

January 31, 2017

## **Okanagan Principal Honoured with National Award**

**Kelowna, BC** – Central Okanagan Public Schools celebrates the recognition of Alida Privett, Principal at Mar Jok Elementary School, as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals by The Learning Partnership. Mrs. Privett is one of 40 honorees across Canada who make outstanding contributions to learning in publicly funded schools.

"I am truly honoured to be recognized by The Learning Partnership as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals in 2017!" said Mrs. Privett. "Our teachers, support staff, and parents have built an incredible learning community at Mar Jok Elementary – I'm so proud to be their principal."

Alida Privett is an early adopter of technology. She leads an innovative team at Mar Jok Elementary, where flexible learning spaces and technology converge to help students reach their full potential. Students at Mar Jok create e-portfolios to personalize their learning, take virtual field trips in the centrally-located library, and enjoy bright learning spaces with moveable glass walls.

"Mrs. Privett exemplifies our district motto of Together We Learn," said Moyra Baxter, Board Chairperson. "At Mar Jok, students and teachers truly learn together in an innovative and collaborative environment. We look forward to congratulating Mrs. Privett and her outstanding team at our Board meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>."

Innovative programs under Mrs. Privett's leadership include a Learning in Depth (LiD) program for students on the autism spectrum, and monthly Student Advisory Meetings that focus on students who are experiencing challenges. Mrs. Privett's approach encourages students to take ownership of their success.

"Central Okanagan Public Schools is exceedingly proud to have leaders like Alida on our team," said Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO. "Mrs. Privett epitomizes our shared goal of ensuring that students possess the attributes of a learner, thinker, innovator, collaborator, and contributor, prepared to thrive in a global community."

Now celebrating its 13th year, The Learning Partnership's Canada's Outstanding Principals program recognizes the unique and vital contribution of principals in publicly funded schools. The 40 principals, nominated by parents, colleagues, and community members, and chosen by a national selection committee, are being celebrated for demonstrating innovation, leadership and for employing creativity in finding solutions and opportunities within their school communities. The 2017 winners will join the prestigious ranks of the National Academy of Canada's Outstanding Principals, which now boasts over 400 members.

They will be awarded for their accomplishments at the annual Canada's Outstanding Principals gala in Toronto and benefit from an exclusive five-day executive leadership training program at one of Canada's top business schools, the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management.

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