

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 10, 2024**

**RE: Leadership Announcements**

Canadian Rockies Public Schools' (CRPS) Superintendent of Schools, Christopher MacPhee, is pleased to announce the following leadership appointments:

**Craig Kestle, Principal of Exshaw School**



Currently the Principal of Banff Elementary School, Craig Kestle will assume the role of Principal of Exshaw School this fall.

“Craig's extensive background and dedication to fostering inclusive and supportive learning environments make him an excellent fit for Exshaw School,” said MacPhee. “As a former learning support teacher at Exshaw, Craig's commitment to Indigenous education, coupled with his leadership experience, will greatly benefit the school community.”

Kestle brings 22 years of educational experience to the position, the last fifteen with CRPS. Throughout his career, he has served as a classroom teacher, learning support teacher, assistant principal, and principal. Kestle's ongoing commitment to life-long learning aims to continually enhance leadership, teaching, and learning practices.

Kestle's expertise in supporting Indigenous students is particularly noteworthy, as his Master in Education from Simon Fraser University focused on Indigenous education and curriculum. He also holds a Bachelor of Education from the University of Calgary, and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Western Ontario.

**Jason Billings, Principal of Banff Elementary School**



Jason Billings will take the helm of Banff Elementary School, effective August 2024.

“Jason has a proven track record of fostering caring, inclusive and dynamic learning environments,” said MacPhee. “His commitment to student engagement and community collaboration will be instrumental in driving Banff Elementary School forward.”

Billings began his career in 1999, initially teaching math and science at Ian Bazalgette Junior High School under the Calgary Board of Education. His administrative journey includes roles as Rocky View Schools' (RVS) Principal of Glenbow Elementary School and R.J. Hawkey Elementary School and Assistant Principal of East Lake School. Jason also served as Principal of Lorne Park Public

School and King's Masting Public School in Ontario's Peel District School Board. As the current Principal of Glenbow Elementary School in Cochrane, Billings has spearheaded initiatives such as climate and culture enhancement programs and served on numerous committees including RVS' Indigenous Inclusion Committee.

Billings holds a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Framingham State College, a Bachelor of Education from Lakehead University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the University of Western Ontario. He also has an Ontario Teaching Certificate and an Alberta Professional Permanent Certificate. A dedicated life-long learner, Billings actively participates in professional growth activities, including Digital Threat Assessment Training and the Joyful Literacy Summit.

"On behalf of the Board, I extend our congratulations to Craig and Jason on their new appointments," said Board Chair Arlene Rheaume. "Our Board looks forward to the upcoming school year confident that we have a strong leadership team at the helm of our education system.

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For more information, contact:

Debbie McKibbin  
Deputy Superintendent  
Tel: 403-609-6072  
E-mail: [debbie.mckibbin@crps.ca](mailto:debbie.mckibbin@crps.ca)