

# IN FOCUS

WITH GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

## FROM THE DIRECTOR/CEO

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

As 2022 comes to a close, we can reflect on this past year with countless celebrations and several opportunities. There are so many things to be thankful for, many of which are included in this issue of the In Focus.

Members of the GSSD Workplace Wellness Committee and I attended the Pan-Canadian Summit in Edmonton in early November. The experience allowed me to solidify my relationship the Division's dynamic team who are working on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Well-being. I was also pleased to hear from international experts on staff wellness.

I was delighted to see schools across the Division take the time to acknowledge and recognize Canada's veterans and fallen heroes during Indigenous Veterans' Day and Remembrance Day.

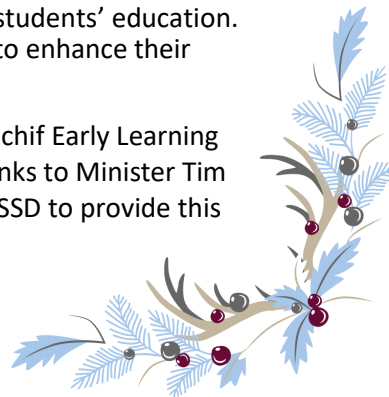
Board Trustees and I had the chance to attend the Saskatchewan School Boards Association Fall General Assembly in Regina. We were inspired by the Keynote Speaker, Reg Krake, who challenged the assembly to incorporate inclusive education into the upcoming Provincial Education Plan.

School Community Council (SCC) Annual General Meetings occurred for the 2022-23 school year. The support SCCs offer GSSD schools positively impacts students' education. To every parent and community member who volunteers their time to enhance their children's school experience – thank you!

An Evening with the Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers, announcing the Michif Early Learning Program, was a highlight of mine in November. I want to express thanks to Minister Tim Roussin and the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan for partnering with GSSD to provide this opportunity for Métis families in the Parkland Region.



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## FROM THE DIRECTOR/CEO, CONTINUED

Prior to students and staff enjoying their well-deserved break, December was filled with numerous activities. I want to acknowledge the commitment and hard work of students involved with school sports teams, drama productions and music/band concerts. Thank you to the staff and volunteers for sharing your time, dedication, skill, and creativity so students may enjoy these experiences.

During the December Administrator meeting, the Technology Department announced that schools would be provided with replacement Chromebooks as part of GSSD's ongoing centralized replacement plan. Nearly 1,000 Chromebooks across the Division will be replaced at no cost to the affected schools. GSSD plans to continue this renewal cycle on an ongoing basis, ensuring that students have access to efficient and updated digital devices. I want to acknowledge the Board of Education for approving the Chromebook purchase.

In December, I also had an opportunity to join a team of GSSD Administrators at signpost number two of the Leading to Learn initiative at the Dakota Dunes Resort outside of Saskatoon. Before the event began, the various participants had the opportunity to learn about Indigenous ceremonies. Specifically, Knowledge Keeper Lyndon Linklater led the group in an educational session about the significance of the sweat lodge. Knowledge Keeper Linklater explained that the sweat lodge ceremony cleanses the body, mind, and soul. I thank Knowledge Keeper Linklater for sharing this important aspect of his culture.

During the December Board meeting, the Trustees and I were honoured to be joined by two of our Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), Mr. Warren Kaeding and Mr. Greg Ottenbreit. During our time together, we had an opportunity to highlight a myriad of Division achievements and some current challenges. MLAs Kaeding and Ottenbreit committed to continuing the conversation to work collaboratively to meet our shared interest in student learning and well-being.


We all know that living on the prairies sometimes brings complex winter weather. I want to recognize GSSD bus drivers and transportation staff for ensuring students safely arrive to and from school. Thank you, as well, to the GSSD caretakers and facility staff for working diligently to clear snow and ice.


Over these past two months, I enjoyed opportunities to spend time in schools connecting with administrators, staff, and students. I was reminded of my time in school and how magical the classroom can be when staff and students work together toward our Mission of Building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures.

I invite you to review the In Focus publication and take the opportunity to reflect on all the activities and accomplishments made by GSSD students and staff. To stay up-to-date on Division and school news, follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

On behalf of the GSSD family, may you find time to relax and create memories with family and friends during this festive season.

**Quintin M. Robertson**  
Director of Education/CEO

 @gssd\_204

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 Good Spirit School Division 204 | Facebook

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### FOCUSING IN ON...

#### Fine Arts in the Good Spirit School Division

Langenburg Central School

Columbia School

Churchbridge Public School

Macdonald School

Yorkton Regional High School

Esterhazy High School

Winter Band Concerts

Artwork at the GSEC

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## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

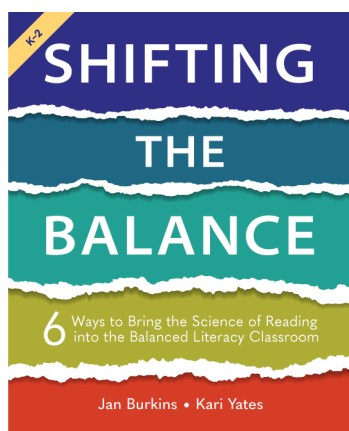
By June 30, 2023:

- 25% more students will exit Kindergarten at appropriate development (green) than when entering Kindergarten.
- there will be 10% more Grade 1 to 3 students reading at or above grade level as compared to fall 2022 data.
- there will be 2% more Grade 4, 7, & 9 students writing at or above grade level compared to the June 2022 data.
- there will be 2% more Grade 2, 5, & 8 students at or above grade level in math compared to the June 2022 data.
- the number of students in Grades 4 to 12 reporting high levels of anxiety will reduce by 2% from spring 2022 data.
- the three-year graduation rate will increase by 2% from the June 2022 data.
- the three-year graduation rate for self-declared Indigenous students will increase by 5% from the June 2022 data.
- the five-year graduation rate will increase by 2% from the June 2022 data.
- the five-year graduation rate for self-declared Indigenous students will increase by 5% from the June 2022 data.
- students in Grades 7 to 12 will report a 2% increase in student intellectual engagement from spring 2022 data.

## GSSD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Professional development (PD) is an important part of high quality teaching and learning. As GSSD works towards the June 30, 2023 long term goal of committing to providing professional development and training days to staff, over 35 PD opportunities have been held so far. January 30th and 31st in 2023 will be dedicated to professional development for GSSD Staff.

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training (NVCI)	November 1 & 2, 2022	Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® training is a 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.
GSSD Aspiring Leaders: Critical Conversations	November 17, 2022	Jason Trost, Superintendent of Human Resources at GSSD talked about and expanded on the topic of critical conversations. This is one of nine sessions that are apart of the GSSD Aspiring Leaders sessions.
“Shifting the Balance” Book Club for Kindergarten to Grade 2 Teachers	October, 2022– June, 2023	The Early Years Team is hosting a book club on the book “Shifting the Balance”. A group of teachers K-2 are meeting regularly to discuss the book and explore strategies to enhance reading instruction within the classroom. The book club will continue for the remainder of the year.

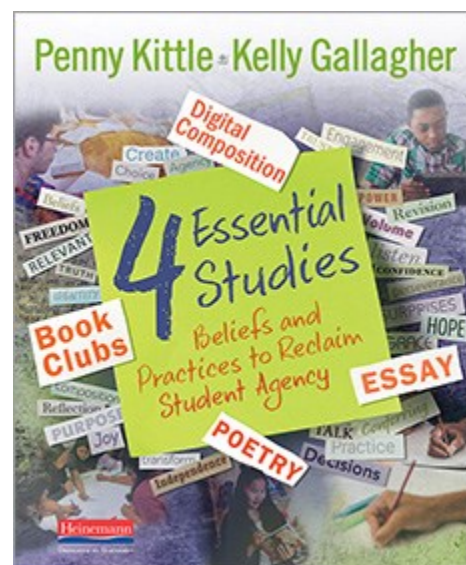
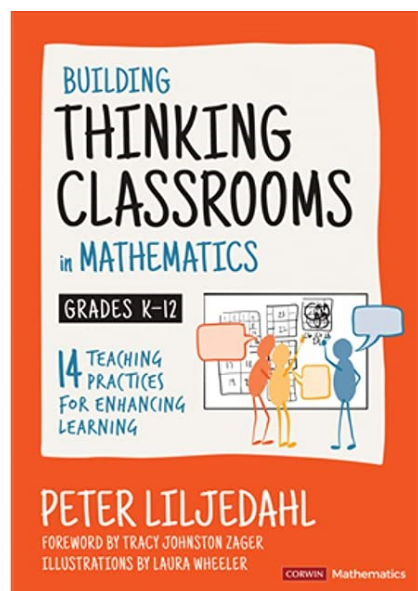



**nonviolent crisis intervention**  
 a CPI specialized offering



## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
"Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics" Book Club	October 2022– June 2023	This book club is open to all teachers interested in learning about the practices outlined in Peter Liljedahl's book, "Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics: 14 Teaching Practices for Enhancing Learning." Participation is voluntary and meetings are held after school. Participants receive a copy of the book as well as one-on-one coaching support in their classrooms to implement the ideas presented in the book.
"4 Essential Studies" Book Club	October 2022– June 2023	This book club is open to Grades 7-12 ELA teachers who are interested in exploring the four practices for writing instruction outlined in Penny Kittle and Kelly Gallagher's book, "4 Essential Studies: Beliefs and Practices to Reclaim Student Agency." Kittle and Gallagher discuss new approaches to teaching the essay, book clubs, poetry, and digital composition. Participation is voluntary and meetings are held after school. Participants receive a copy of the book as well as one-on-one coaching support in their classrooms to implement one of the four approaches presented in the book.
New Teacher Onboarding	October 2022– December 2022	All teachers new to GSSD this fall were provided with a personalized half day of professional development as part of the new teacher onboarding process. Teachers were given the opportunity to complete a survey and were matched with a consultant or instructional coach according to their needs and teaching assignment.

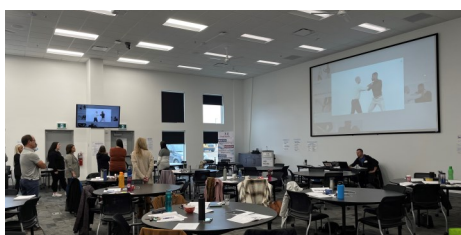


## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

### NONVIOLENT CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING



Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® training is a two day course in which participants learned 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 GSSD Educational Psychologist Deb Bulitz and GSSD School Counsellors Doug Kreklewich and Craig Folk, is consistent with the GSSD administrative procedure which deals with the restraint and seclusion of students. On day 1 participants gained a basic understanding of crisis intervention methods. This training emphasized early intervention and nonphysical methods for preventing or managing disruptive behavior. On day 2 training expanded on crisis intervention methods. This training focused on the study and practice of non-harmful Nonviolent Physical Crisis Intervention methods, used only as a last resort when an individual becomes an immediate danger to self or others.



*Photos to the left: Participants engage in active learning as they practice how to use Crisis Prevention Institute's (CPI) principles of personal safety to avoid injury if behaviour becomes physical.*

### DANCER IN RESIDENCE AT SALTCOATS SCHOOL

Saltcoats School is excited to welcome Savana Gallant to their school. Saltcoats was one of two schools chosen in the province to have a dancer in residence. Ms. Gallant is from Saskatoon and is employed with Dance Saskatchewan Inc. She studied musical theatre in Toronto and then received a masters degree in musical theatre in England. Ms. Gallant was at Saltcoats School from November 14th until the middle of December exploring dance and movement with the students. She assisted the teachers to reach the outcomes in Arts Education and Physical Education. She utilized her musical theatre and Ukrainian dancing background to do this.

Thank you for bringing your knowledge and expertise to Good Spirit School Division!



### EARLY YEARS EVALUATION –TEACHER ASSESSMENT (EYE-TA)



The Early Years Evaluation-Teacher Assessment (EYE-TA) is a readiness-screening tool that provides information about each child's development and learning with a focus on early literacy skills. Results from the EYE-TA allow educators and school-based teams to quickly identify the students most likely to require extra support during the kindergarten year, based on their levels of skill development in five key domains at school entry.

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## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

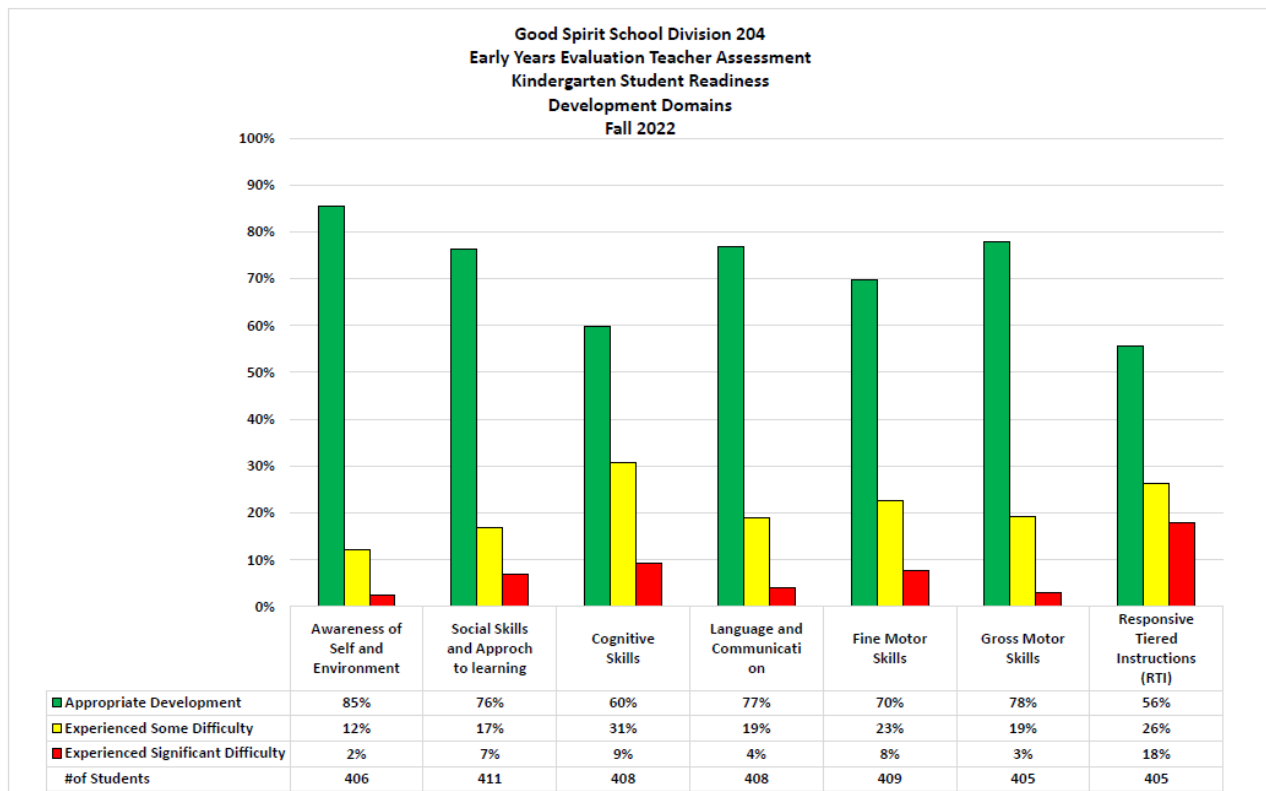
### EARLY YEARS EVALUATION –TEACHER ASSESSMENT (EYE-TA), continued...

The five development domains are defined as:

- Awareness of Self and Environment - A child’s understanding of the world and their ability to make connections with home and community experiences.
- Social Skills and Approaches to Learning – a child’s attentiveness during classroom activities and their ability to interact with peers while respecting classroom rules.
- Cognitive Skills – a child’s basic mathematics and pre-reading skills and their ability to solve problems. Could change to foundational literacy skills such as naming letters and knowing letter sounds relationships; numeracy skills such as counting and matching numerals with sets of numbers
- Language and Communication – a child’s understanding of spoken language and their ability to express thoughts and feelings; and,
- Physical development
  - Fine motor – a child’s ability to perform small movements that require hand-eye coordination.
  - Gross motor – a child’s ability to perform large movements that involve arms, legs, and body.

In addition to results for specific domains, children are also assigned a comprehensive score known as a Responsive Tiered Instruction (RTI) level. RTI is a preventive approach that allows educators, school teams and divisions to allocate resources early and continuously, rather than waiting until a student experiences failure before providing a response.

The GSSD Early Learning Team meets with each school team (Kindergarten teacher, Student Support Teacher and Speech Language Pathologist) to review the EYE data and create a plan for whole class, small group, and individual instruction. These discussions are an essential part of responding to the data and creating plans of action.



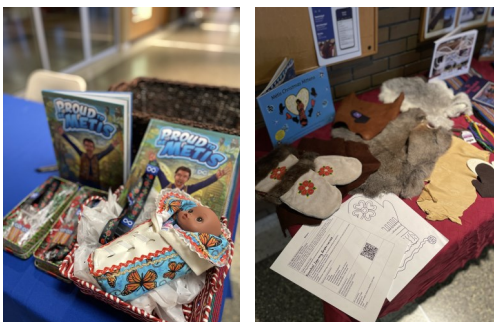
## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

### MICHIF EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM & THE IVAN FLETT MEMORIAL DANCERS



In partnership with the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, Good Spirit School Division is proud to announce that there will be a Michif Early Learning Program for children ages 3 and 4 in the 2023-24 school year. This program will focus on developing a stronger sense of identity through the exploration of Métis cultural knowledge and will introduce early learners to the Michif language.

The Michif Early Learning Program will infuse Michif language and Métis culture into the existing provincial curricula for Early Years Education. Through educating Métis children, it is possible to help in the revitalization of the Michif language and instill Métis cultural knowledge and understandings. Michif Early Learners will experience cultural teachings from a Métis perspective, learn in a play-based environment and have the opportunity to connect with and learn from Métis Knowledge Keepers and Michif language speakers.



*Photos to the left: The lobby of the Yorkton Regional High School was filled with educational material to bring awareness to the new program.*

*Photo to the right: Minister Tim Roussin takes to the stage to discuss the Early Learning Program and bring greetings from the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.*



*Photos above: The Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers perform live on stage at the Anne Portnuff Theatre. Their performance included their audition from America's Got Talent and many renditions of the Red River Jig.*

On Tuesday, November 29, 2022, the Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers were welcomed to the Anne Portnuff Theatre to celebrate and bring awareness to Good Spirit School Division's new Michif Early Learning Program. The evening began with Quintin Robertson, Director of Education, welcoming those in attendance and introducing Minister Tim Roussin from the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.

Minister Tim Roussin took to the stage to express his passion for reviving the Michif language and shared information about the work that has been done through the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan as well as what he hopes to see in the future for Métis children and families. The Michif Early Learning Program started with 150 students in the North, and now with the signing of GSSD, there will be a school in each of the 12 regions. GSSD is proud to be a part of the 17 schools and 600 students taking part in the Michif Early Learning Program across the province.

The program then continued with a lively performance by the Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers. The Red River Jig was a crowd favourite and left the audience on their feet with a standing ovation at the end of the performance. Mikey, the oldest brother of the three siblings of the Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers even invited young audience members on stage to learn the jig for themselves! Thank you to GSSD's Indigenous Student Success Consultant Jesse Armstrong for the organization of the event.



## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

### MICHIF EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM & THE IVAN FLETT MEMORIAL DANCERS, continued...

**Want to help with the Michif Early Learning Program?** The success of this program is dependent on the Métis community. If you are a Michif language speaker or carry Métis cultural knowledge and are interested in working with the program, GSSD would love to hear from you!

The Good Spirit School Division is seeking the following positions:

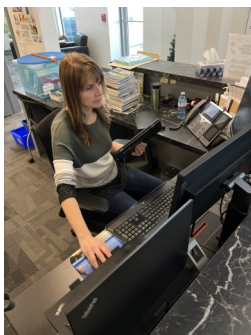
- Métis Early Learning Teacher
- Program Coordinator
- Knowledge and Language Keepers

**For all inquiries and applications, please contact** [lisa.wotherspoon@gssd.ca](mailto:lisa.wotherspoon@gssd.ca) or 306-786-4751.

An Evening with the Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers was the first of many more events to come! Follow GSSD on social media or check out our website at [GSSD.ca](http://GSSD.ca) to stay up to date and for more information.



### TECHNOLOGY SERVICES TEAM ROLLS OUT 1,000 NEW CHROMEBOOKS

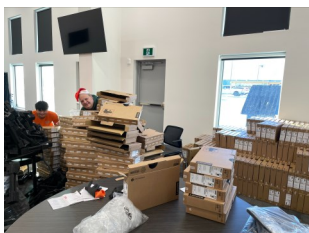


During the last week of December, 1,000 Chromebooks arrived at the Good Spirit Education Complex. The Technology Services team then got right to work. Each Chromebook had to be unboxed, barcoded, scanned, enrolled into the GSSD system, and configured.

These Chromebooks will replace older existing models and provide more modern opportunities. Schools and students will have their Chromebooks when they return to school in the new year.

The Tech Team would like to thank the library technicians for their assistance in the cataloguing process. It takes a team!

*Photos to the left: Sheila Tillman, Lead Library Technician, works on cataloguing all new Chromebooks. Ravi Patel, Network Technician, configures lined up Chromebooks. Cory Stupak and Charles Samonte, Network Technicians, unbox and organize every Chromebook...with holiday spirit! Stacks of Chromebooks are organized to be delivered to GSSD schools!*



### BLENDED LEARNING

A team of six GSSD Kindergarten to Grade 12 teachers, consultants, coaches, and an administrator are working together to learn more about blended learning. The teachers are strategically utilizing digital tools and blended learning models to help transform the classroom experience. Knowing that students don't all learn in the same way, it's a good strategy to diversify teaching and learning approaches and create a learning space where every student can thrive. Findings will support decisions on technology investments and professional development. If you want more information about blended learning, please get in touch with a GSSD Digital Learning Consultant.



*M.C. Knoll Grade 4 Students focus on Blended Learning in their classroom.*

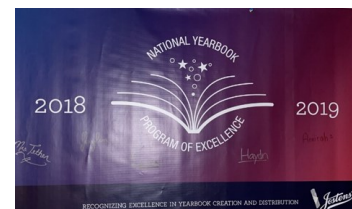
## ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

By June 30, 2023:

- there will be a 2% increase in student attendance based on the 2021-2022 data.
- GSSD will deepen relationships with families and communities by increasing our understanding of Indigenous identities, histories, and worldviews.
- GSSD will deepen relationships with families and communities by engaging in authentic opportunities to promote student intellectual, physical, social-emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being.
- GSSD will demonstrate a commitment to the establishment of new and reaffirmed partnerships such as Regina District Industry Education Council, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, Early Years Engagement Network, and Indigenous Advisory Council.

### YORKTON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK CLUB

Did you know the YRHS has been publishing award winning yearbooks since 1967? With material costs on the rise, along with increments in the cost of living, YRHS has been forced to “think outside the box” in the production of their yearbook to maintain the high caliber, while keeping the cost of production reasonable.



**ATTENTION: YRHS ALUMNI**



**\$15** /yearbook

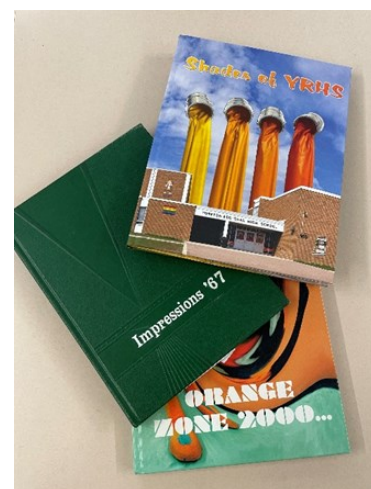
Yorkton Regional High School has yearbooks from **1967/68 to 2015/16** available for purchase!  
\*Limited quantity for some years.

To arrange purchasing a yearbook, please contact [brianna.gelowitz@gssd.ca](mailto:brianna.gelowitz@gssd.ca)



To do this, the YRHS Yearbook Club has become creative in how they generate extra funding by mainly looking to the Community of Yorkton for support. This included selling old yearbooks online, dating as far back as yearbooks from Yorkton Collegiate’s 1944-45 school year. Throughout this project, the YRHS was able to deliver old yearbooks into the hands of alumni within Yorkton, throughout Saskatchewan, and even sending yearbooks as far as Alberta and British Columbia, with interest spreading all the way to the United Kingdom.

With their ‘new-old’ yearbooks in hand, alumni began reminiscing about their time at YRHS online, in the Nostalgic Yorkton Facebook group. The Yearbook team was glad to have people share fond memories of their YRHS years! In addition to selling old yearbooks, the Yearbook Club also reached out to local businesses asking for support through advertisements in the 2021/22 yearbook. The Yearbook Club would like to thank all 26 local businesses that supported the Club through these advertisements. Finally, a space within the yearbook has been created for parents/guardians of graduates to purchase a small section of the yearbook to celebrate their graduate’s achievement. This is a new tradition that the Club has established and looks forward to continuing for all our future graduates. The YRHS Yearbook Club would like to thank everyone who helped them create an awesome yearbook last school year and the Yearbook members and advisors look forward to the continued involvement of the community in helping to bring this year’s incredible yearbook to life!



ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

**GSSD PARTNERS WITH PARKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO EMPLOY STUDENTS IN THE Y.E.S.S. (YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SKILLS AND STRATEGIES) PROGRAM**



The Y.E.S.S. program offers essential skill training at the Parkland Community College in preparation for students to enter or re-enter the workforce. The Good Spirit School Division then coordinates work placements and acts as mentors by giving helpful feedback and advice throughout the work experience placement. This mentorship provides the college students with valuable real-world experience and skills that are not always attainable in a classroom setting. Good Spirit School Division currently has four students employed in Kamsack as part of this partnership. GSSD is grateful for this partnership as the placement of students often acts as a recruiting program for positions that can remain vacant for a period of time.

**ESTERHAZY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FACE-OFF IN FLOOR HOCKEY AGAINST THE LOCAL RCMP, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND FIRE DEPARTMENT**

On December 7, 2022, the local RCMP, EMS and Firefighters made their way to Esterhazy High School during noon hour to face-off in a few games of floor hockey against the Grade 7 and 8 students. Word on the street is the adults took home the win, but the students put up a good fight!

On December 14, 2022, the local RCMP returned to EHS to go head to head in more games against the Grade 6 students. The EMS and Firefighters were unable to attend due to a call out. The game must've got pretty heated, as a referee ended up in cuffs! *(pictured to the right)*

The amount of laughter and cheering that went on during both days of matches was infectious and brought out healthy competitive spirits. The games were a great way to promote community involvement amongst students while recognizing those providing services to the community.

*Photos below: The participants pose for a friendly group photo. The Grade 6 students battle it out against their opponents.*

*Photo to the right: A group photo of the RCMP, EMS, and Firefighters that took part in the fun!*



## ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

### REMEMBRANCE DAY AT INVERMAY SCHOOL

Invermay School recognized Remembrance Day with a school service on Wednesday, November 9, 2022. This year's service was unique with a special guest Bombardier Ané Roodt from the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, RCA (the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery) in Yorkton. Bombardier Roodt shared a special presentation with the school and answered questions from the Invermay students.

*Photo to the left: Representatives who placed a wreath of remembrance from left to right (left to right) Mrs. Enge—SCC, Mrs. Grona & Bdr. Roodt – Canada, Bailey Maier— Red Cross, Rachel Enge— SRC.*



### EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION RESULTS

As volleyball and football seasons came to a close, here are some results from around the Division.

#### Senior Volleyball

Melville Comprehensive School (MCS) Senior Boys qualified for Provincials by finishing second in their Region. They lost in the quarterfinals.

Langenburg Senior Boys qualified for Provincials by winning their Region. They lost in the quarterfinals at Provincials.

Sturgis Senior Boys qualified for Provincials by finishing second in their Region. They lost in the quarterfinals at Provincials.

Esterhazy Senior Boys qualified for Provincials by finishing second in their Region. They lost in the quarterfinals at Provincials.

#### Football

The MCS football team made it to the Provincial quarterfinal where they were eliminated by Delisle.

The Yorkton Regional High School football team made it to the Provincial quarterfinal where they were defeated by Weyburn.

The Preeceville football team made it to the Provincial quarterfinal where they lost to Lemberg.



### ACTIVE LEARNING WITH CFL PLAYER AND FORMER GSSD STUDENT AT DR. BRASS



Noah Zerr of the BC Loins and former Langenburg Central School and Yorkton Regional High School student was a guest in Mr. Muir's classroom on December 15, 2022. Students participated in dry land training and followed up their workout with a fun Kahoot and anatomy lesson about the human body.

A great learning opportunity at Dr. Brass!

## HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIROMENTS

By June 30, 2023:

- students and staff will report feeling welcomed, safe, and included at school.
- students and staff will develop strategies for identifying emotions and accessing supports to enhance mental well-being.
- students will receive timely and responsive evidence-based prevention and intervention services at school.
- GSSD will enhance the physical facilities occupied by students and staff to ensure health and well-being.
- GSSD will establish a process for consistently responding to identity-based harassment involving students and staff.

### CHRISTMAS HAMPERS, FOOD KITS AND ACTIVITY KITS SUPPORTING FAMILIES

As the holiday season approaches, it is important for us to remember that the holidays can be a difficult time for many people. With that in mind, Indigenous Student Success Leads and Indigenous Community Workers recently attended a meeting to discuss all of the community supports that exist for families in order to ensure that no families would be left without access to a holiday meal or food package/hamper if needed. Schools throughout the Division have put together Christmas hampers, food packages, and craft and activity kits, to brighten the holidays for families in need of a little bit of extra Christmas cheer. School staff members have also delivered food packages and gift cards to various families throughout the Division with the support of School Community Councils and through many community organizations and businesses such as Soup Haven, SIGN, Yorkton Tribal Council, and Harvest Meats. In addition to this, Good Spirit School Division's Comprehensive School Community Health committee generously contributed to the creation of various activity kits for students to take home to their families.

It truly speaks volumes regarding the importance of relationships and connections when schools, organizations, and businesses can come together to support children and their families.



*Pictured above: Food kits and craft kits are prepared to deliver to families so that everyone can celebrate.*

### LEO'S LEARNING COMMONS AT MACDONALD SCHOOL

The transformation of the Macdonald School library to "Leo's Learning Commons" was inspired by a very special boy, Leo Valan Schwitzer. Leo was a shining star at Macdonald School who was lost too early to Leukemia. In an important quest/effort to keep his legacy alive, it was decided that at the heart of the school, the Learning Commons should be named after Leo.

In the summer of 2021, GSSD renovated a classroom at the center of the school. Thanks to the sponsorship of Stockholm Crop for Community and Monty & Becky Shivak, the beautiful space was fully furnished.

The final items have been ordered and the project will be completed by the end of the 2023 school year.

Leo's light and love inspired the open concept renovation at the center of the school. The design focus was to create an inviting space with flexible furnishings that will support future growth and changes for years to come.



## HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIROMENTS

### MEET A BUS DRIVER: LANA GILLILAND

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

Throughout the 2022-23 school year, the transportation team will be highlighting drivers from across the Division.

Meet Lana Gilliland.

#### How long have you been a bus driver?

“I am currently in the middle of my 6th year driving school buses!”

#### What inspired you to be a bus driver?

“I became inspired to become a bus driver by other bus drivers and my actual current coworkers! I really like children. I also have a second job working part time at the local daycare, in the same town where I drive my school bus!”

#### Do you have a pet?

“I live on a small acreage and we have dogs, cats and chickens.”

#### What adventures over the course of your career have you found particularly satisfying?

“I really enjoy driving the school bus because it allows me to be involved in my community. I know most of the children, their parents, and some grandparents!”

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

“I’d invite my supervisor to see how much fun we have cruising around the backcountry roads, and how happy the children are when I pull up to their yards!”

#### What is your favourite travel destination?

“I’m not big on travelling but I do like driving to cities and other provinces and just being a tourist and seeing what’s out there to learn or try something new.”

#### Would you recommend being a bus driver?

“I would definitely recommend driving school buses to others, it works great for my family. I never work weekends, holidays, or during the summer, when my young children were smaller they road the bus but didn’t attend school, now they ride the bus and attend school and I picked up a second job that works around my bus driving schedule!”



## HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIROMENTS

### MEET A BUS DRIVER: CYNTHIA SWAIN

Meet Cynthia Swain.

First things first, let me start of by introducing myself. My name is Cynthia, and I was born and raised around the Stockholm Esterhazy area my whole life.

My husband Ryan and I, along with our two children, McKenna and Damryn live on the acreage I grew up on just outside of Stockholm.

We have 2 dogs (Hank and Harry) and 4 cats (Ollie, Otis, Owen, and Ozzy).

In the early spring of 2021, I decided to go for my bus license after a few fellow colleagues told me about the shortage of substitute drivers in our area. On May 17, 2021, I passed my licensing exam in which Good Spirt School Division helped me train and prepare for. The very next day the wheels were rolling on the big yellow bus as I had a temporary position until the end of the school year.



It was always my intention to be a substitute driver but when I was offered a full-time route for the fall of 2021 it was simply something I couldn't turn down as I had already fallen in love with my new career. Plus, my route consisted of picking up my own children from home and taking them to and from school. How cool is it that I landed the route my children are on!?

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my role as a bus driver is the interaction I have with the students. It is amazing the bonds and relationships I have developed with the students and their families in my short time driving.

A normal "typical" day for me starts at 6:00am as I carry out a thorough circle check of the bus, ensuring my bus is safe to be on the road each day.

I start collecting my first students at 7:20am and we generally arrive at school around 8:15 am (Our school starts at 8:30am). However, this time may vary as I may need to sometimes wait an extra minute for someone I expect to be on the bus. Some are always very punctual, and some are running to the bus, you get to know them very quickly.

I arrive at home around 8:30am and go about my day doing general housework, yard work, running errands etc. I may even sneak in the odd nap here and there.

My afternoon begins around 2:30 pm when I arrive at the school for after school pickup. Ensuring I have all the children on the bus we set off for their perspective destinations.



## HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIROMENTS

### MEET A BUS DRIVER: CYNTHIA SWAIN, continued...

Some days we sing, others we chat about what they learned or did that day. Most days the bus is filled with chatter and laughter while in the very rare occasion the bus is silent with tired, sleepy children. My afternoons end around 5:00 pm when I arrive home.



I love the thought that I am sometimes the first smiling adult these children see as I open the doors and greet them with a great big “Good Morning!” and I’m the last smiling face they see at the end of each school day. My bus children are like my very own children, and I always encourage good and respectful behaviour on and off the bus.



I enjoy the interactions and friendships I have with my fellow colleagues, and the teaching staff. The teaching staff come and chat when the students are boarding the buses, they will give a wave as the drivers pull away in the afternoons. While I think they are waving goodbye to the drivers they of course may just be happy to see the children going home.

I find my job to be very rewarding in many different aspects as I’ve shared already. But I especially love that I have I have the same holiday schedule as my children and the whole summer off to be with them. You all must think I’m crazy, but it is the best being able to make incredible memories with my family doing what we love the most, camping!

**Would I recommend being a bus driver to others?** You bet I would. What more could a person want? School bus drivers have flexibility during their days, all school holidays off plus, a bonus of having the whole summer off!

Aside from that being with these children every day ensuring they arrive to and from school safely is the most rewarding part of all. Because I did that, I made it happen and I take great pride in that. As these children are OUR FUTURE!

### GSSD SCHOOL BUS MAKES AN APPEARANCE AT THE 2022 SANTA CLAUSE PARADE

On Friday, November 25, 2022, the Good Spirit Education Complex Bus Garage Staff prepped a GSSD bus to be displayed in the Santa Clause Parade in Yorkton, SK, on Sunday, November 27. Thank you to all staff that helped with the decorating on their lunch hour. A great way to celebrate the spirit of the holidays.





## EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

By June 30, 2022:

- GSSD will reduce barriers and enhance student success in each functional area by demonstrating improvement in services through the development, review, and revision of:
  - administrative procedures; and,
  - processes.
- GSSD will implement systemic and transparent approaches to find efficiencies and increase value for money allowing the Division to respond to the challenges of student and staff needs

### BUS COLD WEATHER CANCELLATION INFORMATION

The decision is made to cancel buses in cold weather based on [Administrative Procedure 559](#). Cancellations will occur in a certain area, or across the entire division, when the temperature is colder than  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  or when the combination of temperature and wind chill reaches  $-45^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The factors that play into this can be:

1. Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) is needed as part of the emissions system in the newer buses. Unfortunately, DEF freezes at  $-11^{\circ}\text{C}$ . There is a heater in place for the DEF tank, but, when subjected to extreme cold, problems arise which include frozen/cracked DEF lines, leaks, and engine codes populating on the computer.
2. When a bus becomes inoperable, the interior temperature of the bus will drop very quickly. It can take a considerable amount of time to have another bus arrive to transport the stranded students and staff, especially when a bus is in a remote rural area.
3. In temperatures colder than  $-40^{\circ}$ , frostbite can occur in minutes.

In the interest of student and staff safety, buses are cancelled according to the Administrative Procedure.



#### What we offer:

- training
- a dedicated team
- summer and all school holidays off
- flexibility

#### What you need:

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



## EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

### PAN-CANADIAN SUMMIT 2022

At the beginning of the school year, Good Spirit School Division entered into an agreement with the EdCan Network. EdCan is an organization that works with over 100,000 educators across Canada. As part of this work, GSSD employees were asked to take the Well-at-Work anonymous survey. The intention of this survey was to better the work experience for the employees within the organization. The results will be used to make change and improve the school division. To create a plan from the results, a trustee and staff members were chosen to be on the GSSD Workplace Wellness Committee after The Board of Education passed a motion at their October 6, 2022, meeting.

On November 8 and 9, 2022, the following members of the Workplace Wellness Committee attended the Pan-Canadian Summit in Edmonton:

Lois Smandych – GSSD Board of Education Trustee  
 Quintin Robertson – GSSD Director of Education  
 Kyla Christiansen – GSSD Curriculum Consultant  
 Jason Trost – GSSD HR Superintendent  
 Karla Sastaunik – CUPE President  
 Lariene Thompson – Deer Park Employees' Association President  
 Stuart Wilson – Good Spirit Teachers' Association President  
 Britton Houdek – Saskatchewan Health Authority  
 Michelle Goulden – Mental Health Coordinator  
 Fallon Prince – Langenburg Central School Vice Principal  
 Jay Cee Brass – Norquay School Indigenous Community Worker



The conference attendees reported the following highlights:

- Well-being results from a foundation of trust.
- All players in an organization come as equals as it relates to well-being. Everyone must have a voice.
- Self-care must be built into life – work life integration vs. balance.
- Mastery – autonomy – sense of purpose and generosity are vital to well-being.
- Relationships over logistics – heart and head of workplace well-being.
- Communication must be multi-directional and continuous.
- Concept of wellness must be a group concept – no one can make you well. Moving away from the individual to the collective.
- Change management – input must come from the grassroots level.
- Move from talk into action.
- The best way to predict the future in an organization is to create it.
- Reduce the distance between the Board and Senior Leadership and the people we lead.
- We must always ask ourselves who's wellness matters to us. Who are we willing to disregard?
  - What do employees want from their employer?
    - Culture and environment (Trust, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Connections)
    - Leadership for Well-being
    - Systemic Workplace Well-being (Strategic Plan, Direction, Data, Share Language)
    - Communications
    - Change Management



Through these highlights and learnings at the Pan-Canadian Summit, the committee will work together to create a plan that yields results.

# FOCUSING IN ON...

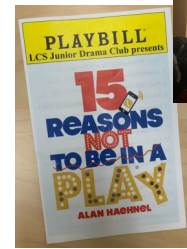


## FINE ARTS IN GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION

Throughout November and December schools have been busy with musicals, Christmas concerts, and all things fine arts! The talent the students and staff at Good Spirit School Division possess is unique and amazing. GSSD is proud to showcase some highlights from around the Division.

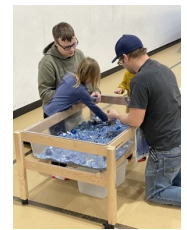
### Langenburg Central School

On November 29 and November 30, 2022, the Langenburg Central School (LCS) Junior Drama Troupe put on a one act comedy titled "15 Reasons Not to be in a Play." There were 32 students from Grades 5-7 involved as cast and crew members, with many of them brand new to theatre. LCS also had four Senior Drama students help out with taking on roles such as student director, backstage manager, and tech/stage support. Each night filled the LCS theatre to the brim, and the actors and crew members celebrated after with a popcorn reception in our common area.



### Columbia School

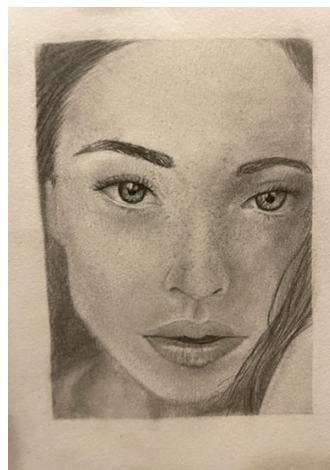
Columbia School welcomed Prekindergarten, Kindergarten and Grade 1 families to their annual "Winter Wonderland" Family Engagement evening. Families were invited to participate in a variety of winter themed play-based activities that focused on the development of the whole child. These winter inspired invitations for learning were created around the Social Emotional, Physical, Spiritual, and Intellectual developmental domains. Families enjoyed exploring winter storytelling, sensory bins, art, winter books and puzzles, snowman BINGO, block building, light play, magnet hunting, cookie decorating and so much more! It was a lovely evening filled with connection, conversation, and celebration!



### Churchbridge Public School

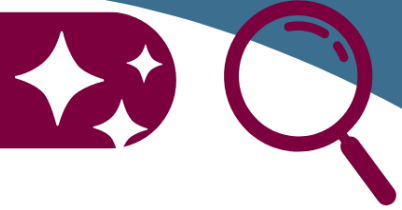
Churchbridge Public School would like to recognize Grade 10 Digital Learning School (DLS) student, Cloee, who has been producing some amazing work in her Arts 10 DLS class. Cloee is extremely humble about her talents and many times it goes unseen by all but her teacher. Cloee's work is beautiful. Congratulations!

*Photo to the right: A realistic hand drawn portrait.*



*Photos to the left (mouth drawing): Cloee's work represents water pollution. The dark water signifies pollution, while if you look closely, there are fish swimming in the lips, which are creatures trying to find their way through plastic bags and straw polluted water.*

# FOCUSING IN ON...

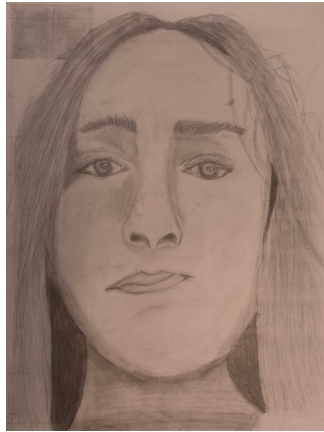


## Macdonald School

At Macdonald School, the Grade 7 and 8 classes worked on their assignment of realistic portraits. Development of the students' accurate line drawing and smooth shading skills was the primary focus for this project. Growth mindsets were challenged and strengthened throughout this process.



*Emryson Johanson (Grade 8)*



*Julianna Drotar (Grade 8)*



*Saphira Prodgers (Grade 7)*



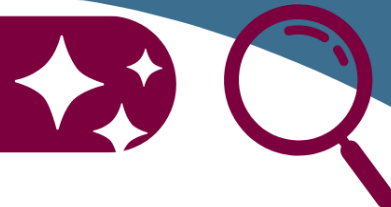
*Adyson Serhan (Grade 7)*

## Yorkton Regional High School

On November 25th and 26th the YRHS put on three fabulous performances of Beauty and the Beast at the Anne Portnuff Theatre. With performances almost being entirely sold out each seating, crowds clapped and raved about the display of talent. From costumes, to set pieces, to the choreography, the acting, and the backstage crew, all bases were covered with the help and talent of the YRHS students and staff. The performance even featured some local talent! The crowd showed their appreciation by giving a standing ovation after each performance. A family favourite that all enjoyed!

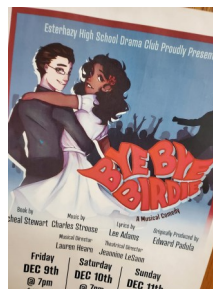
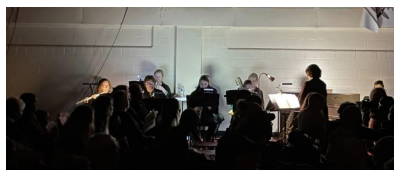


# FOCUSING IN ON...



## Esterhazy High School

On December 9, 10, and 11, 2022, Esterhazy High School put on three spectacular performances of *Bye Bye Birdie*. All three sold out audiences were blown away by the outstanding acting, singing, dancing, orchestra music, and stage crew. It's amazing what can be accomplished when so many talents come together! A huge thank you to Ms. LeSann and Mrs. Hearn for their fabulous directing and to all of the students and the orchestra that made the incredible musical possible. Everyone is so proud of all the hard work, dedication and talent that went into creating something so amazing!



## Winter Band Concerts

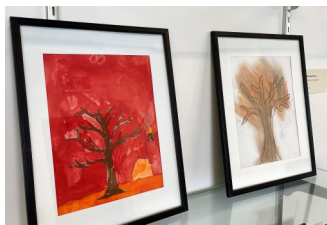
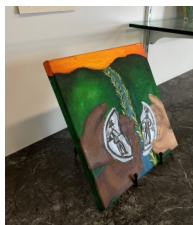
Throughout the Division schools celebrated the holiday season with concerts of all kinds. Here is a highlight of some band performances that occurred in December. Congratulations to all schools on their fabulous work!

- |              |  |                                  |
|--------------|--|----------------------------------|
| December 1:  | EHS Band and Choir Concert                 | Esterhazy High School            |
| December 4:  | YRHS Band and Choir Concert                | Anne Portnuff Theatre            |
| December 5:  | Yorkton and Area Elementary Band Concert   | Anne Portnuff Theatre            |
| December 7:  | MCS Music Winter Concert                   | Melville Comprehensive Cafeteria |
| December 14: | KCI Family Engagement Sr. Band Performance | Kamsack Comprehensive Institute  |
| December 15: | GSSD North Band Concert                    | Sturgis Composite School         |
| December 21: | KCI Gr. 7-12 Band at Christmas Dinner      | Kamsack Comprehensive Institute  |



## Artwork at the Good Spirit Education Complex

At the Good Spirit Education Complex, artwork from Davison school and the Yorkton Regional High School is proudly displayed. The artwork brings curiosity to everyone who passes. Thank you to the teachers that let us borrow these beautiful pieces to be displayed. Artwork will be rotated throughout the year to include all schools and classrooms that are interested in displaying their work.



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