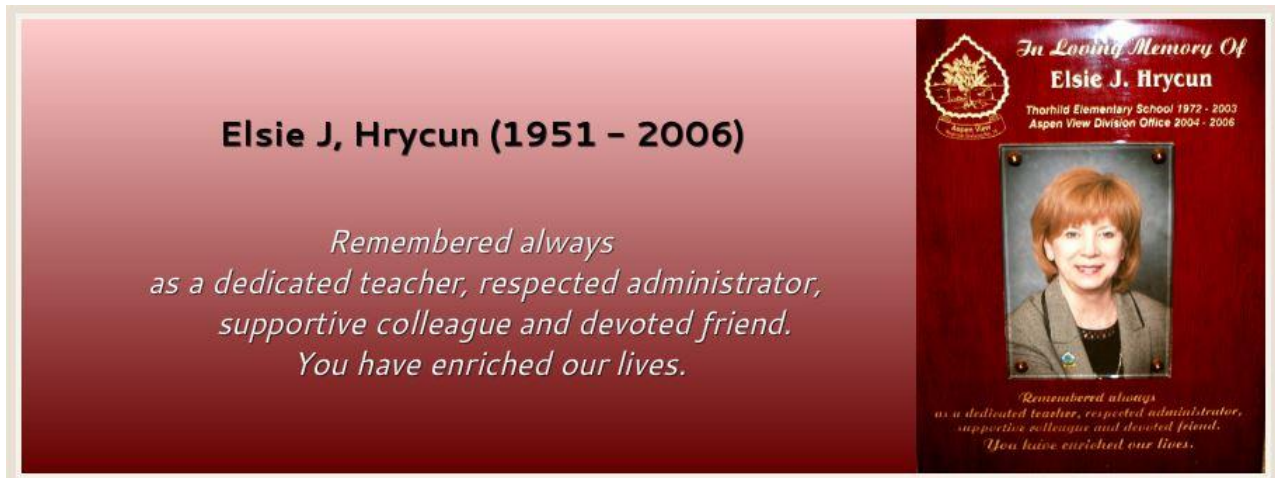


Our Namesake



A plaque hangs outside the library at Thorhild Central School. Our school library has been dedicated to and named for well respected, former Aspen View teacher and administrator, Elsie J. Hrycun. Who was Elsie and why did she merit this honour?

The following excerpt from *Aspen Views* (Published by Aspen View Regional Schools) Volume 8, Issue 4, April 2006 gives some background.



Everyone in Aspen View Regional Division No. 19 was deeply saddened by the untimely death of Elsie Hrycun on April 12, 2006.

Funeral services were held at the Radway Agriplex on April 20, 2006. Many of her friends, colleagues and former students, along with family members, were in attendance for the service.

Elsie began her successful teaching career at Thorhild Elementary School in 1972. Fifteen years later, in 1987, she was appointed Principal of that same school; a position she held until February 2004. At that time Elsie assumed the position of Director of Instructional Services for Aspen View Schools at Division Office in Athabasca.

Elsie was passionate about her work. She approached every day of her thirty-four year career with an unwavering dedication to those who inspired her the most, her students.

To her colleagues, Elsie was the tantamount professional in everything she did. She was an advocate for children and progressive change in education and was actively involved in numerous professional associations and activities. Her work ethic and professionalism made her one of the most respected

educators in our system. She was much more than an educator and a colleague. To the many who knew her, Elsie Hrycun was a true friend. She will be dearly missed.

In March, 2007 the Aspen View Board of Trustees approved the installation of a photograph and plaque at Thorhild Elementary School in remembrance of their former teacher and administrator, Elsie Hrycun. It was later brought up to the Board of Trustees that the staff and school council would like to see the library at Thorhild Elementary School named in honour of Elsie. This was approved by the Board in the spring of 2008.

On May 1, 2008 a dedication service was held in the gymnasium at Thorhild Elementary School. At this time the official unveiling of the photograph and plaque, and the renaming of the library took place. To display the plaque, a special nook, complete with a bench, and a bookcase filled with books purchased in honour of Elsie, had been created outside the library door.

With the closure of Thorhild Elementary School in June, 2012 and subsequent amalgamation of Thorhild Elementary School, Radway School, and Thorhild Central School, a request was once again brought to the Board of Trustees that the library at Thorhild Central be named the Elsie J. Hrycun Library. This was approved by the Board in April, 2012. The completion of renovations at T.C.S. saw one outer wall of the library transformed into a brick feature wall with the new library name displayed proudly above the photograph and plaque of the library's namesake, Elsie J. Hrycun. Below the plaque is the bench. The bookcase containing the Elsie J. Hrycun collection of books is housed within the library. These books reflect subjects that Elsie was passionate about – music, the arts, and character building.



Elsie was a student at this very school for a short time. In fact, her class was the first to graduate from Thorhild Academic-Vocational High School in 1969. She would be proud to see that the library bears her name. We are proud to have her as our namesake.