

# IN FOCUS

## WITH GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



September/October 2019

### Good Spirit School Division 2019-20 Foundational Statements and Strategic Plan

Good Spirit School Division (GSSD) Board of Education approved [Policy 1 Foundational Statements](#) and the Strategic Plan during their August 30, 2019 meeting. GSSD's 2019-20 [Strategic Plan](#) saw some changes within the Student & Family and People Capacity focus areas. The Student & Family goals were set as incremental improvements versus a defined percentage goal. The change was made to make the goal setting more reasonable and achievable. Prior to 2019-20, the goals were set at or above the Provincial targets, which in some cases were unattainable. The Truth and Reconciliation goal as written in the 2018-19 Strategic Plan was removed under Student & Family. It has been replaced with two new goals under People Capacity. The goals remain linked to Truth and Reconciliation however, they are more easily measured in their new format. The division's Strategic Plan is reflective of the provincial [Education Sector Strategic Plan](#).

STUDENT & FAMILY

INTERNAL PROCESSES

PEOPLE CAPACITY

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

**GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW – 2019-2020**

Foundational Statements	Strategic Focus and Long-Term Goals	2018-2019 Results
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Motto</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Students Come First</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mission</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vision</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Learning Without Limits ... Achievement For All</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Values</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Belonging, Respect, Responsibility, Learning, Nurturing and Perseverance</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Aspirational Statements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Learning &amp; Well-being</li> <li>• Equitable &amp; Balanced Opportunities</li> <li>• Accountability for All</li> <li>• People Engagement</li> <li>• Sustainable Infrastructure</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Student &amp; Family</b></p> <p>GSSD exists to provide the highest level of student learning &amp; well-being. All students will experience learning environments rich in the opportunities and experiences necessary to promote intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth.</p> <p>By June 30, 2020, 30% more students will exit Kindergarten at appropriate development (green) than when entering Kindergarten.</p> <p>By June 30, 2020, there will be 2% more students reading at or above grade level in Grades 1 to 6 compared to the previous year's June data.</p> <p>By June 30, 2020, there will be 2% more students writing at or above grade level in Grades 4, 7, &amp; 9 compared to the previous year's June data.</p> <p>By June 30, 2020, there will be 2% more Grades 2, 5, &amp; 8 students at or above grade level in math compared to the previous year's June data.</p> <p>By June 30, 2020, the number of students reporting high levels of anxiety will reduce by 2% based on the previous year's June data.</p> <p>By June 30, 2020, the three-year graduation rate will increase by 2% from the previous year's June data.</p> <p>By June 30, 2020, the five-year graduation rate will increase by 2% from the previous year's June data.</p> <p>By June 30, 2020, students in Grades 4 to 12 will report a 2% increase in student intellectual engagement based on the previous year's June data.</p> <p>By June 30, 2020, all students will achieve a 2% increase in student attendance based on the previous year's June data.</p> <p>By June 30, 2020, GSSD will determine the levels of parental engagement of all schools.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Internal Process</b></p> <p>GSSD is committed to providing equitable, balanced opportunities among schools, students, and staff.</p> <p>By June 30, 2020, each functional area within GSSD will demonstrate improvement in services through the development and revision of processes and administrative procedures.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>People Capacity</b></p> <p>GSSD is a community of learners and believes collaborative partnerships with students, staff, families and community members will enhance educational opportunities.</p> <p>By June 30, 2020, GSSD will demonstrate a commitment to provide professional development and training to its staff.</p> <p>By June 30, 2020, GSSD will increase our organization's cultural competencies through division-wide processes and professional learning that grow our collective understanding about Indigenous identity, histories, worldview and systemic barriers.</p> <p>By June 30, 2020, GSSD will enrich existing partnerships and establish new partnerships to enhance educational opportunities for Indigenous students.</p> <p>By June 30, 2020, GSSD will demonstrate a commitment to the establishment of new and reaffirmed partnerships.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Financial Stewardship</b></p> <p>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 education.</p> <p>By June 30, 2020, GSSD will implement systemic approaches to find efficiencies and increase value for money allowing the division to respond to the challenges of students and staff needs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2018-2019 Results</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>GSSDs on-time Graduation Rate is 8% higher than the province</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>Students reading at or above grade level in Grades 1-6 improved from 73% in 2015 to 79% in 2019.</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>89% of GSSD students attended 80% or more of the time</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>82% of students exiting Kindergarten were ready for learning in the primary grades.</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>Grades 4-12 reported between 3%-9% improvement in high levels of anxiety</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>In 2018-19, GSSD revised and developed a total of 36 Administrative Procedures &amp; Forms</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid purple; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>GSSD had nine teachers that were involved in the curricular renewal process.</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid purple; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>70+ PD events and \$251,000 were spent on professional development for both support staff and professional staff.</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid brown; padding: 5px;"> <p>GSSD is consolidating operations of administration, transportation, and facilities into one complex which will reduce overall operating costs and increase efficiencies. Through the consolidation savings of \$2,000,000 will be realized within GSSD over a 10 year period.</p> </div>

The parent and public version of the [2019-2020 Strategic Plan](#) is posted on the website: [gssd.ca](http://gssd.ca) > Media Room > Reports 2019-2020. For more information on GSSDs strategic plan, visit [gssd.ca](http://gssd.ca) > Division > Strategic Plan.

The "In Focus" contains information within each of the four strategic focus areas: Student & Family, Internal Processes, People Capacity and Financial Stewardship. GSSD is proud of the accomplishments made by staff and students and look forward to showcasing a variety of the successes throughout the year!

## STUDENT AND FAMILY 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 30, 2020, 30% more students will exit Kindergarten at appropriate development (green) than when entering Kindergarten.
- By June 30, 2020, there will be 2% more students reading at or above grade level in Grades 1 to 6 compared to the previous year's June data.
- By June 30, 2020, there will be 2% more students writing at or above grade level in Grades 4, 7, & 9 compared to the previous year's June data.
- By June 30, 2020, there will be 2% more Grades 2, 5, & 8 students at or above grade level in math compared to the previous year's June data.
- By June 30, 2020, the number of students reporting high levels of anxiety will reduce by 2% based on the previous year's June data.
- By June 30, 2020, the three-year graduation rate will increase by 2% from the previous year's June data.
- By June 30, 2020, the five-year graduation rate will increase by 2% from the previous year's June data.
- By June 30, 2020, students in Grades 4 to 12 will report a 2% increase in student intellectual engagement based on the previous year's June data.
- By June 30, 2020, all students will achieve a 2% increase in student attendance based on the previous year's June data.
- By June 30, 2020, GSSD will determine the levels of parental engagement of all schools.

### SPRINGSIDE SCHOOL TURNS 100!

Springside, a community rich in history recently celebrated Springside Schools 100th anniversary. Community members rallied together to throw a jam packed weekend full of celebration!

**Springside School** was transformed; the gym became a “Memory Museum”, classrooms were decorated according to a different decade, and the halls were filled with laughter of past and present students. Some of the note worthy memorabilia included a graduation ring from the 1950s, an old desk and a minute book before the school became a recognized educational centre.



Hours of work were put in by volunteers to collect information and photos from the past 100 years.

Their hard work to pulling off this weekend was a major feat.

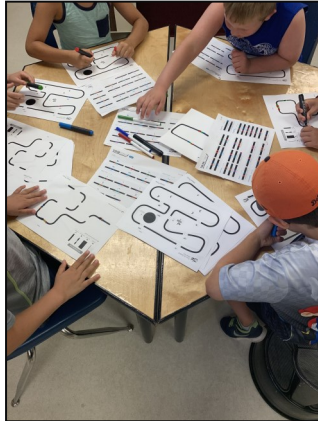
A huge congratulations to Springside School on turning 100! The staff look forward to 100 more years of providing students with education within the walls of Springside School.

*All photos of the weekend event are from Marion Ockocinski, one of the writers, editors, and photographers for “Springside Bitz’n’Bytes”*

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM

For the third year, GSSD held a successful summer reading program. Library Technicians were able to open their libraries for two, three-hour sessions over the summer to allow students to sign out books for summer reading. GSSD took the program to another level in 2019 by hiring a summer Literacy Library Programmer to travel to schools and public library branches at scheduled times.

With funding from the Canada Summer Job Program, Madison Elphinstone travelled to sixteen communities providing a robot and coding themed program. After an engaging read aloud, students participated in a variety of activities where they were able to construct their own robot craft, colour their own robot, and colour code mini robots also known as Ozobots. The events concluded with a tasty treat sponsored by the Yorkton Co-op. Turnout for the summer reading program was great with up to 50 participants in some communities!



*Photo to the right:  
Students work on coding*



*Photo to left:  
Building the robots*

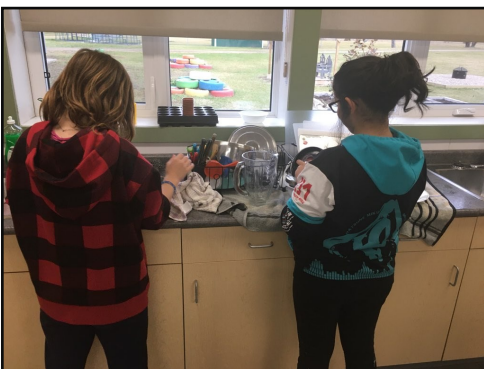
*"My favorite part about the program was seeing children of all ages and backgrounds come together to bond and have fun in their communities over the summer!*

*Thank you GSSD for providing a fun and welcoming summer reading program!" - Ms. Elphinstone*

## MASTER CHEF PROGRAM

**Grayson School** is in its second year of offering a hot lunch program called Master Chef. Students in grades 5-8 are invited to stay after school to learn to prepare a variety of different meals (and desserts!) from scratch. The next day, the meal is offered to students at cost - simply covering the purchase of the ingredients.

In September, students enjoyed spaghetti and homemade meat sauce with chocolate cake for \$3! The program runs once a month and the students are consistently preparing meals for over half of the school each time! The best part? They willingly do the dishes and clean up afterwards too!



## 35TH AUTUMN SUMMIT A HUGE SUCCESS!

The 35th Annual **Saltcoats School** Autumn Summit saw 869 students cross the finish line on September 27, 2019. Forty-one schools representing Good Spirit, Christ The Teacher Catholic Schools, Horizon, South East Cornerstone and Park West (in Manitoba) participated. School representation came from as far away as Swift Current, Rocanville, Wynyard and Foam Lake as well as into Manitoba with Roblin and Russell schools attending.

One of the coaches who attended the Summit for the very first time was very complimentary about the event and commended the Saltcoats School staff, students and community on organizing a well-run event!



Photo above:  
Group of students on the walk-through of the trails prior to race times.



## WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

**Canora Composite School's** cross country athletes brought home a first place finish in the Triple A Team Standings from the 2019 Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association (SHSAA) Provincial Cross-Country Championship. The Provincials took place October 12 in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

*Congratulations!*



Another big win...this one coming from the **Yorkton Junior Raiders**. The junior team was in Regina on October 26th to face the Stampeders in the Regina Minor Football League.

The Junior Raiders broke their 22 year no championship record with a 36-0 win over the Stampeders.



## MATH AND SCIENCE SKILLS OUTDOOR DAY

On October 17, parents and community members were invited to assist **Saltcoats School** students in learning math and science skills outdoors! Student and volunteer teams rotated through 17 stations, measuring and creating designs to improve the school yard. At one station, teams were tasked with planting bushes beside the school in order to provide snakes a safe home and travelling opportunity. To accomplish this, students had to:

1. determine the shape of the area that they were going to plant the bushes in;
2. estimate and measure the length and width;
3. determine the perimeter and area of the shape;
4. identify the number of bushes they would need to plant; and,
5. calculate the cost of the project.



Thank you to all the community members, Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association, Town Councillors, parents, staff, and students for being so excited to learn math together! There were a lot of math and science skills learned during the afternoon.

## TAKE ME OUTSIDE DAY

Taking the classroom outside is what it's all about for "Take Me Outside Day", a Canadian classroom incentive. In 2011, Colin Harris, founder and Executive Director of Take Me Outside ran over 7,600 kilometres from St. John's, Newfoundland to Victoria, British Columbia, to raise awareness of the importance of regular outdoor time. Along the way, he visited 80 schools and met with almost 20,000 students, encouraging the audience to find the balance between the amount of time outdoors and in front of screens.

*"It is a day to highlight the importance of unplugging and spending time outside, being active and connecting with nature. It's also a time to play and have fun in the fresh air." — takemeoutside.ca*



Photo above:  
**Grayson School** students started the day by making waterproof cushions to sit on outside.

To celebrate the end of Harris' journey, and to continue raising awareness, Take Me Outside Day was established. The day serves as an invitation to schools to extend the classroom beyond four walls and a desk and to engage with school grounds and natural areas.

This year, Take Me Outside Day took place on Wednesday, October 23rd.



Photo above:  
**Churchbridge Public School** took their learning outside for the day.

## ORANGE SHIRT DAY

September 30th, Orange Shirt Day, is the day for all Canadians to honour and acknowledge the experiences of residential school survivors, and to actively participate in the spirit of healing and reconciliation.

The story behind the orange shirt began with a six-year-old First Nation girl named Phyllis Webstad. She attended St. Joseph's Residential School in Williams Lake, British Columbia in 1973. She lived with her grandmother on the Dog Creek reserve. It was reported that the family was not wealthy, however, somehow her Kokum managed to buy her a new outfit before attending school. As the story goes, Phyllis remembered going to the local store and picking out a new orange shirt. When she arrived at the residential school she was stripped of her clothing, including her new orange shirt. "The color orange has always reminded me how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing," Phyllis said in a statement. "All of us little children were crying, and no one cared", she said.

This year, GSSD students and staff were encouraged to wear orange and to reflect on residential schools on Thursday, September 26.



Photo above:  
**Langenburg Central School** students participated in a round dance with Robert Severight.

To learn more about how Orange Shirt Day originated, read the powerful message of Phyllis's Story in its entirety: [the original orange shirt](#).



Photo above:  
**Victoria School** students hold up the Treaty 4 Flag before their Awareness Walk.

## GRAND OPENING OF THE INDIGENOUS STUDENT CENTRE

The introduction of the Indigenous Student Centre into **Kamsack Comprehensive Institute (KCI)** has been an overwhelming success and qualitative data would suggest it is resulting in an improved sense of belonging among Indigenous students who attend KCI. The space has provided opportunity for Indigenous students to participate in cultural activities, receive academic support, and to enhance relationships between students and staff alike.

On October 8, 2019, KCI held the Grand Opening of their Indigenous Student Centre with numerous students, family members, friends and honored guests in attendance. The program began with an Opening Prayer and Pipe Ceremony in the Tipi followed by a Grand Entrance of Elders, Master of Ceremonies and Community/School Representatives.

Greetings were delivered on behalf of Yorkton Tribal Council, Cote First Nation, Keeseekoose First Nation, Key First Nation, Town of Kamsack, Indigenous Student Achievement Coach, KCI Student Representative and Good Spirit School Division.



Photos above (from L to R:)  
Debra Severight, Yorkton Tribal Council community liaison at KCI, and Teyon Cote, Indigenous student, addressed those in attendance  
Tracy Forsythe, Principal, expressed that at KCI, "it is our goal that all students will reach their potential."  
Gilda Dokuchie, GSSD Trustee, brought greetings on behalf of Key First Nation

"This is an exciting day at Kamsack Comprehensive Institute," Quintin Robertson, Good Spirit School Division Director of Education stated. "A big congratulations to the staff and students at KCI for your hard work on completing the Indigenous Student Centre. Good Spirit School Division is taking critical and meaningful action to removing systemic barriers and we are continuing to engage all students and staff in the long-term processes of reconciliation," Robertson continued. "Let this Centre be a place showing students and members of the community of our commitment to cultural reconciliation. We are proud of the work being done at KCI and this collaborative effort to making this Centre a reality as we continue to grow, learn and share," Robertson concluded.



Photo above:  
Quintin Robertson,  
GSSD CEO/Director



The afternoon concluded with door prizes, a closing prayer delivered by Elder Langford Whitehawk and lunch of bannock and stew.

Individuals who were in attendance had an opportunity to tour the Indigenous Student Centre.

Photo to the left:  
Robert Severight and his sons Talon, Treame and Demarion are the drum group Misko-pinehs (red bird) of Cote First Nation.

All photos on this page are courtesy of Kamsack Times

## STUDENTS AGAINST DRINKING DRIVING CONFERENCE

Canora Composite School Chapter of Students Against Drinking and Driving (SADD), along with their advisor Mrs. Leson, attended the 32nd Annual SADD Conference from October 18-19 at the Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon. The theme of the conference theme was “The Grammy Awards.”



Photo above:  
CCS Chapter of SADD at the dance.

The group participated in a fun-filled and informative weekend which included: opening ceremonies; Mothers Against Drinking and Driving (MADD) Presentation; guest speakers; presentation by SGI; Annual General Meeting; banquet; and, a dance on Saturday evening.



Photo above:  
SADD Chapters from across the province at the 32nd annual conference.

## BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY

Bus drivers are often the first and last person students come in contact with on school days, they play an important role within all school divisions!

In recognition of their work, October 21 was recognized by the Government of Saskatchewan as School Bus Driver Appreciation Day. Across the province, school bus drivers travel approximately 250,000 kilometres each day, ensuring that more than 70,000 students get to and from school safely.

GSSD would like to extend a sincere thank you to our 105 bus drivers and 42 substitute bus drivers for their service and dedication to transporting students to and from school each day!

**Bus Driver,  
You drive us safely everyday,  
You always wear a smile;  
So here's the Thanks you so deserve,  
For each and every mile!**



Photo above:  
Norquay School Bus Drivers



Photo above:  
Sturgis Composite School Bus Drivers



Photo above:  
Preceville School Bus Drivers

## KINDERGARTEN FAMILY ENGAGEMENT DAY

Kindergarten families across the division were welcomed into their child's classroom over the past few weeks. Teachers planned a variety of activities in order to get to know their students and families better and to understand the child through the parents' perspective. They also shared what learning in a Kindergarten classroom looks like.

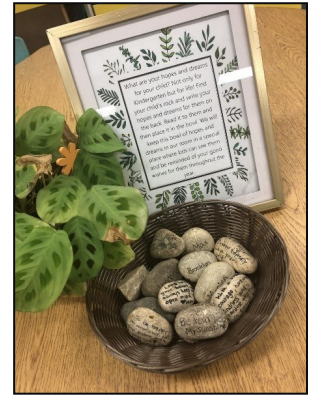
At many of the schools, teachers asked families to bring in photographs and to share the family stories behind them. Photos were used to create placemats, scrapbooking pages, or collages on canvas. In **Canora**, families drew a family picture and created a poem together. They also had the opportunity to take family pictures at the Photo Booth. Visitors to the school shared how nice it was to see the pictures and read the poems about the new Kindergarten families in the school.



In **Springside**, the children and their families did some pumpkin crafts and a hopes and dreams activities, and in **Saltcoats** they completed a variety of learning activities together.

In **Norquay** and **Preeceville**, children and families made playdough together and learned how many different skills can be developed when children are playing with playdough. One parent who appreciated the family

event said *"I love this idea! This helps bring in a little piece of 'us' into the classroom when we aren't physically here".*



In **Grayson**, the event centred around the book *If You Give Pig A Pancake*. The children and their families dressed up in pajamas and made pancakes together!



In **Invermay**, each family made their own Expanding Expression Tool and learned how it can be used to develop language.

Churchbridge and Langenburg's Family Events centered around being thankful. In **Churchbridge**, children had talked about being thankful for their families. Together, they created a popsicle stick family on canvas. Parents loved this and said *"Thank you so much for putting this on! You did a great job! It was a pleasure being able to be a part of the Family Engagement Day! I feel these kinds of events are worth taking time off work."*



In **Langenburg**, the teacher read *The Giving Tree* and then families created a thank you card together. The children were encouraged to think of someone other than mom and dad to give the card to. This generated kindness throughout the community. They also created a beautiful Thanksgiving centerpiece together. Parents commented *"I thought the session was excellent and appreciate the planning that went into it!"* and *"Thanks for a great experience!!"*





**KINDERGARTEN FAMILY ENGAGEMENT DAY continued**



**Sturgis's** family event will have impact for years to come. Students and families created a time capsule together. They included drawings and photos, and a letter written by the parents to the child. One parent said, *"I cried three times trying to write that letter!"* Then they sealed the time capsules and put them away until they will be opened on the child's last day of Grade 12!

All of the family events included snacks or lunch and provided a wonderful venue to build relationships between home and school. Teachers were excited to connect with the families and learn more about their hopes and dreams for their children. Parents really appreciated spending time with their children in the classroom. One parent told the teacher *"On the way home my child said, 'Mom I loved spending time with you today', so thank you for putting that together!!"*. The family engagement events were enjoyed by everyone. As one parent put it, *"Thank you! That was the best part of my day!"*



## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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 education.

### Long-term Goals

- By June 30, 2020, GSSD will implement systemic approaches to find efficiencies and increase value for money allowing the division to respond to the challenges of student and staff needs.

## FUEL GOOD DAY

On September 17th, Co-op Fuel Good Day, Co-op donates \$0.10 per litre of fuel sold. They also donate \$1 from every coffee and slushie of any size.

It was an exciting day in the community of **Norquay** as this year, all proceeds from the day went towards the Norquay School Playground Project. The grand total from the day? A whopping \$3,110.81 towards the project!

Thank you to everyone who stopped at the co-op gas station that day!



Norquay School  
Playground Project  
**\$3112.81**

Thank you to everyone who has supported our PLAYGROUND PROJECT!

Big thanks to everyone for their hard work and organisation of the event.

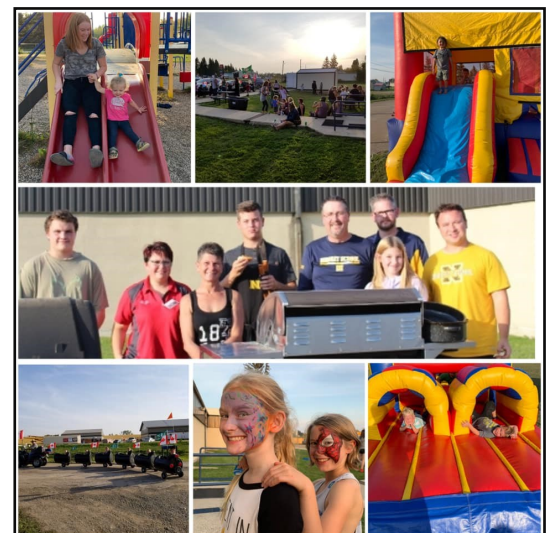


Photo above:  
The fun didn't stop at the pumps, from 4pm to 7pm, Norquay School hosted supper, a bouncy castle, face painting and quad rides.

## EDUCATIONAL FUNDING

Starting in January 2018, municipalities began forwarding Education Property Tax (EPT) collected directly to the provincial government's General Revenue Fund. Annually, each school division's total operating funding allocation is calculated using a provincial funding formula called the PreK-12 Funding Distribution Model. This formula equitably allocates funding to each school division. The province provides each school division with its funding allocation in equal monthly payments.

All tax payers in the province currently pay the same EPT mill rates, regardless of which school division they reside in.

A significant factor impacting school division funding is the student enrolment levels.

For instance, if our school division's actual enrollment, which is based on September 30 numbers, is lower than projected, our division would expect to see a mid-year funding reduction.

Conversely, if our enrolment is higher than projected, we may expect to see a mid-year funding increase. However, this is dependent on other provincial factors and enrolment pressures throughout the province.

## COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GRANTS

### CROSSROADS COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND CANORA COMPOSITE SCHOOL For An Alternative Learning Space

"Our students have the right to work in an environment with Enhanced Educational Opportunities to prepare them for their future in and out of the classroom. Youth are our FUTURE."

"We want to build a sustainable infrastructure with State of the Art Learning tools that will appeal to young minds."

"We are hoping students & their parents will be excited & proud to come from rural Saskatchewan as well as reassured that together we have educated our youth to be intellectually & emotionally strong so that they can be the Leaders of Tomorrow."

**Crossroads CREDIT UNION**  
Voting will take place September 26th - October 2nd!  
You must be a Crossroads Credit Union Member to vote!  
Each member can vote once per day EVERYDAY in-branch or online at www.crossroads.ca.

Over the past few years **Canora Composite School (CCS)** experienced a shift in the diverse learning needs of the student population. To provide the highest level of education that promotes intellectual and emotional well-being, the team saw a need to enrich its learning environment. Administrative Assistant, Michelle Sliva, and Student Support Teacher, Kelly Perepeluk-Nieckar, applied for the Crossroads Community Investment Grant.

CCS was one of three (3) proposals chosen from a pool of applicants to be voted on by the Credit Union membership. As a result of the membership's efforts and the generosity of Crossroads Credit Union, CCS was awarded a \$5,000 grant toward the development of an Alternative Learning space.

CCS is very grateful for the financial support and are excited to update the Alternative Classroom with state-of-the-art learning tools and empower parents to be proud of their child's rural education with Enhanced Educational Opportunities!



Photo above:  
Gary Herbert, Arlette Bogucky, Nicole Niezgoda, Kim Eiteneier, Kelly Perpeluk-Nieckar, Walter Ostaforoff, Jeff Bisschop

Thanks to the Crossroads Credit Union, the first phase of **Preeceville School's** library project came to life on September 24, 2019! In October 2018, Preeceville School's 21<sup>st</sup>



Photo above:  
Preeceville School Grade 12 students

Century Learning Centre project was the recipient of the Crossroads Community Investment Fund. The improvements to the library will continue building the literacy culture in the school.

Photo courtesy of  
crossroadscu.ca



## PEOPLE CAPACITY 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 30, 2020, GSSD will demonstrate a commitment to provide professional development and training to its staff.
- By June 30, 2020, GSSD will increase our organization’s cultural competencies through division-wide processes and professional learning that grow our collective understanding about Indigenous identity, histories, worldview and systemic barriers.
- By June 30, 2020, GSSD will enrich existing partnerships and establish new partnerships to enhance educational opportunities for Indigenous students.
- By June 30, 2020, GSSD will demonstrate a commitment to the establishment of new and reaffirmed partnerships.

### GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PD Event	Date	Topic / Outcome
New Teacher Orientation	August 26	The day was designed to assist teachers who are new to GSSD in understanding what GSSD is all about. The goal of the orientation was to promote and develop teacher confidence to ensure a successful start to the year and profession .
OHS Standard First Aid/ CPR “B”/ AED Course	August 27 & 28	OHS Standard First Aid/CPR Level B/Automated External Defibrillator Full Course Training.
Canoe Training	August 27 & 28	This 2 day training was facilitated by Geoff Horn from Prairie Summit Shop.
Transfer, Lift and Repositioning PD	August 27	Participants learned how to move and position students using minimal physical effort.
Truth & Reconciliation Session	August 27	This session was presented by Bonnie Musqua and Diane Musqua. GSSD has set a division goal around Truth and Reconciliation as outlined in Section 63 of the Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) Calls to Action For Education. Bonnie Musqua and Diane Musqua have been responsible for training social workers across the province and have committed to leading TRC sessions within GSSD.
Using the CFR Continuum to Set Goals & Scaffold Learning for our EAL Students	August 27	Attendees learned how to use the new CFR Continuums to set meaningful goals and developed ways to adapt instruction to fit the changing needs of their English as a Second Language (EAL) students. This workshop focused on delving into the continuums and how to use them to guide and scaffold classroom instruction.



*Photo to the right:  
Canoe Training PD*



*Photo to the left:  
New Teachers at GSSD*

PD Event	Date	Topic / Outcome
WHMIS 2015 Training	August 27	The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) is a common set of rules for classifying hazardous products, common rules for labels, and a standard format for safety data sheets (SDSs). This course familiarized participants with the WHMIS 2015 system and how it is used in workplaces.
Writing PD	August 27	What does writing at grade level look like? How do we develop engaged writers? This full day session was anchored with strong instructional strategies and the Ministry's guiding documents (including the new "Instructional Supports for Diverse Writers Grades 4- 9"). Teachers had the opportunity to work in grade -like groups to delve into resources, share writing practises, and review assessments. Writer in Residence, Sigmund Brouwer was onsite and lead an afternoon breakout session aligning Saskatchewan curricular outcomes with the GSSD Writer in Residence program.
Yoga	August 27	This all levels yoga session included: some meditation, breath practice, yoga, and then restorative yoga.
Practical and Applied Arts (PAA) PLC	August 27	This PD session was for PAA Instructors. The session consisted of reviewing budgets, best practices and making connections.
Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment Training (F&P BAS)	September 5	This half day session was for Grades 2-6 teachers who had not previously had F&P training in GSSD. The purpose of this session was to provide training for teachers to effectively administer the F&P BAS.
Levelled Literacy Intervention Training	September 6	This training was for new interventionists that will be teaching Levelled Literacy Intervention (LLI) in the 2019-20 year. The purpose of the session was to train interventionists new to LLI that have not received GSSD LLI training.
myBlueprint Training	September 19, 24, & 27	All Grade 7 & 8 Teachers were required to attend one of the three days. The webinar showcased integration strategies for every classroom teacher to make use of the myBlueprint platform within their practice.
Library Technician PD Day	October 15	GSSD Library Technicians reviewed library programs and operations. Selection and acquisition of resources was also highlighted. There was an elementary breakout session on reading and a high school breakout session on technology.



Photo above:  
WHMIS 2015 training

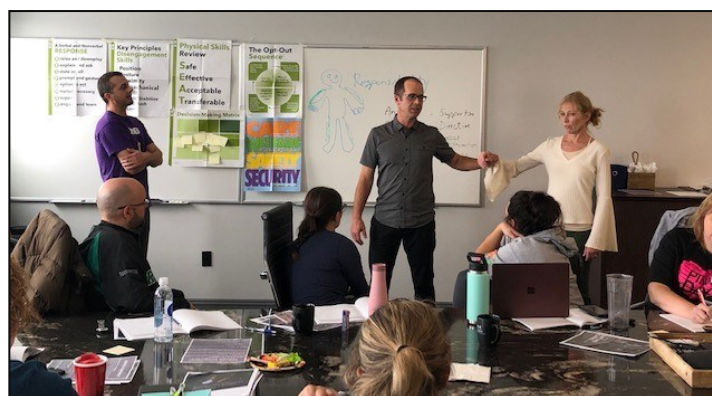


Photo above:  
NVC Training

PD Event	Date	Topic / Outcome
FRIENDS Training	October 15	This session included learning foundational knowledge about anxiety and how childhood resilience can be taught. Participants learned how to deliver the modules of the program, as well as how to navigate the FRIENDS Resilience Portal and resources. Break-out sessions included hands-on experience and certification in Fun FRIENDS (Grade 1), FRIENDS for Life (Grades 4-6), My FRIENDS Youth (Grades 6-9), or Adult Resilience (Grades 9+).
Math Screener & Math RTI	October 19	This workshop was to support Student Support Teachers (SSTs), Math Interventionists and Professional Service Providers (PSPs) with how they can use the Math Screener data to set goals and provide intervention for students with gaps in number sense. The GSSD Math Intervention Flowchart was shared along with recommended resources that can be used when providing intervention.
Non Violent Crisis Intervention Refresher (NVCi)	October 22	In this session, participants reviewed strategies for safely defusing anxious, hostile, or violent behavior at the earliest possible stage.
Balanced Literacy: Creating a Coherent Literacy Block	October 23 & 24	During this session, the participants learned how to create a balanced literacy block that supports the needs of all the readers and writers in the classroom. There was a focus on the use of the Fountas and Pinnell Literacy Continuum and how this resource can support whole class, small group and individual instruction.
NVCi 2 Day Training	October 28 & 29	NVCi 2 day training is a course in which participants learn to recognize different stages that individuals move through as their behaviour starts to escalate and how to diffuse these behaviors while keeping everyone safe. This training, taught by instructors certified by the Crisis Prevention Institute, is consistent with the GSSD Administrative Procedure #352, which deals with the restraint and seclusion of students.

## NEW PLAYGROUND FOR YORKDALE CENTRAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY

In the fall of 2018, **Yorkdale Central School** received some rough news in that the play structure at its Kindergarten to Grade 2 playground would likely need to be removed within the next year. With degrading pieces and a lack of safe replacements, there was simply no alternative. While the School Community Council (SCC) had been putting a small portion of its annual fundraising aside, the school was left with a sizeable task ahead.



Photo above: (left to right) Polly-Ann Rowe (Yorkdale SCC member), Darryl Flunder (Louis Dreyfus Company), Richelle MacDonald (Yorkdale SCC member), Shaune Beatty (Principal, Yorkdale Central School), Cheryl Lozinski (Richardson Pioneer), Bruce Thurston (Legacy Co-op) and Gene Krepakevich (Legacy Co-op)

The SCC embarked on “Project Playground” starting in November 2019 with a target of netting a playground between \$100,000-120,000. The SCC brought back its large school raffle, which usually brought in about \$14,000. Other smaller projects such as partnering with realtors and local businesses helped chip away at the goal. Principal Shaune Beatty also began a campaign of grant writing and approaching larger organizations. Soon some major players began to come to the table, including some significant donations from **Richardson, Coop Legacy, Grain Millers, Louis Dreyfus Company, Mosaic and Solonenko Farms.**

*“At our Christmas Concert, I shared that our school would welcome any and all input to see things through for our youngest students,” shared Beatty.*

*“Honestly, the next day individuals began coming into our school wanting to help. This included donations from families, parents, grandparents and past students. All wanted to help. Some came in with connections and we sat down on the spot and made telephone calls that resulted in sizable financial help.”*

*“Even Calder, a community that was losing its school and its students to Yorkdale in the next school year came forward wishing to help.”*



With momentum on its side, the playground committee approached a number of playground companies and expressed their intentions. By February, the committee narrowed its focus to two companies and had them make their best pitches. In the end, the school went with the Saskatchewan-based company, Playquest.

In August 2019, the playground was built over four days. This included more help from Yorkdale families and friends. It also included the local high school football team and members of the army reserve. Companies such as **Potzus Ltd**, **Yorkton Concrete** and **Flaman Rentals** pitched in.



Principal Beatty shared, *“Anyone who knows me knows I have a tremendous connection with my students and school. There is a lot of pride involved. But on this project, the support of my **school community** truly overwhelmed me. Yorkdale Central School is largely rural and agricultural, and we saw this reflected in the support we received. To achieve as much as we did inside a year is a true testament to the relationship between the school and its community. I couldn’t feel more proud.”*



This would not have been possible without:

- ◇ Co-op Legacy
- ◇ Flaman Rentals
- ◇ Grain Millers
- ◇ Louis Dreyfus Company
- ◇ Mosaic
- ◇ Potzus Ltd.
- ◇ Richardson
- ◇ Solonenko Farms
- ◇ YCS’ School Community Council
- ◇ Yorkton Concrete
- ◇ YOU, the community!

**THANK YOU!**

## COTE FIRST NATION PARTNERSHIP

GSSD believes in collaborative partnerships with students, staff, families and community members. As a result of this belief, the Board of Education and administration have worked to enrich existing partnerships and establish new partnerships to enhance educational opportunities for indigenous and non-indigenous students.

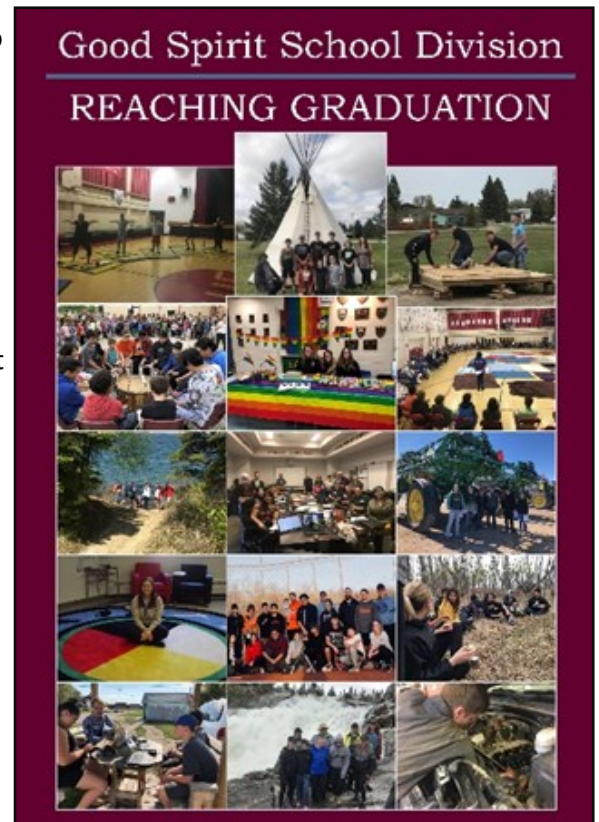
On September 18, a delegation from GSSD was invited to Chief Gabriel School on Cote First Nations. During this meeting, GSSD representatives and the newly elected Cote First Nation Education Council had an opportunity to discuss indigenous student outcomes. On October 15, the Cote First Nation Education Council joined GSSD Senior Administration at the Good Spirit Education Complex to review educational funding and to begin the discussions on a renewed educational service agreement with GSSD.

## PROVINCIAL GRADUATION SYMPOSIUM

Eight members of the Good Spirit School Division attended the Provincial Graduation Symposium held in North Battleford during September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme was "Meeting Students Where They Are At." A strong focus was placed on addressing the gap between First Nations Métis and non-First Nations Métis graduation rates.

The audience had the privilege of learning from Elder Albert Scott who is from Treaty Six Territory. Elder Scott shared a teaching on the "Turtle and Turtle Island". His teaching left the audience with much to reflect upon regarding Indigenous teachings and their relevance to our interactions with Indigenous youth. Renee Carriere also gave a keynote address on her experience with land-based learning that left the audience in awe of the experiences her students are given through this experiential opportunity.

The second day of the symposium focused on school division data as it related to graduation rates. The Good Spirit School Division team was reminded of the importance of "putting faces to the data" and building meaningful relationships with our students and their families. Opportunity was given to share the excellent work being done within GSSD regarding graduation rates. It should be noted that the On-time Graduation Rate (3 year) was 85% for 2018-19 and the Extended-time Graduation Rate (5 year) was 90% for the 2018-19 school year. The Good Spirit School Division reached the provincial goal for both measures and exceeded the results of the province in both on-time and extended-time graduation rates. Though the 2020 target set for all school divisions within the province was met, GSSD continues to focus on improving graduation rates, particularly for our First Nations Métis students.



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Good Spirit School Division was recently approached by a community in the area to provide support in the event of an emergency. GSSD responded by stating that as per our established administrative procedures, all Good Spirit School Division infrastructure is to first and foremost support mandated educational programming. It is also our practice to support and work with communities whenever and however possible.

In the event of an emergency, GSSD would gladly offer assistance if we can ensure that staff and student well-being are not compromised. GSSD would like to extend this offer of support to all communities within our boundaries. GSSD is guided by our foundational statements and the values of belonging, respect, responsibility, learning, nurturing, and perseverance.

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TOUR

On October 25, 2019, three officials from the Ministry of Education Infrastructure branch joined GSSD leadership to discuss the infrastructure needs of the **Yorkton Regional High School**. The Ministry officials had an opportunity to review a comprehensive report summarizing numerous studies of the building. The report also documented concerns the division has with the HVAC system, the building envelope (roof, window, doors, etc.) and the life and safety systems. GSSD is hopeful that the YRHS will rise to the top of the Major Capital list, and we will see infrastructure funding shortly. Continued lobbying efforts will occur with local MLAs and the Ministry of Education.



## GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT

On October 30, 2019, members of the Good Spirit School Division Senior Leadership and Board of Education conducted our semi-annual meeting with our partner school division, Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools (CTTCS). GSSD and CTTCS continue to honor a long-standing relationship that have existed in the community of Melville. GSSD, **Melville Comprehensive School (MCS)** and CTTCS are committed to educating Grade 10-12 Christ the Teacher students from the Melville attendance area at MCS. It is agreed by both parties that there needs to be a sense of belonging, a feeling of identity and a sense of ownership respecting those things that are common to all.



## SCHOOL STAFF REPRESENTATIVES ADVOCACY SESSION

The advocacy session, which will take place during the November 14 Regular Board of Education meeting, is School Staff Representatives. In preparation for this session, Senior Administration conducted “Bear Pit” conversations at **Columbia School** in Yorkton and **Esterhazy High School**. Senior Administration will meet with **Norquay School** staff in November.

The Bear Pit conversations revolved around GSSDs seven (7) Service Commitment areas:

- ⇒ Receive & Act on Feedback;
- ⇒ Exceed Expectations;
- ⇒ Single Point of Contact;
- ⇒ Power of “Yes!”;
- ⇒ Express Empathy;
- ⇒ Caring & Friendly Attitude; and,
- ⇒ Take Time to Listen.

To guide the feedback session, Director Robertson asked the staff the following questions:

- ⇒ What can the **Division** celebrate within this area?
- ⇒ What improvements could the **Division** make within this area?
- ⇒ What can the **school community** celebrate within this area?
- ⇒ What improvements could the **school community** make within this area?

The Board of Education and Senior Administration are looking forwarding to reviewing the feedback and collaborating with the Columbia, Esterhazy High and Norquay school representatives!



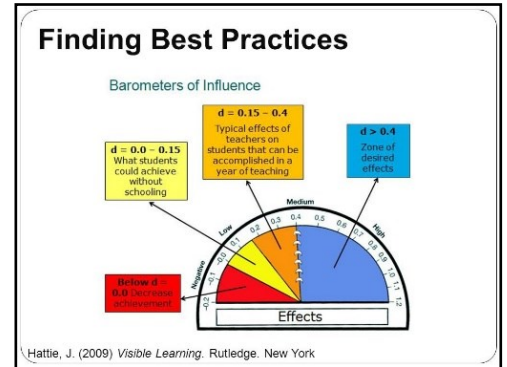


## VISIBLE LEARNING CONFERENCE



Dr. John Hattie began his quest to determine what works in education more than 25 years ago. The resulting Visible Learning research is now the world's largest evidence base on what works best in schools to improve learning. Dr. Hattie's research is based on over 1500 meta-analyses (a statistical analysis that combines the results of multiple scientific studies) comprising 90000 studies, involving over 300 million students worldwide.

Several leadership teams from around the Good Spirit School Division had an opportunity to participate in the Visible Learning Conference held in Saskatoon. The Visible Learning School model translates Dr. Hattie's extensive research into a practical model of inquiry and evaluation based on one simple belief: *every student should experience at least one year's growth over one school year.* Conference participants were challenged by Dr. Hattie to focus on the things that have been proven to have the greatest impact on student learning. For instance, Dr. Hattie articulated that the Response to Intervention model (additional time and support for striving learners) employed by schools within GSSD has an effect size of 1.29 (three-grade level increase). Conversely, grade retention, moving between schools, and corporal punishment have an effect size of  $-.30$  (one-grade level regression).



In addition to the general sessions and keynote addresses, a small group of educational leaders were able to interact individually and learn from Dr. Hattie. As a result, GSSD will be looking for ways to continue our work towards actualizing the 250 factors that influence student achievement outlined in the Visible Learning research.



Photo: (L to R) Lana Steiner (Springside School Teacher & GSSD Math Coach), Susan Muir (MC Knoll School Teacher), Cindy Smith (Canora Composite School Principal)

**NOW HIRING!**  
**SUBSTITUTE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS**

Are you patient and kind?  
 Do you have a grade 12 education?  
 Make a difference in the lives of children today by becoming an EA!

APPLY ONLINE TODAY AT [GSSD.CA](http://GSSD.CA)

**BUS SAFETY... A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY!**

**AMBER FLASHING LIGHTS:** SLOW DOWN, proceed with caution

**RED FLASHING LIGHTS:** MUST STOP FROM EITHER DIRECTION

The greatest risk to the safety of children who are loading and unloading are motorists who fail to stop when traveling towards the bus from either direction.

We urge motorists to assist us in keeping our students safe.

Good Spirit SCHOOL DIVISION

## INTERNAL PROCESS FOCUS

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

### Long Term Goals

- By June 30, 2020, each functional area within GSSD will demonstrate improvement in services through the development and revision of processes and administrative procedures.

### HOCKEY OFFICIATING 20L

Students across the Good Spirit School Division have been given the opportunity to participate in a new high school elective this fall. The Hockey Officiating 20L course was developed by a GSSD team and the course received Ministry of Education approval to be offered provincially as a Locally Developed Course. Hockey is a sport loved across the province of Saskatchewan. The new course elective, Hockey Officiating 20L provides students the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the rules of the game, mental preparation required, Code of Ethics, positioning, as well as procedures as mandated by the Saskatchewan Hockey Association and Hockey Canada.

Garry Gawryliuk, who is a GSSD teacher and serves as the hockey liaison at the Yorkton Regional High School, offers the course online with synchronous sessions offered through Zoom each Wednesday during the hours of 8 am to 9 am and 3:45pm to 4:45pm to provide enrichment and intervention opportunities to students enrolled in the course. The sessions involve a variety of guests who are, or who previously were, affiliated with the Saskatchewan Hockey Association, the Western Hockey League (WHL) as well as the National Hockey League (NHL). Some of these guests are hockey officials, hockey players, trainers, etc. The course has been endorsed by the Saskatchewan Hockey Association allowing students to achieve “certification status” to become a Hockey Official as Garry has the standing of “Master Instructor” through Hockey Canada.

GSSD is proud to be the only school division currently offering the Hockey Officiating 20L course across the province. The elective allows students in rural centers across the division to enroll in a unique opportunity to achieve a high school credit, while investing in minor hockey within their home communities. The course is another way of GSSD fulfilling its vision of “Learning Without Limits.....Achievement for All.”



*Photo above:  
Damon Severson from the New Jersey Devils talks to students via Zoom.*

### GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION ANNUAL AUDIT

GSSD’s annual audit was conducted by Miller Moar Grodecki and Kreklewich from Melville.

The audit process involves some interim audit sampling of payroll and accounts payable in late September; the final audit was completed on Monday, October 28. During the audit process revenues, expenditures, equipment, and property improvements are examined including Ministry grants, tuition fees, school generated funds and school community council revenues.

Good Spirit’s Chief Financial Officer, Keith Gervais, and Accounting Manager, Darryl James, are waiting for the completion of the review and feedback from the Ministry. Auditor Gary Kreklewich will review the Audited 2018-19 Financial Statement with the Board of Education Executive Committee, consisting of Bob Simpson, Jaime Johnson, and Steve Variyan, on Friday November 8. The Report will be reviewed with the Board in its entirety during the regularly scheduled meeting on November 14, 2019.

**CELEBRATING EDUCATION WEEK IN GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION**

**Focusing  
in on ...**

**Education Week  
October 20-26, 2019**

***“Working and Learning Together”***

Education week provides an opportunity to celebrate student success and recognize our dedicated professionals across the province.

This year’s theme, *Working and Learning Together*, highlights the important collaborative relationships that strengthen our education system and provide students the support they need to succeed. As students, educators, support staff, parents, caregivers, Elders, community members and stakeholders, the meaningful relationships we build with one another help to lead us toward growth and understanding.

In conjunction with Education Week, it was also declared Saskatchewan Library Week. The week celebrated the vital role that libraries play in communities and the dedication to the future of the province through various literacy programs, services and items available to all.

GSSD schools don’t miss a beat—check out how they celebrated this important week in the education sector!

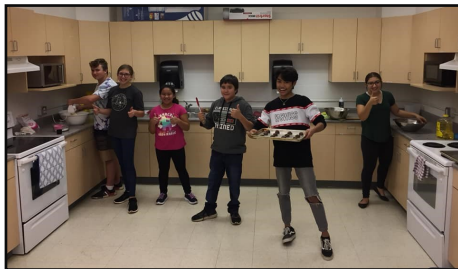


*Photo to the right: P.J. Gillen School hosted a Family Fun night. The students were preparing treats for all attendees a day prior to the event.*

*Photos above: Sturgis Composite School held an Open House and a Camp-A-Lot Read-A-Lot event.*



*Photo to the left: Langenburg Central School PreK to Grade 6 staff and students invited special guests into their classrooms to speak about what they are passionate about. Seen here is Corporal Bobbi-Jo Weber (Forensic Identification Specialist)*



*Photo above: Invermay School SRC hosted a free lunch for all staff and students.*



*Photo to the right: Victoria School staff and students celebrated Mrs. Thomsen, their Librarian*

**GSSD FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS**

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b><i>Our Motto</i></b>   | Students Come First   |
| <b><i>Our Mission</i></b> | Building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures                      |
| <b><i>Our Values</i></b>  | Belonging, Respect, Responsibility, Learning, Nurturing, and Perseverance |
| <b><i>Our Vision</i></b>  | Learning Without Limits...Achievement For All                             |