

IN FOCUS

WITH GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



May/June 2021

Message from Director of Education/CEO, Quintin Robertson



Now that the 2021-22 school year has drawn to a close, I would like to express my amazement, appreciation, and thanks to the staff and families of the Good Spirit School Division. Together, we have made it through one of the most challenging years of the last century. Over the summer, GSSD will be refining our Return to School Plan for the fall to align with the Provincial Re-open Roadmap. In doing so, we will be mindful of the needs of our region and the safety and well-being of our 6,000 plus students and 800 plus staff. We are committed to using what we have learned since last March to strengthen the educational opportunities we can provide in the fall. Again, I want to express that you have been incredible partners over the year; I admire the support you have provided and the sacrifices you have made..... until we see each other again!

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, 2021, 30% more students will exit Kindergarten at appropriate development (green) than when entering Kindergarten.
- By June 30, 2021, there will be 2% more students reading at or above grade level in Grades 1 to 6 compared to the June 2019 data.
- By June 30, 2021, 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, 2021 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, 2021, the number of students in Grades 4 to 12 reporting high levels of anxiety will reduce by 2% from fall 2020 data.
- By June 30, 2021, the three-year graduation rate will increase by 2% from the June 2019 data.
- By June 30, 2021, the five-year graduation rate will increase by 2% from the June 2019 data.
- By June 30, 2021, students in Grades 4 to 12 will report a 2% increase in student intellectual engagement from fall 2020 data.
- By June 30, 2021, all students will achieve a 2% increase in student attendance based on the June 2019 data.
- By June 30, 2021, GSSD will obtain an 80% parental satisfaction rating regarding COVID-19 supports and response.

Summer Registration Information

When registering students over the summer, please contact the Division office - 306-786-5500

STUDENT & FAMILY

INTERNAL PROCESSES

PEOPLE CAPACITY

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

2021 EXTRA-CURRICULAR UPDATE



Find GSSD on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

2021 VIRTUAL SKILLS CANADA COMPETITION



Good Spirit School Division was represented in four categories at the 2021 Virtual National Skills Competition: Automotive Technology, Photography, TV Video and Welding. Competitors competed in their own classrooms in the presence of a Proctor.

Congratulations to the participants and medal recipients from GSSD!

TERRY FOX FUNDRAISER

Seventeen schools in the Good Spirit School Division shone brightly in 2020 raising an incredible **\$12,506.60** for cancer research.

Congratulations to the following schools that ranked in the Top 50 Fundraising Schools in Saskatchewan for 2020.

- #13 in the province—Langenburg Central School \$2,470.00
- #21 in the province—Churchbridge Public School \$2,175.00
- #48 in the province—Yorkdale Central School \$1,407.90

The continued support to the Terry Fox Foundation has led to over \$800 million dollars raised for cancer research in Terry's name.

Congratulations!

"I want to set an example that will never be forgotten."

- Terry Fox



DRESS DOWN FOR VICTOR

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021

"DRESS DOWN FOR VICTOR"

DONATE AND WEAR....

STUDENTS: STAFF:

WEAR A HAT ALL DAY! DRESS DOWN DAY!

Victor Thunderchild was a teacher and counsellor at Carlton Comprehensive Public in Prince Albert for 29 years who impacted the lives of many students. Thunderchild passed away after being diagnosed with COVID-19 in early April.

Good Spirit School Division held a "Dress Down For Victor" day on Thursday, May 6, 2021. Funds raised from the dress down day went towards the Victor Thunderchild Legacy Scholarship. The scholarship will be given to Indigenous students who are planning to pursue post-secondary education.

Good Spirit School Division's "Dress Down For Victor" day raised \$3,463.00.

WALK AND ROLL 2021

Fifteen years ago, the Yorkton Regional High School initiated the first Walk and Roll. The day was started to encourage physical activity in the community. Since then, Walk and Roll is held the first Wednesday of every June, the day encourages students, staff and families across the division to walk, run, bike, or wheel to school or work. Rural schools get creative with how they are able to

All participants in the division have a chance to win a new mountain bike.

Thank you to all participants of the 2021 Walk and Roll! The day was a wheeling success!

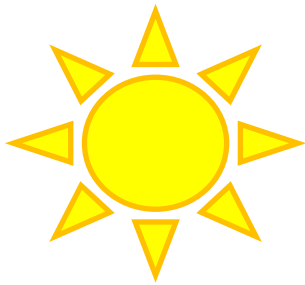


Photo above: Eliza Smith, a Grade 2 student from Churchbridge Public School won a new mountain bike.



Photo to the left: Invermay School grade 6 student, Angelo Fernal poses with his new mountain bike!



Photo to the right: Yorkton Regional High School student Tyrese Co is enjoying her new bike!



Photo to the left: GSSD staff bike recipient, Shaune Beatty, Principal at Yorkdale Central School shows off his new ride.

GSSD FEATURE STUDENT

GSSD has a long standing Motto – “Students Come First”. The Board has recognized that the Division’s 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.

Alex Nichols from Esterhazy High School (EHS) is the featured scholar student. Congratulations Alex!

Alex has excelled in Computer Science 20 and 30, and is currently working with Mr. Heise on numerous technical projects around the school as part of a work experience through the Transitioning Youth to Employment (TYE) program.

He recently completed a dual-monitor project in one of the EHS computer labs. The project included identifying and ordering necessary hardware, and then installing, cabling, and configuring a dual monitor setup for each workstation in the lab.



Photo above: Alex making ethernet cables.

Alex also learned how to make Category-6 Ethernet cables and has made a number of cables for various rooms in the school. He came up with ideas regarding how the senior computer lab and server room could be redesigned, including the Ethernet cabling and power, and he has been using AutoCAD software to create models of both rooms.

Alex helps maintain the computer labs in the school by replacing monitors, keyboards, and mice as needed. He is currently working on a new announcement system project for the school. He will be testing different tools to display a presentation of the school’s daily announcements on various devices and screen sizes.



Photo above: The dual-monitor project Alex recently completed.

After graduation, Alex is planning to take a year off to work and then enroll in post-secondary to pursue a career in information technology.

This has been a wonderful experience for both Alex and EHS; his favourite part of the day is working with Mr. Heise and the school has benefitted from all of Alex's work. Esterhazy High School are grateful to the TYE Program, Partners in Employment, and GSSD for their partnership which allows students like Alex to be involved in authentic work experiences that support successful transition to employment opportunities beyond high school.

Well done Alex....staff and student are very proud of you and all that you have accomplished at EHS!

PRIDE MONTH

June is Pride Month! Pride Month is an entire month dedicated to elevating LGBTQ voices, and supporting LGBTQ rights. Throughout the month of June, there have traditionally been parades, performances, and celebrations of life for members of the community who lost their lives to HIV/AIDS. It is part political activism, part celebration of all the LGBTQ community has accomplished throughout the years.



The Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) Rainbow Club put up a Pride Month display in the main foyer of the school, the display is way for all staff, students and visitors to know that they are welcome just as they are.



Students at YRHS also spent time on a sunny Sunday in June painting the front street with pride flags.

Thank you for continuing to make our division inclusive for all!

VIRTUAL PAINT NIGHT



Photo above: Kevin Peeace joined families for an evening virtual paint night.

On June 3, 2021, staff, students and families from Good Spirit School Division and Keeseekoosie Chief's Education Centre were joined by Saskatchewan artist Kevin Peeace for a virtual paint night.

Mr. Peeace walked participants through painting a picture he created which depicted a mother and child, touching on the symbolism of the bond between the two. Peeace also spoke about the importance of family and culture. At the end of the paint night,

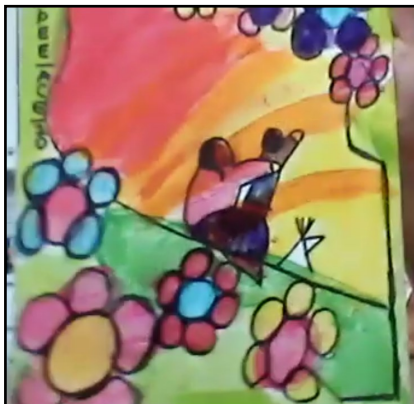
participants were entered into a draw to win his original painting.

We would like to thank Kevin Peeace for the virtual paint night.

It was a huge success!



Photo above: The finished painting.



Photos to the left: Participants had the opportunity at the end of the paint night to showcase their paintings. Everyone did amazing!

COLUMBIA SCHOOL RECOGNIZED INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH



Staff and students at Columbia School put some careful thought and effort into a bulletin board display in the hallway outside of the school library. Sean Brooks, Columbia school librarian, worked with Mrs. Nora Cadotte, Indigenous Achievement Coach and Mrs. Alana Patzwald, Grade 3 teacher, and the students from Kindergarten to Grade 4.

Important cultural traditions and historical contributions were depicted on the bulletin board. For the border of the display, students each coloured a shoe in solidarity with the children who attended Kamloops Residential School in decades past and where 215 unmarked graves were recently discovered. Comments shared about the bulletin board reveal that many observers were moved and touched by the display.



Following the preliminary discovery of the 751 unmarked graves on Cowessess First Nation, we will listen to the stories of the survivors; we will honor those impacted and we commit to educating all staff and students on the true history of this country.



REGIONAL KIDSFIRST IMPACT

Regional KidsFirst (RKF) successfully completed over 20 “take home” IMPACT events in May and June.

IMPACT is a targeted program to support parents and families as they help their children develop skills prior to Kindergarten. As a result of the current COVID-19 restrictions, the initiative looked slightly different compared to past years. Nevertheless, Regional KidsFirst committed to delivering an immersive learning experience for families to explore independently.



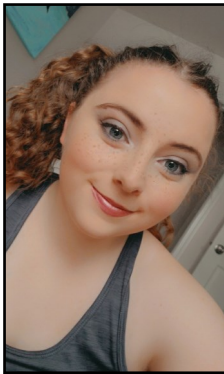
RKF’s Community Developer was set up outside of schools for two-hour time slots in order for families in each community to have the opportunity to stop by and receive a backpack, and for PreK aged children to meet and say hello to their new Kindergarten teacher. The individual backpacks filled with interactive materials designed around the Essential Learning Experiences, Ages & Stages Questionnaire and EYE Domains were a hit with all children aged 5 and under. The new approach to the initiative was extremely successful with over 450 backpacks handed out to families in Yorkton and surrounding areas.

GSSD SUMMER STUDENTS

GSSD is fortunate to have four summer students hired as part of the Canada Summer Jobs Initiative. This program is designed to provide current or former GSSD students paid employment during their time away from school.

The employment allows students to learn what it is like to be part of the labour market, dabble in a work field that may be of interest to them in the future and gain valuable work experience that will help them in a quest for other future positions. The students can work up to 37.5 hours a week and are flexible around the individuals summer plans.

This year the students employed by GSSD are:



Central Office

Hannah Williams – University of Regina (former Melville Comprehensive School) – Bachelor of Arts – French.

Kyle Blommaert – Yorkton Regional High School – Grade 12

Hannah and Kyle will work in a variety of roles at the Good Spirit Education Complex. They will share their time between the Technology, Human Resources and Payroll Departments.



Transportation & Facilities

Dakota Gawel – Melville Comprehensive School – Grade 10

Chett Ostapowich – Yorkton Regional High School – Grade 10

Chett will work in all 28 schools completing routine summer maintenance. Dakota will share his time between the Melville and Yorkton Bus Garages assisting with bus maintenance over the summer. Both Chett and Dakota are enrolled in Apprenticeship 20. Their summer employment can be used to earn high school credits for graduation. The hours they work over the summer also contribute to the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification.



SUMMER READING



Students of Good Spirit School Division

SUMMER READING CONTEST

Read a book from your local library and be entered to win a PRIZE!

Scan this QR Code to Enter!

JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 1

WIN!!

A COLES' BOOKSTORE SHOPPING SPREE WORTH \$300!



PARKLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY

<http://parklandlibrary.ca/>

Every book you borrow can be entered to win!



INTERNAL PROCESS FOCUS

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

Long Term Goals

- By June 30, 2021, each functional area within GSSD will demonstrate improvement in services through the development and revision of processes and administrative procedures.
- By June 30, 2021, each functional area within GSSD will demonstrate improvement in services through the development, review, and revisions of processes.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

School Cash is the bookkeeping software which is currently used in Good Spirit School Division schools and the Accounting Department. The addition of School Cash Online will provide efficiencies at the school level and provide an ease of payment for parents or guardians. The addition of School Cash Online will provide parents with:



- a safe and secure payment option;
- a notification when a new school expense is due; and,
the option to view or print receipts and current account history.

The Division is in the beginning stages of implementing the online option. PJ Gillen School (PJG) in Esterhazy was the first school in the Division to roll out the online option. They are collecting the 2021-22 school supply fees.

“What an enjoyable convenience it was to pay my children’s 2021-2022 school supply fee online!”

- PJG Parent

Each school will make a local determination of when they will onboard the payment option; by the fall of 2022, all schools will have the option functioning.

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, 2021, 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.

MOSAIC SCHOOL NUTRITION CHALLENGE

Ten schools in Saskatchewan will each receive a \$10,000 grant to support student nutrition after being selected to win this year’s Mosaic Extreme School Nutrition Challenge.

To encourage grassroots initiatives to help improve student nutrition, this program, formerly known as the Mosaic Extreme School Makeover Challenge began in 2006.



Churchbridge Public School is one of the schools receiving a \$10,000 grant! The project centres their around reconciliation project, developing an outdoor learning space and offering intergenerational teaching.

View the winning schools here: [MSNC Winners 2021](#).

Congratulations Churchbridge Public School!



CAPITAL PROJECTS

Good Spirit School Division receives approximately \$1.9 million, annually, from the Ministry of Education to fund facility projects. Here are a few of the current projects underway across the division.

Yorkton Regional High School Roof Project Funded by **Preventative Maintenance Renewal Funds**:

- Roof replacement project started January 11, 2021 and is scheduled to be completed July 19, 2021.
 - Scope of work includes: removal of existing roofing system to existing structural concrete deck, and replacing with SBS roofing system complete with sloped insulation.
 - Ballast was removed and will be reused on the west part of the school.
 - This project replaces approximately 50% of the existing roof.

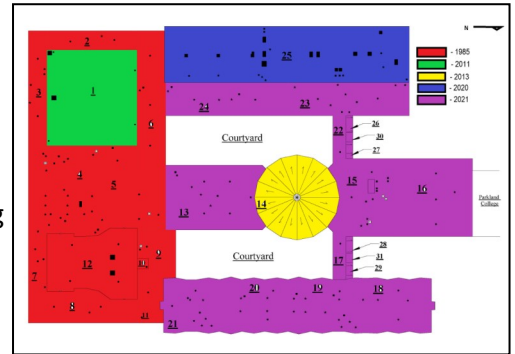


Photo above: YRHS roof sections and years of installation/replacement.

In early 2020, Yorkton Regional High School was selected to receive \$19 million of **major capital funding** from the Ministry of Education. GSSD and the Ministry of Education are currently wrapping up the predesign stage.

- Scope includes: HVAC renovation, window replacement, fire system upgrade and partial roof replacement.

Proposed project schedule by stage is as follows:

- Design – July 2, 2021 – January 27, 2022
- Procurement – January 27, 2022 – March 4, 2022
- Construction – March 4, 2022 – December 25, 2023



Columbia Window Replacement:

- This spring, the Facilities Team began replacing all windows that were able to be completed during school hours.
- This summer, the plan is to complete replacing the remaining windows.
- Scope of work includes new windows throughout classrooms and offices, protection on lower windows facing school yard, and parging where required.



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, 2021, GSSD will demonstrate a commitment to provide professional development and training to staff based on the four focus areas.
- By June 30, 2021, 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, 2021, GSSD will demonstrate a commitment to the establishment of new and reaffirmed partnerships.
- By June 30, 2021, GSSD will actualize an Early Years Engagement Network.
- By June 30, 2021, GSSD will establish a First Nations, Metis and Inuit Engagement Network to enhance educational opportunities for Indigenous students.

INDIGENOUS STUDIES 10 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

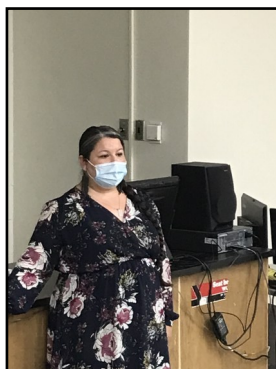


Photo above: Mrs. Jess Armstrong, Indigenous Student Success Coordinator.

On June 15, 2021, eight GSSD educators from four schools joined Jess Armstrong, Indigenous Student Success Coordinator, and Charlotte Raine, Curriculum Coordinator, for a workshop day in preparation to teach Indigenous Studies 10. The course is being offered in a pilot project as the mandatory social studies credit in grade ten for the 2021-2022 school year in four schools: Churchbridge Public School, Kamsack Comprehensive High School, Langenburg Central School, and Yorkton Regional High School. Deputy Director, Donna Kriger, opened the day sharing her journey toward truth and reconciliation and outlining the purpose of the pilot project.



Photo above: GSSD teachers attend a PD session on the Indigenous Studies 10 course.

GSSD is offering the Indigenous Studies 10 class in response to the calls to action issued at the close of the Truth and

Reconciliation Commission in 2015. A number of the calls highlight the importance of education calling upon governments to make age-appropriate curriculum in Kindergarten to Grade Twelve on residential schools, Treaties, and Indigenous peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada.

Jess Armstrong echoed Mrs. Kriger's comments stating that it is GSSD's firm belief that teaching the truth about Canadian history and sharing the story of the original inhabitants of this land will help to overcome prejudicial thinking, discrimination, and racism. It is Mrs. Armstrong's hope that students taking Indigenous Studies 10 (also known as Native Studies 10) will enter their adult lives with a positive outlook on Indigenous people and a better understanding of pre-contact life, Indigenous culture, and our shared history.

Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs. Raine shared a number of resources with participants. During the afternoon session, the teachers began creating units of study pulling in texts, videos and lessons from the materials they had reviewed.



The participating teachers offered positive feedback on the day calling it "productive and meaningful PD" and "a great day."

*Photo to the left: GSSD Teachers participating in the Indigenous Studies 10 pilot program
From top row, left to right: Carrie Tanchyk, Perry Ostapowich, Cory Johnson; middle row: Donna Phillippi, Megan Farrell, Fallon Prince; bottom row: Jess Armstrong, Wendy Shabatoski, Laura Reilkoff.*

SPRING POP-UP PD SESSIONS

GSSD teachers had the opportunity to participate in a series of five after school pop-up PD sessions in April, May and June. Up to 50 teachers participated in each session. The feedback was positive, and the sessions were recorded for viewing at a later date.



Session #1: Knowledgehook in the GSSD Classroom: Exploring the Possibilities— Lorraine Huang, Grade 5 Math Teacher at MC Knoll and Charlotte Raine, Curriculum Coordinator, kicked off the series on April 27, 2021, with a session on the new math resource, Knowledgehook in the GSSD classroom. Mrs. Huang highlighted the valuable information Knowledgehook provides for planning instruction and noted the excellent teacher resources. Participants appreciated hearing her student feedback, indicating that Knowledgehook was engaging for them and helped built their confidence as mathematicians. Knowledgehook is used in grades 3 – 9

classrooms in GSSD. It is a teaching tool which allows teachers to assess where student understanding lies with various math concepts and then offers remediation tools and teaching support to address the gaps.

Session #2: Writing Instruction: Top 5 Takeaways from Author Linda Rief — GSSD Literacy Coach, Susan Robertson, led participants of the second session through the top five take-aways for writing instruction based on author Linda Rief's presentation to the SaskReads provincial group. Packed full of practical ideas and instructional strategies, Robertson highlighted the benefits of student choice and voice, quickwrites, mentor texts, writers/readers' notebooks, and having students express their writing through digital media such as book trailers, online cartoon makers, Adobe Spark videos, and more. Leslea Hanson, senior English teacher and vice principal of Preeceville School shared her writing program for grades 9 – 12 and answered questions from the group.

Session #3: What is Social-Emotional Learning and Why SEL Matters — Social-emotional learning (SEL) is the process of developing the self-awareness, self-control, and interpersonal skills that are vital for school, work and life success. Presented by Jackie Spencer, Behaviour Support Coach, participants examined the basics of social emotional learning and why it matters in the classroom. Mrs. Spencer shared research which reveals that implementing social emotional learning in the classroom can improve achievement by an average of eleven percentile points. It also increases prosocial behaviors (such as kindness, sharing, and empathy), improves student attitudes toward school, and reduces depression and stress among students. Mrs. Spencer provided practical tips for teachers and highlighted the success of Victoria School's Zen Den.

Session #4: How to Help Students Get Things Done! Presenters Val Ruf, Student Services Coordinator, and Kim Unterschute, Educational Psychologist (Provisional), teamed up to lead a well-received, highly practical session for teachers on executive functioning skills for students. Mrs. Ruf and Mrs. Unterschute outlined two specific strategies to help students get started on a task, complete a task, and organize their work.

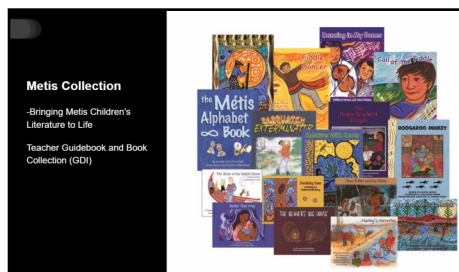


Photo above: Resources shared at the Indigenous Resources for the Classroom Pop-Up PD day.

Session #5: Indigenous Resources for the Classroom — Charlotte Raine, Curriculum Coordinator, Christine Danyluk, Early Learning Coach, and Jess Armstrong, Indigenous Student Success Coach, led Pop-Up PD participants on a review of where to find Indigenous resources for classroom use. Mrs. Raine outlined how to search with the library software to find titles. She highlighted what is available in the ROVER, CBC Curio, and National Film Board collections. Ms. Danyluk shared her work with the Early Years Cultural Project. With the grant Ms. Danyluk obtained, she was able to purchase books and kit materials to make Indigenous Resources kits for early years classrooms based on themes.

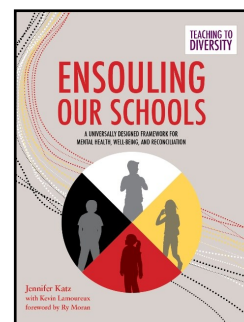
These kits will be available from the GSSD Centralized Library in a special display in the new GSEC location. Ms. Armstrong shared her favourite picks for middle years and high school classrooms. She also suggested materials for teachers to extend their own learning. Teachers indicated they were looking forward to incorporating some of these resources into their units of study for the fall. With the variety of resources presented, teachers will have no trouble finding summer reading material for the coming months.

MAY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

On the May 25, 2021, Professional Development Inservice Day, GSSD staff had the opportunity to hear a keynote address from an award winning scholar, Kevin Lamoureux.

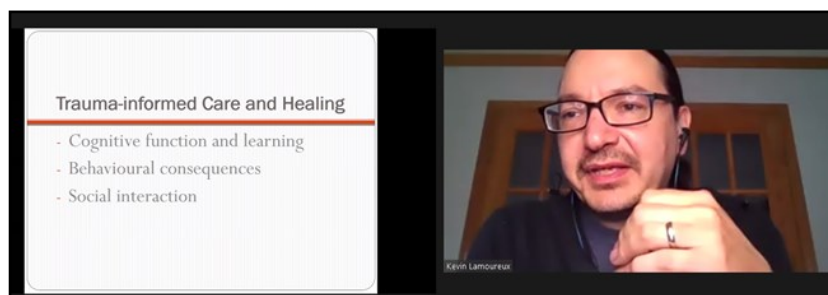
Mr. Lamoureux's most recent book, *Ensouling Our Schools* with Dr. Jennifer Katz, is used by educators while they work to create inclusive spaces for all students. During the 2020-21 school year, the GSSD Admin Group had the pleasure of reading this resource for their book study.

During the May 25 address, Mr. Lamoureux discussed truth and reconciliation and spoke on inclusion, "deconstructing otherness/ humanizing the other," creating relationships, and trauma-informed care and healing.



Lamoureux reminded participants of the critical role all educators play in creating a better path for the future.

Lamoureux captivated participants with his wealth of knowledge, humour and for sharing his truth. Thank you to the Good Spirit Teachers Association for arranging the educational and impactful session.



GSSD TEACHERS LEADING WITH SECONDARY CURRICULUM RENEWAL



The Ministry of Education started the curriculum renewal process for secondary social sciences, secondary arts education, Physical Education 20/30, and secondary practical and applied arts beginning in the fall of 2017. Good Spirit School Division would like to congratulate the following teachers for being involved in the renewal process by sitting on reference committees, writing the new curricula, piloting or vetting the new courses, and participating in province-wide implementation teams. Their leadership is appreciated in the curriculum renewal process.

Reference Committee members Dr. Brandon Needham, Principal of Melville Comprehensive School, is a reference committee member for social science. Dr. Reg Leidl, Teacher with the GSSD Digital Learning School, is a reference committee member for physical education.

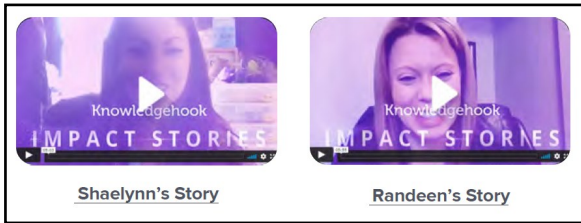
Curriculum Writers The Ministry chooses curriculum writers from the applications they receive across the province. The following teachers have been selected to write their courses: Paul Geerds (Canora Composite School & Invermay School), Design Studies; Wendy Shabatoski (Kamsack Comprehensive Institute), Life Transitions; Cheng Teh (Invermay Mandarin 10, 20, 30); and Donald Coleman (Melville Comprehensive School), Information Processing.

Piloting and Vetting New Courses: The following teachers provided feedback on the new curricula by either serving as pilot teachers or vetting the new curriculum documents: Andrew Rondeau (Melville Comprehensive School), Law; Don Tkachuk (Yorkton Regional High School), Mechanical & Automotive, Autobody; Dalane Lamb (Yorkton Regional High School), Autobody; Jana Martinuk (Yorkton Regional High School), Drafting and Computer Aided Design, and Val Gendreau (Digital Learning School) Accounting.

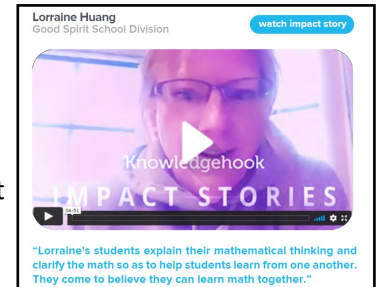
Implementation Team Members: To assist in the implementation of new courses, implementation teams are formed to curate resources and teaching materials for teachers. The Arts Education implementation team has two members from GSSD, Tammy Kostersky, (Dr. Brass) worked with the team for dance, and Jana Martinuk (Yorkton Regional High School & Digital Learning School) worked with the visual arts team.

GSSD TEACHERS FEATURED IN NATION-WIDE MATH PROGRAM PROMOTION

This year, grades 3 – 9 mathematics classrooms in GSSD were registered to use a new mathematics program from Nelson Canada called Knowledgehook. Knowledgehook is a digital platform that promotes formative assessment and teacher inquiry cycles. Teachers run Missions or Gameshows as a diagnostic to determine student understanding of mathematical concepts. The results are used to inform instruction and to help identify and address gaps in knowledge. Teachers can then set up an Impact Challenge to measure student growth. Each year, Nelson Canada interviews teachers from across the country and shares their expertise with all Knowledgehook users nation-wide.



Three GSSD teachers were interviewed on camera and asked to share their experiences and success with Knowledgehook. Featured were Ms. Lorraine Huang, grade 5 teacher at M C Knoll; Ms. Shaelynn Senyk, grade 5 teacher at Davison Elementary, and Randeem Simonsen, grade 8 teacher at



Yorkdale. Ms. Huang had the distinction of being highlighted at the Impact Awards ceremony held virtually on June 1, 2021. Ms. Huang was named the 2020-2021 Impact Award winner for Good Spirit School Division. Ms. Huang shared her knowledge with division teachers at an after-school PD session held on April 27. Teachers appreciated learning about Ms. Huang's recommended approaches and strategies with the Knowledgehook program.

All three interviews are available online at the following links:

- Mrs. L. Huang, M.C. Knoll: [Mrs. Huang's Knowledgehook Impact Story](#)
- Ms. S. Senyk, Davison: [Ms. Senyk's Knowledgehook Impact Story](#)
- Ms. R. Simonsen, Yorkdale: [Ms. Simonsen's Knowledgehook Impact Story](#)

MEET A GSSD BUS DRIVER

Bus Drivers are an integral part within a school division, they are often the first and last person students come in contact with on school days, they ensure the safety of students who ride the bus and they build connections with parents and the Administration at each school.



Over the 2020-21 school year, the Transportation Team has highlighted some of GSSD's incredible drivers.

Allyssa Schlechter, Stockholm area driver, first joined the division as a substitute bus driver in 2016; she became permanent in 2018.

Read below to learn more about her!

What inspired you to be a bus driver?

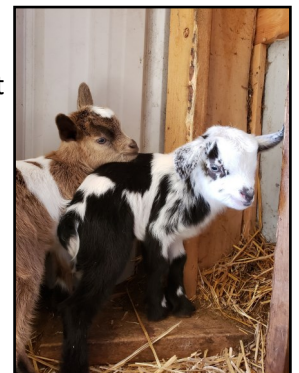
➤ Now that both of my children are in school full time, I work at an office job once or twice a week between my A.M. and P.M. routes. When I'm not at the office I have time for our farm chores, which is great, especially when it is calving season.

Would you recommend becoming a bus driver?

- I would definitely recommend it. You get to work with some of the most incredible, great individuals...the kids! I have some of the best ladies that drive bus along with me in Stockholm too! As a mom, it is a perk that I get to stay home with my boys all summer.

If you could invite anyone to be on your bus, who would it be and why?

- I would invite anyone who is thinking of becoming a bus driver, because sometimes the size of a bus is intimidating. If I can do it, so can you!



"BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS TO CREATE BRIGHT FUTURES"

IF YOU'VE GOT THE DRIVE... WE'VE GOT THE BUS!



**GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION IS SEEKING
BUS DRIVERS THROUGHOUT THE DIVISION!**

CALDER
CANORA
CHURCHBRIDGE
ESTERHAZY
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Focusing in on ...

GSSD GRADUATES AND RETIREES

Though the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged us all, staff retirement and student graduations continue to be important milestones – it symbolizes the many years of hard work, commitment, and perseverance.

It is a celebration of both an ending and a beginning. It is a time to look back on the accomplishments and reminisce about all of the good times had along the way, while

Schools across the division continued to honour their grads in a variety of unique ways such as parades, virtual ceremonies, and outdoor smaller events, while following the provincial COVID-19 guidelines.

Due to current restrictions, the Board of Education was unable to host a large event for GSSD retirees. To acknowledge their years of dedication, they were treated to a supper with their immediate family, they received a copy of a retirement video including photos and messages from colleagues, as well as a gift of their choice.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2021 and **happy retirement** to our 29 retirees!



Photo above: Preeceville School held an outdoor graduation ceremony for the 2021 graduates.



Photo to the right: Yorkton Regional High School held an outdoor ceremony for graduates during the week of June 28, 2021.

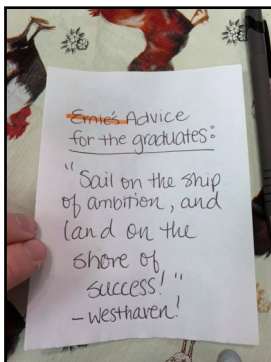


Photo above: Resident of Westhaven Manor in Langenburg were asked to give graduates some advice for their future. Here is one of the submissions.



Photo above: Kamsack Comprehensive Institute held a Virtual Grad Ceremony to honour their graduates.



Photo above: 29 retirees were recognized this year, with a virtual retirement video. Retirees were able to have a meal delivered to their home as well as the recorded virtual retirement banquet.



Photo to the left: Melville Comprehensive School held a virtual viewing graduation for all parents and friends. Previous student Kennedy Ottenbreit gave a special message to the graduates.

GSSD FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

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