

Teacher interests strike a chord in the classroom

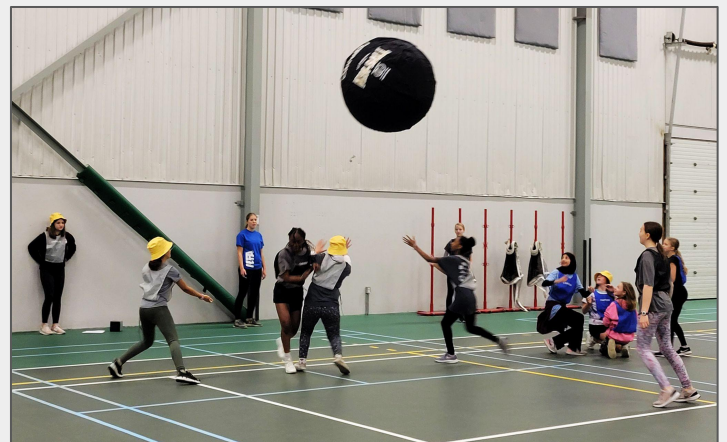
Love of reading! Kirsten Strand-Gnam, grade 7 teacher at Innisfail Middle School, received a \$1,500 US grant to continue building her classroom library. Kirsten taught English and Social Studies for several years at Hugh Sutherland School in Carstairs before transferring to Innisfail Middle last year. She is passionate about literacy and loves supporting young learners and lifelong readers! She has focused on building relevant classroom libraries and works actively with students to develop their love of reading. Kirsten sees books as a bridge to create empathy and connect people. Her classroom uses books and diverse characters to create conversations about human differences and perspectives. With the 'Book Love Classroom Library Grant', she can continue sharing her love of reading!



Edible Art - Renu Mathew, teacher at École Olds High School, has harnessed her love of creating intricate confections into an exciting opportunity for students. The Edible Art program has been a hit since it launched in the fall.

Renu, who was a finalist two years ago on the Food Network's 'Great Chocolate Showdown', says the program brings several different curriculum elements together. With its precise requirements for measurements and timing, the chocolate class feels at times like a Science lab! But the end result is tastier.

Go Girls! Grade 7-9 girls from French Immersion classes in Chinook's Edge joined in a large event in Red Deer recently, to learn about a variety of different sports from ball hockey to military cardio! A self-esteem workshop was also offered at the end of the day. The event was sponsored by the government of Canada, Girls in Sports Alberta and FSFA (la Fédération du Sport Francophone de l'Alberta).



This week's Staff Health & Wellness profile is: [Lucia Sherban](#), Didsbury High School