, Nunavut, and the Yukon before settling in Rocky Mountain House. I worked in Rocky as an EA for many years with two school divisions before returning to university to finish my education degree. I worked full time, raised my family, took correspondence courses, and attended summer school for four years before receiving my degree from the University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon) in October 1994. I first worked for Wild Rose in 1992 as a part-time educational assistant, then a fulltime educational assistant, and finally as a teacher.

I have been at David Thompson High School for the past twenty years teaching mainly junior high Language Arts. The staff and students at our small school are second to none and the time spent there has been entertaining, satisfying, and rewarding. I look forward to spending more time at my mental health retreat, Summerview Cabin, in Saskatchewan, doing volunteer work, and seeing more of my grandsons.



## **Sylvia Pischke**

I have had the privilege of working at the Drayton Christian School as an Educational Assistant for the last 20 years. God has blessed me with many amazing people to work alongside and for. During my time at DCS I have been able to use my skills in every grade, with the majority of it in the Junior High Classes. One thing that I will appreciate and remember is when past students share the influence that I have had on their lives and seeing the growth that has continued in them. I know God will continue to work in the lives of each of the students I have come in contact with.

The things I look forward to in retirement are spending time with my husband, children and grandkids. Also the time to travel, garden, do crafts, and mission work.

Thank you DCS and WRSD for the influence and the chance to work for you. May God Bless You All.



## Grace Redford

1981 was a very busy year as I graduated from the U of A, was married and moved to Buck Lake; to begin my teaching career with 34 grade ones, ages 5-7, some ELL and no help. I spent a wonderful eight years at Buck Lake School where I taught grades 1, 2, 2/3, 3 and music. I was very privileged to work with great mentors and be part of an awesome team. This team taught me all the skills university doesn't teach you. The staff was small and we were like a close knit family, a wonderful foundation upon which to build my career.

We moved to Drayton Valley in 1981 where I taught a range of grades from 1-4, at Eldorado, was accepted into the Administrator's for Tomorrow Program and then moved to Aurora to be the vice principal for two years. I then became the leader of Drayton Christian/Eldorado Schools and taught at both schools. For the past six years I have been the leader at Eldorado. I have been blessed to be part of great teams for the past 35 years and there has never been a dull moment!

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been in a career that has enabled me to spend a lifetime doing what I love. My motto has always been, "Is this what's best for kids?"

I would like to thank my husband and my family for their unfailing support over the last 35 years, without them I could never have done it. I look forward to spending more time with my biggest supporter and best friend, my husband Larry, as well as friends' family and especially our five grandchildren.

Thank you for the privilege of being your colleague and I wish you all success in the future.



## Carmen Valle

Carmen is from Nicaragua, Central America and lived in Guatemala before coming with her family to Canada, her new homeland, in 1988. She has nine children, twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. One Daughter lives in Fort St James, British Columbia and another in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia; the rest in Alberta.

Carmen worked for WRSD for 17 years as Caretaker for Lochearn School. Carmen considers herself fortunate living in this beautiful country with great people. Even though having plans for retirement, Carmen prefers improvisations which are challenging and exciting when facing them in the game of life.

Carmen, the gambler, has cast the dice! As woman, she goes to the victory.





## **Pam Wright**

In 1977, Pam earned her Bachelor of Education Degree with Distinction at the University of Lethbridge, and began her teaching career in Leduc. During her first year, she was nominated for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award. Pam moved to Rocky Mountain House and took her first position with our Division in Leslieville, where she taught for two years. She then transferred to Ecole Rocky Elementary where she taught grade 3 and 4 for eighteen years. Pam was instrumental in bringing the French Immersion Program to Ecole Rocky Elementary, and served on the executive of the first CPF chapter in this community. During her time at ERE, she was twice nominated for the Excellence in Teaching Award.

In 1999, Pam was chosen to participate in the two year Professional Leadership Program. After her first year, she was offered an administrative position in Drayton Valley at Aurora Elementary School. Pam worked with Paul Vickers and this wonderful staff for three years.

In 2000, Pam began her Master's Degree in Education through the University of Calgary, and assumed the vice-principalship at Ecole Rocky Elementary School. Pam will tell us that coming back to the same school where she 'cut her teeth' as a teacher was an wonderful opportunity! In 2006, Pam was placed in the role of Senior Vice-Principal at Caroline School. In the fall of 2015, Pam took the opportunity to end her lengthy career by returning to the classroom - where her heart for children truly beat.

Pam looks back on her professional career of 38 years with pride and a great sense of accomplishment.. Pam loved her life in the school system, and has many stories to share about working with kids and adults. She looks forward to spending more time with her husband Bill, daughter Tessa and family living in China; and her son Graeme and his family in Victoria.

Pam looks back with great fondness on the incredible relationships and marvelous adventures she experienced in each of her schools. Pam will remember her career in our school division with enormous pride and a humbling sense of fulfilment and satisfaction.

Congratulations as well to the  
following retirees:

**Eleanor Collinge**  
Maintenance

**Charlene Reich**  
Eldorado Elementary

**Sharon Sorvisto**  
Leslieville School

**Mel Stratichuk**  
Division Office

**Linda Strong**  
Caroline School

*Retirement is your chance to be true to your own self.  
It is an opportunity to pick up forgotten hobbies and  
nurture the little kid within you. After all, it's never too late to start  
living the life that you have always wanted to.*

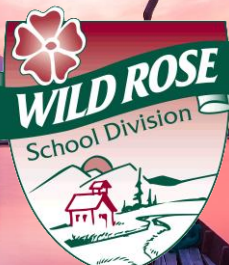
# In Memory Of



**Megan Nicole Allene Waltz**  
December 31, 1982 - February 27, 2016  
Evergreen Elementary



**Carolyn Reum**  
November 3, 1956 - April 13, 2016  
Caroline School



Improving Life Chances