

## STUDENT AND FAMILY FOCUS

### Strategic Focus

GSSD exists to provide the highest level of student learning & well-being. All students will experience learning environments rich in the opportunities and experiences necessary to promote intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth.

### Long-term Goals

- By June 2020, at least 85% of GSSD students will be at grade level in reading, writing and math.
- By June 2020, at least 90% of students exiting Kindergarten in GSSD will be ready for learning.
- By June 2020, GSSD will achieve a 3-year graduation rate of 85%.

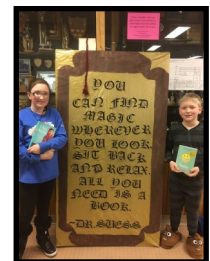
### WORLD READ ALOUD DAY

Every year World Read Aloud Day is celebrated to call global attention to the importance of reading aloud and sharing stories. This year, World Read Aloud day was celebrated on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> by millions of people from over 100 countries.

The Preeceville School Community Council, in collaboration with Preeceville school staff, hosted a Reading Party on the evening of February 16<sup>th</sup> to celebrate World Read Aloud Day. This was an event for all ages that drew a positive response from the attendees!

The evening's activities provided families with the opportunity to visit classroom libraries and reading areas, browse the Take a Book/Leave a Book collection, learn about Tumblebooks, RAZKids, Epic and Goodreads, and of course, READ together! Attendees were also able to explore various literacy displays throughout the school including the giant book display where everyone was encouraged to take a "shelfie" and families were encouraged to tweet pictures from the event using the hashtag #preecevillereads.

Earlier in the day, the Grade 10 students read aloud to elementary students to celebrate World Read Aloud Day. Students spent the previous week and a half practicing their storytelling skills to ensure an engaging performance. Preeceville School takes pride in and encourages the interaction of all students across grades and is leading the way in cultivating a culture of reading and keeping literacy a priority.



### SCHOOL DOWNHILL SKI, SNOWBOARD, TUBING ACTIVITIES

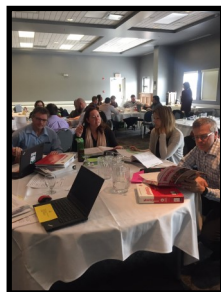
GSSD is proud to support student opportunities outside the classroom. This year twenty-two schools within the Division took student groups to Duck Mountain, Asessippi or Thunder Mountain.

Grayson School leverages the 'power of small', and has held annual ski trips for the past 15 years. The entire student population attends and students and families look forward to the yearly activity. Most of the younger students start on the tubing hill, then advance to skis and snowboards in successive years. All staff and many parents take part in making this a perfect opportunity to get to know students and their families outside of the school environment.



## PINNELL & FOUNTAS WORD STUDY AND GRADE 1 READING DATA

The Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System (F&P BAS) was administered to 473 grade 1 students from January 16th to February 10th with results indicating that 69% of grade one students are currently reading at grade level according to the Winter F&P gradient, up 2% from January 2016. Further analysis of our grade one reading data suggests that grade one classrooms implementing Word Study are seeing encouraging results.



During the February 28th Administrator's meeting, elementary administrators participated in a Word Study presentation led by Mrs. Kerrilyn Trost, Literacy Coach. Administrators had the opportunity to explore the Pinnell & Fountas Word Study

resource and discover how teachers can use the continuum of word study principles to ensure students grasp and use language efficiently. This new learning provides administrators with the knowledge and tools to support primary teachers in achieving reading growth for all students.

All Grade 1 and 2 teachers have received the Word Study resource, along with the opportunity to participate in a professional development day. Grade 3 teachers are set to have the Word Study resource and professional development by June 2017. We look forward to the positive reading results that will ensue as the Word Study resource is implemented into all GSSD Grade 1-3 classrooms with fidelity.



### *Grade 1 Fountas and Pinnell Winter results have increased by 2% from January 2016*

#### THREE SCHOOLS + TWO DIVISIONS = A POSITIVE LEARNING DAY

Grayson School hosted North Valley Elementary School and Miller School for a Learning Day on Thursday, March 9. Four groups rotated through a variety of different sessions.

Literacy Session, hosted by Mrs. Charlotte Raine, GSSD Literacy Coordinator

Mrs. Raine taught the students about the benefits of having a library card with Parkland Regional Library. Students had the opportunity to explore the library website and learn how to access the literature available on the website.

First Nations Session, hosted by Mr. James Chartrand, First Nations presenter and Mr. Mark Forsythe, GSSD Superintendent of Education

Students had the opportunity to make a beaded headdress. Mr. Chartrand also spent time with students storytelling, singing and drumming.

Badminton Skills Session, hosted by Mr. Troy Frick, North Valley Elementary Principal

Mr. Frick offered instruction on basic badminton skills and students were given time to practise their newly developed skills.

Understanding Our Brain Session, hosted by Ms. Britton Houdek and Mr. Brent Mckee, Sunrise Mental Health

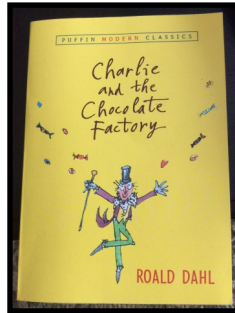
Students learned how their brains work and how to calm themselves when feeling anxious. The presenters spoke about the workings of the "dinosaur", "monkey" and "owl" brain and taught students how to recognize these feelings within themselves.

Mr. Chartrand spoke to the group about the First Nations beliefs in respect for our animals and for Mother Earth. He told the story of the creation of Nanabush which ended in the making of a beautiful dreamcatcher. The day ended with the whole group participating in some drumming and singing.



## ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK FAMILY READING INITIATIVE

This was the fourth year Columbia School participated in One School, One Book and every year the students and families give even more positive feedback. This year a copy of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Ronald Dahl was purchased by the school for each family and staff member with the intent to engage families in reading together. A calendar was provided to indicate chapters to be read and each morning students would listen to a trivia question on the announcements and enter their answer to win a small prize. Throughout the month, students could be heard discussing the book and predicting what would come next.



above peer pressure, offered emotional support for others, and did good deeds like helping out in classrooms or around the school. These students received a special prize.

The wrap up day was filled with fun activities starting with watching the movie as a whole school in the gym and then students rotating through various stations such as a crazy Chocolate Factory obstacle course, a photo booth, a Skittles rainbow science experiment, a bubble blowing contest, QR trivia, Uplifting Fizzy drinks, new candy inventions, and good egg/bad egg relay races.



In conjunction with the story, the Columbia staff wanted to emphasize the part of the story that focused on "good behaviour". Various students throughout the school received "golden tickets" for positive behaviour that went above and beyond the

school's expectations. The school was able to showcase students who stood up to bullying, rose

The school is thankful for the support from SIGA, Harvest Meats, Cornerstone Credit Union, Yorkton Co-op, SaskTel, the Columbia SCC and, of course, the Columbia Staff who not only made this engaging and fun reading initiative a huge success for students and their families but many staff showed their school spirit by dressing up as Oompa Loompas for the day!

**laugh•learn•play•collaborate**

### It's time to register!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prekindergarten</b></p> <p>Children who are 3 (by Sept. 30) or already 4 may complete an application to attend.</p> <p>Register by the end of May.</p> <p>PreK selection is based on the Ministry of Education eligibility criteria.</p> <p>PreK program locations:                  Canora Junior Elementary School                  Columbia School - Yorkton                  Davison School - Melville                  Dr. Brass School - Yorkton                  Langenburg Central School                  PPEP Program - Esterhazy                  Victoria School - Kamsack</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kindergarten</b></p> <p>Children who are born in 2012 can register for Kindergarten.</p> <p>Register by the end of April.</p> <p>Visit <a href="http://www.gssd.ca">www.gssd.ca</a> for registration information or call your local school.</p>
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006 800778 Student's Guide First

006 8003388 Building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures

006 8003086 Learning Without Limits... Achievement for All

006 8003085 Belonging | Respect | Responsibility | Learning | Nurture

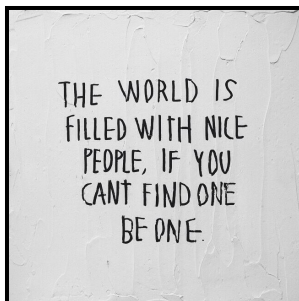
**YORKTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
 100 Queen Street East  
 Yorkton, Saskatchewan S4N 1A1  
 www.yorkton.ca

For more information visit our [Early Learning Page](#)

## RED CROSS PINK SHIRT DAY

Throughout the month of February, Dr. Brass classrooms accessed lessons and resources from the 2016-2017 Student First Anti-Bullying forum. The Sasktel "I AM STRONGER" resources were tailored for each classroom to address specific learning for students. The WE ACT club, spearheaded by Mrs. Julie Parisloff and students, challenged students to write positive

messages on pink balloons as reminders to BE NICE to each other. The theme of BE NICE resonated with our entire group of students focusing on their behaviour matrix of *be safe, be respectful and be responsible*.



Red Cross Pink Shirt Day was celebrated at Dr. Brass School on March 3, 2017. The lessons learned were truly a celebration of the relationships that occur daily between everyone in the Dr. Brass family.



## SPORTS UPDATE

### Junior District Curling Results:

(held in Yorkton on January 27 & 28)

Boys Division	Gold - Kamsack Comprehensive
	Silver - Yorkdale Central
	Bronze - Preeceville
Girls Division	Gold - Yorkton Regional
	Silver - Saltcoats
	Bronze - Preeceville
Mixed Division	Gold - Sturgis Composite
	Silver - Preeceville
	Bronze - Sacred Heart / Canora Composite

### Junior Basketball Results:

Junior Boys	Gold - Yorkton Regional
(hosted at	Silver - Sacred Heart
Melville Comp)	Bronze - Norquay
Junior Girls	Gold - Yorkton Regional
(hosted at	Silver - Melville Comprehensive
YCS at YRHS)	Bronze - Canora Composite



Provincial Senior Curling Silver medalists - Esterhazy High School  
 Left to Right:  
 Coaches Trevor Kerr, Charlene Sharnatta-Kerr,  
 Shae-Lynn Forster, Taegan Kuntz, Kirsten Neville, Reese Newton

## GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION JUMPS ON THE ENERGY BUS

Victoria School is one of many GSSD schools that has jumped on the Energy Bus! At Victoria School, students have read and worked through the picture book “The Energy Bus for Kids!” during assemblies every week. They have learned the five rules of the Energy Bus: Create a Positive Vision, Fuel Your Ride with Positive Energy, No Bullies Allowed, Love Your Passengers and Enjoy the Ride. Their enthusiasm and positivity is felt throughout the school as they make positive choices for their day!

The staff at Victoria School has also made a commitment to joining the Energy Bus! All staff members received a copy of “The Energy Bus” by Jon Gordon. Every other Monday, staff meet as a group

to discuss a few chapters and the 10 rules to live by as outlined in the book. Staff have enjoyed this



professional development opportunity. The positive discussion and time for reflection has helped to ensure they are giving their best to their students and their lives in general. Being a positive team is a choice they are making at Victoria School!

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### Strategic Focus

GSSD believes that we are all accountable. Board members, students, staff, families and community members have a responsibility, both individually and as part of the learning team, to participate and to contribute positively to public schools.

### Long-term Goals

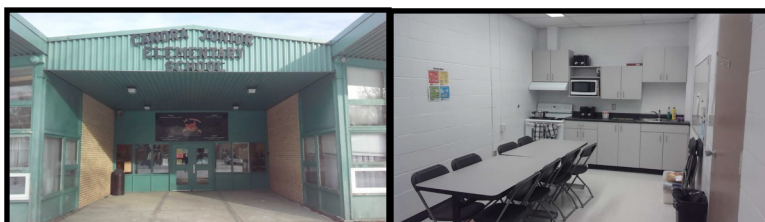
- By June 2020, GSSD will implement division wide approaches to find efficiencies and increase value-add in order for the division to be responsive to the challenges of student and staff needs.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION FACILITY PRESENTATIONS

Following the election of the new Good Spirit School Division Board of Education, the role of administration is to provide members with knowledge to assist in performing governance responsibilities. One such area is knowing the state of the facilities; in the past the Board has physically toured all schools and non-school buildings to gain this knowledge over a three day period. In an effort to reduce governance expenditures, a pilot project was undertaken to provide the Board with a “tour” of five facilities at the February Board meeting. This tour used a combination of pictures, data and commentary provided by the Facilities Team and School Administrators. Teresa Korol presented on each of the five locations, answered questions and provided comparative information to baselines that had previously been established.

Given the success of the pilot, the Board will be “touring” the remaining facilities in the same manner over the next four months. Each Board member is provided with a binder which contains information organized by location. This process results in a savings of approximately \$12,000 and provides a document that can

be easily updated and referenced during the term of the Board when they are making decisions regarding facilities.



*One initiative was the renovation of the former LLI and storage rooms into a kitchen for the breakfast program at CJES.*

## PEOPLE CAPACITY FOCUS

### Strategic Focus

GSSD is a community of learners and believes collaborative partnerships with students, staff, families and community members will enhance educational opportunities.

### Long-term Goal

- By June 2020, GSSD will enhance system effectiveness by investing in staff through training and development.
- By June 2020, GSSD will enhance system effectiveness by enhancing existing external partnership and by seeking new opportunities.

### MARCH LUNCH AND LEARN

The Good Spirit School Division, Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools and SIGN have partnered to provide Lunch & Learns to parents, professionals and the public. These Lunch & Learns take place at SIGN on Broadway.

understand approach, the audience went away with a better understanding of the common mistakes we make to increase children’s anxiety and how changing our approach reduces it.

Decreasing Anxiety: How to Talk to Your Anxious Kids was the fourth of five Lunch and Learns planned for this year. This session was presented by the Good Spirit Psychology team, Deb Bulitz, Gary Scheffler and Kim Unterschute and was very well attended. The highlight of the presentation was Lynn Lyon’s video, “Decreasing Anxiety: How to Talk to Your Anxious Kids”. The focus of the presentation was how children experience anxiety, ways to help anxious children and ways to prevent worried parenting habits. Through Lyon’s practical and easy to



### GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PD Event	Date	Topic / Outcome
Gender Sexual Diversity	March 3, 2017	This was the first of three meetings regarding the development of the GSSD Gender and Sexual Diversity Leadership Team. For more information, refer to the Gender and Sexual Diversity Leadership Team article on Page 7.
PD Module Review Meeting	March 16, 2017	Administrators, coaches and a few teachers were involved in this session to collaborate with Cheryl Erlandson on reviewing the Professional Development Continuum Modules for the next year. Specifically, participants looked at the Moodle Course that has been developed and provided input and feedback.

### Governance Review Panel Presentations

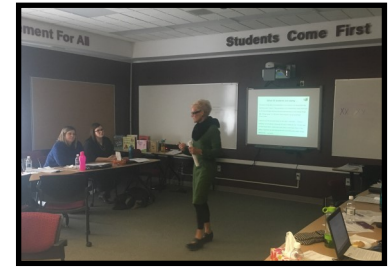
On January 25, 2017, representatives from GSSD highlighted the strengths and achievements within our Division to the Governance Review Panel in Regina. Good Spirit School Division would like to thank all participants for representing our Division so well! To view the presentations and read the stories please visit our [Parent/Public Page](#)



## GENDER AND SEXUAL DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP TEAM

The first of three meetings with the newly formed GSSD Gender and Sexual Diversity Leadership Team took place on Friday, March 3rd. It was facilitated by Kyla Christiansen who is currently serving as a consultant within the Prairie Valley School Division and who also works with Fyrefly Saskatchewan.

An invitation was extended to all staff within GSSD and 20 people were selected from various schools across the division to serve in this capacity. Our desire is to build internal leadership capacity in this area so that we might provide strategies, suggestions and support to all schools within our Division.



Some of the primary goals of this team will be to:

- assist in the planning and delivery of site-based workshops to GSSD students and staff about sexual and gender diversity;
- assist in developing a deeper understanding of the effects of bullying and how safe spaces benefit everyone;
- support schools within the Division to assist with the acquisition of curricular resources which support instruction within this area.

Good Spirit is committed to developing an Administrative Procedure and assisting schools in fulfilling their ethical and professional responsibilities to provide safe, equitable, and inclusive learning environments for all students and staff regardless of their actual or perceived differences. Future workshops will assist in the planning and delivery of teacher and student in-services on the initiation, growth, and maintenance of advocacy groups in schools throughout our Division.

## INTERNAL PROCESS FOCUS

### Strategic Focus

GSSD is committed to provide equitable, balanced opportunities among schools, students and staff.

### Long-term Goals

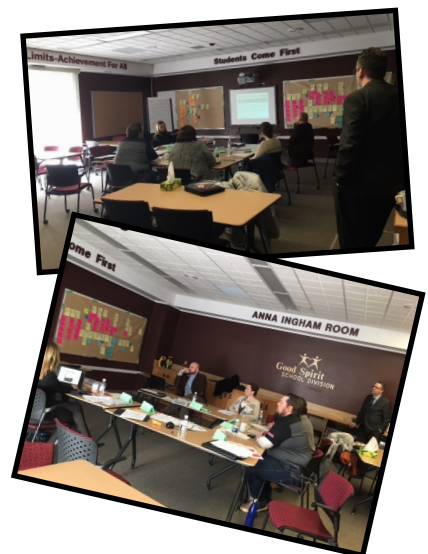
- By June 2020, GSSD will increase service to students and schools through development, revision and refinement of processes with an aim to improve communication, efficiency, and equity.

## GSSD OUT OF ATTENDANCE AREA PROCESS LEAN EVENT

In order for a student to attend a school outside of their attendance area, a formal request must be made to the Director of Education/CEO of GSSD. In the 2016-2017 school year there have been 148 requests made and 94% have been approved. This request is very time consuming and was identified as a process that should be analyzed using LEAN methodology.

The Director brought together a team of two School Administrators, a Board member and a School Community Council member to take part in a value stream mapping event. The objective was to identify all the steps in the current process including “who” is doing “what” along the way. The team identified the issues that are occurring at each step and problem solved solutions to resolve them. The team re-mapped the process to reduce unnecessary steps and streamlined the process from beginning to end.

A big thank you to Mr. Jason Gordon, Dr. Brass Principal, Mr. Shaune Beatty, Yorkdale Central Principal, Mrs. Florence Stachura, Board member and Mrs. Rebecca Perra, Miller School Community Council member for their valuable contributions to this event. The close out report to share the information from the event will be presented to the Board on April 13<sup>th</sup> and to the Administrators on April 27<sup>th</sup>.





## Focusing in on ...

### THE GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION PAYROLL DEPARTMENT

The Payroll department is responsible for ensuring all employees within the school division are paid in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective contracts and agreements. They are also responsible for the administration and reporting requirements associated with all employee deductions and benefits.

Some of the duties they are responsible for, but are not limited to, include:

- Producing all Employee Statements of Earnings and Deductions
- Preparing and maintaining all employee payroll records
- Producing all T4 and T4A slips and summaries
- Enrolling employees in the appropriate benefit and pension plans
- Administering the group benefits package
- Preparing Record of Employment forms in accordance with legislation as required
- Maintaining sick and vacation leave balances, if applicable
- Monitoring employee work service to process, at eligibility, the employee's next increment, if applicable
- Monthly reconciliation of STRP & TSC (teacher pension plans), MEPP (support staff pension plan) and SSBA Manulife Benefits (support staff group benefits)

They are a busy department! Look at the statistics for the 2016 calendar year:

- Over 12,900 pay cheques were issued
- Over 1,500 employees received a T4
- 100 people received a T4A

The Payroll Team, consists of the following individuals:

**Mrs. Raquel Spilchuk, Payroll Supervisor**

**Mrs. Kim Davis, Payroll Assistant**

- Maintaining sick and vacation leave balances, if applicable

- Responsible for the regular and substitute teacher payroll

**Mrs. Christine Hawley, Payroll Assistant**

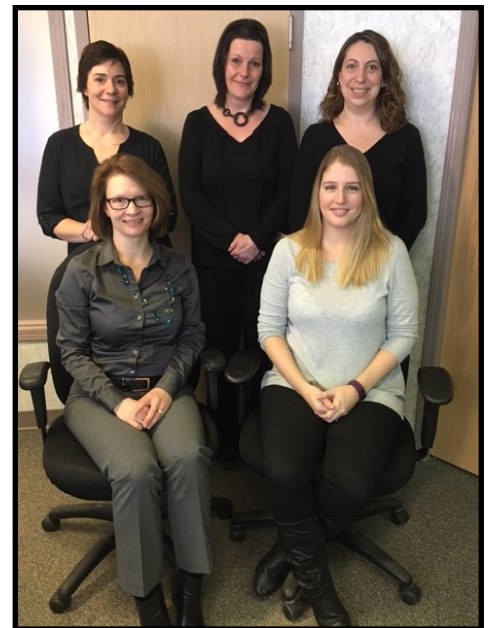
- Responsible for the 12 month support staff as well as regular and substitute bus driver payroll

**Mrs. Becky Hoffmann, Payroll Assistant**

- Responsible for substitute support staff payroll and support staff group benefits (Manulife) and pension (MEPP)

**Mrs. Marquelle Katzell, Payroll Assistant**

- Responsible for 10 month support staff payroll



Left to Right

Back Row: Marquelle Katzell, Christine Hawley, Kim Davis

Front Row: Raquel Spilchuk, Becky Hoffmann



**THANKS** for all your hard work!!!

#### GSSD FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

**Our Motto**

Students Come First

**Our Mission**

Building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures

**Our Values**

Belonging, Respect, Responsibility, Learning, Nurturing

**Our Vision**

Learning Without Limits...Achievement For All