

WCOS SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council meetings are open to parents/guardians of WCOS students, and we encourage all parents/guardians to attend. Our next meeting will be held virtually on November 22nd @5:30pm. Please call the school at (403)843-4447 for the meeting link.

West Country Outreach School Council Members:

- Chairperson— Michelle Stevens
- Vice Chairperson— Carrie Vaartstra
- Secretary— Debra Benusic
- Treasurer— Charlotte Smith
- WCOS Staff Representatives — Ms. Alva Holliday, Mrs. Natalya Agafonov
- Student Representatives— Kimberly Vaartstra, Kyler Stevens

Teacher Talk with Mrs. Dyrland

Learning Beyond the Walls of West Country Outreach

Our school district has worked hard to offer students an opportunity to attend “College” while still in High School. Through the work of our District Dual Credit and Pathways Coordinator, Kylie Kissel, Wolf Creek Public students have access to more than 50 courses. The students, in consultation with Kylie and me, can register in courses in which they would receive both High School and College credits. Students have the choice of courses offered from Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP), SAIT, Athabasca University and Olds College. The second semester courses for this year for Olds College include Animal Health Technology, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Horticulture Technologist, Land and Water Resources, Agriculture Techgronomy, Business Management. RDP is offering courses in Medical Terminology, Psychology and Microsoft Azure while Athabasca University offers many options in various specialties like Business, Psychology, Education, Nursing, Computers, Gender Studies, Engineering and Health Care. One of the exciting additions to our Dual **Credit program** is access to the nine **Apprenticeship Technical Training and Pre- Employment** courses. Students can start their career in trades like Cook, Automotive Mechanic, Heavy Duty Mechanic, Carpentry, Electrician, Pipe Trades, Welder or Agriculture Equipment Technician. These have various start and end dates, but all allow the student to gain full credit in the first year of these trades. Students can access these courses in any grade, or even come back after graduation to start their post-secondary journey in a safe and caring environment. There is no cost to the students to access these courses and they will have the support of the district as they transition to college. If this has sparked your interest, your child has questions about this opportunity, or you would like more information about these courses, feel free to email or phone Shelley Dyrland at WCO @ 403-843-4447.



To instill hope and inspire success for all learners.



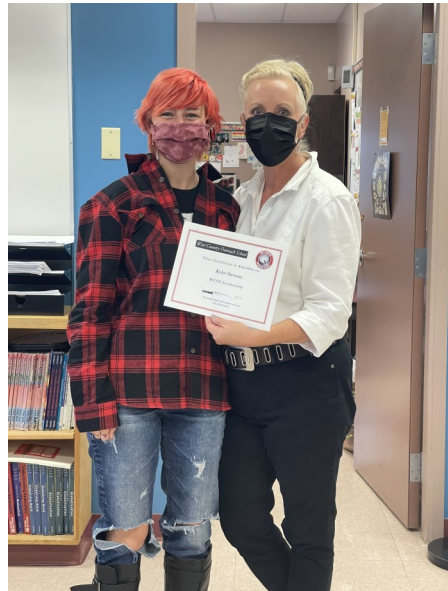
Raven's Nest



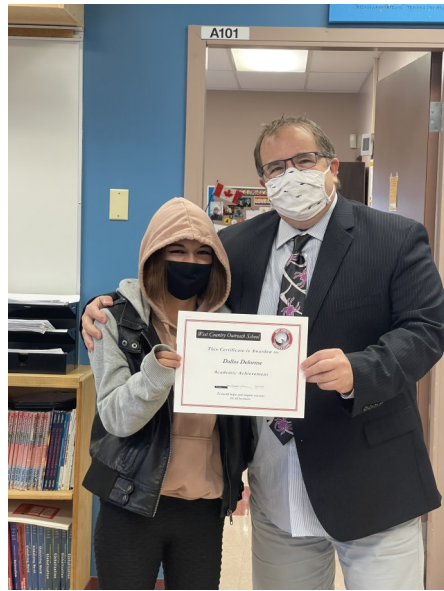
November 2021



Award Recipients



**Kyler Stevens—
Leadership Award**



**Dallas Delorme—
Academic Achievement**



**Greg Antonczak -
Senior High Math**

Student Voice

As a new student at West Country Outreach, I have been welcomed with open arms to a warm and caring environment. When I first arrived, I was uncertain of what to expect and who I would meet, but I ended up meeting a handful of amazing staff and students. Because of the strong support system that this school has, I have been able to improve my grades as well as my well-being, and I am excited to continue learning here for the rest of my highschool career. If anyone is debating if West Country Outreach is the right place for them, I would wholeheartedly recommend this school.

Meet Our Staff—Mrs. Dyrland

This is now my eleventh year at West Country Outreach!! Wow – where has the time gone? This year I am teaching the General Science, Chemistry and Physics, as well as being the Off-Campus Coordinator. Within the Off-Campus role, I oversee Work Experience, Green Certificate, Dual Credit and Apprenticeship Training.

Outside of school I enjoy spending time with my family, which includes 3 adult children, that all still live close to us. My husband and I celebrated 30 years of marriage this year and spent most of the summer hiking and chasing after big and beautiful waterfalls. I also enjoy riding horses – something that I have been blessed to be able to do since before I could walk. For most of my life, I have been active in rodeo and western riding. For the past year, I have been challenging myself with learning to do English Riding and learning to jump. This definitely pushes me out of my comfort zone and has helped me learn to trust in my coach and my horse.

I love the challenge that doing new things brings – and the reward I feel when I accomplish “hard” things. Challenging myself is a great way to remind me of how my students feel – and a life long skill I feel is critical to experience. One of my favorite quotes is “Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyways” by the timeless cowboy John Wayne. He doesn’t discount the feeling of fear – this is a real experience and a very real emotion. I love how this quote encourages to realize that some things are more important than being scared. It encourages us to push through the fear and helps us realize that within the challenges we can expand our experiences and gain confidence in our ability to achieve! Here’s to a year of pushing through our fears, climbing those proverbial mountains and becoming the best version of ourselves!!

