

# IN FOCUS

## WITH GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



May/June 2020

### Message from Director of Education/CEO, Quintin Robertson

Now that the 2019-20 school year has drawn to a close, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to the staff and families of the Good Spirit School Division. Together, we have made it through the last several months with a greater appreciation of each other and the value of community.



GSSDs first priority is to ensure that proper safety and well-being measures are in place for our 6,000 plus students and 800 plus staff in the fall. We have formulated a detailed Return to School Plan and as further direction is provided by the Chief Medical Health Office and Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan, our plan will be adjusted accordingly.

We are committed to using what we have learned since 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 past several months, and 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, 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.

## 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

## 2020 PROVINCIAL SKILLS COMPETITION

Yorkton Regional High School students competed virtually at the 2020 Provincial Skills Competition. See the amazing results below:



Photo above:  
Gr. 12 student,  
Mya Lauer

➤ Grade 12 student, **Mya Lauer** earned three gold medals in Hairstyling: Braiding, Grad Ready Long Hair Style, and Quarantine Short Hair Style. The virtual competition included creating video tutorials and completed finished looks. You may view the video by clicking [here](#). Lauer also took home a Silver in Beauty Therapy.

➤ Grade 12 student, **Burke Sebastian** received a Gold in Automotive Technology.

➤ Grade 12 student, **Colby Kirsch** took home a Gold in Photography.



Photo above:  
Gr. 12 student Burke Sebastian

➤ Grade 12 student, **Jaylin Ross** just missed the podium with a 4th place finish in Job Search.

➤ Grade 11 student, **Kaybrie Lutz** received a Gold in Beauty Therapy. In this category, competitors were required to create a video tutorial on how to perform a complete manicure/pedicure and had to create a pop-art makeup look on themselves. To finish off, competitors were asked to submit a photo collage of their work.



Photo above:  
Gr. 12 student,  
Colby Kirsch

➤ Grade 9 student, **Isabella Easton** received a Silver in Public Speaking.



Photos above:  
Gr. 11 student, Kaybrie Lutz's  
winning look

The top competitors at the provincial level were to move on to nationals in Vancouver, British Columbia, but those were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Congratulations YRHS students!

## TERRY FOX FUNDRAISER

The results from the 2019 Terry Fox School Run are in and it has been announced that **23 schools** from Good Spirit School Division raised an incredible **\$31,058.87** for cancer research!

Thank to all staff and students for contributing to this amazing cause!

***“I want to set an example that  
will never be forgotten.”  
- Terry Fox***



## INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING



Dr. Brass Elementary School will be offering a variety of **new, innovative** learning opportunities for the 2020-2021 school year. These unique programs focus on play and passion. A **Sports academy** initially focusing on Hockey skills and an **Arts academy**, with a primary focus on dance and performing arts are available for students in grades 4 to 8 to apply into.

Current Dr. Brass students will have the opportunity to partake in one of three lifestyle courses:



- Growing Citizens - bringing learning to life and life to learning;
- Thunderbird Lodge - appreciation for First Nation cultures; and,
- Building Active Leaders -taking learning outside the classroom walls.

Dr. Brass School Administrator, Noel Budz and Vice Principal, Elora Lake are looking forward to implementing these new programs and exploring



the world of play and passion with Dr. Brass students.

\*To learn more about what Innovative Programming looks like at Dr. Brass School visit: [Innovative Learning Information](#).

## 2020 BOOK LOVE



Congratulations to **Mr. Dan Coomber**, grade 6 teacher at **Davison Elementary School** in Melville, who was recently awarded a grant from the 2020 Book Love Foundation. The grant will allow Mr. Coomber to purchase books for his classroom library.

The Book Love Foundation awarded 68 classroom library grants totaling \$86,000 to teachers in the United States and Canada this year. Since 2013, the Book Love Foundation has given away \$590,000 in grants to more than 270 teachers from 41 states and six provinces. Each grant winner is a classroom teacher who works to create a lasting love of reading in all students.

Mr. Coomber is committed to building a library of current and diverse books in his collection.

**Congratulations!**





## MMIWG WINDOW PROJECT

Earlier this year, in partnership with the Yorkton Tribal Council (YTC), Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Yorkton, students at the Yorkton Regional High School participated in a program called "Engaging Young Leaders."

In this program, students were given the opportunity to create women in red dresses in honour of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. These were displayed at YTC's justice conference in the winter.



During COVID-19, as a way for all students to take part, Miss Katherine Koskie, YRHS teacher, adapted online-friendly patterns for students to easily create at home.

These unique designs adorned windows on May 5, 2020, Canada's National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.



## RECONCILIATION CONVERSATIONS

A few Good Spirit School Division students were recently featured on Experiences Canada for their Reconciliation Conversations program.

The featured video, "**Welcome to Society**" is a poem written by Winter Quewezance, a former GSSD student. Kierra Delowski, a grade 9 student from the Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS), created the digital artwork presented in the video, and Xandria Checkosis, a grade 10 student at the YRHS, is one of the narrators. Two more Indigenous youth, Precious Cadotte and Kreeo Dawn Taypotat, from the community are featured as narrators. This video can be used to bridge discussions in the classroom around why reconciliation is important in society.



Photo above: Part of the "Welcome to Society" video on Youtube,

Reconciliation Conversations is a program put on by Experiences Canada that features prominent Indigenous speakers from across Canada. Each week, speakers discuss a number of topics:

- ◆ Introduction to Reconciliation;
- ◆ Language and Culture, Health and Wellbeing;
- ◆ Environment and Relationship to the Land; and,
- ◆ Education and Economic Opportunities.

Katherine Koskie, a Reconciliation Ambassador for the program, is part of creating discussions around reconciliation and developing educational resources for people to use. This video was created under the guiding discussion of "Health and Wellbeing." Each live webinar is posted to Experiences Canada's website, and aligning educational resources can be found by accessing the following link: [Experience Canada Resources](#).

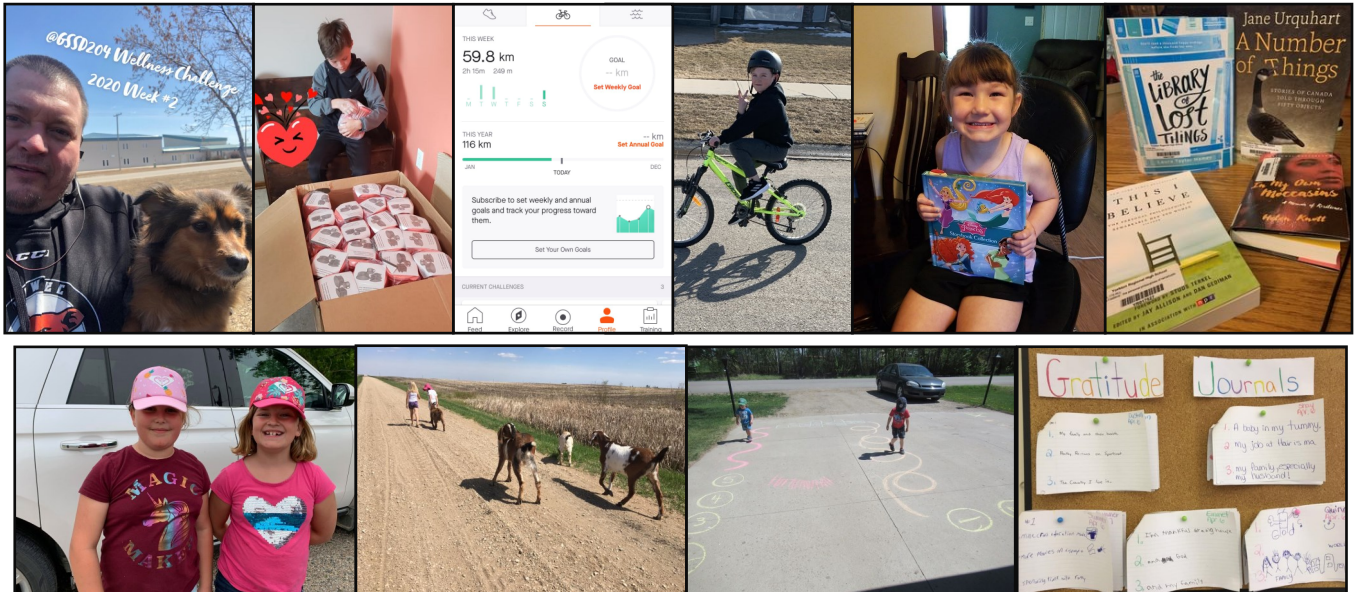
[Link to the video featuring GSSD students](#)

## WELLNESS CHALLENGE WRAP UP

Wow! 12 weeks of the GSSD Wellness Challenge has officially wrapped up.

From writing in a daily gratitude journal, acts of kindness, and enjoying the great outdoors, GSSD staff and families chose to make wellness a priority in their lives.

The final wellness challenge saw staff and families walk, run, roll or ride for the 2020 grads. Over **1,300 KMs** were logged for the graduating class of 2020!



**Thank you to everyone who participated in the Wellness Challenges!**

## LEARNING HAS NO LIMITS

Summer is here, but the learning doesn't have to stop! Check out these ways to incorporate learning into every day life!

LEARNING IDEAS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE TECHNOLOGY!

### 5 WAYS TO BUILD MATH INTO YOUR CHILD'S DAY!

- Bake something together.**  
Ask your child: How many chocolate chips do you think it will take to fill one cup? How many for 1/2 cup? Count together and see how close you came to the right answer!
- Measure, count, and record.**  
Most kids love stopwatches, and watching the seconds tick by gives them opportunities to practice counting. Measure distances and heights. Count jumping jacks, push-ups, or consecutive kicks of a soccer ball.
- Build something together.**  
Legos and other building toys are wonderful tools for incorporating both numbers and spatial thinking into playtime.
- Plan dinner or a party.**  
Whether you're planning a party or just getting ready for a family dinner, there are plenty of math concepts involved. Have your child help set the table and count out the plates, napkins and silverware.
- Mix in math to your bedtime reading.**  
Most families read to their children at night. Why not add a math problem to the mix?

**LEARNING HAS NO LIMITS!**

LEARNING HAS NO LIMITS!

### EXAMPLES OF LEARNING ACTIVITIES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE TECHNOLOGY:

- Play a board game. Then start a project to create your own board game.
- Make a sculpture with recycled materials.
- Build a homemade bird feeder. Track the birds that are observed.
- Draw a map of your home and prepare an emergency exit plan.
- Look through old family albums/photos together and talk about the memories together or have your child generate questions from the photos.
- Try to use a new vocabulary word every day.
- Make a time capsule together.

For more tips and tricks to continue learning all summer long visit: [Learning at Home](#)



## SUMMER READING

# SUMMER READING WITH SIGMUND BROUWER

Let's keep students reading this summer with Sigmund Brouwer's Story Ninja Book Club!



Watch Sigmund's tutorial on navigating the site!

Sign in: [gssdstoryninja@gssd.com](mailto:gssdstoryninja@gssd.com)  
Password: [gssdstoryninja](#)



### FOR OTHER EXTRAORDINARY READING OPPORTUNITIES:

Reading fun for kids from Canada's public libraries

PARKLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY  
<http://parklandlibrary.ca/>

SCHOLASTIC SUMMER READ A PALOOZA  
READ · CELEBRATE · GIVE

Don't forget about your school library ebooks!



GSSD Students - login with your chromebook credentials: first initial/last initial

Example: dp 257

Password: same as Chromebook



## 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.

## OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

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. To accomplish this, we must always look for new and innovative ways of doing our work.

During the 2020-21 school year, several projects will be realized. GSSD will work towards completion of **Phase 2** of a consolidation project including a large training center with breakout spaces, centralized library, and office space for central support staff. GSSD will complete the implementation of HR, Payroll, and Accounting software that will lead to operating efficiencies at the school and divisional levels as well as monetary savings. Enhancements and refinements will be achieved throughout the school year. GSSD has also invested considerable time and effort in reviewing the organizational structure of the central office. We have reviewed several Saskatchewan School Divisions to determine how to maximize our human capital at the division level. By the fall of 2020, GSSD will have fully implemented the recommendations of the organizational review.

To view Good Spirit's 2020-21 Budget Report, visit our website at [www.gssd.ca](http://www.gssd.ca) > Media Room > 2019-2020 (under Reports) > [2020-21 Budget Report](#).

## 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.

## MOSAIC EXTREME SCHOOL MAKEOVER CHALLENGE

The Mosaic Extreme School Makeover Challenge began in 2006 as a way to encourage grassroots initiatives to help improve student nutrition. They recently announced the schools that will be receiving \$10,000 towards student nutrition.

**Kamsack Comprehensive Institute (KCI)** is a recipient of the **\$10,000** which will be used to provide and support outdoor education. The funds will also provide an opportunity for KCI to access Elders who can share Saulteaux teachings and begin engaging parents in activities/workshops.

The logo for the Mosaic Extreme School Makeover Challenge. It features the word "Mosaic" in a stylized font with a blue and white geometric pattern to its left. To the right of "Mosaic" is the text "EXTREME SCHOOL MAKEOVER CHALLENGE" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. A white fork icon is positioned between "SCHOOL" and "MAKEOVER". The entire logo is set against a dark teal background.

**Congratulations KCI staff, students and community!**



## 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.

### GSSD TEACHERS LEADING WITH SECONDARY CURRICULUM RENEWAL

The Ministry of Education began the secondary curriculum renewal process in 2017. In the 2019-2020 school year an implementation team supported the first year of the new Physical Education 20/30 curricula, the secondary arts education curricula were finalized, and work progressed on many secondary practical and applied arts courses.

Good Spirit School Division is proud and pleased to have **nine** teachers involved in the renewal process sitting on reference committees, writing the new curricula, supporting implementation, vetting and piloting the new courses. GSSD wishes to congratulate the following teachers for their involvement:

Curriculum	Session	Participant
Autobody	Vetting	Dalane Lamb Don Tkachuk
Design Studies	Curriculum Writing	Paul Geerds
Drafting & CAD	Vetting	Jana Martinuk
Law	Piloting	Andrew Rondeau
Life Transitions	Curriculum Writing	Wendy Shabatoski
Mechanical & Automotive	Vetting	Don Tkachuk
Physical Education	Implementation	Amanda Kornaga Reg Leidl
Social Science	Reference Committee	Brandon Needham

### MAY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

"Feed the positivity everyday"  
- Jon Gordon

The division wide Professional Development day on May 19, 2020, saw almost **700 GSSD staff** members on a Zoom call with Jon Gordon, a world-renowned author and motivational speaker.

A GSSD staff member said it best - *"Thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated Jon Gordon's uplifting presentation. We are all equipped to overcome challenges and address times of uncertainty with hope, positivity and strength."*

During his message, Jon asked the audience to pick a word that would drive them to be their best.. check out some of the words that staff chose!

"Commitment"      "Inspiration"      "Courage"      "Faith"  
"Meraki"      "Trust"      "Balance"      "Believe"





## Focusing in on ...

## NEW BEGINNINGS

**March 2020** will be remembered for schools closing across the province in the attempt to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Staff and students walked out of their buildings with the hope of returning within a few short weeks but they were told that school would be suspended indefinitely. It was during this time that staff and students exemplified the GSSD value of “**perseverance**”, demonstrating the tenacity and persistence necessary to do something that was difficult but being determined to not give up. Instead of attending classes with friends, students were given the choice to continue their learning through a virtual environment. Staff discovered new ways of delivering supplemental learning, engaging with students, and sending “summer farewell” messages.

For months staff wondered what would become of their retirement and students their high school graduation day, the day which under normal circumstances, would have been celebrated with family, friends, and community. However, under the guidelines established by the Government of Saskatchewan, events needed to look different. Though the Covid-19 pandemic has challenged us all, your retirement and graduation are important milestones – it symbolizes your many years of hard work and commitment. **Congratulations** to the graduating class of 2020 and **happy retirement** to our 2020 retirees!

Many community members honoured their grads in a variety of unique ways including organizing a parade, displaying grad banners, etc. School staff recognized their grads by video recording virtual ceremonies. Many schools decided to hold an event in the future, when it is safe to do so.

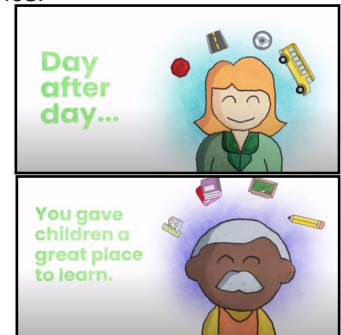
Because the Board of Education was unable to hold a face-to-face retirement banquet, retirees were acknowledged in a different way. On June 25, 2020, Trustees and Senior Administration made a home delivery to each retiree. They were provided with a meal to enjoy with their immediate family, a copy of a retirement video, which included photos and messages from colleagues, and a gift of their choice.



*Photo to the left:  
The town of Churchbridge and the Churchbridge Public School Community Council sponsored the display of banners around Churchbridge for the class of 2020*



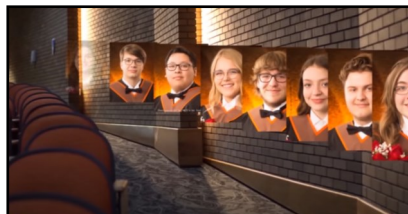
*Photo above:  
Esterhazy High School held a Grad 2020 Online Ceremony*



*Photos above:  
Retirees received a special video recognizing how valuable they are to GSSD*



*Photo above:  
The Town of Preeceville held a parade for the Preeceville School graduating class of 2020*



*Photo above:  
Yorkton Regional High School held a virtual commencement program*



*Photo above: Melville Comprehensive School held a virtual grad which included a Principal and Valedictorian address*

### 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