

IN FOCUS

WITH GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



March/April 2019

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.

SCHOOL DIVISION CONTINUES TO LOBBY FOR CAPITAL FUNDING

The Provincial Government provides all major capital funding to Saskatchewan school divisions. On an annual basis, the province produces a “top 10” listing of capital projects.



The Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) has been on this provincial list for well over ten years. Unfortunately, the YRHS has yet to receive the major capital funding required to complete the much needed renovations to its emergency systems, HVAC, etc. As a result, on March 22, local MLAs Warren Kaeding and Greg Ottenbreit were toured through the YRHS. Efforts were made to illustrate the urgency of this project for this vital piece of infrastructure.

Continued lobbying efforts will be made to arrange for an onsite meeting with the Minister of Education before the end of the 2018-19 school year.

Photo above: Director of Education, Quintin Robertson, Head Custodian Dave Langley, MLA Warren Kaeding and Operations Manager, Teresa Korol tour around YRHS.

CONSOLIDATION PROJECT UPDATE

The consolidation project continues to progress on-time and on budget. Significant progress has been made at the Good Spirit Education Complex (GSEC); the new offices and work spaces are beginning to take shape. The Board of Education has recently awarded the tender for the required electrical and HVAC projects that will be occurring during the spring.

GSSD has sold the Fairview Education Centre (FEC) to the Yorkton Tribal Council and the vacant Kamsack Bus Garage to the Cote First Nation. The proceeds of the sale of the properties will be used to fund the required renovations to the new complex.

The target date for move to GSEC will be late July to early August. Yorkton Tribal Council will take possession of FEC on August 30.



Photo above: The GSEC gets new walls!

STUDENT & FAMILY

INTERNAL PROCESSES

PEOPLE CAPACITY

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

GIVING ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES!

Donations seem to come in all shapes and sizes to the schools in our division, every donation to our schools directly impacts the students who attend and often times, the community as well.

Recently, the Esterhazy Lion's Club donated \$1000 to the Esterhazy High School's Wrestling program. The donation will be put towards new wrestling mats for the team.



Photo above: The Esterhazy Lions Club with the donation to EHS' wrestling team.



The Esterhazy Lion's Club was back at it again as they donated \$500 to Mrs. Walker's 7B Classroom Library, this donation has a direct impact on the students of Esterhazy High School.

Thank you Esterhazy Lion's Club!

Photo to the left: Mrs. Walker's 7B class accepts the donation from the Esterhazy Lion's Club.

Another donation that recently took place, was from Farm Credit Canada.

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) donated \$500 to Invermay School for their breakfast program, which ensures all students are fed a complete breakfast before their school day starts.

Thank you FCC!

Photo to the right: FCC members stand with Principal Melissa Grona during the cheque presentation.



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

PD Event	Date	Topic / Outcome
Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Spring Refresher	March 19, 2019	In this session, participants reviewed strategies for safely defusing anxious, hostile, or violent behavior at the earliest possible stage.
Student Support Teachers (SST) PLC Day	March 21, 2019	The focus of the day was to provide SSTs with resources and information going into the 2019-20 school year.
Library Tech - Inservice Days	April 1, April 8, April 10, 2019	Library technicians met to review updates to the Destiny Library Management program, accessing and promoting digital resources particularly Discovery Education, and collection development.
Band Teachers PLC	April 2, 2019	Band teachers met to discuss band assessment and using the developed rubrics. They also had opportunity to discuss what is working well and improvements that may be needed.
Writing PD Suppers	April 3 & April 17, 2019	Hosted by the GSSD Literacy Coaches, participants examined conferring with students about their writing, using mentor texts, and preparing for the provincial writing at grade level assessment.

INTERNS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Every year GSSD accepts interns from universities across the province, for the past few months two interns have joined us to learn from our staff and students in the classroom - Haley Mysko at Calder School and Crystal Whitehawk at Columbia School.

These interns have a lot to celebrate!

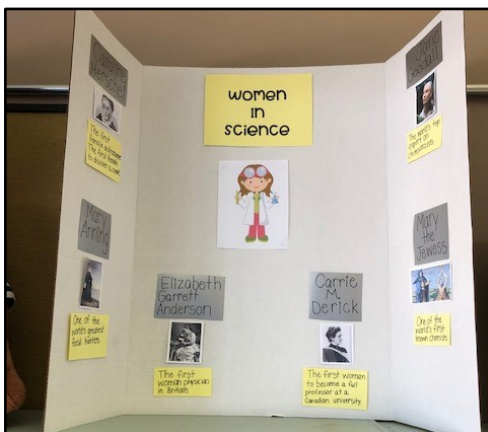
Crystal Whitehawk guided her grade 4 classroom in learning and playing the Northern Spirit Flute....

"Prior to my internship, the grade 4 classrooms would learn how to play the recorders. When I saw the Northern Spirit Flute in the music room, I was ecstatic to learn that we were able to use these to teach music in art. This was the first time the Northern Spirit Flutes were introduced to the grade 4 class. During my educational schooling, I had taken a class that introduced me to the Northern Spirit Flute, where I was able to design and keep my own flute as well. I was also given resources for teaching my future students about the Northern Spirit Flute which I was able to put to use during my internship. I was happy to pass these resources onto the grade 4 teachers here at Columbia School, as they now plan on teaching about the Northern Spirit Flute.

Here are a couple pictures of my students with their flutes. The first picture is of my students painting their flutes with their own designs and making it theirs. The second picture is all of us as a class holding our flutes in a circle before they were able to take them home for good!"



Haley Mysko interned at Calder School and started a Science Club!



"Science Club is open to all students, although it is currently comprised of a small group of girls"

"The purpose of science club is to help foster an interest in the sciences, and spark curiosity about the world. I've introduced the students to women that have made a mark in the sciences in hopes of bringing more light to the many, great contributions women have made. I started the club because I have a passion for science, and love to teach it; I simply wanted to share my passion of science with students."

"Science Club is meant to consist of a fun, brief science lesson to students at Calder School. I try to incorporate a lot of hands-on experiments."

CHILDREN'S LITERACY EXPOS: EAT PLAY LEARN

During the month of March, Regional KidsFirst in partnership with the Good Spirit School Division hosted a series of **Children's Literacy Expos** across the region. The Ministry of Education provided Regional KidsFirst with a \$25,000 grant to offer literacy and language opportunities for families with children under the age of six. The Eat Play Learn Children's Literacy Expos were planned and implemented in partnership with the following organizations:



- SK Health Authority,
- Parkland Early Childhood Intervention,
- Yorkton and Kamsack Family Resource Centres,
- Triple P Parenting,
- Christ The Teacher School Division,
- KidsFirst,
- Parkland Valley Sport Culture and Recreation, and
- Big Brothers Big Sisters.



Following the Regional KidsFirst mantra, **'It takes a village to raise a child'**, they brought the village together and connected families with young children to service providers in the community. Families rotated through interactive stations where they had the opportunity to learn about child development through play, and connect with resource people in the community. Children enjoyed learning about healthy practices, making their own nutritious snack, listening to Indigenous storytelling, engaging in puppetry, building structures with blocks, practicing self regulation, singing songs and rhymes, creating with recycled parts, and participating in physical literacy activities.



Eat, Play, Learn visited eight different communities and made stops in Canora, Preeceville, Melville, Churchbridge, Norquay, Kamsack, Cote and Keesekeoose. A total of 560 children and family members participated in the literacy events.

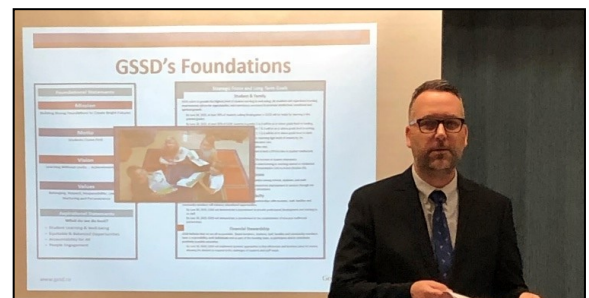
PROVINCIAL EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

Saskatchewan school divisions were asked by the Ministry of Education to conduct Provincial Education Engagement sessions within their communities. Good Spirit held a session at the Yorkton Regional High School on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 and Melville Comprehensive School on Monday, April 29, 2019. Twenty-five people consisting of parents, School Community Council members, Staff, Trustees and Senior Administration had the opportunity to share their vision.

Director Robertson began each evening by explaining that the Deputy Premier and Education Minister asked stakeholders to begin planning for the future of education beyond 2020.

Attendees were asked to reflect on and then share their thoughts on the following four questions:

- What knowledge, skills and abilities do students need to be prepared for their future life and learning? Why are these important?
- What gets in the way of student success and well-being?
- What is working well now in Saskatchewan's school system that prepares students for their future?
- What needs to change in Saskatchewan's school system to better prepare students for their future?



Director, Quintin Robertson starts all meetings off with GSSD's Foundational Statements.

Continued on next page...

During the second activity, the group was asked to share their views on the following eight themes:

- Graduation requirements are current and flexible, preparing students for their futures;
- The education system is equitable and sustainable;
- Early learning and literacy are foundational to future learning and success;
- Indigenous languages, cultures and identities are affirmed and reconciliation is advanced through education;
- Inclusive and safe school environments support diversity;
- Strength-based approaches support mental health and well-being;
- Curriculum, instruction and assessment are relevant, engaging and culturally affirming; and,
- Student, parents, teachers and communities are engaged in respectful relationships.

The information that was gathered on these two evenings will be compiled with the feedback that was collected from Administrators, Professional Service Providers and Central Office staff and submitted to the Ministry prior to May 10, 2019.

Public stakeholders are encouraged to have their say in the future of education in Saskatchewan by completing the online survey – <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-consultations/provincial-education-plan/provide-your-feedback> or click [here](#).

The survey will be open until May 10, 2019.



TREATY SYMBOLS PRESENTED TO BOARDS OF EDUCATION

GSSD Trustees joined Boards of Education from across the province for the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) Spring Assembly in Saskatoon in April.

The SSBA Spring Assembly is an opportunity for Trustees to engage in professional development, with their counterparts from around the province.

This year, Boards were presented with Treaty Symbols from the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN). FSIN Second Vice-Chief, David Pratt, presented these symbols to Board Chairs, including GSSD Board Chair, Lois Smandych.

In 2018, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre, the Office of the Treaty Commissioner and the SSBA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Reconciliation through Treaty Education.

The MOU represents commitment to working to address systemic discrimination in the spirit and intent of Treaty partnerships and as partners in reconciliation.



Photo above: The Boards of Education from across Saskatchewan. GSSD Board Chair, Lois Smandych is on the bottom row, left side right in the centre.

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).

HOOP THERE IT IS...AT HOOPLA 2019!



Photo above: The Canora Cougars Senior Girls Basketball team.

Two teams from GSSD earned their way to Hoopla, which was held in Saskatoon on March 21-23, 2019.

The teams included Canora Cougars Senior Girls 2A team and Sturgis/Norquay Senior boys 2A.

These two teams both brought home silver medals and should be incredibly proud of their efforts and sportsmanship!



Photo above: The Sturgis/Norquay Senior Boys Basketball team.

DREAM BIG—ENGINEERING NIGHT

The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan held an Engineering and Geoscience Night at Davison School during the first week of March. All schools in Saskatchewan received the DVD “*Dream Big: Engineering Our World*” it was up to each individual school if they would’ve liked to host an Engineering and Geoscience night.

The night coincided with Engineering and Geoscience Week. A time to celebrate the role engineering and geoscience professionals play in contributing to the economic development of our province. The week coincides with National Engineering Month, which is observed during March.



Photo above: Stan Reed introduces the “*Dream Big*” DVD

Stan Reed, an engineer with Mosaic, introduced the film to the students, teachers and community members at Davison School. Mr. Reed spoke about engineering as a career, and answered many student questions about engineering. The grade 3 students had structures on display that they designed and created and some grade 5 students displayed their simple machine creations as well. Mr. Reed and family members engaged with students as they asked questions about their projects.

Staff and students agreed the film was inspiring and aided in students making connections to their learnings about structures and materials. Davison School staff would like to thank Stan, for sharing his passion for engineering, to family members for engaging with their children during the night, and to all the students who shared their learning with everyone who attended the event!



Photo above: Students showcase their structures for parents and teachers to view.

BULLS EYE!



Photo above: CJES & CCS archery teams at provincials.

in the Middle Years division, and Canora Composite School took home 2nd place in the High School division.

The Saskatchewan Provincials for National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) took place March 30th & 31st in Moose Jaw. Looks like our students had their eyes on the prize!

Canora Junior Elementary School team took home 1st place in the Elementary division, Saltcoats School team took home 2nd place in the Middle Years division, and Canora Composite School took home 2nd place in the High School division.

WRESTLING MANIA!

The 2019 Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association (SHSAA) Provincial Wrestling Championship took place March 8th & 9th at Campbell Collegiate in Regina.

Two Yorkton Regional High School students brought home Gold in their respective weight classes.

- ☞ Kurt Hoffman in the 100kg weight class.
- ☞ Riley Richards in the 115kg weight class.



CONGRATULATIONS!

PROVINCIAL SKILLS CANADA COMPETITION



The annual Skills Canada Saskatchewan Provincial Competition was a success for students who competed from GSSD.

The event, now in its 21st year, gives high school students, post-secondary students and apprentices an opportunity to showcase their talents in the skilled trades and technologies.

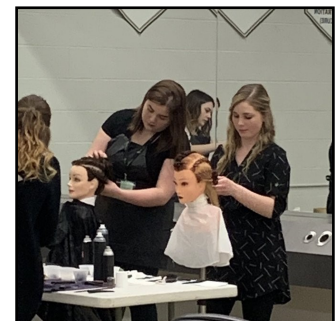
Hundreds of high school students and apprentices practice year round for this provincial championship.

Competition categories are diverse; from robotics and graphic design to hairstyling, carpentry and bricklaying.

Students who win gold medals at the provincial competition are eligible to compete at the Skills Canada National competition, held May 28-29 in Halifax.



Congratulations to all 31 students from GSSD who competed at Provincials! We are incredibly proud of you!



See the results on the next page!

PROVINCIAL SKILLS CANADA COMPETITION

Results:

Category	Student	Coach	School	Medal
Automotive Technology	Isaiah Bergen	Don Tkachuk	YRHS	Gold
Beauty Therapy	Kennedy Carl	Carmella Lutz	YRHS	Bronze
Cabinet Making	Garrett Lang	Michael Wilk	MCS	Gold
Electrical Installation	Gabe Loster	Andrew Pearce	YRHS	Bronze
Hairstyling - Bridal	Billie-Jo Baumung	Carmella Lutz	YRHS	Gold
Outdoor Power and Recreational Equipment	Ty Loewen	Don Tkachuk	YRHS	Gold
Outdoor Power and Recreational Equipment	Eric Boogaard	Stuart Wilson	MCS	Silver
Photography	Jessica Nelson	Chad McDowell	YRHS	Gold
Photography	Colby Kirsch	Chad McDowell	YRHS	Silver
Photography	Jenelle Dales	Don Coleman	MCS	Bronze
Video Production	Jenna Marie Kresowaty	Don Coleman	MCS	Silver
Video Production	Ryan Campbell	Don Coleman	MCS	Silver
Welding	Garrett Houston	Dennis Muzyka	MCS	Silver

MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION



Photo above: Team 1 with their trophy.

After many months, and many organizational meetings and practices, Yorkton Regional's Mock Trial Club sent two teams of eight students (grades 9-12) to compete in Saskatoon's Court of Queen's Bench in the Provincial Mock Trial Competition, to reclaim the McKercher Cup, the highest award a school can attain in this type of competition in Saskatchewan. The event was held April 13, 2019, in conjunction with Canada's Law Day celebrations.

The field of competition was made up of a total of eight teams. Four of the teams were from GSSD.

Six Provincial and Queen's Bench Judges heard the fictional case of R. v Rogers, a manslaughter charge.

Students had to come prepared to represent the Accused on Defence, and also to represent the Crown.

Students were adjudicated for their speaking skills, planning, court demeanor, and argumentative skills.

Yorkton Regional's Team 1 was declared the winning team to receive the coveted McKercher Cup. Numerous other awards were handed out at the closing of the competition, such as best witness, best prosecutor, best defence, best closing statement, best opening statement, etc. Tasso Stamatinos and Kathryn Blommaert won awards for their performances as lawyers.

Students were coached by Ms. Tara Haugen and Ms. Susan Onda, with local lawyer Mr. Shane Wagner as their legal counsel.

Team 1 consisted of Rob Shearer, Tasso Stamatinos, Kathryn Blommaert, Aleeyah Oloko, Avery Wilkins, Halley Wilkinson, Nathan Washington, Ashydyn Bradley.

Team 2 consisted of Haydyn Herman, Amirah Bourini, Anaswra Reghu Puthuparambil, Chai Crisanto, Chloe Toma, Thea Weeks, Emily Dyker, Emery Herman.

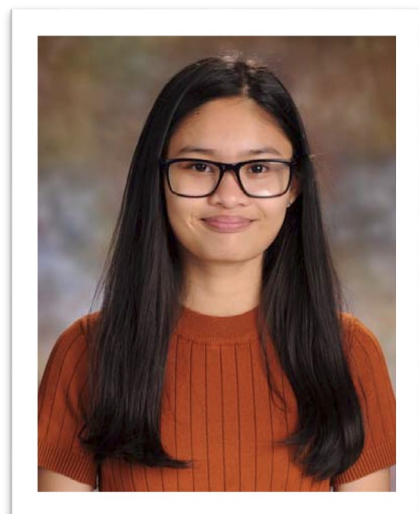


Photo above: Kathryn Blommaert with the Court of Queen's Bench Judge.

GSSD FEATURE STUDENT

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

Featured Writer is Azalijah Segui from Invermay School. Congratulations Azalijah!



After studying various Indigenous and Norse myths and legends, **Azalijah Segui** and her classmates were asked to create a short myth or legend of their own. Liah's story is imaginative and fun to read. It is descriptive while still being concise. Azalijah demonstrates her writing ability through her inspired use of creativity. Azalijah went above and beyond for this assignment. She had also turned in a retelling of an Indigenous legend, complete with water colour illustrations. Azalijah goes beyond what is asked of her for every assignment you assign. She turns in wonderful works of art during poster assignments and creative stories with description and creativity you would not expect to find in a grade 9 student.

Liah is a well-rounded student that is very involved in her extra-curriculars, such as Red Cross, Yearbook, Volleyball, and Badminton. She spends many hours after school helping to design yearbook pages, preparing for various fundraising events, or dedicating her time towards a mastering a sport.

Below is Azalijah's story: Luna's Pearls

A long time ago, the god of creation created the Sun to provide people on earth with light. There was no moon or stars. At night, the Sun just turned off. In a small village, there lived a beautiful but shy girl named Luna. She was a mysterious beauty that captivated the attention of all the men in the village. Luna would only

go out at night to avoid the men that sought her attention. She was incredibly shy and didn't want her village to have such chaos as men fighting for her attention.

Each night, Luna would wander along the beach to find oysters. She used the pearls inside to make jewelry during the day, a hobby that did not require leaving the house during the day. She had a number of bracelets, necklaces, and accessories as she had spent such a long time perfecting her craft. Because she was so shy, her collection of jewelry sat on her shelf. She was unable to speak to anyone to sell her goods.

One day, the god of creation noticed his oysters had gone missing. He was proud of his oysters because of their pearls and he was annoyed to find them missing. After a quick search through the village, he found his oysters with Luna. As punishment for hoarding his beautiful pearls away, he turned her into a beautiful, shining moon. He placed this new moon high in the sky for the entire earth to see, as he knew how Luna hated the attention. As for the pearls she kept, the god put these into the night sky with Luna to let the others know of her wrongdoings. These pearls became the stars that only appear at night while Luna is in the sky.



FEBRUARY 27TH DR. BRASS BE KIND ALWAYS DAY

On February 27th Dr. Brass School hosted events for Pink Shirt Day. The goal of this day is to support the students in understanding the impact of kindness on ourselves, school, the community and the world.

Dr. Brass has partnered with the Yorkton Fire Protection Services to present a day of Kindness. *Every student and staff member at Dr. Brass was given a "Stand Up" to bullying Pink Shirt compliments of Yorkton Fire Protection Services.*

Small group session with community partners included:

- Deb Bulitz, Good Spirit School Division Educational Psychologist,
- Shelwin House Outreach Program,
- Al-ATeen, and
- Free My Muse.



Photo above: Thank you to the Yorkton Fire Protection Services for providing pink shirts to all students and staff.



Photo above: Keynote speaker Carlin Nordstrom addresses the students of Dr. Brass school.

Keynote speaker Carlin Nordstrom spoke about a small town boy who had dreams of making it to the National Hockey League. Carlin shared that the only person that can stop your dreams from becoming a reality is yourself. Carlin is a First Nations athlete who continues to give back to the education community sharing his motivational message.

Dr. Brass Grade 6-8 students worked with an additional keynote speaker, Tara Green. Tara is a motivational speaker and We Day Manitoba Champion. Tara tailored her work in small group sessions to *Stand Up to Bullying*. She was available all day for students to connect with her and share their stories.

During the noon hour, Dr. Brass hosted a lunch for their school body and presenters along with entertainment by Katie Morgan. Katie is a 16 year old Yorkton Regional High School student that

had the entire gym mesmerized by her amazing voice. Her story of pink shirt day and standing up to bullying resonated within her powerful voice.

The Good Spirit School Division has made a goal of reducing depression and anxiety within their student population and promoting Mental Wellness. This is just one of the ways Dr. Brass School is supporting their students in Mental Wellness and developing strategies. Throughout the year, they are targeting Kindness and building resiliency through the #GOBears monthly events. #GOBears puts all ages of students together in a different Bear group to build connections within the student body.

They have engaged in many partnerships with community agencies-Saskatchewan Health Authority and the FRIENDS program, Shelwin House Outreach classroom education and after school program. As well, some of the staff have been trained in Mental Health First Aid. Training

has also been provided to the Grade 6/7 Leadership class in The Red Cross's "Beyond the Hurt" Bullying and Harassment education sessions.

Dr. Brass School is grateful to the Painted Hand Casino (PHC) Community Development Corporation for their generous grant to support this day. The PHC Community Development Corporation has donated over \$90,000 for initiatives at Dr. Brass School since 2003.



Photo above: Staff and students of Dr. Brass School wearing their pink!



DR. BRASS SCHOOL
"BE KIND ALWAYS"
DAY!



A big thanks to the Norquay Legion #351 and Royal Canadian Legion for awarding Norquay students with over \$700 for the annual poster/poem and essay contest.

Congrats to all the students! A special Congrats to Rowyn Johnson for 1st place in Saskatchewan for her Colour Poster.



Mrs. Brass lead students at the YRHS in making ribbon skirts. Lots of laughs and stories.



The Yorkton Nursery CO-OP brought their 4 year olds to M.C. Knoll School to prepare them for Kindergarten next year. We are excited for these future KNIGHTS to join our division!



INTERNAL PROCESS FOCUS

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

Long-term Goals

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

ADVOCACY SESSION

On March 14, CUPE 4784 President Karla Sastaunik, DPEA President Dave Cheveldae and Representative Lariene Thompson participated in an Advocacy Session with the Board of Education to discuss those things that are working and what needs to be done differently.

Dave shared that cancelling bus routes either by text or phone is working well and requested that the cold weather policy is revised. The shortage of spare bus drivers is an on-going concern.

Karla suggested that support staff would feel a closer connection to the rest of the school team if they were mandated to attend staff meetings. Karla also shared that the relationship between the local associations and GSSD Board of Education is very unique - GSSD is the only Board across the province that takes the time to have open dialogue through advocacy sessions.



Focusing in on ...

THE ROLE OF THE EARLY LEARNING COACH

Christine Danyluk believes in the motto *'Better Beginnings Better Futures'*.

In her role as Early Learning Coach for Good Spirit School Division, Christine works to support educators in order to positively impact our youngest learners.

She is passionate in her beliefs that young children are competent and capable, and deserve many opportunities to explore, discover, create and learn through play in a dynamic and stimulating environment.

Christine's responsibilities as Early Learning Coach in GSSD include working with Kindergarten Teachers, Prekindergarten Teachers, and PreK Educational Assistants to create environments that facilitate learning through play, to integrate language learning and literacy throughout the day, and to engage with families in meaningful and authentic ways. Administrators are supported in understanding what a high quality early childhood program entails. Christine also oversees the Regional Kids First Early Childhood Community Developer and collaborates with outside agencies to support children from birth to age 5 and their families. Most recently, this resulted in eight Children's Literacy Expos being held throughout the school division.

Christine works with the Superintendent in charge of Early Learning to align policy and procedures related to early learning, to create action plans for curriculum, instruction and assessment that align with the Ministry of Education's sector goals and the GSSD Board of Education's goals, and to plan and facilitate professional development opportunities for early childhood educators in the division.

She strives to provide educational leadership in the area of early learning, and to empower others to engage in research-based practices and build relationship with young children and their families that will create positive beginnings and brighter futures.



Photo above: Christine Danyluk and Regional KidsFirst Early Childhood Community Developer, Chlorisa Erickson at a Children's Literacy Expo.

Photo Courtesy of Canora Courier



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