

IN FOCUS

WITH GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



September/October 2018

Good Spirit School Division 2018-19 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, 2018 meeting. GSSD's 2018-19 [Strategic Plan](#) features two new Student & Family goals which are related to student attendance and the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action (Section 63). The division's Strategic Plan is reflective of the provincial [Education Sector Strategic Plan](#).

"Strategic planning allows us to focus our time and resources on goals which ultimately improve student learning and well-being", Director of Education Quintin Robertson said. "The plan holds all staff accountable and encourages collaboration."

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, at least 90% of students exiting Kindergarten in GSSD will be ready for learning in the primary grades.
- By June 30, 2020, at least 85% of GSSD students in grades 1 to 6 will be at or above grade level in reading.
- By June 30, 2020, at least 80% of GSSD students in grades 4, 7 & 9 will be at or above grade level in writing.
- By June 30, 2020, at least 80% of GSSD students in grades 2, 5 & 8 will be at or above grade level in math.
- By June 30, 2020, GSSD will reduce the number of students reporting high levels of anxiety by 5%.
- By June 30, 2020, GSSD will achieve an 85% three-year graduation rate.
- By June 30, 2020, GSSD will achieve an 90% five-year graduation rate.
- By June 30, 2020, GSSD students in grades 4 to 12 will report at least a 5% increase in student intellectual engagement.
- By June 30, 2020, all GSSD students will achieve at least a 5% increase in student attendance.
- By June 30, 2020 GSSD will promote empathy, respect and understanding in teaching related to residential schools and aboriginal history as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action (Section 63).

PROVINCIAL CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP



Canora Composite School's cross country athletes brought home silver medals from the 2018 Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association (SHSAA) Provincial Cross-Country Championship. The provincials took place October 13 in Delisle, Saskatchewan.

*Back Row: Mr. Lowes (coach), Jacob Danyluk, Juan Mesa-Castaneda, Brendon Landstad, Hudson Bailey, Dawson Zuravloff
Front Row: Clay Sleeva, Jake Statchuk, Elley Tomcala, Lexie Biletski, Mrs. Kitchen (coach)
Missing: Grady Wolkowski*

STUDENT & FAMILY

INTERNAL PROCESSES

PEOPLE CAPACITY

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

PROVINCIAL GOLF RESULTS

Carlie Moore and Amber Nicholauson from Esterhazy High School won the SHSAA Provincial silver medal for Girls' Team Golf held at North Battleford. This is the third year in a row that they've won a provincial medal having previously won gold in 2016 and bronze in 2017. Carlie also had an awesome individual performance finishing a personal best 6th overall. Congratulations Carlie and Amber!



Photo above:
(left to right)
Amber Nicholauson & Carlie Moore

YORKTON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

The Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) Raiders Gridders football team had a perfect regular season with a 6-0 record. The team scored 345 points...a league record! The Gridders have only allowed 37 points against them this season. The City Championship semi-finals took place Saturday, October 20, where they defeated the Moose Jaw Peacock with a 35-8 win. The Raiders then finished off a perfect season with a 46-17 win over the Moose Jaw Central Cyclones. The Raiders are looking for their next big win when they take on the Saskatoon Bishop Mahoney Saints in the SHSAA 3A 12-man provincial semifinal in Yorkton on November 3rd.



Photo above:
The YRHS Raider Gridders 2018 team

BOYS VOLLEYBALL



Melville Comprehensive School (MCS) is hosting the Saskatchewan Provincial 4A Boys Volleyball Championship on November 23 & 24.

Head out to MCS to support and cheer on their senior boys team!

PASS, PUNT & KICK REGIONALS

Columbia School was fortunate to have 12 students compete at the Regional Pass, Punt & Kick Competition in Melville on October 3rd. The students represented Columbia School with great participation and sportsmanship. A special thank goes out to Mrs. Raelynn Dutcheshen for hosting the local competition and practice for students to develop their skills and compete. Students and staff would also like to thank Mr. John Svenson and the Melville Comprehensive School girls and boys football teams for hosting this event.



Photo above:
Top row: Willow Krawetz, Dexter Candillo, Tristan Drotar, Shikendra Kennedy, Avery Sudsbear, Cam Reaney & Liam Larson.
Bottom row: Aiden Kakakaway, Christian Fleury, Annika Clarke, Olivia Keys & Bailey Tilford.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL



Congratulations to the Norquay Junior Girls Volleyball team for capturing the Conference Championship on home court on October 18!

M.C. KNOLL CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

M.C. Knoll School first opened its doors 20 years ago. To celebrate this milestone, M.C. Knoll School staff came up with the “20 for 20” initiative; 20 acts of kindness for the community of Yorkton. Community groups that could use additional help with a project are asked to contact the school.

The first act of kindness saw students serving coffee and snacks to former staff and board members in the front commons area of the school. This area recently received new tables and chairs so that parents may stop in, have a coffee and see their child in the school setting. For their second act of kindness, staff and students collected non-perishables for Farm Credit Canada’s Drive Away Hunger campaign.

Through this campaign M.C. Knoll staff & students collected 1,016 meals for families in Yorkton and surrounding areas.

Be on the look-out for 18 other 20 acts of kindness from M.C. Knoll School!



Photo above:
M.C. Knoll staff & students collected 1,016 meals for families in Yorkton & area.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY RECOGNITION

Orange Shirt Day began in Williams Lake, B.C. in 2013 during a commemoration event at a local residential school. A story was told about a young student named Phyllis who had her brand-new orange shirt taken away on her first day at the school. The orange shirt is a symbol of the many losses experienced by thousands of students and families due to residential schools.

Orange Shirt Day is recognized annually on September 30. This is a chance to provide all Canadians with an opportunity to participate in a collective act of

reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. This year, GSSD students and staff were encouraged to wear orange and to reflect on residential schools on Thursday, September 27. To learn more about how Orange Shirt Day originated, read the powerful message of Phyllis’s Story: [the original orange shirt.](#)



Photo above:
Cultural Advocate, Mr. Andrew Quewezance, helped the students at Macdonald School set up a tipi and spoke about his experiences as a residential school survivor.



Photo above:
Grayson School



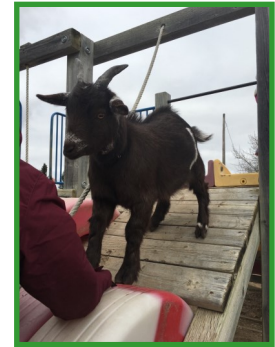
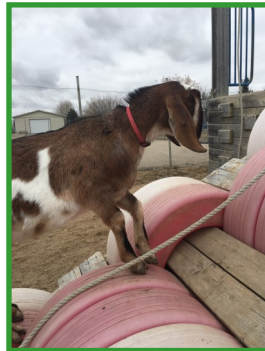
Photo above:
Sturgis Composite School



Photo above:
Norquay School

GRAYSON TWEETING GOATS

Have you heard of Larry, Red and Blue? They are the Goats in Residence at Grayson School! Red and Blue are both Nubian goats who were bottle fed by the students at Grayson School since they were two days old. Larry is a Nigerian Dwarf goat who joined the herd at two months old. Since May of the last school year all three goats have been joining the students outside at recess. All students have been involved in creating a safe and appropriate space to house the goats while they are at school. The Grade 5/6/7 class last year painted a shed and built a corral for them while the Grade 7/8/9 Practical Applied Arts class shingled the shed roof. All students had an opportunity to bottle feed the boys and now they take turns feeding and watering them. During recess the goats join the students on the playground to run, jump and play and then they go back into their pen during class time. Their adventures have been a highlight for the students and the school community; their shenanigans are being shared through their very own twitter page! Through hosting the goat twitter feed, students are learning about digital citizenship, word choice and how to use hashtags. You can follow them at @WeGoatYourBack to see what they're up to this school year.



SASKATCHEWAN STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Over 800 student leaders from across the province gathered at Langenburg Central School (LCS) for the 2018 Saskatchewan Student Leadership Conference (SSLC), "Don't Stop Believing."

Two years ago, teachers and students at LCS won the bid to host the annual SSLC conference. The event sees Student Representative Council members from all across the province join together to network, build leadership skills and have some fun along the way.

The exciting two day event included breakout sessions, an Amazing Race Challenge and local keynote addresses by Author and Advocate, Katie Bergman, Canadian Country Music Association Award Winner, Jess Moskaluke and 2010 Olympic Gold Medalist and Amazing Race Canada Host, Jon Montgomery.

Stepping out of your comfort zone, not giving up and believing that you can make a difference were strong messages students heard during the conference.

With over 39 sessions to choose from, students were given an abundance of advice from "Following a Dream" with former NHL player, Jeff Odgers to "A Taste of Colour: An Introduction to Personality Dimensions" from Kaleidoscope Consulting.



Along with the conference, staff and student delegates were treated to the LCS' Rock Band—taking it back to the classics with show stoppers like "Bad Moon Rising" and "Go Johnny Go".

The final night saw students dressed up in their best rock star gear as they danced the night away at the banquet.



Each year, students and staff attending schools of the conference are encouraged to make a contribution to a deserving project or group. This year Langenburg Central School and Churchbridge Public School donated \$3,000 to the Family & Friends Community Foundation's Breast Cancer Awareness and Education committee.

GSSD would like to recognize staff, students and community members of Langenburg and surrounding area for the enthusiasm and dedication which made the conference a reality.



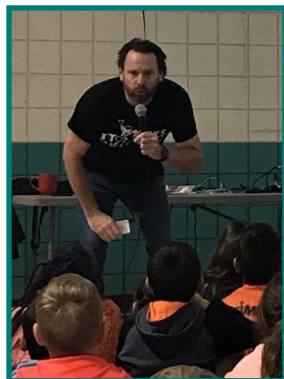
INTRODUCING GSSD WRITER IN RESIDENCE, SIGMUND BROUWER:

Best-selling author Sigmund Brouwer has been contracted to act as GSSD's writer in residence for the 2018-19 school year. He kicked off the partnership in September bringing his Rock 'n' Roll Literacy tour to every school in the division.

Brouwer delivered a high-energy presentation where he emphasized the importance of delivering a message through story. He encouraged students to use writing to convey their messages. Backed by some motivational rock 'n' roll music coupled with samples from his own work Brouwer invited classrooms to engage with him over the course of the year on a creative writing journey. Brouwer will be connecting with classrooms via live video link where he will review student work and give writing tips. Students have the option of reviewing and giving Brouwer feedback on his latest novel set 13,000 years ago at the end of the last North American ice age. In addition, Brouwer has supplied open access to over 50 of his eBooks. He will be joining book clubs as students discuss his books.

With close to 4 million books in print, Sigmund Brouwer has won the Christy Book of the Year and the Arthur Ellis award. He has been nominated for two TD Children's Literature Awards and the Red Maple Award.

GSSD school libraries have 500 copies of his books in their collections including his popular sports fiction series as well as titles for beginning readers. Brouwer will be back in person in GSSD schools in February and then again in June.



INVITATION TO THE THRONE SPEECH

The Honourable Warren Kaeding invited students from Melville Comprehensive School to Regina for the Throne Speech. The students spoke with Minister Kaeding in his office, then had floor seats for the Throne Speech. Afterwards, they accompanied Minister Kaeding to a reception down the hall where they were introduced to the Lieutenant Governor, as well as a few members of the Cabinet and Legislative Assembly. The day concluded at the Government House for another reception hosted by Lieutenant Governor Malloy.



Kaeding and his colleagues were eager to chat with the students about their post-secondary plans and ways to keep young professionals in Saskatchewan. Though this was a non-partisan opportunity for the students to observe a unique aspect of the Westminster system, Minister Kaeding spent the vast majority of his day with the group and was a tremendously gracious host, even inviting the students to return to the Legislative for the budget announcement in the spring.

Staff and students thought it was a very interesting day!

*Photo above:
MCS students Ethan Braun, Tapanga Brooks, Premier of Saskatchewan
Scott Moe and MCS Teacher Mr. Andrew Rondeau*

KINDERGARTEN FAMILY ENGAGEMENT DAY

'If You Bring Your Family to School' and K.I.S.S. (Kids Invite Someone Special) to 'Share Your Family Story With Us' were just a couple of many exciting events on our Family Engagement Day in GSSD Kindergarten classrooms on October 12th.

Families were engaged in a variety of activities such as creating fall wreaths, writing family poems, and scrapbooking family photos into placemats, posters, or classroom albums. Kindergarten families at P.J. Gillen School in Esterhazy even painted a board as the backdrop for their family page. At Saltcoats School, parents had the opportunity to experience 'Kindergarten for a Day'. In the Preeceville Kindergarten classroom the families made playdough together and experienced how playdough can be used for many learning activities. Families across the division were able to learn more about their school and meet staff that their children will be working with for many years to come. As part of some Family Engagement Days, there was a potluck lunch or snack, and at some, the families prepared lunch together. Sturgis Composite School extended their Kindergarten scrapbooking event to the entire school during the Open House the following week, and invited all families to create a page for their child. They even had grandparents helping!



*Photo above:
Preeceville School*

The families loved the opportunity to be a part of their children's school. Siblings and grandparents also had fun. The feedback from parents was so positive from every school!

"This is really nice. We don't get to do stuff like this at home"

"That was one of the best open houses.... must've been the scrapbooking thing! Super excellent!"

"It was a wonderful morning we got to spend with the kids. It was great to see the other families that our children come home talking about and their parents. I think it was a great time to have it, a month after they have started school, so the kids are more comfortable with their new friends and the school."



*Photo above:
Family Engagement Day at
Canora Junior Elementary School*

Teachers found this experience to be a great opportunity to build relationships with their students and families.

"I can see how doing this regularly just connects you so much more to your families."

"I learned so much about my students and my families that I didn't know before!"

Many teachers are excited to continue building relationships and engaging parents in teaching and learning.



Photo above:
P.J. Gillen School



Photo to the left:
Sturgis Composite School



Photo above:
Invermay School



Photo above:
Davison School

HOME-BASED EDUCATION INFORMATION NIGHT

The Good Spirit School Division has approximately 120 students from around the division enrolled in home-based education. During the month of October, GSSD hosted two Parent Information evenings for home-based educators and their children, in the communities of Yorkton and Preeceville. The intent of the evening was to:

- build connections with home-based families;
- to raise awareness regarding extra-curricular and co-curricular opportunities; and,
- discuss programming options which exist for high school aged students.

Another parent information night will be held during the spring of 2019 to assist home-based families with any questions they might have regarding programming grants, education plans, portfolio submissions, and high school programming for the 2019-20 school year. All home-based families are welcome to attend.

STAYING WARM BEFORE THE SNOW FALLS

Students in Mrs. Renee Kindiak's 6K class at Yorkdale Central School, in Yorkton were given handmade toques and mitts by one special great-grandmother! So much time must have gone into this wonderful gift. The students and staff would like to send a special "Thank you! "



LOCAL SCHOOLS ATTEND THE CANADIAN STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) recently attended the Canadian Student Leadership Conference (CSLC) in Edmonton along with 41 students from the Good Spirit School Division. Attending this conference was the first step of what will be many towards 2020 when YRHS will host CSLC in Yorkton. Students from YRHS, Canora, Churchbridge, Esterhazy, Grayson, Invermay and Langenburg schools were selected to attend the conference through an application process that involved recommendations from their teachers and questions related to the leadership qualities of each student. These students will be in their grade 12 year when the conference returns to YRHS and they will serve as the Spirit Leaders for that conference.



While in Edmonton, students were able to see a number of keynote speakers including Keith Hawkins, Michel Chikwanine, Chris Hadfield, and Phil Boyte. Each speaker shared inspirational stories and messages about being yourself, supporting others and overcoming challenges that the students will be able to apply to their lives each and every day. Keith Hawkins drove home the message about the importance of telling people how much they are appreciated. Mr. Roby Sharpe, a teacher at YRHS, was asked to share with the crowd of 800 Canadian teens what he would say to his father Mr. Barry Sharpe who started “all of this” for students in Canada. For those unfamiliar with the history of CSLC, the very first CSLC was hosted and organized by Mr. Barry Sharpe in Yorkton in 1985, and has continued to grow each and every year since. This moment was one filled with emotion for both Mr. Roby Sharpe and for our students who were able to witness and experience the impact that his father has made for students across Canada. The power of this moment is one that students of the GSSD will remember and use to inspire them in their journey towards bringing CSLC home to Yorkton.



In speaking with students after the conference they report that the conference impacted them in how they look at the world and how they view themselves in that world. Anara Morrison, YRHS student, says that this conference is, “hands down the best thing I’ve ever experienced,” and that, “if you keep a positive attitude and open mind, you can accomplish anything.” Alex Hodgson, also of YRHS, notes that, “no matter what the situation is, you can always make a contribution and that if you don’t put yourself out there, then you are missing out on amazing opportunities.” Katelyn Kraushaar, MCS student, commented that, “it showed me that no matter how much you struggle, there’s always something good that will come out of it. It also taught me to never give up, and to never judge someone else, as they may be going through something as well.”



These same students were also participants in MGI: The Journey training upon returning home. This training saw students learn how to problem solve and work together as a team during a number of challenging situations. Throughout the day students grew together as a team and experienced a sense of synergy as they

realized that together they were able to accomplish some pretty remarkable tasks that would have been all but impossible as individuals. Each student was able to realize that true teamwork means working together in pursuit of a common goal. It is safe to say that the students involved in this journey have already experienced some pretty remarkable growth and change. It will be exciting to see how this journey and the road to 2020 will continue to shape and influence the young leaders that they are becoming.



ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE GRANT

Each school year the Ministry of Education accepts applications for grants from school divisions to pursue developments in the education for English as an Additional Language (EAL) students.

Good Spirit School Division was awarded a grant for the 2017-18 school year to create a toolkit for Grade 1-6 classroom teachers regarding methods to support EAL learners using the Balanced Literacy model, which is the balanced framework used in our EAL classrooms. The grant money provided by the Ministry allowed Good Spirit to pull together a group of six teacher leaders from around our division, who participated in two days of professional development regarding EAL learners. These teachers were tasked with creating resources for their fellow teachers to support EAL learners across the school division. Our new Reading and Writing Continuums and Recommended Resource lists, which are posted on the Portal, were the result of the work of this project.

On October 25, the project work was presented to school divisions across the province through a Ministry hosted webinar. The GSSD project has received positive feedback from around the province.

Thank you to the teachers who helped to make this project possible: Sue Drader, EAL Coach, Tenille Flick from P.J. Gillen School in Esterhazy, Allison Rice from Macdonald School in Stockholm, Dallas Burym from Preeceville School, Robin Kapitoler and Shawna Rosowsky from Columbia School in Yorkton, and Alyssa Kuschak from M.C. Knoll School in Yorkton.

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.

CONSOLIDATION PROJECT

On October 22, Good Spirit School Division took possession of its future education complex in the former Yorkton Plumbing & Heating facility located in the RM of Orkney. GSSD will continue with the preparations for renovations to the facility along with the amalgamation of the Sturgis, Yorkton, and Kamsack bus garage facilities. GSSD is working closely with the communities of Yorkton and Kamsack to liquidate the Fairview Education Centre, as well as the Yorkton and Kamsack bus garages. Future collaboration will occur with the community of Sturgis and area schools to re-purpose the Sturgis bus garage into a learning facility.

“This new venture is an exciting opportunity in the history of Good Spirit School Division,” Board Chair Lois Smandych said. “This project is about ensuring we are using facilities most efficiently.”

Since 2006, GSSD has continued to operate with multiple buildings acquired through the amalgamation of legacy school divisions. GSSD has continued to operate its entire original infrastructure such as garages and maintenance shops. While many divisions built new central administration offices, GSSD decided to renovate a pre-existing building to service its needs. While these choices were seen as cost saving measures, they have limited the division’s ability to address inequities in workload, inefficiencies within departments, and failing infrastructure in various locations across the division. As a result, the division has incurred increased operating costs through the continued operation of multiple facilities.



*Photo above:
Former Yorkton Plumbing & Heating
facility, now a GSSD facility*

“This exciting new project will mean significant cost savings for our division,” Director of Education Quintin Robertson said.

The consolidation into this facility will result in reduced building operation costs, increase in staffing efficiencies, and when combined with rental income will allow GSSD to save in excess of \$2 million over a 10 year period. This cost savings is equivalent to the proposed upgrades of GSSDs current facilities outlined within the non-school facility audit conducted by 1080 Architecture (formerly PMGM).

Ultimately, the consolidation project will enhance the division’s ability to provide the supports and services required to ensure “Learning Without Limits....Achievement For All”.



*Photo above:
Bus garage area at the new facility*



*Photo to the left:
Front view of the new facility*

GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION GRANTS

GSSD’s Program Benefit Coordinator Dianna Kozak researches and applies for grants to enhance school programs across the division. The grants below have been approved for the 2018-19 School Year.

Columbia School:

Painted Hand Community Development Corporation-“First Nations Beading Group”-\$2,000

PHCDC-“Columbia School Indigenous Language Club”-\$1,000

PHCDC-“Breakfast Program”-\$2,500

Dr. Brass School:

President’s Choice Children’s Charity-“Breakfast Program”-\$2,000

Victoria School:

President’s Choice Children’s Charity-“Breakfast Program”-\$5,000

Yorkton Regional High School:

Painted Hand Community Development Corporation-“Indigenous Drumming and Back Up Singing Group”-\$2,500

Justice and Reconciliation Fund Committee of the United Church of Canada-“Indigenous Crafting”-\$2,500



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 demonstrate a commitment to the establishment of new and reaffirmed partnerships.

GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

“GSSD will demonstrate a commitment to provide professional development and training to its staff.” As you will see outlined in the table below, 26 professional development opportunities have been offered so far.

As part of the 2018-19 budget process, GSSDs Administrative Council worked collaboratively to identify ways of reducing expenses, so that additional supports could be designated for use in classrooms. One of the areas that was identified as a way to gain efficiencies was in the area of substitute teacher costs. In order to support this decision, August 29 and October 9 were designated as professional development days for teaching staff as it is a non-student day and substitute teachers were not required.

PD Event	Date	Topic / Outcome
New Teacher Orientation	August 24	The day was designed to assist teachers who are new to GSSD in understanding what our division 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 at GSSD.
Seesaw Training	August 28	Seesaw allows teachers to enter outcomes/Essential Learning Experiences and rubrics among other engaging and cool features that “give parents a seat in a classroom without physically being present”. Teachers were offered support from Digital Learning Coach Mrs. Michelle Morley and had their accounts set up prior to school start up so they were able to share information with families.
15 Passenger Van Training	August 29	The training offered by the Saskatchewan Safety Council, allowed approved staff to drive 15 passenger vans to transport students to and from extra-curricular activities. Upon completion of the class/in vehicle training, participants were certified for five years.
Distributed Learning Professional Learning Community (PLC)	August 29	Distributed Learning Teachers in GSSD met to discuss several topics surrounding the development and delivery of online courses for the upcoming year. The PLC spent a significant amount of time discussing best practices and assessment within our courses. Shelby Budd, the online principal from Chinook School Division, joined the group via Zoom Web Conferencing to lead them through the challenges and opportunities of providing effective instruction and assessment in the online mode of instruction
Growing Independent Learners in a Multi-graded Setting	August 29	Multi-graded classrooms may sometimes feel like an exercise in crowd control. Having students rely on peers as instructional resources for one another and developing strategies for owning their learning are two ways that we might help students grow to be independent. Explore classroom structures, routines and technology as ways to help support student independence so that the teacher is free to work with individuals or small groups.
Introduction to myBlueprint	August 29	This session was for Administrators and Grade 7 and 8 teachers. MyBlueprint follows a comprehensive education and career planning process that meets the learning needs, interests, and aspirations of all students. Students actively learn about their interests, skills, passions, and feelings, and document what they discover about themselves in pictures, videos, and journals.

PD Event	Date	Topic / Outcome
Literacy Day	August 29	<p>This was a mandatory session for Grades 1–6 ELA Teachers as well as teachers who administer Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System(F&P BAS) assessments.</p> <p>The day was comprised of two half day sessions. Session 1 was an opportunity for participants to become familiar with the changes made to the F&P BAS within the 3rd edition kit.</p> <p>Session 2 featured a keynote and workshop session from bestselling author Sigmund Brouwer. In his keynote address, “The Power of Story,” Brouwer showed where a story gets its power, why story is so effective, and how the power of story is the most effective way to increase literacy in a technological world.</p>
Parent and Family Engagement in the Early Years	August 29	Participants explored ways in which to build trusting relationships that allow educators to walk alongside parents and families. Participants created criteria and explored how to create authentic engagement opportunities. They unearthed and problem solved possible barriers to engagement as well as developed a plan for implementing research based strategies.
Administrative Assistant Session	August 29	Agenda items included Student Registration, Student Attendance, LA FOIP, Cumulative File/File Retention Policy, Student Data System deadlines, and the Support Staff Absence Recap sheet.
Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment Training	September 6	This half day session was for Grade 1-6 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 7	This training was for new interventionists that will be teaching Levelled Literacy Intervention (LLI) in the 2018-19 year. The purpose of the session was to train interventionists new to LLI that have not received GSSD LLI training.
GSSD Sponsored Writing	September 26	This session led by GSSDs Literacy Coaches, focused on establishing a writing culture in the classroom. With video clips and excerpts gleaned from today’s leading authorities on teaching writing, teachers were able to discuss how they are setting up their writing block, using writer’s notebooks, and conferring with students. The PD was being offered in Canora, Langenburg and Yorkton.
Responding to Children’s Interests	October 9	<p>Based on a foundation of the vision and principles in the Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide, this workshop provided educators with opportunities to explore classroom practices to spark student interest and to build projects around invitations and play. Participants built understanding about emergent curriculum for young children, explored the environment as the third teacher, strengthened their capacity to observe, listen, document and reflect in order to support and scaffold learning, and respond to children’s interests by developing a project experience with children.</p> <p>This two-day workshop provided an in-person learning experience supported by distance coaching as participants engaged in their own class projects. The second day will be held on January 29, 2019.</p>
Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) First Aid Two Day Training	October 9 & 10	OHS Standard First Aid/CPR Level B/Automated External Defibrillator Full Course Training.



Photo to the left: Teachers work together during the Math Screener & Math RTI workshop on Oct. 19



Photo to the left: Moyra Bartlett from Pearson Canada, presented to teachers during a Balanced Literacy PD session.

PD Event	Date	Topic / Outcome
Truth & Reconciliation Session	October 9	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.
Mental Health First Aid Training	October 9 & 10	This training, provided by the Saskatchewan Health Authority, involved two 8—hour days on mental health first aid. This training teaches participants how to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage confidently where a person may be a danger to themselves or others. Provides help to prevent the mental health problem from developing into a more serious state. Promotes the recovery of good mental health. Provides comfort to a person experiencing a mental health problem.
Grad Coaching Session	October 9	The role of grad coach/mentor can often be an isolating and ambiguous role with a school or school division. Throughout the day participants created a network of support for themselves as a grad coach/mentor as well as began to build those skills and content needed to support students as they enter the “real world”. The role of grad coach/mentor can often be an isolating and ambiguous role with a school or school division. They dove into the grad coach role and began to define what duties they would hold to support students/parents/colleagues as students embark on a new chapter in their lives.
Library Technician PD Day	October 9	GSSD Library Technicians examined school library support for independent reading through the following: Destiny Discover, Destiny Collections, digital resources, Fountas & Pinnell Classroom Resources, and interlibrary loans. Collection development policies and procedures were discussed along with other emerging issues from the school library sector. The annual Great Big GSSD Book Swap event also took place.
Mathology Training for Grade 1 & 2 Teachers	October 9	A Pearson facilitator took Grade 1 & 2 math teachers through the Mathology kits that were purchased for each school.
Teaching with the "Blend" in Mind	October 9	Blended learning is an instructional approach that allows teachers to combine face-to-face instruction with online components in order to increase engagement and meet student needs, as well as increased flexibility within a classroom environment. In this workshop, teachers explored the different blended learning models in order to determine which approach is best for their classroom.
FRIENDS Training	October 16	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+).
Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Level 1	October 17 & 18	Participants learned how to utilize a multidisciplinary process to determine whether a threat maker actually poses a risk to a target(s) they have threatened. Participants also learned to assess students with histories of violence for further or more serious violence potential. Serious violence is an evolutionary process and most students leave intentional or unintentional signs and indicators. Teams are trained to collect data that helps determine the level of risk that a student may carry out an act of violence towards themselves or others, and what appropriate interventions should be based on data collected

PD Event	Date	Topic / Outcome
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 (NVCI) Training	October 22 & 23	Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® training is two day 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.
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 Fall Refresher	October 25	Administrators, teachers and counsellors took part in the Non Violent Crisis Intervention full day refresher training at the Painted Hand Casino. Staff received training to ensure they are aware of how to de-escalate students.

NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION

On August 24, 2018, 21 teachers new to GSSD arrived at the Fairview Education Centre (FEC) to receive a division orientation. The morning began with an overview of strategic planning and GSSD priorities. Teachers then rotated through a series of informative sessions: UbD Planning & Perusing the Portal, Successful First Steps and Behavioral Support. In the afternoon, teams completed a scavenger hunt activity to learn about the various departments at the FEC, followed by a Critical Administrative Procedures session.



Photo above: Jeremy Johnson, Kent LeNouail and Daniel Mandziuk have some fun with Carmal Kittler, Executive Assistant, while taking part in the New Teacher Scavenger Hunt.



Photos from left to right:
 Top row: Jeremy Johnson, Zachary Fedorak, Rebecca Hitchens, Ashten Langille, Rachel Stasiuk, Kelly Dierker, Becky Shivak, Shelby Stratechuk, Shaelynn Harasen, Jenna-Lee Rusnak, Brendon Weir, Daniel Mandziuk, Kent LeNouail
 Front row: Catherine Stebeleski, Keigan Duczek, Jessica Schick, Kaylyn Kowch, Randi Church, Amie Malkoske, Argyro Karachalios, Ashley Davis

Welcome to GSSD's new teachers!

PRACTICAL AND APPLIED ARTS WELDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The day focused on standardizing the teaching of welding and the variety of methods used to reach the outcomes.

There were discussions on materials, practical welding demonstrations, practical marking, skills opportunities, and theory related to each level of training.



BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY

October 15, 2018 was designated as Bus Driver Appreciation Day across the province. The day is observed on the first day of Education Week to celebrate and to recognize the important role that school bus drivers play in safely transporting students to and from school.

HERE'S HOW GSSD SCHOOLS CELEBRATED BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY!

Photos to the right: Canora Junior Elementary School celebrated Bus Driver Appreciation Day by running through Bus Evacuations & practicing Bus Safety, followed by a pizza lunch for their drivers.



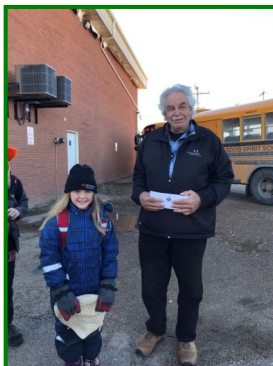
A come and go with tea and goodies took place at Preeceville School for all bus drivers.



Norquay School's SRC served muffins and coffee and all students practiced bus evacuation drills. At the end of the day, bus drivers received gift bags as a "thank you" from staff and students.



At Miller School—bus drivers received a \$5 Tim Hortons gift card!



Did you know: GSSD Bus Drivers cover more than 20,000 kms everyday!

Grayson School gave their bus drivers gift cards for lunch!

CROSSROADS INVESTMENT FUND RECIPIENT

Cheers were heard throughout the halls of Preeceville School on October 25 as Jeff Bisschop, CEO of Crossroads Credit Union, announced Preeceville School's 21st Century Learning Centre project as the recipient of the Crossroads Community Investment Fund. Students and staff were either watching the live stream on Crossroad Credit Union's Facebook page or listening live to Fox FM. The Community Investment Fund is being divided among many groups and organization, but Preeceville School was the only one to receive the full funding for which it asked.

Responsible for writing the grant application is Leslea Hanson, senior English Language Arts (ELA) teacher, who has also been serving as a Literacy Lead in the school for the last three years. "As a school, we have been working to facilitate the literacy culture in our school, which has been primarily driven by classroom teachers as they improve their individual reading areas and classroom libraries. Applying for a library makeover was our next step in this process in order to provide the students with a central reading hub which is open and inviting, a place where they can share their reading lives and collaborate with each other."

Preeceville School staff and students are grateful for the support they received from the community through the two week voting process. "We could not have achieved this without the generosity of the Crossroads Credit Union in giving back to the communities in which it serves. The community members of Preeceville and surrounding areas, and all the Crossroads members who voted, were vital to making this happen. Without them creating, and continuing the buzz for two weeks; taking the time to vote every day; reminding friends and family to vote; volunteering to create lists of names of Crossroads members who did not have online access; setting up computers in businesses on the weekends (thank you to Home Hardware and Shop Easy); and allowing us to permeate their social media, we would not have accomplished our goal. We live in an amazing community!"

Preeceville School will immediately begin planning the new library design which includes fire-retardant furniture, reading corners, flexible seating and display centres. Traditionally, libraries have been viewed as places where one works independently and silently. As a 21st Learning Centre, the challenge will be to merge the traditional view with the digital world. "We want to show students and our Panther community that literacy – in all its forms - is valued, both as an independent and shared activity. We want to provide space for older students to research and collaborate, and space for younger students to discover the 'magic' that can happen through reading."



Photo above:
Ms. Leslea Hanson and Mr. Doug King pose for a picture with Crossroads Credit Union employees.



Photo above:
Jeff Bisschop, CEO of Crossroads Credit Union presenting Ms. Leslea Hanson and Mr. Doug King with a check for \$10,000.



Photo on the left:
Preeceville School library

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.

GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW

In the spring of 2018, GSSD undertook an organizational review of the staff currently associated with the Fairview Education Centre (central office). The review obtained a comprehensive understanding of current status through one on one interviews, an evaluation of the organizational structure, and the analysis of job descriptions and salaries of four to five school divisions of similar size within Saskatchewan. As a result, Senior Administration and the Board of Education was presented with two restructuring options recognizing existing human capital, gaps, and opportunities with overarching goals.

The overarching goals of the organizational review are to:

- achieve the strategic goals for 2020 in improving internal processes, people capacity and financial stewardship;
- creating a more efficient, effective and engaged central office;
- improve service delivery to schools, staff, and students;
- recognize human capital, financial resources, and technology;
- removed fragmentation and align similar functions and services in order to eliminate duplicated, redundant, or overlapping services.
- streamline reporting in order to improve decision making processes;
- expedite critical decision making by establishing clear lines of responsibility and authority;
- improve coordination of services/departments – ensure all work provides value added services;
- unlock potential for better performance and engagement of employee talents;
- ensure restructuring options align with goals and objectives of GSSD’s strategic plan;
- improve communication; and, realign tasks/work in order to eliminate inefficient use of time and resources.

As a result of this project, GSSD will implement aspects of the organization review starting on November 1, 2018. Full implementation will occur by August 2019.

GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION ANNUAL AUDIT

GSSD’s annual audit was conducted by Miller Moar Grodecki and Kreklewich from Melville. For the year ended August 31, 2018 Good Spirit also had a review by the Provincial Auditor.

The audit process involves some interim audit sampling of payroll and accounts payable in early October; the final audit was completed during the week of October 22. During the audit process revenues, expenditures, equipment, and property improvements are examined. Including the final year of property tax collections for September to December 2017, 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 Provincial auditor and Ministry. The Board of Education will review the 2017-18 audit report during the regularly scheduled meeting on November 22, 2018.

The 2018-19 school calendar is posted on the gssd website. For a direct link to the calendar, click [here](#).

"BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS TO CREATE BRIGHT FUTURES"

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

GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION IS SEEKING
SPARE BUS DRIVERS SPECIFICALLY IN THESE

AREAS:

CALDER
CHURCHBRIDGE
ESTERHAZY
GRAYSON
KAMSACK
LANGENBURG
MELVILLE
STOCKHOLM

What you need:

- ✓ Criminal Record Check
- ✓ Drivers Abstract
- ✓ "S" Endorsement
- ✓ Resume

What we offer:

- ✓ Training
- ✓ A company that cares
- ✓ Summers Off



**CALL THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT TODAY!
306-786-5500**

CELEBRATING EDUCATION WEEK IN GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION

**Focusing
in on ...**

**Education Week
October 14-20, 2018**

“A World of Learning For Every Student”

Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate learning, applaud the achievements of our students, and acknowledge the outstanding contributions being made by education professionals throughout our province.

This year’s theme – A World of Learning for Every Student – recognizes the multiple pathways to learning being made available to our students and also highlights the tremendous impact of educators in broadening the horizons and enriching the lives of Saskatchewan students.

Staff and students around the division celebrated the week in a variety of ways! Take a look...

Kamsack Comprehensive Institute

Kamsack Comprehensive Institute celebrated Education Week with a celebratory breakfast, a Lego building contest, yoga at lunch and board game fun. Mayor Nancy Brunt made an appearance and read a story to one of the classes.



Langenburg Central School

“We did a passport activity focusing on exposing students to culture and education from around the world. We had 7 presenters come in and share their knowledge and experiences about living and teaching, or attending school, in countries around the world. Students travelled room to room and listened to the presenters, stamping their passports as they toured. The countries involved were India, Mexico, the Philippines, Ecuador, Columbia, the Ukraine and Lithuania. “



Grayson School

Grayson School held a pot luck lunch and a cultural mosaic.



Invermay School

Invermay School celebrated Education Week with a cultural afternoon, student vs. staff volleyball game, an Italian night and so much more! Invermay School would also like to send a huge THANK YOU to Crossroads Credit Union for their \$150 donation to their breakfast program!



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