



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

PRESS RELEASE

Friday, August 26, 2022

Board Honours Share the Mission Award Recipients for 2021/2022



Award Recipients: Billy Woitte and Josh Gatner

On August 25, 2022, the Board of Trustees of the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division were pleased to honour two recipients for the prestigious “Share the Mission Award” for 2021/2022: **Billy Woitte and Josh Gatner.**

The “Share the Mission Award” is intended to honour those who have: offered outstanding or long term service; accepted demanding challenges and set new standards for the rest of us to follow; contributed, through action and deed, to the Catholic atmosphere of our schools; demonstrated involvement and leadership in community/parish organizations; and reflected the Mission Statement of the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division in all actions.

The first recipient, **Ms. Billy Woitte**, has served as the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Support Worker for the St. Francis Junior High School community in Lethbridge since 2006. As explained by the contingency who nominated her, Ms. Woitte has a genuine love for people. “She consistently goes above and beyond to create meaningful relationships with all students and staff [...and] creates bridges between cultures and faiths. She makes an effort to regularly engage in both Catholic and Blackfoot spiritual practices, demonstrating how we can find connection to God in many ways; that this creates spiritual renewal and strength rather than division.”

The second recipient is **Mr. Josh Gatner**. Recently accepting the position of Associate Principal, he has served as a teacher in the St. Catherine School community in Picture Butte since 2006. Those who nominated him expressed that he is a genuine soul who works hard to build trusting relationships with staff, families, and students by honouring the dignity of all - from the youngest to the eldest. “Josh is giving of his time,” an example of “patience and kindness,” and a model for “the importance of sharing your gifts.” Amongst Josh’s many gifts is his ability to facilitate music ministry. He is often found during school and parish celebrations leading songs and worship with his guitar firmly strapped to him.

“We had many worthy nominations this year, making deliberations difficult,” notes the Share the Mission Award Committee’s Chair, Bob Spitzig, “But, after much discernment, we believe that the work these two humble individuals have done to build the Kingdom of God in each of their schools, not to mention our communities-at-large, truly embodies the spirit of the ‘Share the Mission Award’”

For more information about this press release, please contact:

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L-R: Trustee Cheralan O'Donnell, Trustee Linda Ellefson, Award Recipient Billy Woitte, Vice Chair Bob Spitzig, Superintendent Ken Sampson



L-R: Primary Nominators Darcie Serfas and Ruth Pelletier, Trustee Cheralan O'Donnell, Trustee Linda Ellefson, Award Recipient Josh Gatner, Vice Chair Bob Spitzig, Superintendent Ken Sampson



Award Recipient Billy Woitte with Primary Nominator Devon Dempsey



Award Recipient Josh Gatner with Primary Nominators Ruth Pelletier and Darcie Serfas