



## **Media Release**

### **CPF-SK recognizes Inspiring Teachers in Meadow Lake**

Meadow Lake, September 9 – Four faculty members at Lakeview Elementary School were recognized today for their dedication to the French Immersion Program in Meadow Lake.

Corrine Babin, Matthew Grupp, Kate Guenther, and Pat Suttill were presented with the 2011 Inspiring Teacher Award by Canadian Parents for French – Saskatchewan (CPF-SK). This is the first ever group nomination received for this recognition.

Kristin Stringer, Secretary/Treasurer for the CPF Meadow Lake chapter decided to recommend the four for this award because of their exemplary commitment to French at Lakeview Elementary School.

“Nominating a team of staff is slightly outside the box, however each member of this teaching group brings a wonderful set of skills, passion and experience, and merits consideration for this award,” she said. “All four of these teaching professionals have assisted our local chapter with various events, and have also been a part of parent information meetings to answer questions about the immersion program in Meadow Lake. As the program here is still rather young, and continues to grow, it is such a wonderful encouragement to know that we have such a wonderful team of teaching staff in our school.”

Corrine Babin is a French Language Interventionist and Educational Assistant at the school, and has been an integral part of the French immersion program in Meadow Lake, according to Stringer.

“Corinne is a caring and supportive encouragement to our students, in both reading and speaking French in the school,” she noted. “Her one on one reading with students helps both advanced and struggling readers to achieve and to improve their skills, as well as gives the students another opportunity to practice their oral French.”

Matthew Grupp, the grade two/three/four teacher at the school relocated to Meadow Lake from Ontario to take his position two years ago. He is an innovator, and consistently strives to have his students learn in fun and constructive ways.

“We are very privileged to have a teacher with such passion for French in our school,” said Stringer. “Matthew has combined his love for French and music in novel ways within the classroom. He motivates his students to seek solutions, and surpass their own expectations in all areas of French writing and reading. He has also worked to make French less of a mystery to students outside the immersion program

through his class writing and performing bilingual dramatic presentations, and getting his class to teach *O Canada's* French lyrics to the rest of the school."

Kate Guenther was the pioneer teacher for Lakeview Elementary School's French Immersion program when she started working at the school during the 2007-2008 school year. She was instrumental in setting the standard for the program.

"She created a wonderful, nurturing French-speaking classroom for a combined Kindergarten/Grade one group of students," said Stringer. "She continues to offer excellence in teaching, and gently urges her Grade 1/2 students to use their French at all times in the classroom. She was also the first to involve her students in the local music festival by having them enter the competition with a French song."

Last but certainly not least, Pat Suttill has been teaching French at Lakeview Elementary School for a number of years, well before French immersion was introduced in the Meadow Lake area.

"Pat provides a wonderful, gentle introduction to brand new students, not only to French language learning, but also to life at school," Stringer explained. "She encourages students' natural curiosity, and helps them move beyond their initial nerves when learning to speak a second language. As well, Pat has offered a French language club in her home village for grade four and five students who do not have the opportunity to learn a second language at their school. Her love of French translates to students both within and beyond the walls of Lakeview Elementary School."

It was these heartfelt testimonies that had the CPF-SK Board of Directors convinced that these four worthy candidates were undeniably deserving of the 2011 Inspiring Teacher Award. On behalf of the CPF-SK Board of Directors, staff from the branch office travelled to Meadow Lake today to present this award in person at a special assembly to honour these devoted French Immersion teachers.

*Canadian Parents for French (CPF) is the national network of volunteers who value French as an integral part of Canada and are dedicated to the promotion, creation and support of effective French-Second-Language (FSL) learning opportunities for youth in Canada.*

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Kathy Gallant  
Communications Officer, CPF-SK  
Phone: 306.244.6151  
Email: [cpf.sk.comm@sasktel.net](mailto:cpf.sk.comm@sasktel.net)  
Website: [www.cpfask.com](http://www.cpfask.com)