



## HPSD custodians working hard to maintain quality learning environments

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*DONNELLY, AB* – G.P. Vanier School Custodian Gerry Lanctot has a story for every room, and a keen understanding all of the things students work on in each one as he diligently goes about his business of ensuring the school is in tip-top condition for classes the next morning.

It's all in a day's work for Lanctot, his wife Myrna, and their hard-working staff, who are just beginning to rummage through the custodians' closet for their cleaning equipment and supplies after school notebooks and laptops are put to bed and students and staff have left the building.

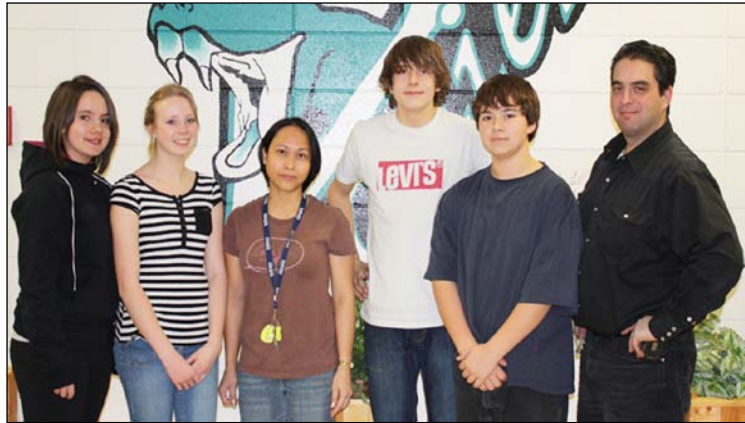
Dressed in jeans and a T-shirt, the building's last remaining swing-shift custodian's day begins at 3:30 p.m. and culminates at around 7 p.m. when Lanctot secures the school doors and turns out the lights.

"It's a dirty job, but someone has to do it," quips Gerry, who has held the custodial position at the school since September of 2002. "In all seriousness, I'm very detailed and meticulous; I am not a person to rush things."

It's a common sentiment shared by HPSPD's 13 other contracted custodians who maintain the important responsibility of ensuring the division's 10 schools, three outreach schools, central office and the technology centre (located in High Prairie) are collectively operating like a well-oiled machine.

A brief 15-minute walk with Lanctot during his work day demonstrates just how much pride he and his staff take in their roles.

A typical day involves cleaning each of the school's classrooms and taking out the garbage in addition to cleaning and disinfecting washrooms and floors and ensuring the staff room, main office and gymnasium are clean.



G.P. Vanier School Custodian Gerry Lanctot (right) with his dedicated staff including Kim Martel, Madison Laliberte Nora Boissonneault, Jordan Emard and Aciff Williams. Missing from the photo is William Gervais and Myrna Lanctot.

They're also responsible for overseeing the operation of heating equipment, maintaining security, cleaning mats, carpets, change rooms, lunch rooms, boot racks, sinks, counters and table tops as well as sidewalk snow removal during the winter months.

It's a role all divisional custodians take very seriously as part of an ongoing commitment which supports the highest possible maintenance standards and a quality learning environment for all.

"I like to think that our work as custodians is contributing to the positive success of our students," Lanctot explains.

Like so many other individuals in the division, HPSD Superintendent Laura Poloz recognizes and appreciates the valuable contributions of all custodians and their staff. "Our custodians are entrusted with the arduous task of securing and maintaining our school properties," says Poloz, adding their work does not go unnoticed.

"HPSD's school custodians make important contributions toward a quality learning environment for our students by placing a high emphasis on the day-to-day maintenance and operation of our school facilities. They truly are the life line of our facilities."

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***For additional information please contact HPSD Superintendent Mrs. Laura Poloz at 780-523-3337 or HPSD No. 48 Communications Officer Kevin Laliberte at 780-837-6638.***