

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.

TRANSPORTATION PROCESSES

Over the past several months, the GSSD Transportation department has seen some personnel changes, prompting the school division to review processes and procedures that impact student transportation. The review has resulted in several **new Administrative Procedures** being developed and some existing Administrative Procedures to undergo revisions. The **ultimate goal** is to **improve efficiencies and ensure that student and staff safety is held to a high standard.**

GSSD is currently looking at a restructuring of the Operations department which may result in the Transportation and Facilities departments under a supervision structure that is significantly different from past practice. Pending Board of Education approval, the restructuring will be complete later in the 2020-21 school year.



Photo above: Darcy Almasi, Becky Hoffman and Laurel Pitsula.

As GSSD works through the restructuring, Laurel Pitsula (Transportation Executive Assistant), Becky Hoffman (Transportation Information Systems Assistant), Darcy Almasi (Fleet Supervisor), Kelly Becker (Mechanic), Liberty Hawley (Mechanic) and Peter Regehr (Mechanic) who are stationed out of the Good Spirit Education Complex have worked tirelessly with their colleagues Rob Graff (Shop Foreman), Kendall Buhler (Mechanic) and Trevor



Photo above: Peter Regehr, Kelly Becker and Liberty Hawley.



Council (Mechanic) in Melville to avoid disruptions to service. Though the impact of this transition has had minor implications to the bus drivers across the division, these important members of the GSSD team have also responded positively and professionally to the possibilities and opportunities that the restructuring will have.

Photo to the left: Trevor Council, Rob Graff and Kendall Buhler.

GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION IMPLEMENTATION OF MYBUDGETFILE

During the 2019-2020 school year Good Spirit School Division staff will be implementing **new budgeting software**. MyBudgetFile (MBF) empowers administrators, managers, and superintendents to contribute to the division budgeting process. Previously, GSSD combined many spreadsheets managed by several individuals into one document.

MyBudgetfile **streamlines the entire budgeting process** by smoothing collaboration between academic and financial planning teams. MBF is a cloud-based software and allows budget designers to see the impact of budget changes as they happen. Some advantages to using MyBudgetFile are: Always working in the current version; Budget can be updated at any time from any device; Real-time numbers; No more passing spreadsheets back and forth; Increased transparency; Easy to use, even for non-financial backgrounds; Ability to easily create multiple scenarios; Financial system integration.

GSSD is committed to providing equitable, balanced opportunities among schools, student and staff. Administration looks forward to the increased efficiencies and would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and patience as we transition through this process.

MYSCHOOLSASK

In 2018, the Ministry of Education entered into an agreement with the Fujitsu Consulting (Canada) Inc. for the provision and implementation of the provincial Student Information System (SIS). The **MySchoolSask** (MSS) project is designed to achieve the following operational efficiencies:

- The consistent use of Aspen as the SIS for all Saskatchewan school divisions.
- The use of Aspen by the Ministry of Education to replace all functions of the Student Data System (SDS).
- This one system approach would have one database record per student making the transfer of the student record (and all attached information) between school divisions simple.
- Lower the Provincial spend on the SIS.

Thirteen of the 27 Saskatchewan school divisions rolled out MSS at the start of the 2019-20 school year. These schools are referred to as “Wave 1” school divisions. The Good Spirit School Division belongs to the “Wave 2” school divisions and will **implement MSS** at the start of the **2020-21 school year**. The Ministry’s currently proposed “Go Live” date is **August 10, 2020**. Between now and “Go Live” Good Spirit’s MSS Leadership Team will be tasked with the following:

- Develop training materials specific to GSSD’s implementation. These materials will be a combination of video and print resources with targeted topics.
 - Staff will be able to easily locate any resources required to assist them with the daily operation of Aspen.
- Develop an implementation training plan.
 - Training will be provided to GSSDs Administrative Assistants, Administrators, Teachers, Career/Guidance Counsellors, and Professional Service Providers.
- Data conversion testing will commence with three (3) planned and one optional testing window (March, April and May) to ensure the GSSD data is converted from Maplewood to Aspen as accurately as possible.

GSSD is committed to implementing the new student information system with little interruption to schools and their stakeholder groups.

IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW PRODUCTS IN GSSD

To increase financial and organizational efficiencies, Good Spirit is implementing a new human resource, payroll and accounting software called atrieveERP. Atrieve is a web-based product designed specifically for education. The program serves in excess of 2.5 million students in over 500 school divisions across North America. When completely operational, the employees of **GSSD** will have **countless benefits** including: Automation in payroll including online timesheets, earning statements and T4’s; Automation for leaves of absence and paperless approvals; At-A-Glance dashboards that are individualized, easy to navigate and include up to date data containing human resources, payroll and finance information for employees and schools; Customized reporting; Online storage of important documents that will allow access from anywhere based on pre-determined security levels; and, Full integration between Human Resources, Payroll and Finance.

The web-based program will **save time and energy for GSSD employees**. Automating workflows will empower administrators and superintendents with data and allow staff to focus their time on helping students and family.

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.

GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PD Event	Date	Topic / Outcome
VTRA Level 1 Training	November 28 & 29, 2019	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.
Writing: All Day, Every Day with Lori Jamison	December 2, 2019	Lori Jamison, author of <i>Marvelous Minilessons</i> and <i>The Write Genre</i> , lead participants in determining how to organize and manage the writing workshop for maximum student independence and minimum teacher intervention.

PRESENTATION TO THE SASKATCHEWAN SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Good Spirit School Division was afforded the privilege of presenting the work which is being done across the division regarding “**Student Wellness.**” The presentation highlighted some of the work accomplished in various GSSD schools. With the support of the Board of Education, the school division has adopted the



Photo above: Members representing GSSD at the Fall General Assembly were: Val Ruf (Student Services Coordinator-South Cluster, Debra Severight (Liaison for Kamsack/Cote/Keeseekoose), Twila Seeley (School Counselor-South Cluster), Thad Swidzinski (Online School Administrator), Amanda Kornaga (Principal –CPS), Melissa Johanson (Principal-MAC), Barbara Pelletier (Indigenous Student Achievement Coach-YRHS), Katherine Koskie (Grad Coach-YRHS), Rayne Townsend (Indigenous Student Achievement Coach-KCI) and Donna Kriger (Deputy Director of Education).

Comprehensive School Community Health (CSCH) model. Research has shown that CSCH facilitates improved student learning and supports their well-being. CSCH **encourages and supports** the development of children and youth in becoming physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally safe and healthy.

The presentation provided the audience of School Board members from across the

province, with a brief overview of the framework through the lens of various members of GSSD staff. Members representing GSSD identified how Student Wellness can be supported when the four (4) pillars (Policy & Procedures, Family & Community Engagement, Teaching & Learning, Social & Physical Environments) of CSCH are the focus within schools and across a school division. The presentation highlighted the **concentrated efforts** that schools across our division are making daily to ensure that “**Student Wellness**” remains a priority.

NINTH ANNUAL CAREER FAIR

The ninth annual Career Explorations education and job fair took place on November 14, 2019 at the Gallagher Center in Yorkton. The career fair is a collaborative effort by Good Spirit School Division, Parkland College and Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools.



Photo above: Students are able to sample tools of the trade.

Over 80 presenters were available for high school students and community members from Yorkton and surrounding area to engage in conversations regarding future employment and educational opportunities. There were representatives from many universities, colleges, trade schools, government agencies and private businesses.



Photo above: More than 2 thousand students filled the Gallagher Centre for the 9th annual Career Fair.

Students had an opportunity to attend small breakout sessions from a variety of different campus' and potential employers, including from the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission, CN Rail, RCMP, and the Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of Saskatchewan.

Organizers and attendees are looking forward to next year's **2020 Career Explorations** as it will coincide with the **2020 Canadian Student Leadership Conference**.

WRITING: ALL DAY, EVERY DAY!



Photo above: Lori Jamison

On December 2, **Lori Jamison**, an internationally recognized teacher, author, consultant and speaker, provided a thought-provoking and informative professional development (PD) day in GSSD.

In attendance were **all Grade 4 teachers**, as well as several other teachers from GSSD. Teachers from neighboring Coté, Keeseekoose, Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools, Ochapowace and Kahkewistahaw joined for the day as well. There were many opportunities for discussion and collaboration.

Lori used her extensive experience, passion for learning, and humour to share ideas about writing instruction. She provided participants with a solid structure on how to implement the writer's workshop and her research-based, practical strategies sent teachers away with ideas that could be used the very next day in the classroom.



Photo above: (L to R) Kerrilyn Trost, Susan Roberson, Lisa Wotherspoon, Lori Jamison and Charlotte Raine.



Photo above: Lori Jamison sharing ideas about writing instruction.



Photo above: Feedback was well received from this PD day with Lori Jamison.

CANORA JUNIOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIRST AID/CPR/AED TRAINING

There has been continued learning at Canora Junior Elementary School (CJES) as **13** staff members were **trained** by RCM Safety Services in **First Aid/CPR/AED**.

The course was a two day course. The first day was online and took place on October 15 and the second day was a practical and occurred on November 12.



Photos on the left: Teachers from CJES take part in their First Aid/CPR/AED training.

EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED

Good Spirit School Division employees are valued for their hard work and dedication to education. The Board of Education acknowledges the amazing work that employees accomplish every day. GSSD **employees are recognized** for their years of service in **10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35** year milestones. The service recognition symbolizes the time these employees have given to the division. Their talents and efforts continue to display why Good Spirit excels in many areas. Thank you to all who have reached these career milestones!



Photo above: Columbia School Administrator Mr. Krawetz (10 yrs) and teachers, Mrs. Haas (10 yrs) and Ms. Rosowsky (15 yrs.)



Photo above: M.C. Knoll teachers, Mr. McDowell (10 yrs) and Mrs. Erhardt (10 yrs.)



Photo above: Superintendent of Education, Mr. Forsythe presented service awards to Sturgis Composite School teachers Mrs. Serdachny (10 yrs), Ms. Newman & Mrs. Peterson (15 yrs), and Mr. Bayer (20 yrs.)



Photo above: Miss Paterson (15 yrs) of Preeceville School and Superintendent of Education Mr. Forsythe.



Photo above: Mrs. Boake (10 yrs) from Miller School is presented her service recognition award from Director of Education, Quintin Robertson.



Photo above: Board Trustee Shannon Leson, Ms. Miles (10 yrs) from Canora Junior Elementary School and Mr. Forsythe

SPARKLING EXAMPLES OF ACCOMPLISHED SKILLFUL TALENTED AND RADIANT STAFF AWARDS

The Sea Stars employee recognition awards program is based on the starfish story "Making a Difference":

An old man walked up a shore littered with thousands of starfish, beached and dying after a storm.

A young man was picking them up and flinging them back into the ocean. "Why do you bother?" the old man scoffed. "You're not saving enough to make a difference." The young man picked up another starfish and sent it spinning back to the water. "Made a difference to that one," he said.

The emphasis on nominees is recognizing staff who model the GSSD motto of "Students Come First". Employees are chosen for recognition based on their embodiment of the foundational values of the division:

- Belonging;
- Respect;
- Responsibility;
- Learning;
- Nurturing;
- Perseverance;

There are three Sea Star categories: High Level of Achievement, Individual or School Team Making a Marked Difference and Dedicated Service.



Photo above: Board Trustee, Gord Gendur, Superintendent of Education, Lisa Wotherspoon, Sea Star Award recipients Sarah Todas and Sandy Chipuer, Syrta Emery (Dr. Brass SCC Chairperson) and Julie Parisloff (10 yrs) service award recipient.



Photo above: Superintendent of Education, Lisa Wotherspoon, Sea Star Award recipient Cheryl Els and Board Trustee Florence Stachura.



Congratulations to the 10 employees who received Sea Star awards.
Thank you for continuing to guide GSSDs students and shaping them towards a successful future!

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.

GRAYSON SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANT



Photo above: Staff and students from Grayson School pose with the cheque from Horizon Credit Union.

Grayson School has been chosen as this year's recipient of a Community Project Grant, **valued at \$5,000**, through the Horizon Credit Union. The Community Project Grant provides financial support to large projects and initiatives that will improve community lifestyles within its trading areas.

Grayson School applied for the grant to help fund the creation of accessible pathways throughout their playground. This grant will go a long way towards the upgrade of their current playground space.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT THROUGH DONATIONS!

Grain Millers, Painted Hand Casino and Royal Bank of Canada continue to support schools within our division.

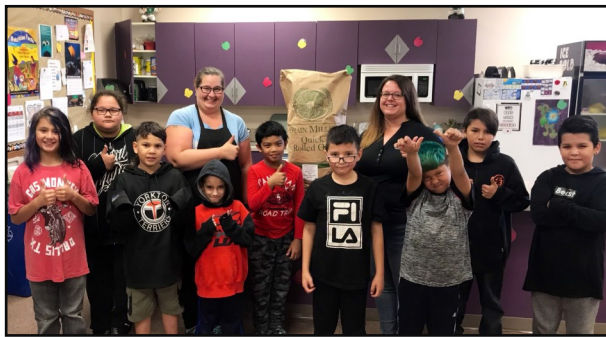


Photo to the left: Grain Miller's donated a 50-pound bag of oats to Dr. Brass School.

Painted Hand Community Development Corporation:

Kamsack Comprehensive Institute - \$4,000 - Drumming Group

Saltcoats School - \$850 - Student Conference

Yorkton Regional High School - \$812 - Indigenous After-School Club

Royal Bank of Canada (RBC):

Yorkton Regional High School - \$10,000 - Canadian Student Leadership Conference



Photo above: KCI Drumming group.

PAA HIGH COSTING EQUIPMENT

The Practical & Applied Arts (PAA) Teachers, Senior Administration, and In-school Administration have determined that **50% of school-based PAA carry-over budgets will be re-allocated back to schools.** The remaining 50% of carry-over will be held at the division level to fund unexpected "high cost" repairs or equipment purchases. In order to access this funding, schools must complete an application for approval by the PAA Lead Superintendent. To date, GSSD has allocated approximately \$140,000 to fund the following items:

- Welders at the Canora Composite School (CCS) & Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS);
- Shop tools at Invermay School & CCS;
- Lathe guards for all GSSD PAA labs;
- Eyewash stations for all GSSD PAA labs;
- Millwright ventilation at Churchbridge Public School;
- Grayson School PAA start-up money;
- Macdonald School PAA start-up money;
- Commercial dishwasher at YRHS;
- Hoist inspections; and,
- Langenburg Central School PAA equipment start-up.

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.

STURGIS/NORQUAY SENIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL

The Sturgis and Norquay combined senior boys volleyball team had a **4th place finish** at the provincial championships on November 23rd. Provincials this year took place in North Battleford. Congratulations!



Photo to the right: Sturgis/Norquay Senior Boys Volleyball team.

SASKATCHEWAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

There are a number of schools in the Good Spirit School Division that have combined teams.

Schools can combine their teams by applying through the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association (SHSAA). Most recently, two teams within Good Spirit combined in order to allow the opportunity for students to participate in basketball. Churchbridge and Langenburg entered a Senior Girls joint co-operative and Kelvington students joined together with the Preeceville Senior Girls team.

There are several conditions that need to be met in order for schools to combine including: schools need to be located in the same geographical area, school enrolments, teams must be combined for a minimum of 3 years and a resolution from the Director of Education must be submitted to the SHSAA.

Combined teams is a great way for students in communities to have the opportunity of sport.

RAIDER GRIDDERS MAKE HISTORY

The Yorkton Regional High School Raider Gridders **made history in 2019**.

On a brisk afternoon on Saturday, November 9, 2019, the Raiders captured their first Provincial title since 1994, with a **30-23 win** against the Saskatoon Bishop James Mahoney Saints.

To take the 5A 12-Man High School Provincial title, Yorkton first beat Weyburn with a 35-0 win and then on November 2, 2019 they beat Swift Current 31-17.

Congratulations players, coaches and volunteers for a successful season!



Photo above: Players celebrate their big win!



KAMSACK COMPREHENSIVE INSTITUTE STUDENT RECEIVES ATHLETIC BANNER



Photo above: Curtis McGriskin and one of the Track & Field Coaches, Kevin Kitchen.

Kamsack Comprehensive Institute (KCI) athlete Curtis McGriskin was presented with a Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association (SHSAA) banner recently.

McGriskin placed **second overall in the Junior Boys Shot Put** event at the SHSAA provincial championship in Moose Jaw on June 7 and 8. His **best throw** was **11.92 meters**.

Currently in Grade 11, McGriskin has been participating in track and field with KCI and the Kamsack Track and Field Club since he was in Grade 5.

Congratulations Curtis on your achievement!

JUMPSTART GAMES

On Friday November 1, 2019, **300+ grade six girls** from GSSD, Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division, Cote and Keeseekoose First Nation schools participated in the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Games event held at the Gallagher Centre, in Yorkton.

The **goal** of the day was to encourage girls to become **involved in sport and physical activity**.



Photo above: Students rotated through 6 activity stations, one being yoga!

Participants rotated through six different activity stations: softball, volleyball, curling, yoga, flag football and traditional Indigenous dance.

Guest athletes were on hand to participate and interact with the students, including Paralympian, Lisa Frank, and Canadian Wrestler, Natasha Fox. The women collectively agree that sport can change lives.

The Jumpstart initiative also included mentorship opportunities for grade 10-12 girls. Not only were they mentors during the Games, they were provided a half day leadership workshop facilitated by the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity and a one-day



Photo above: Grade 10-12 mentor students.

Fundamentals of Movement course. This mentorship opportunity allowed the girls to identify and leverage their unique leadership strengths and styles and understand the barriers and enablers to girls' participation in sport. The combination of the youth

leadership workshop, the Jumpstart Games and the coaching certification, gave the mentors an opportunity to get hands on experience and then set the groundwork for them to become certified coaches.

GSSD is grateful to Yorkton Canadian Tire and all their sponsors for providing these opportunities to students within the Yorkton and surrounding areas.



Photo above: Over 300 grade 6 girls took part in the Jumpstart Games.



Photo above: Students try curling at the Jumpstart Games.

GSSD REMEMBERS

In honour of Remembrance Day, schools within GSSD took the time to remember the men and women who have served, and continue to serve for our country during times of war and conflict.



Photo above: Preeceville students were presented with cash prizes for their winning Remembrance Day coloured entries.

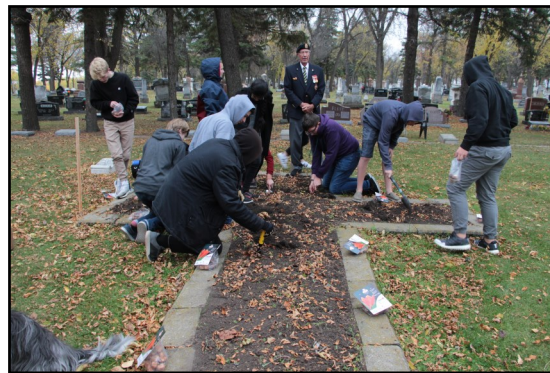


Photo credit: Devin Wilger, Yorkton This Week.

Photo to the left: Students from Yorkton Regional High School planted tulips for the Royal Canadian Legion Alexander Ross Branch #77. In spring, the tulips will grow as part of a celebration to commemorate the liberation of the Netherlands during World War II.

STUDENT VOTE

Students in **grades 5-9** at Macdonald School in Stockholm participated in the **national Student Vote Program** this fall. Each time a provincial or federal election is called, Elections Canada puts on the Student Vote Program. They also have resources to incorporate local municipal elections when they are called.



This program **promotes learning about different government systems and the election processes required for each one.** It helps prepare students to be active and conscientious citizens and builds an interest in civics. It builds student interest in the democratic process and develops critical thinking skills. It also focuses on critical issues facing citizens today, such as digital citizenship and how to determine trustworthy and truthful sources of information.

Students get to explore these issues through hands on activities and engaging lessons that result in great discussions that challenge students critical thinking. Students got to explore the party platforms and compare policies. They also took a vote compass poll that asked their views on different issues facing Canadians, and through this process determined where they might fall on the political spectrum. This is always an interesting activity because students really get a

good understanding of the different parties and where they fall on critical issues. Some students get a surprise about what party they most align with.

“I feel prepared to vote when I’m older.”

- Grade 8 student

The culminating activity for this program is an **actual student vote.** Students learn the processes of an election, including the roles of the poll clerks and the deputy returning officer. Students are assigned or apply for the roles and then conduct the election. There was a voter registration list that the poll clerks checked students names off of, voting booths and ballot boxes. The deputy returning officer, along with two other co-officers counted the official ballots at the end of the vote. **Fifty students voted** with the following results:

- 26 votes cast for Cathy Wagantall - Conservative Party making her the winner in the riding
- 14 votes for Stacey Wiebe - Green Party
- 4 votes for Carter Antoine - NDP
- 2 votes for Conner Moen – Liberal Party
- 1 vote for Ryan Schultz – Peoples Party
- 3 ballots were spoiled

If you are interested in the program, please visit Elections Canada website. You can also see all results from schools across Canada here: <https://studentvote.ca/results/canada2019/>.

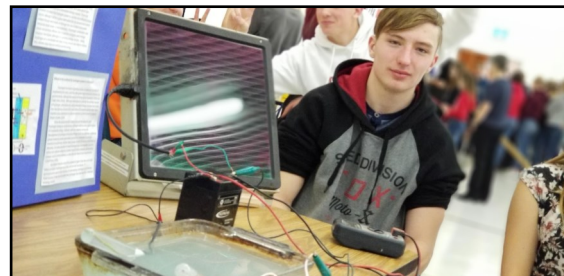


CANORA COMPOSITE SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

Every high school science curriculum has an independent study portion. This is meant to allow students to do some inquiry and research something that interests them. At Canora Composite School (CCS) students were offered the opportunity to have their independent study section turned into a project that was **presented at a science fair**.



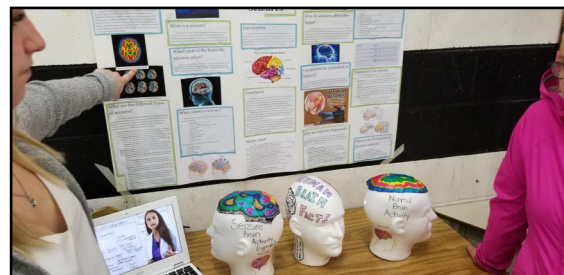
The science fair combined several science classes. After students had made their display and organized their research they set up in the gym



and then other classes were invited to go through the science fair. It was an awesome cross-grade and cross-curricular experience.

Observing in the gym, Principal Cindy Smith was very impressed with how well the high school students could explain the science behind their project and demonstrations to younger students.

This was a **high-level learning opportunity** and an engaging day for all!



"Students presented their "student directed study" as a science fair as part of physical science 20, physics 30 and biology 30. Each project was unique and showcased student curiosity with an emphasis on problem solving and cooperative learning. The science fair was a success and I am so proud of their projects."

– Science Teacher, Mrs. Sznerch

MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT



On November 29, **over 200 students** from Langenburg, Melville, and Stockholm attended a mental health summit at Churchbridge Public School (CPS). The day began with the students listening to a keynote address from former Esterhazy High School student, Josh Leidl. Next, the participants broke up into sections which rotated through four breakout sections:

- Resiliency with Reg Leidl
- Self-care for supporters by Jack.Org
- Technologies Impact on Mental Health by Dr. Alec Couros
- Physical activity's role in mental health by Sask in Motion



Photo above: Students take part in the Mental Health Summit.

The day ended with a presentation for parents which was **led, designed and facilitated by the students**.

The staff and students from all four schools would like to thank GSSD, Jack.Org, Josh Leidl, Reg Leidl, Dr. Couros, Marnie Forsberg and Dr. Salm for their support. Also, a big thank you to Ms. Twila Seeley, School Counsellor, for playing such an integral role in this endeavor.



Photo above: The day was well received by all in attendance.

SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY

In the fall of 2017, Canora Junior Elementary School (CJES), began working together with parents, the School Community Council, Principal Rod Steciuk, RCMP, and the Town of Canora with the **hope of a safer school zone.**

CJES received an **\$800 honorarium from Sask In Motion** for participating in their initiative to improve school zone traffic safety issues that have been identified as a concern.

Students and families were asked for their input on their travel plans, problem areas within the school boundaries and ideas on what can be done to create a safer school zone.

In May 2018, a **two-day traffic count** was conducted twice daily beside the school in order to gain consistent data. Along with volunteers from the community, Crossroads Credit Union, and some Grade 9 students, data was collected on the number and size of vehicles entering the school zone, visual speed comparisons through a particular intersection, number of young pedestrians crossing, and noting obvious traffic concerns such as jaywalking,

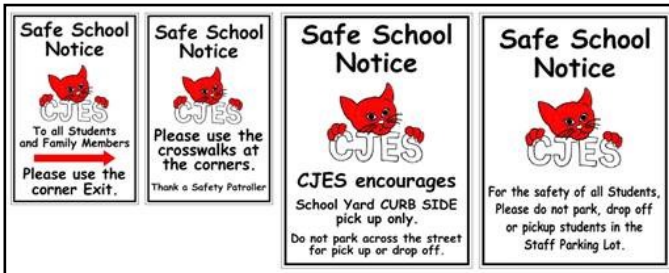


inattentiveness of drivers, speed issues and vehicles not stopping at the Stop signs. The purpose was to identify where the greatest concerns were coming from in the proximity of the school.

Almost **200 vehicles** were counted passing through the school zone within each 40-minute window around pick up and drop off times. The largest concern was **pedestrian jaywalking.** Speed of vehicles was also a consistent concern noted and many instances of vehicles doing a rolling stop at the Stop signs. With so many repetitive traffic issues and young students attending school, the data was shocking, and the community knew **improvements were needed.**

A **walk audit** was also conducted around the schools in Canora. Included in the walks were a representative from Sask In Motion, RCMP, and Mr. Steciuk. During the walk about, the group discussed the data of the traffic counts while viewing the journey to school through a child's eyes. The group was able to **identify the next steps** and where the responsibilities lie in making the school zones safer.

Together, **great improvements** have been made at CJES, the honorarium from Sask In Motion was used to fund **four yellow KidAlert Safety Signs** to remind motorists they are in a school zone with young pedestrians around.



New signage has been posted around the school to encourage safer parking for the purposes of dropping off and picking up their children. A student being dropped off or picked up from school is safest when a vehicle is parked along the school yard curb, and the student uses the door closest to the sidewalk. This one small practice eliminates

the chance of a student being in an accident with an on-coming vehicle.

The Town of Canora has confirmed that the crosswalks will be more clearly marked now that the street paving has been completed. The school zone will be far more visual to oncoming traffic. The issues of speed **drastically improved** when the Town of Canora placed the flashing speed sign. When the sign is in place, traffic slows down far more consistently.

Recently, a new town bylaw has been put in place whereby the buses can use the flashing lights and stop arms at the time of picking up and dropping off students. It is illegal for traffic to drive past a bus when these lights are flashing, and fines could be issued as monitored by RCMP.

In the spring of 2019, CJES students completed a safety presentation with which empowered them with knowledge for their own safety in and around the school zones. CJES has a successful **Safety Patrol Program** in place and when students and families follow their lead, the process of crossing the street becomes much safer.



UTILIZING GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Google Classroom is a Learning Management system that teachers and students within the Good Spirit School Division utilize.

Over the next few months, GSSD will be inviting teachers to share why they LOVE using Google Classroom!

Senior English Language Arts Teacher, Bethany Brade, shares her top five reasons for using Google Classroom:

1

Managing the Chaos: “Thanks to the cloud, students are no longer digging through binders and lockers to track down missing assignments. This system helps me stay on top of students progress and also gives them a logical platform to manage their own learning.”

2

Cuts down on Paper: “So much of what we read and write in ELA does not need to be printed out, a quick write here...a news article there...so much clutter can be cut down by sharing these things with your students rather than printing them.”

3

Accessibility: “I love the accessibility and thus the responsibility Google Classroom gives my students. If they missed class, they know where to go to get caught up. I can post homework reminders and most of them receive them to their phones. I also love that they can ask me questions through it. I have the Google Classroom app on my phone, so it’s easy to quickly reply to a question they have in the moment - allowing them to continue working, and allowing me to not sift through my work emails on the weekend, or find out Monday they didn’t understand an assignment.”



4

Saves time: “Students can access links to various resources quickly and easily, I can reuse posts and assignments from previous classes, making teaching repeat classes quick and easy. Less printing and photocopying. Integrated rubrics and plagiarism checker -- amazing. Once you create a rubric on google classroom, you can mark a document with the rubric right there without ever switching tabs (awesome!) and the document is automatically scanned for plagiarism material with no extra time spent on my part equals time saved.

* A personal favourite and one new to me this year is digital quizzes using google forms. Multiple choice portions can be set up to be self grading, and I find marking the written response portions goes much quicker when I can see all the responses to a given question at once, rather than marking individual students’ tests and having to reconsider the questions each time equals time saved.”

5

Formative Feedback: “Especially when it comes to students working on those larger writing assignments, using google docs and google classroom is a quick and easy way to provide feedback all throughout the writing process. I can pop in to any of my students essays and see exactly how much they have written before they even turn them in. I use the comment feature to give specific and thorough feedback on a student’s writing. When my students return to their documents they can all be working on specific targeted suggestions from me that I would never be able to give by just circulating and offering feedback, and it allows them to systematically work through their documents resolving my comments as they go.”

SCHOOLS ARE BUSY WITHIN GSSD!



Photos above: Canora Composite School's senior drama presented "The Fried Kobassa" a comedy by J. Robert Wilkins. The play was about missing sausage and the hilarity that ensues. The evening was a success!



Photo above: Students from M.C. Knoll School's Student Leadership Team spent time volunteering at the Salvation Army Kettle Bells over the holiday season.



Photo above: Students from Saltcoats School took in the CP Holiday Train in Bredenburg.



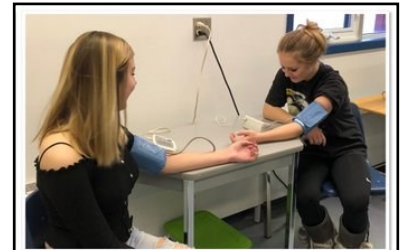
Photo above: The Columbia School Changemakers provided over 500 people with a Christmas meal.



Photos above: Yorkdale Central School staff received pies to the face from students during the school's Street Market.



Photos above: Students from Invermay School took in all the sights and sounds of the Harvest Showdown in November.



Photos above: Grade 11 students from Sturgis Composite School explore vital signs in their Health Science class.

GSSD FEATURE STUDENT

The Good Spirit School Division 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 below is Tameem Eshawesh from Grayson School.

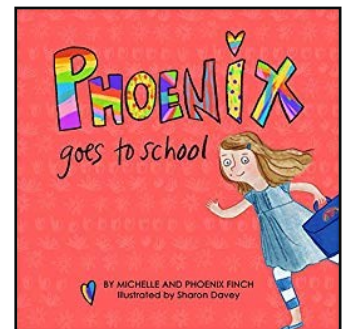
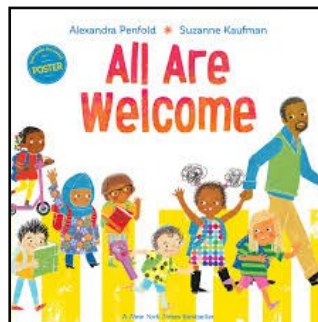
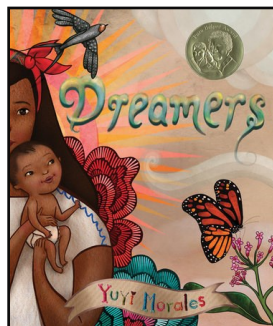
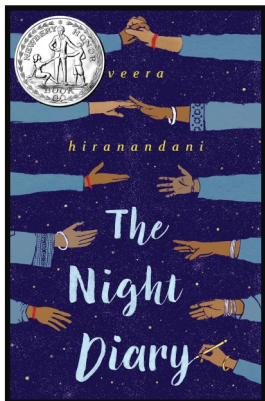
Congratulations Tameem Eshawesh!



Tameem Eshawesh is a grade 7 student at Grayson School who has demonstrated the power that youth have to make positive change in their environment. Last year, Tameem noticed that Grayson School’s library collection did not reflect the diversity that the division, province, and country celebrates.

Tameem decided to write an essay with the hope of receiving funding that he could use to purchase books for the school library that portray a variety of different cultures, religions, celebrations, languages, ages, and abilities. His well thought out and carefully researched essay was successful, and he received a \$400 grant from the Painted Hand Casino. Tameem carefully selected texts that would appeal to all students in Kindergarten to Grade 9 and was able to add 23 new books to the school collection.

Tameem demonstrates all of the values that GSSD honours on a regular basis, but his perseverance to see this passion project become a reality highlighted just how strong of a leader he is.



Focusing in on ...

THE ROLE OF THE DATABASE PROGRAMMER/ANALYST

In January 2019, Kishan Malaviya joined the GSSD Central Office Team as a Database Programmer/Analyst. In a short time, Kishan has completed several projects which have resulted in **efficiencies across the division**.

Kishan has been instrumental in automating the bi-weekly student attendance reports as well as the importing of Fountas and Pinnell data. Both of these automations have resulted in streamlining the data mining process as well as the collation of data.

Kishan has also created a similar application which has allowed registrations and information sharing to be simplified across the school division. The application has been widely used for Literacy events as well as for annual University Career Fairs.

In an effort to reduce annual licensing fees, Kishan has developed a Board of Education site to replace their former Board

Books that came at a significant cost to the division. Most recently, a site was created to house GSSD's Strategic Plan as well as the Learning Improvement Plans for each school. The site allows all schools across the division as well as members working centrally through the Good Spirit Education Complex to develop work plans that ultimately assist in achieving the goals set within the Strategic Plan. The development of this web-based site has allowed Good Spirit to replace the OnStrategy software which came with a significant annual licensing fee.

As the Programmer/Analyst, Kishan continues to assume a significant role in the implementation of MySchoolSask. He has been a **key member** of the Provincial team which is responsible for the integration of third party software such as BusPlanner and CLEVR. On a divisional level, Kishan's work with scripting related to the active directory and SharePoint, the development of new applications, assistance with VoIP implementations, and general administration related to Microsoft Azure and Office 365 have resulted in efficiencies while also building the capacity of Technology services within the division.



Database Programmer, Kishan Malaviya



Photo above: Kishan is currently the Egg Cracking Champion within the central office staff of GSSD.

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