



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, March 10, 2022

Sophia Larney selected as Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's Edwin Parr Nominee

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is proud to announce that **Ms. Sophia Larney, a first year teacher at St. Paul School in Lethbridge**, has been selected as the division's Edwin Parr nominee for the 2021/2022 school year. The Edwin Parr Award recognizes excellence in teachers beginning their professional careers.

A graduate from the University of British Columbia, Ms. Larney completed her Bachelor of Arts in Geography in 2018. She went on to complete her Bachelor of Education from the University of Lethbridge in 2021, focusing on Social Studies and Science Education. This past year, Sophia's exceptional academic work was well-recognized and she received both the "Lois E. Mitchell Graduating Social Students Teacher Award" from the *History and Heroes Foundation*, as well as the "William Aberhart Gold Medal in Education" from the *Alberta Teachers' Association*. After completing her final practicum at St. Paul School and graduating from the University, Sophia accepted a Grade 1/2 teaching assignment, continuing to serve the students of St. Paul School.



"Sophia is incredibly mature for one so young," notes Gerry Muldoon, Principal of St. Paul School. "She comes right into new situations, truly takes up the mantle, and runs with it. She's done this right from when she started her practicum with us and she continues to impress us with her flexibility and work ethic."

"I am honoured to be selected as this year's nominee for the Edwin Parr award, particularly when I work alongside so many talented first year teachers in the division," expresses Larney. "This year has been a challenging and emotional start to my teaching career and I feel genuinely grateful for the support I've received from my administration, colleagues, and especially the students I'm privileged to teach. The past six months have felt much less about teaching and much more about learning - I am so grateful to learn from and alongside the most beautiful, creative, quirky, compassionate, lovable group of 6, 7, and 8 year olds. There have been a lot of moments of stress and uncertainty this year, but their humour and insight have brought so many more moments of joy."

States Superintendent Ken Sampson, "Ms. Larney is a great addition to our division and a deserving nominee for the Edwin Parr Award. Her creativity and passion for education will undoubtedly serve her well in the future and I know I speak with many who look forward to witnessing her continued growth as a teacher."

Please join Holy Spirit in congratulating Sophia Larney on being selected as this year's Edwin Parr nominee.

For more information about this press release, please contact:

Ken Sampson, Superintendent
St. Basil Catholic Education Centre
Phone: (403) 327-9555
Email: superintendent@holyspirit.ab.ca

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