

# IN FOCUS

## WITH GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



November/December 2021

### ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

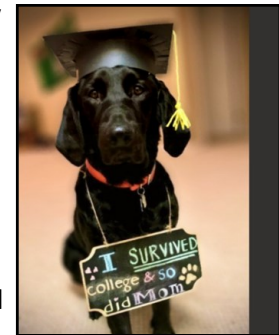
#### Long Term Goals

- By June 30, 2022, all students will achieve a 2% increase in student attendance based on the June 2021 data.
- By June 30, 2022, 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, 2022, GSSD will demonstrate a commitment to the establishment of new and reaffirmed partnerships.
- By June 30, 2022, GSSD will actualize an Early Years Engagement Network to enhance educational opportunities for early years students.
- By June 30, 2022, GSSD will establish a First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Advisory Council to enhance educational opportunities for Indigenous students.

#### PANDAS AND PUPS!



P.J. Gillen School has partnered with Twin Valley Veterinary Clinic's Outreach Program in Esterhazy to bring a canine companion reading program to the elementary school. Veterinary Tech, Sarah Moore, brings her dog, Bo, into the school twice per week to pair up with a variety of children to listen to them read. Bo is a Coonhound Retriever Cross who attended Lakeland College's Animal Health Vet Tech program with his owner from 2016 – 2019 in Vermilion Alberta. Bo loves children and enjoys listening to them read



on a variety of genres and topics. He has worked in multiple schools and senior centers throughout his career and is adding P.J. Gillen School to his resume. The students, (commonly known as PJ Pandas) get the chance to snuggle up with Bo for roughly 20 minutes per week and shower him with pets and scratches while they read.

The feedback from families has been excellent and students are all smiles the moment Bo walks through the door. P.J. Gillen School is always looking for exciting and innovative ways to engage their students with reading and to provide nurturing and loving environments. According to Vice-Principal Wanita Lippai, Bo has made a "pawsitive" impact on all the little pandas, and he has made reading at P.J. Gillen School a dog-gone good time... especially during a year that has been a bit "ruff". Way to go, Bo!



## 2021 RECONCILIATION CHALLENGE WINNERS

Good Spirit School Division continues to take steps towards reconciliation. In the fall of 2021, GSSD created the 2021 School Reconciliation Challenge, where the question was posed, “What Does Reconciliation Mean to You?” The purpose of the challenge was to inspire all students, staff, and GSSD families to creatively express what reconciliation means to them and allow them to begin imagining a future of togetherness among Indigenous Peoples, and all Canadians, regardless of race, culture or religion.

Indigenous Student Success Consultants, Jess Armstrong and Clorice Delorme, received over 80 entries. Poems, original art work and videos were among the submissions. All schools received a certificate of participation, and prizes were given to the top contenders in the following categories: Entire School, Classroom, Individuals, and Family. The winners in each category are below.



Entire School: Norquay School

Class: ELA 10 Class, Churchbridge Public School

Individual: Tess Prychak, Canora Composite School

Family: Florell Family, Esterhazy



Photo above/left: Norquay School was gifted a star blanket for winning the school category.



Photo above: Mrs. Tanchyk's ELA 10 Class at Churchbridge Public School won the Reconciliation Challenge in the class category.

Thank you to all the participants of the 2021 School Reconciliation Challenge!

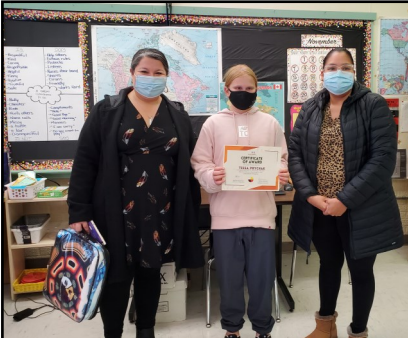


Photo above: Grade 5 student, Tess Prychak won the Reconciliation Challenge in the individual category.



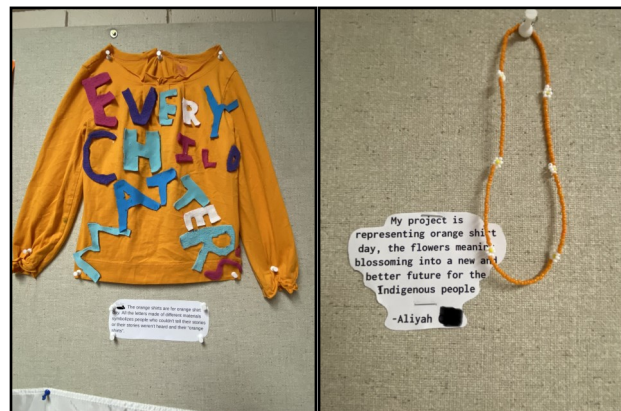
Photo above: Prychak donated her painting titled “Coming Together” to the Good Spirit Education Complex, where it is now displayed.



Photo to the left: Dr. Brass student participating in the challenge.



Photo above: Norquay School submitted a 6 minute video detailing the ways they are working towards Truth and Reconciliation in their school and what it means to them.



Photos above: Macdonald School students created art projects showing what reconciliation means to them.



## EARLY YEARS EVALUATION IN KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS

Throughout the month of December, the early years' school teams (Kindergarten Teachers, Early Learning Coach, Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) and Student Support Techers (SSTs) have been meeting to review GSSD's Kindergarten Early Years Evaluation (EYE) data. The teams reflected on the data, celebrated students, and considered next steps in instruction. This fall, the kindergarten teachers have worked diligently to implement an initial "sprint" on rhyming. Their students were involved in daily practice with rhymes through a variety of play-based and engaging methods. Since rhyming is an essential skill to develop phonological awareness, each teacher began focusing in that area. The EYE discussions were an opportunity to reflect on the status of the rhyming sprint and to create another focus area based on SLP feedback, teacher observation and the EYE data. Each team gathered to determine what area of the five domains would be targeted next within the classroom. These discussions were a powerful method to collaborate and utilize the EYE data to guide instruction in kindergarten classrooms.



*Photo above: The early years' school meetings are a way for all involved to collaborate on supporting Kindergarten students.*

## ADAPTIVE BIKE OPEN HOUSE

Good Spirit School Division hosted an adaptive bike open house on November 24, 2021, at the Good Spirit Education Complex. Maureen Blight, GSSD Occupational Therapist, organized the event and invited student support teachers and parents of students who use adaptive bikes at school and/or in their home communities, therapists from the surrounding area, and partner agencies.



*Photo above: Evan Paterson works with an SST learning more about a Freedom Concepts adapted bike.*

Evan Paterson from Freedom Concepts Inc., Winnipeg, Manitoba, attended the event with adaptive bikes and accessories for viewing, demonstration, and trialing. He also assisted with product inquiries, technical questions, and repairs on existing bikes. Participants at the event included students with special needs, parents, a student support teacher, a community occupational therapist, and an administrator.

Based on the Freedom Concepts motto of "creating a cycle of mobility," participants enhanced their knowledge of products available and how riding an adaptive bike supports physical and emotional health and awareness of one's environment. Students who ride adaptive bikes speak to the freedom of mobility and fun that bike riding offers and the importance of having something that is theirs to care for.

Thank you to Evan for making the trip to Yorkton and sharing his expertise. Freedom Concepts bikes are among several different types of adaptive bikes that students from Good Spirit School Division are riding at school or at home to support a healthy lifestyle.



*Photo above: Paterson connected with parents and students during the day to answer any questions they may have had.*



*Photo above: Students were able to trial the adaptive bikes.*

## EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

### Long-term Goal

- By June 30, 2022, GSSD will reduce barriers and enhance student success in each functional area by demonstrating improvement in services through the development, review, and revision of administrative procedures.
- By June 30, 2022, GSSD will reduce barriers and enhance student success in each functional area by demonstrating improvement in services through the development, review, and revision of processes.
- By June 30, 2022, GSSD will implement systemic and transparent approaches to find efficiencies and increase value for money allowing the Division to respond to the challenges of student and staff needs.

### MELVILLE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Twice annually, Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools (CTTCS) and Good Spirit School Division (GSSD) Senior Administration and Board Representatives from Melville meet with Melville Comprehensive School (MCS) administration to discuss matters impacting students attending MCS. GSSD and CTTCS have a long-standing service agreement that guides the educational opportunities for students attending MCS in Grades 9, 10, 11, & 12 from CTTCS. On November 25, 2021, the first meeting of the 2021-22 school year was held. During the meeting MCS administration outlined the school level plan within the following four categories: high quality teaching & learning; engagement of all students, families, and communities; effective policy & procedures; healthy, sustainable physical and social environments. GSSD Senior Administration reviewed current enrolment levels, MCS staffing levels, along with comparisons of other GSSD high schools (shown below).

#### MCS Enrolment Projections vs. Actuals

Grade Level	2021-22 Projections	Sept. 30 Actuals	Nov. 23 Actuals
Grade 7	43	48	48
Grade 8	36	45	44
Grade 9	49	54	53
Grade 10	60	61	61
Grade 11	80	76	75
Grade 12	75	77	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>356</b> (264 from Gr. 9 to 12)

#### Comparative Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTR) in School-A-Like GSSD schools (as of November 3, 2021)

	Melville Comprehensive	Canora Composite	Esterhazy High	Yorkton Regional High
<b>PTR</b>	16.33	16.66	15.68	16.95
PTR is calculated by dividing the number of net* students by the staffing allotment (full-time equivalents) *net students is determined by including Kindergarten students at 50%				

# HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

## Long-term Goals

- By June 30, 2022, students will report feeling welcomed, included and feel a sense of belonging and caring at school.
- By June 30, 2022, staff will report feeling welcomed, included and feel a sense of belonging and caring at work.
- By June 30, 2022, students will develop mental fitness (state of well-being and having a positive sense of how we feel, think, and act) to identify emotions and access supports.
- By June 30, 2022, staff will develop mental fitness (state of well-being and having a positive sense of how we feel, think, and act) to identify emotions and access supports.
- By June 30, 2022, students will receive timely and responsive evidence-based prevention and intervention services at school.
- By June 30, 2022, students and families will report that they know where to turn for more intensive support when needed.
- By June 30, 2022, GSSD will enhance the physical facilities occupied by students and staff to ensure health and well-being.
- By June 30, 2022, all high schools will have established alliances for gender and sexual diversity.

## PERMANENT PRIDE FLAG UNVEILED AT YORKTON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

In the 2017/2018 school year, a few teachers at the Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) put out an announcement saying “if you are interested in joining a school Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), come meet after school on Thursday’s. All are welcome”. That was the start of the Rainbow Club at the YRHS.

Over the course of the last five years club members have painted the Pride Flag crosswalks (on Gladstone and in front of the school), travelled to Regina and Saskatoon to attend GSA Summits, and hosted a GSA summit for GSSD schools. To kick off the GSSD summit at the YRHS the Pride Flag was raised on the school flagpole for the first time. This inspired some club members to advocate for a permanent way to display the Pride flag in front of the school. After finding out that installing a fifth flagpole was too costly, one club member – Kaitlyn Kelly (she/they) – looked for a more creative option. Seeing the other metal fixtures on the school, Kaitlyn thought “we should do that with our Pride flag”!



Photo above: YRHS GSA club members painted the Pride Flag crosswalks in front of YRHS in the Spring of 2021.



Photo above: The Pride Flag raising ceremony on November 3, 2021.

With incredible support from the welding teacher, Mr. Lamb (he/him) who designed and cut the pieces, and school administrators, the project took shape quickly. With the help of the Rainbow Club teacher-advisors, Kendra Helfrich (she/her) and Shelly Westberg (she/her), the students planned an unveiling event for November 3, 2021. There were approximately 75 people who attended the event, including students and staff of the YRHS and Dr. Brass, Yorkton Mayor and City Councilors, members of GSSD Administrative Team, parents, families and community members.

The YRHS Rainbow Club’s goals are to educate, promote inclusivity, reduce biases and provide safe spaces for all staff and students at the school. The permanent Pride Flag is a symbol of that for every staff member, student, guest or community member who enters the building. All are welcome!



“The flag being on the school is important to me because it means I am seen and accepted here” - YRHS student

.....  
“To me, the Pride Flag being on the school is a symbol of progress. The fact that we are even putting a flag so ‘out there’ shows how far the LGBTQ2+ movement has come. Of course, we still have work to do, but this is a powerful step”  
.....

- YRHS student



## HOCKEY ACADEMY AT P.J. GILLEN SCHOOL

New to P.J. Gillen School for the 2021-22 year has been the addition of the Hockey Canada Skills Academy. The goal of the program is to provide a unique opportunity for students to enhance their confidence and self-esteem through sport. With an engaging environment beyond the regular classroom staff hope to provide an opportunity for our students to develop a love for the sport of hockey, build character and good citizens, build upon P.J. Gillen School's core values, and encourage a lifelong commitment of good health.



Students in grades 4 and 5 have been provided an opportunity to participate in the hockey academy, regardless of their experience in the game of hockey or possible financial restraints.

The school has teamed up with Edge to Edge Hockey and head instructor Casey O'Brien to bring this unique experience to students for an hour every morning of Day 6, in place of the regular Physical Education instruction that would take place at the school. Students have already had experiences with earning their Saskatchewan Hockey officials certification and working with Casey O'Brien on skating and puck handling skills. Students and staff at P.J. Gillen School look forward to a fantastic year ahead of

many more great experiences and the opportunity for students to grow and learn through the sport of hockey.



*"We are lucky to live in a community where we have strong community support where we work together to ensure all students who wish to be a part of the program are supported to do so."*

*- Kelsey Shields, Principal at P.J. Gillen School*

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEWSLETTER

GSSD Counsellors wrapped up the 2021 year with their monthly mental health and wellness newsletter, "Taking Care", focusing on Generosity.

Counsellors work together each month to find resources for everyone to utilize.

To access the newsletter visit [www.gssd.ca](http://www.gssd.ca)

**GSSD COUNSELLORS PRESENT:**  
**Taking Care**  
 A MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The Month of December is dedicated to:  
**Generosity!**

"Happiness doesn't result from what we get, but from what we give."  
 - Ben Carson

**For Staff**

- 10 Easy Service Projects for School (Article/Idea)
- 10 Ways to Foster Generosity in Your Students (Article)
- 40 Kindness Activities & Empathy Worksheets for Students & Adults

**For Parents**

- Help Your Children Give To Others (Article)

**Grades K-3**

- Teaching Kids About Generosity (Activities)
- Teaching Kids to be Generous (6 Min. Video)
- Giving is Better - A Little Arrow Story (7 Min. Video)
- 24 Christmas Kindness Activities to Raise Kinder Kids The December (Ideas for home and in the classroom)

**Grades 4-7**

- Why Be Kind (3 Min. Video)
- 24 Christmas Kindness Activities to Raise Kinder Kids The December (Ideas for home and in the classroom)
- 25 Random Acts of Christmas Kindness (Ideas for home and in the classroom)

**Grades 8-9**

- Community Service Ideas for Middle School Students
- Street Compliments (3:30 Min. Video)
- The Science of Kindness (2:15 Min. Video)
- How You Treat People is Who You Are! (4 Min. Video)

**Grades 10-12**

- Generosity for Jitters (3 Min. Video) - Talking points and discussion questions
- Kids With Character: Generosity (3:30 Min. Video)
- 10 Acts of Generosity - Ideas to Help You Become a More Generous Person (Article)

SHARE YOUR ACTIVITIES THAT SHOWCASE GENEROSITY!  
 #GSSDTAKINGCARE

## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

### Long-term Goals

- By June 30, 2022, 27% more students will exit Kindergarten at appropriate development (green) than when entering Kindergarten
- By June 30, 2022, 90% of Grade 1 to 6 students will show one-years growth in their reading levels.
- By June 30, 2022, there will be 2% more students writing at or above grade level in Grades 4, 7, & 9 compared to the June 2019 data.
- By June 30, 2022, there will be 2% more Grades 2, 5, & 8 students at or above grade level in math compared to the June 2019 data.
- By June 30, 2022, the number of students in Grades 4 to 12 reporting high levels of anxiety will reduce by 2% from spring 2021 data.
- By June 30, 2022, the three and five-year graduation rate will increase by 2% from the June 2021 data.
- By June 30, 2022, students in Grades 4 to 12 will report a 2% increase in student intellectual engagement from spring 2021 data.
- By June 30, 2022, GSSD will demonstrate a commitment to provide professional development and training to its staff based on the four Aspirational Statements.

### GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PD Event	Date	Topic / Outcome
Mental Health First Aid Training	November 17 & 18, 2021	Mental Health First Aid Canada is an interactive training course that was provided in a supportive group learning environment. Participants learned how to provide initial help to people who are showing signs of a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis including information about depression, anxiety, psychosis, and addictions, deliberate self-harm, and eating disorders. Each participant who completed the training course received a certificate and training manual. The course was meant to increase awareness of mental health issues and to assist participants to learn appropriate intervention strategies.
Rime Magic Pop-Up PD	November 24, 2021	Rime Magic can be used as intervention of daily practice within Grade 1 classrooms. It is meant to be in addition to daily reading and writing within a balanced literacy framework. Participants in this pop-up PD received a refresher of using Rime Magic.
Introduction to Microsoft Minecraft	December 8, 2021	Minecraft: Education Edition is a game-based learning platform that builds skills, unleashes creativity, and engages students in collaboration and problem-solving. This course showed participants how to navigate in Minecraft and access a wide range of lesson plans, mapped to grade level and curriculum standards in a variety of subjects. The session also touched on specific features designed for the classroom including accessibility options, assessment tools, and other settings.
Indigenous Literacy Resources Pop-Up PD	December 1 & 2, 2021	Clorice Delorme, Indigenous Student Success Consultant hosted a pop-up PD on two Indigenous literacy resources geared towards elementary students.

## PORCUPINE HARVEST

In November, Grayson School was fortunate enough to spend a couple of days with Clorice Delorme, Indigenous Student Success Consultant, who guided Kindergarten to Grade 9 students through a porcupine harvest.



*Photo above: Clorice Delorme, Indigenous Student Success Consultant walked students through a Porcupine Harvest.*

First, Delorme shared the story of how Porcupine got his quills and why his quills are important. Then she shared information with students about what Porcupines do, where they live, and what they eat. Finally, and perhaps most excitingly, students were able to partake in harvesting the hair and the quills of the porcupine.

Students learned the difference between the hair, fur, and the quills, and they learned how the hair is used to make regalia for pow wow dancers. Students learned that quills are hollow, and that their barbs expand open in water.

Students also learned that once quills are harvested, they are washed, dried, dyed and then used for beading jewelry and more regalia.

Grayson School staff and students are grateful that Delorme shared her knowledge, and look forward to learning how to dye and bead with the quills that were harvested in the near future.



*Photo above: Once the quills are cleaned, they will be dyed and then used in beadwork and further learning activities at Grayson School.*



*Photo to the left: All students had the opportunity to harvest some hair and the quills.*

## TOUCH QUILT PROJECT



*Photo above: PAA Sewing Class students with their lap quilts packaged and ready to go.*

The Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) Practical and Applied Arts (PAA) Sewing class consisting of 90 rotating Grade 9 Students had an opportunity to be part of a "Touch Quilt Project" in Semester 1. In a combined effort, all students participated in a portion of the project. In total, they completed 24 lap quilts that were distributed to Yorkton District Nursing Home residents and a few to the Preeceville Care home residents.

Each quilt consists of 36, six inch squares of assorted texture, patterns and colors. Bright colors make the quilts lively, but the varied textures and patterns are the most important factors in the quilts. Colors, patterns and textures elicit memories for those that use the quilts as they rest on their laps. They are meant to evoke fond memories of days gone by. A piece of fabric that resembles fur may remind someone of their childhood pet. An upholstery type heavy fabric may remind them of a piece of furniture they once had. A patterned piece of gingham may remind them of their kitchen curtains from long ago. Regardless, each quilt is unique, made with caring hands of Grade 9 students from YRHS. The teacher, Mrs. McBride, had her mom, Donna Brown who is in her 80's, put all the edge work around each of the 24 quilts. It is interesting to note that Donna Brown was the Home Economics Teacher at the YRHS in the late 70's when Sewing was offered as a credit class in Grade 10, 11 and 12. It is the hope of YRHS that the quilts will keep the recipients warm while triggering some very fond memories.

Along with each gift bag holding the quilt, recipients received a card that has also been touched by the hands of our Grade 12 Art students, under Mr. McDowell's instruction. Each card has been inserted into an envelope that has been decorated by some students from the Alternative Education Program under the direction of Mr. Sapara and Mrs. Szabo.

Students and staff involved said it was a fun project and hope the recipients have an enjoyable and healthy holiday season.



*Photo above: Beautifully crafted cards and envelopes done by YRHS students.*



## FEATURE STUDENT

Good Spirit School Division has a long standing Motto of "Students Come First". The Board has recognized that the primary business involves educating, supporting, and growing outstanding students and individuals. Part of this process is recognizing excellence in student achievement. School staff are encouraged to nominate feature student artists, athletes, leaders, mentors, scholars, and writers.

Featured below is leader Adrian Off from Saltcoats School.



The reason for his nomination in the Leader category has been his countless displays of leadership in the classroom, at recess in the school yard, during noon-hour intramurals and extra-curricular activities.

Adrian is very outgoing, positive and authentic, these qualities have helped Adrian become a role model and leader in Saltcoats School. In the classroom, Adrian is a hard-worker, respectful to his peers, and willing to engage in classroom discussions. In Phys. Ed class, he shows leadership by making sure everyone is included, playing by the rules and always giving his best effort.

In noon-hour intramurals, Adrian was selected to be one of the Grade 6, 7, and 8 team captains. In this role, he organizes his team to make sure they know which days they play, as well as assigning them their positions and explains their roles. He always enters the gym with the expectation to be competitive and hoping his team wins. During the game, he is always seen supporting his teammates, as well as encouraging his team throughout the game. After the game, win or lose, Adrian will go and congratulate both his team and the opponent's team on a game well played, and then helps clean up the gym afterwards.

Adrian also displayed his leadership in Cross Country this fall. During practices, he would help lead the stretches for the team. While running, he could be heard encouraging each runner as he ran with them. After completing his run, he cheered on the remaining athletes until they all finished. While competing in Cross Country this fall, he won the U14 Boys category at districts. After completing the race, he remained in the finish line area to keep cheering on his competition and Saltcoats School teammates.

## MEET A BUS DRIVER

Bus Drivers play an important role within a school division as they are often the first and last person students come in contact with on schools days, ensure the safety of students who ride the bus, and build connections with parents and the administration at each school. Throughout the 2021-22 school year, the transportation team will be highlighting drivers from across the division.

Read below to learn about one the GSSD Bus Drivers.



### Jim Till—Yorkton Area

- 1. How long have you been driving bus?** 14 months
- 2. What inspired you to be a bus driver?** I am semi-retired, I enjoy working with kids, and it was something to do!
- 3. What other interests do you have?** I enjoy a variety of activities, from camping, fishing, and ice fishing.
- 4. What adventures over the course of your career have you found particularly satisfying?** Besides the adventure of just driving the school bus, I would say, carrying the precious cargo, and seeing the change in the students from September to June.
- 5. If you could invite anyone to be a guest on your bus, who would it be and why?** My best friend, my wife.
- 6. What is your favorite travel destination?** The lake, Good Spirit Provincial Park.
- 7. Would you recommend being a bus driver?** Most definitely! I'm really glad that I decided to get my bus driver license aka S Endorsement.

## HOLIDAY CHEER IN THE ATMOSPHERE



Canora Junior Elementary School Student Leadership Council held a campaign from December 1-14, 2021, to collect non-perishables for the food bank.



From December 13-17, 2021, Davison School held a Classroom Food Bank Challenge. Students brought in a total of 973 items over the course of the week, which were then boxed up and delivered to the local food bank.



Lots of laughs and fun during the Christmas cookie decorating contest at Esterhazy High School. The school held 12 days of Christmas celebrations, including: festive hat day, candy cane day, and pajama day. Grade 7 students also wrote letters to home care residents and staff in the community.

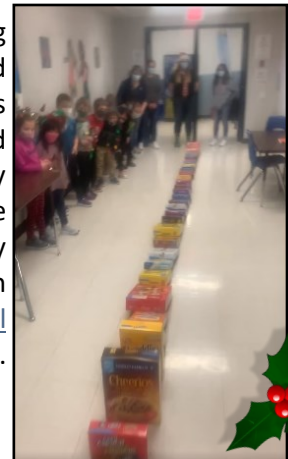


On Wednesday, December 15, 2021, the Langenburg Central School SRC caroled at the Langenburg Centennial Care Home.

The Technology Department elves were hard at work preparing over 710 devices for students to use in the new year.



Preeceville School held a Filling the Gap campaign. Students and staff collected 96 cereal boxes plus other non-perishable and monetary donations. They filmed a fun video of all the cereal boxes in the hallway falling like dominos. You can watch it here: [Preeceville School Facebook](#).







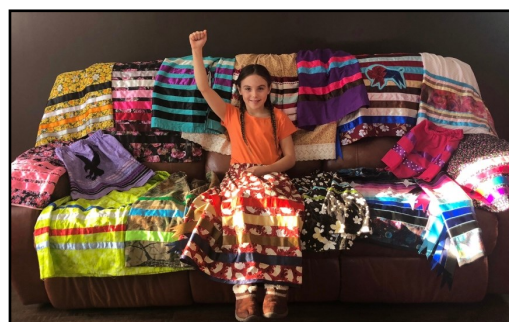
## RIBBON SKIRT DAY

A ribbon skirt is a traditional piece of clothing worn as a symbol of empowerment by Indigenous women. Depending upon which Nation the people are from, ribbon skirts may have many different meanings. Typically, when Indigenous women wear ribbon skirts they do so to demonstrate the strength and beauty of women within their culture.

On December 18, 2020, Kamsack Comprehensive Institute (KCI) held a “Formal Day” for students and staff. On that day Isabella Kulak, a ten-year old Indigenous girl, was singled out and told that the Ribbon Skirt she was wearing was not formal. Isabella left school that day feeling shamed for wearing her traditional ribbon skirt. The incident was widely shared throughout the Indigenous community and social media. This day was a pivotal teaching moment for staff, students, and families across the Good Spirit School Division. Director of Education/CEO Quintin Robertson reached out to the Indigenous community with the desire to learn from the incident ensuring that this would be an opportunity for the Division to bring about cultural awareness.

People from across Canada and the world began sharing photos and videos of themselves wearing their own ribbon skirts or shirts to show their support. Isabella received numerous ribbon skirts from people across North America as an act of unity across Indigenous communities. The incident garnered the attention of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau who addressed the situation on national television. The first and second reading of Bill S-219 “An Act Representing a National Ribbon Skirt Day” has been completed by the Senate.

On January 4, 2021, Traditional Drummers and other members from Cote First Nation walked Isabella to school. Chief George Cote addressed the crowd and thanked Bella for the courage she showed and for bringing attention to the incident. He also demonstrated forgiveness and grace toward GSSD for the mistake that had been made. Robertson apologized by stating “It’s with great regret, on my behalf and that of the board, that this has happened and even a greater regret that a 10-year-old girl in the Good Spirit School Division felt anything but pride and excitement with wearing her traditional garment.” Robertson went on to say that the Division has taken strides to make sure Indigenous students feel safe and proud of their heritage, but this incident clearly identified that more work needs to be done. “This has illustrated to us that there’s still systemic racism and misunderstanding, a lack of understanding of culture, of Indigenous culture, Indigenous heritage, and some of the system barriers that are in place, invisible barriers and some that are visible.”



On January 11, 2021, the Board Chair & Vice Chair, KCI Administration, GSSD Director, Deputy Director & Indigenous Student Success Coordinator met with Cote First Nation partners to discuss next steps regarding the incident. GSSD committed to providing cultural awareness staff training, listening to “student voice”, and Indigenous schools and curriculum. GSSD is currently in the process of establishing an Indigenous Advisory Council in partnership with First Nations within the division.

On January 4, 2022, Good Spirit School Division, together with the Kulak family, is recognizing Ribbon Skirt Day. In an effort to be fully inclusive, GSSD staff and students are encouraged to wear clothing that would represent who they are - their culture, personality, gender identity, or anything else that would represent them. For example, they may like to wear something that would portray their heritage (Ukrainian, British, Indigenous, etc.) or even a hockey jersey to show their passion for sports.

### GSSD FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

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