

IN FOCUS

WITH GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



January/February 2019

PEOPLE CAPACITY FOCUS

GSSD is a community of learners and believes collaborative partnerships with students, staff, families and community members will enhance educational opportunities.

Long-term Goal

- By June 30, 2020, GSSD will demonstrate a commitment to provide professional development and training to its staff.
- By June 30, 2020, GSSD will demonstrate a commitment to the establishment of new and reaffirmed partnerships.

SEA STAR AWARDS PROGRAM

It is the acts of kindness and the extra special personal touch for students that make our division extraordinary. Peer and community recognition of staff accomplishments is the basis for the Sea Star awards program.

A nominations committee, consisting of a Board Member, the Director, the Deputy Director, Assistant to the Director, as well as a School Community Council member, is responsible for the integrity of the awards as well as ensuring the categories are fitting with the nominations. The emphasis on nominees is recognizing staff who model the Good Spirit School Division motto of "Students Come First". Employees are chosen for recognition based on their embodiment of the foundational values of the division as follows:

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



Photo above: Superintendent of Education, Lisa Wotherspoon presents Sandra Diduck from Yordale Central School her Sea Star award.



Photo above: Board member Steve Variyan presents Jackie Grant, from M.C. Knoll School with her Sea Star.

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

We acknowledge and celebrate Good Spirit School Division Sea Stars for guiding our students to shape a successful future.

Congratulations to the 28 employees and Langenburg Central School staff who received Sea Star awards. Thank you for what you bring to GSSD!

The full list of recipients has been added to our GSSD [website](#).

Photo to the right: Kent Daniel, Teacher at Esterhazy High School (EHS) is presented his Sea Star award by Superintendent of Education Alisa Leidl and EHS student Kendall Walker.



STUDENT & FAMILY
INTERNAL PROCESSES
PEOPLE CAPACITY
FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

Schools across our division celebrated staff members who have reached education milestones through their years of service.

Over 100 GSSD staff members celebrated either 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 or 35 years in the education sector.

The staff of GSSD give their efforts and commitment to students everyday, and they are truly the backbone of our division. Thank you and congratulations to all our employees for your hard work and dedication to education ... your passion to see students succeed is appreciated and inspirational!

Photo to the right: Staff members of Preeceville School stand proud while being recognized for their years of service.



Photo above: Staff of Columbia School celebrate their years of service and Sea Star recipients.



Photo above: Principal of Dr. Brass School, Jason Gordon with Coreen Langley, who is celebrating 25 years in the education sector.



Photo to the left: Charlotte Raine receives her years of service gift from Director of Education, Quintin Robertson.

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK



Photo above: A couple of thoughtful grade 12 students served home-made cake and ice cream to the staff of Norquay School for Staff Appreciation Week!

The Government of Saskatchewan proclaimed the week of February 10-16, 2019 as Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week in the province. This year's theme was "Creating a Vibrant Education Together" and was chosen by the Saskatchewan Association of School Councils (SASC).

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week is celebrated across Canada each year to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all our teachers and education professionals. This year marks the 32nd year that Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week was celebrated in Saskatchewan.

Staff at GSSD were celebrated across the division, cakes were made and breakfasts were had! The Board of Education and Central Administration gave each school and facility a basket full of goodies as a "thank you" for their love, care and attention each of them put into their work every single day.



Photo above: Esterhazy High School staff were treated to muffins and coffee from their SCC members for Staff Appreciation Week.

JANUARY 29TH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

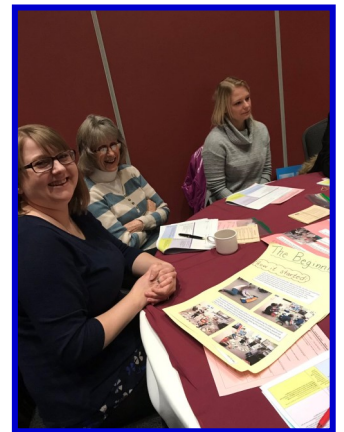
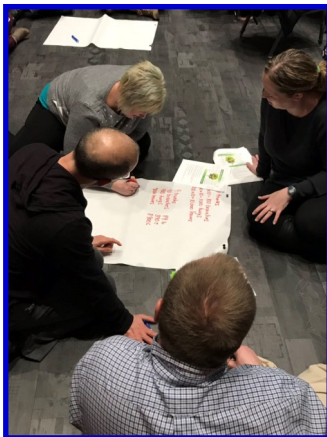
Every January, GSSD holds a professional development (PD) day, the students may have the day off, but the staff are hard at work. The day provides staff with the opportunity to strengthen their skills and brush up on new ideas to use in and outside of the classroom.

On January 29, the Educational Assistant (EA) PD day was held at the Yorkton Regional High School. Over 130 EAs joined together for a Keynote address by Dr. Kathleen O'Reilly. O'Reilly spoke on the importance of educators in students' lives, not only for the present, but in years to come. After the keynote address, EAs were able to choose from 12 different sessions, ranging from "Supporting Readers", "Creatively Supporting Students through Music Therapy" and "Transitioning Youth to Employment."

Educators from across the division were able to attend a presentation from Diane Musqua and Bonnie Musqua on Truth and Reconciliation, The Kairos Blanket Exercise, a Math Outcome Support Session, Day 2 of Responding to Children's Interest and a Distributed Learning Professional Learning Community (PLC).

It was a great day of collaboration, communication and learning!

Below are pictures from the division wide PD Day.



BUS DRIVER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The bus driver annual professional development was held on Tuesday, January 29th with 96 staff in attendance.

Operations Manager, Teresa Korol, went over Division updates and then the Saskatchewan Safety Council joined the group to provide a presentation on the "Thinking Driver", which was well received by those in attendance.



Photo above: Bus Drivers enjoy their annual staff development day.



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was a commission like no other in Canada. Constituted and created by the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, which settled the class actions, the Commission spent six years travelling to all parts of Canada to hear from the Aboriginal people who had been taken from their families as children, forcibly if necessary, and placed for much of their childhoods in residential schools.

Reconciliation requires that a new vision for all Canadians, based on a commitment of mutual respect, be developed.

It also requires an understanding that the most harmful impacts of residential schools have been the loss of pride and self-respect of Aboriginal people, and the lack of respect that non-Aboriginal people have been raised to have for their Aboriginal neighbours. Reconciliation is not an Aboriginal problem; it is a Canadian one. In response to this, the Good Spirit School Division developed a goal on its 2018-19 Strategic Plan that by June 30, 2020 **GSSD will promote empathy, respect and understanding in teaching related to residential schools and aboriginal history** as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action (Section 63). To achieve this work, the Good Spirit School Division has contracted the services of Bonnie Musqua and Diane Musqua to provide training in Truth and Reconciliation to both professional and support staff on January 29 and 30, 2019. The sessions have been powerful learning opportunities for staff across the division.



Photo above: Bonnie Musqua and Diane Musqua speak at the Truth & Reconciliation session on Jan. 29, 2019.

NATIONAL GATHERING FOR INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

GSSD sent seven individuals Mike Haczekwicz (YRHS), Johnna McBride (YRHS), Barbara Pelletier (YRHS), Jessica Schmidt (YRHS), Tracy Forsythe (KCI), Alisa Leidl and Mark Forsythe (Central Office) to the National Indspire Conference in Edmonton to support the work that the Board and GSSD is involved in by addressing the Indigenous students in our schools and classrooms.

In partnership with Indigenous, private and public sector stakeholders, Indspire educates, connects and invests in Indigenous people so they will achieve their highest potential.

Indspire's strategic priorities from 2017 to 2022 include:

- To continuously improve our programs and initiatives to produce outstanding Indigenous education and positive socioeconomic outcomes. (program)
- To increase our investment in people, technology and other resources to achieve our vision and mission and to enhance its impact. (capacity)
- To continue to be a catalyst for Indigenous people achieving their potential by forging meaningful partnerships. (collaboration)
- To enhance recognition of our innovative leadership in Indigenous education and achievement. (awareness)
- To continue to build financial sustainability as the organization of choice for funders of Indigenous education and achievement towards reconciliation.



Photo to the left: A group of facilitators speaks on how they think reconciliation will shape education's path for the next 10 years at the national conference in Edmonton.

Continued on next page....

The team attended a number of workshops on topics such as Truth and Reconciliation, Driving Systemic Change across a school division, Land Based Learning, and a variety of lesson plans and activities to help educators support the 94 calls to action as set out by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Report released in late 2015. The workshops primary focus was to examine instructional practices and seek other ways to engage Indigenous students in our buildings. The conference provided an overview of what is happening both on the provincial and the national stage in education supporting Indigenous students.

The team brought back a number of takeaways from the conference, and in discussion with other GSSD colleagues, will seek ways to think outside of the traditional educational view to infuse Indigenous knowledge in to the curriculum.

The national conference was held in Edmonton, Alberta in November from the 6th-9th and was presented by the Indspire Group. Indspire is a national Indigenous-led registered charity that invests in the education of Indigenous people for the long-term benefit of these individuals, their families, communities, and Canada. Their vision is to enrich Canada through Indigenous education and by inspiring achievement.



Photo above: Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair speaks on “Climbing the Mountain: Education Reconciliation in Canada.”

GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PD Event	Date	Topic / Outcome
Fountas & Pinnell Training	Jan. 17, 2019	This training was for Grade 1-6 teachers who had not previously had F&P training in GSSD. The purpose of the session was to provide training for teachers to effectively administer the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment.
Day 2 of Responding to Children’s Interests	Jan. 29, 2019	The second day of this workshop (1st day was in Oct. 2018), was based on a foundation of the vision and principles in the Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide. This workshop provided educators with opportunities to explore classroom practices to spark student interest and to build projects around invitations and play. Participants were able to build understanding about emergent curriculum for young children, explore the environment as the third teacher, strengthen their capacity to observe, listen, document and reflect in order to support and scaffold learning, and respond to children’s interests by developing a project experience with children. This two-day workshop provided an in-person learning experience supported by distance coaching as participants engage in their own class projects.
Distributed Learning Professional Learning Community (PLC)	Jan. 29, 2019	Distributed Learning Teachers in GSSD met to engage with each other on distributed learning curriculum and materials.
Kairos Blanket Exercise	Jan. 29, 2019	The KAIROS Blanket Exercise (KBE) covered more than 500 years in a 90-minute experiential workshop that aimed to foster understanding about our shared history as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. During the KBE, participants walked on blankets representing the land and into the role of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples by reading scrolls and carrying cards which ultimately determine their outcome as they literally ‘walked’ through situations that included pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization and resistance. Participants were guided through the experience by trained facilitators and Indigenous Elders or knowledge keepers. The Exercise concluded with a debriefing, conducted as a ‘talking circle’, during which participants discussed the learning experience, processed their feelings, ask questions, shared insights and deepened their understanding.
Math Outcome Support	Jan. 29, 2019	All grade 5 teachers in GSSD were provided with professional development and support in preparation for submission of the grade 5 math data to the Ministry of Education.
Truth and Reconciliation Session	Jan. 29, 2019	This session was presented by Bonnie Musqua and Diane Musqua. GSSD has set a division goal around Truth and Reconciliation as outlined in Section 63 of the TRC Calls to Action For Education. Bonnie Musqua and Diane Musqua have been responsible for training social workers across the province and have committed to leading Truth and Reconciliation sessions within GSSD.

PD Event	Date	Topic / Outcome
Educational Assistant (EA) Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kathleen O'Reilly	Jan. 29, 2019	The presentation focused on the importance of educators in students' lives. As Dr. O'Reilly has said, and written about extensively, "...often the way we view ourselves, each other and the world is the lasting legacy of an educator." Through memory-work, recollection and first-hand stories, she showed how educators live on in the minds of students long after school is "over." Infused within her talk, and central to her message, was the importance of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, with particular attention to building student and educator "capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy and mutual respect."
EA Breakout Session: Creatively Supporting Students through Music Therapy	Jan. 29, 2019	Participants were actively involved in developing skills and techniques to try when supporting students through Music Therapy.
EA Breakout Session: Developmental Profiles, adaptive approaches, and programming considerations	Jan. 29, 2019	Participants learned about the following for students with moderate to significant developmental challenges. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic backgrounds and developmental challenges. • Supportive equipment and activities related to mobility and positioning. • Adaptive approaches to support eye-hand coordination development. • Methods to support compromised pencil skills and printing development.
EA Breakout Session: Learning About Executive Function Skills	Jan. 29, 2019	Executive function and self-regulation skills provide critical supports for learning and development. Just as an air traffic control system at a busy airport manages the arrivals and departures of many aircraft on multiple runways, executive function skills allow us to retain and work with information in our brains, and switch mental gears. In this session, EAs were able to learn more about what executive functioning is and how to support students' development of executive functioning skills.
EA Breakout Session: Linking Literacy and Language: An Overview of Speech-Language Resources	Jan. 29, 2019	This presentation highlighted and demonstrated the use of Braided the Story Braid, the Expanding Expression Tool, and Sounds Around: Storybook Activities as related to language skill development. The presentation also demonstrated how all three language tools can be incorporated into a single lesson in order to target a variety of language skills with learners of varying ages and abilities.
EA Breakout Session: Supporting Readers	Jan. 29, 2019	Participants of this session were provided tips to remember when interacting with and listening to students read individually or in small groups. Strategies were outlined on how to make the most of the time spent practicing reading with struggling readers. Concrete examples and resources were reviewed.
EA Breakout Session: The Behaviour Code	Jan. 29, 2019	This session provided a look at understanding behaviour so that EAs are able to teach better coping strategies. The presentation outlined strategies from the book "The Behaviour Code" by Jessica Minahan and Nancy Rappaport.
EA Breakout Session: Trauma Response	Jan. 29, 2019	This session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defined trauma. • Went over the impact of different trauma on children and youth. • Looked at the impact of trauma on the brain. • Having trauma-informed classrooms and schools. • Tips on supporting students with trauma-related impacts.
EA Breakout Session: FASD	Jan. 29, 2019	EAs were able to develop an understanding of FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) and the impact on brain development, along with learning practical strategies to help support the unique needs of students with FASD.
EA Breakout Session: Google Read and Write	Jan. 29, 2019	Read & Write is a powerful tool to help support the writing process. In this session participants were introduced to the following features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Text-to-speech tool so students can listen back to their writing. •Text and picture dictionaries which is ideal for EAL students •Speech-to-text tool so students can dictate words to help support independent writing. •Word prediction that offers suggestions for the current or next word as you type.
EA Breakout Session: FRIENDS Resiliency for Adults	Jan. 29, 2019	Introduction to key concepts of FRIENDS, a program endorsed by the World Health Organization designed to build resilience to anxiety and depression. Participants will engage in self-reflection, discussion and activities aimed to promote personal wellness.
EA Breakout Session: This Chair is Just Right - Sit up and Be Counted	Jan. 29, 2019	This session took a look at the role and the importance of positioning in the classroom environment.

PD Event	Date	Topic / Outcome
EA Breakout Session: Transition Youth to Employment	Jan. 29, 2019	This was a mandatory session for EAs supporting students in work placement .

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.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

- ☞ Finding it tough making ends meet?
- ☞ Want to further your education?
- ☞ How about getting someone else to pay for it?

If you answered YES to any one of these three questions... BE SURE TO READ BELOW ↓

Did you know millions of dollars in aid goes unawarded every year because students didn't know it was out there or how to apply... THIS MONEY CAN BE YOURS!

February to June is the peak scholarship period for grade 11 and 12 students. This is the time of year when the majority of scholarships are available to students. This is an exciting time for you and we want to help ease the amount of financial struggles you may have when applying for post-secondary education.



Luckily, with a little bit of work, you can get your fair share of scholarship dollars, which can save you hundreds over your post-secondary years. There are many sites that will help kick start the scholarship hunt.

Our website has a whole webpage dedicated to [career education and course planning](#). From there, you can view our [GSSD Scholarship document](#) which houses nearly 150 scholarships you can apply for.

We encourage you to speak to your school Administrator or Guidance Counsellor to discuss what is best for you to further your education.

PAYROLL DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES

A number of new initiatives have been implemented in the payroll department to save time, money and paper!

- Implementation of Employee Self Service for all substitute teachers. The payroll department no longer has to print and mail out 1500+ pay statements and T4 in a year.
- With clarification of issuing Record of Employment's to temporary laid off employees, the department does not have to produce in excess of 200 records each school break.
- Introduction of the absence recap sheet for most support staff employees means no timesheets are due to the Board office.
- Using payroll software features to reduce input data time, specifically for extra-curricular transportation.
- Extending the option of Employee Self Service to all support and bus driver substitutes.

Look at the statistics for the 2018 calendar year:

- 12, 900+ pay cheques were issued
- 1, 499 employees received a T4
- 85 people received a T4A

STUDENT AND FAMILY FOCUS

GSSD exists to provide the highest level of student learning & well-being. All students will experience learning environments rich in the opportunities and experiences necessary to promote intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth.

Long-term Goals

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

GSSD AIMS HIGH WITH TERRY FOX FUNDRAISING

“I want to set an example that will never be forgotten.” Terry Fox believed so strongly in the potential of our country and its people – the potential for kindness, for compassion, and for generosity. With similar spirit, we commend the teachers, administration, students and families within GSSD on raising **\$25,833.35** to benefit cancer research in 2018!

This year, 24 schools from GSSD took part in a Terry Fox event.

Terry’s story is a defining piece of Canadian history and has become an integral part of the Saskatchewan curriculum.

Congratulations GSSD!



DAVISON SCHOOL TELEMIRACLE FUNDRAISER SUCCESS!

Davison School works hard every year to raise money in support of Telemiracle. This year, from February 11-14, the Student Representative Council held the classroom challenge “Silence the Teacher” to encourage students to bring in as many donations as possible.

At the end of the week, the teacher of the classroom that raised the most money was required to be silent for two minutes for every \$5 raised. The winning class this year was the grade 3 class!

Davison School students raised a total of **\$1,487.00** for Telemiracle 2019!



Photo above: Looks like a tight race for the “Silence the Teacher” challenge, but the grade 3 class at Davison School came out on top.

LEARN AG CAREER FAIR



Photo above: Students listen attentively to presentations at the AG Career Fair.

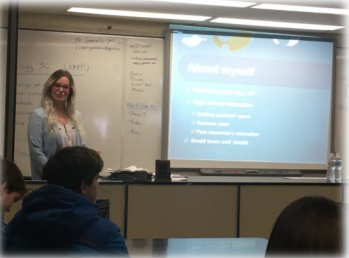


Photo above: Wellness/Pharmacy presenter Lindsay Richels speaks to students on embracing small town advantage!

On February 5, Churchbridge Public School (CPS) held their second annual Learn Ag Career Fair. The event was organized and run by the schools Learn Ag committee which consists of two staff members, local farmers, parents, and a growing number of students. This year, the student committee members took on the tasks of choosing the presenters, identifying themes, and facilitating the day. The eight businesses/organizations that they chose were Bridgeview Manufacturing/Hruska Farms, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance, Sharpe's Crop Services, Saskatchewan Youth and Apprenticeship Trade Certification Commission, Mosaic, Wendell Estates Honey Farm, The Wellness Pharmacy, and Ag in the Classroom.

The day was kicked off by Kaitlyn Sauser, a student representative on the Learn Ag committee explaining the importance of agriculture and her own personal ties to the industry. Next, a short video message from MLA Warren Kaeding was played to underline the different connections we all have to this growing industry. This year students from Macdonald, Yorkdale, and Langenburg Central schools attended alongside the CPS students. In total, 150 students rotated through each of the eight sessions before capping the day off by giving each of the presenters a personalized bird house as a



Photo above: The personalized bird houses given to presenters .

thank you for sharing their insight and experiences in AG.

WELLNESS FAIR WITH THE SALTCOATS MUSTANGS!

A day that promoted "building each other's toolbox" was a galloping success at Saltcoats School.

The school held a Wellness Fair on Friday, February 15, where students were able to choose from over 10 presentations.

The keynote address was given by Dan Clark from the Saskatchewan Roughriders in conjunction with the Red Cross, conveying an overall message of "Being Somebodies Hero."

Students were able to select three other presentations to attend including: Dance, Yoga, Internet Safety, Origami, Friendships, Music Therapy, Art, and Addictions.

Superintendent of Education, Alisa Leidl, shared her family classic home-made chicken noodle soup with students, as they prepared pots of the delicious soup to feed the students, presenters and staff.

Prior to the presentations, students participated in a "pay it forward" event, where spirit teams shovelled driveways, visited businesses and served Saltcoat residences with a "We Appreciate You" notice.

It was a great day that fostered friendships, well-being and esteem!



Photo to the right: Students stand proud with their home made soup for students and presenters at the Wellness Fair



Photo to the left: Keynote Speaker Dan Clark addresses students.

ABORIGINAL STORYTELLING MONTH

On February 15th, in celebration of **Aboriginal Storytelling Month**, Saltcoats School hosted Diane, Joe and Warren Musqua as their honored guests to share their culture, dance and stories with the staff and students. For Indigenous peoples, storytelling is both a gift, and a very old custom.

During their visit, the Musqua's shared the significance of their dance regalia (the distinctive clothing worn). Diane shared the history associated with the regalia and engaged the students in a question and answer session, allowing students to learn more about the ancestry, ceremony, spirituality and culture of our First Nations people. Diane shared that Aboriginal people do not see their ceremonies and spirituality as a religion, but rather a *way of life*. She shared that the ceremonies and spirituality of Aboriginal people are deeply embedded in everyday life.

Retelling the story of Turtle Island (Mother Earth) and how First Nations children receive their "spiritual names", captured the attention of the students, prompting many questions.

At the conclusion of the event, Diane Musqua presented several students in the audience with feathers and sweetgrass in a very moving and meaningful address. The Musqua's ended with a Round Dance engaging the students and staff of Saltcoats School.



Photo above: The Musqua's join staff and students for Aboriginal Storytelling Month



Photo above: Students receive feathers and sweetgrass from Diane, Joe and Warren Musqua.



Photo above: Students participate in a Round Dance.

BUDDY BENCH

A new bench at Langenburg Central School (LCS) is **sparking friendship!**

Mental Health Regina has donated a Buddy Bench to LCS. The schools Kindness Club was excited to receive the bench, and presented skits to the Kindergarten to Grade 7 students, showing them how the Buddy Bench can be used.

The Buddy Bench, which was created to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground, is located on the Kindergarten to Grade 3 playground at Langenburg Central School.

According to staff and students, it is used on a daily basis!

Here is what Grade 2 students have to say about the Buddy bench:



Photo above: Students enjoy the Buddy Bench at recess time.

"One day I was on the buddy bench and someone else was sitting on it too. We both decided to play together!"

"I noticed something since we've had the buddy bench - a lot more kids are getting included in games."

"I think the buddy bench is really working out for our school."



Photo above: Staff and students gather around the new Buddy Bench at LCS.

COLUMBIA SCHOOL— ONE SCHOOL ONE BOOK

This year marked Columbia School's sixth annual One School, One Book. In past years, students have read Charlotte's Web, The Cricket in Times Square, The One and Only Ivan, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and The Lemonade War altogether as an entire school community!

This year, Columbia staff selected Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling as their book to enjoy together.

The big kickoff to reveal the book began in the gym with every staff member dressed as Hogwarts professors, headmasters or others from the book (A special Thank you to YRHS for lending the robes!) and throughout the month, staff planned many wonderful activities and events while reading the book. Each child and staff member were assigned to a House Team from Hogwarts; Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff or Ravenclaw.



Photo above: A student sits under the Sorting Hat to see which House he will be assigned to.



Photo above: Students from the Hufflepuff House.

Throughout the reading of the book, staff held various challenges for the children to earn points for their house team. Teachers also encouraged students to follow the Cougar Code in order to earn (and NOT lose!) points for their house team. On Friday, February 1, World Read Aloud Day, the entire school met in the gym to listen to a cast of Columbia teachers reading part of that night's chapter and then finished off with a school-wide scavenger hunt of items worth points for their house teams. On another Friday, the entire school came out to cheer on the two teams in the finals of the Quidditch tournament that had taken place during last recess of one week. Students showed up wearing their house team colours that day to add points for their house teams.

Each morning, the students listened for a trivia question which was announced following O' Canada. The correct answers were entered into daily draws for prizes that were donated through SaskTel. You could have heard a pin drop when these announcements were on each day!

Wednesday, February 13 was the school-wide Harry Potter Day. Students were encouraged to dress as their favourite character from the book. Over half of the school population of 400 students showed up dressed as a character that day! That morning, the Drama club kicked off the day with their re-enactment of a scene from the book and then students took part in various stations throughout the school such as Spells and Potions, Quidditch, Photo Booth, Harry Potter Kahoot, Harry Potter Bingo, Craft of making their own Philosopher's Stone, and decorating owl cupcakes with Butter Beer! The afternoon was spent watching the movie in smaller grade alike groupings.



Photo above: Students take part in an intense of Quidditch.



Photo above: Students from the Ravenclaw House.



Photo above: Students from the Gryffindor House.

The book this year, along with the competition between house teams, brought the school spirit to a whole new level. Students everywhere were talking about the book and parents reported that their children didn't want them to put the book down! The challenge now lies in *What book do they pick for next year?!*

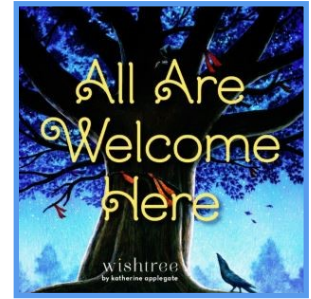


Photo above: Students from the Slytherin House.

Columbia School would like to note a special thanks to Columbia School SCC, SIGA, Cornerstone Credit Union, and SaskTel for their support in One School, One Book!

ONE COMMUNITY, ONE BOOK—FAMILY READING EVENT

During the month of January, Dr. Brass and Yorkdale Central School participated in a One Book, One Community Family Reading Event along with St. Paul's, St. Michael's and St. Alphonsus Schools in Yorkton. The book selected for this event was *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate which comes with a strong message around the importance of community and helping to build a world where everyone has the opportunity to listen and learn from each other.



Every family was provided a copy of *Wishtree* along with a reading calendar. Families were encouraged to read aloud together at home. Each day at school trivia questions were asked about the book and students were able to earn prizes for the correct answer. Given the multicultural nature of the novel, families were also encouraged to answer culture trivia questions each night.

Different languages, different food, different customs.
That's our neighborhood: wild and tangled and colorful. Like the best kind of garden."
-Katherine Applegate, *Wishtree*

Yorkdale wrapped up the month with a Family Literacy Night on Wednesday, January 30th and Dr. Brass celebrated their reading with their annual Family Literacy Carnival on Friday, February 1st in the afternoon. Both schools had tremendous involvement with many families engaged in the nightly reading and attending the Family Literacy Events.

The One Community, One Book Family Reading Event was an excellent opportunity to build a community of readers within the city of Yorkton.



EARLY YEARS INFORMATION

REGIONAL KidsFirst
Children's Literacy Expo

EAT, PLAY, LEARN

March 4th	Canora Rainbow Hall	
March 5th	Preeceville Legion Hall	
March 11th	Churchbridge Community Hall	
March 12th	Melville Community Works	
March 19th	Norquay Covenant Church	
March 20th	Kamsack OCC Hall	
March 25th	Keeseekoose Chiefs' Education Centre	
March 26th	Cote Chief Gabriel School	

Come and Go 10:30 am - 1 pm
Lunch provided

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES!

Fun interactive learning for children under 6 and their families!

Please preregister by scanning code.

Registration also accepted onsite.

Check out RKF events on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/RKF012/>

Engage with Community Partners!

GSSD FEATURE STUDENTS

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

Featured are Drew Kirk from Langenburg Central School and Colton Hubick, Jeff Stewart, Will Exner from Yorkdale Central School. Congratulations to these featured GSSD students!

Langenburg Central School Student - Drew Kirk

Drew Kirk, a grade twelve student at **Langenburg Central School (LCS)**, has been very busy working towards some lofty goals the past three years. He is a highly competitive, humble, student athlete who has had many successful and amazing experiences competing in volleyball and track and field at the high school, provincial, and national levels over the past couple years.



Drew is a seven-time Saskatchewan high school provincial medalist in track and field achieving medals in men’s long jump, the 200 m, and the 4 x 100 m relay. He is the reigning Saskatchewan youth male provincial outdoor gold medalist in long jump and is currently ranked 9th in Canada, by Athletics Canada, in U18 men’s wind assisted long jump.

Drew was captain and a leader on his LCS volleyball team that qualified for 3A provincial competition this season. He preceded this high school volleyball season playing club volleyball on the Regina Volleyball Club (RVC) Men’s 16U Green team. This highly competitive club team won the provincial title in April and went on to capture a bronze medal at the prestigious “Best of the West” tournament in Calgary where Drew was named a tournament “All Star.” Another outstanding accomplishment occurred in May when his RVC team finished fourth in Canada at Volleyball Canada Club Nationals in Edmonton.

Drew was also one of twelve players selected to represent the 17U Team Sask men’s provincial combine team at the Canada Cup this past July in Richmond, BC. He was a starting right side player on this team who captured a silver medal at this prestigious elite tournament.

Drew’s commitment and dedication to elite sports has resulted in several athletic scholarship offers in both Canada and the US, at various universities and colleges, in both volleyball and track and field. He has accepted an athletic scholarship, at the University of Manitoba, for men’s volleyball, where he will be studying criminology in the fall.

Drew has volunteered his time on the junior PAC and as a mentor in the LCS Big Brother program. He continues to explore his leadership skills, out of sport, by volunteering as a Saskatchewan Student Leadership Conference student spirit leader this past fall and serving on his school Student Representative Council this year. He credits his growth in confidence, through competitive sport, to feeling more secure in exploring student leadership within his school. He also maintains a high academic average.

Drew is an avid hockey player within his community, enjoys spending time with friends, and gaming. His level of commitment to achieving both personal and team goals will serve him well as he continues his life journey.

Yorkdale Central School Students—Colton Hubick, Jeff Stewart and Will Exner



During the week of January 28 - February 1, a trio of Royal students were involved in a campaign to draw awareness to mental health and to reduce the stigma about the hesitancy to discuss it. This began as a passion project in their classroom, but it grew to involve the entire school. Group leader **Colton Hubic** approached **Yorkdale Central School (YCS)** Principal, Shaune Beatty, who shared that Colton's preliminary thoughts meshed well with his intentions. Before long, Colton and his peer colleagues, **Jeff Stewart** and **Will Exner**, had negotiated that they wanted to head up all the school's actions. The boys ended up having discussions with a couple of community businesses to gather sponsorship and materials to assist with school activities.

A positive message board exploded with supportive commentary by other Yorkdale Central students. Though a couple of frigid days interfered with a planned presentation by the local mental health association, a Hat Day and a Hot Chocolate Sale kept the awareness going and assisted in collecting funds for the initiative. The trio also tie-dyed t-shirts for others to add to the awareness. Colton, Jeff, and Will's donations were forwarded to *Bell Let's Talk*, which raised over \$7 million and had over 145 million interactions during its 2019 campaign.

When asked about his campaign, Colton shared, *"I did this for people I know and I wanted to just help them with their day. Maybe this helps those people who have it (anxiety) to know that it is okay to go talk to someone. I hope that other students get motivated to help out with similar projects too."*



One of Yorkdale Central School's school improvement goals is related to student anxiety. It also has a "Living the Code" norm related to "Bringing credit to YCS." Mr. Beatty proudly shared, *"Our school community and I are very proud of these boys. Mental health awareness and dealing with anxiety in a positive manner are national, provincial and local campaigns. Children and teens expect to hear certain messages from teachers and adults in the community, but when the message comes from their peers, the message takes on a different context. I hope there is a real ripple effect that lasts beyond this week."*



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



Photo above: Administrator Darran Wandy received an award in the Recreation category.

Congratulations to Melville Comprehensive School teacher, John Svenson, and Administrator, Darran Wandy, for recently being presented the City of Melville's 2018 Volunteer Recognition awards in the Sports category and Recreation category. John earned this award because of his hard work and dedication to the Melville Minor Football club. Darran was nominated for his work with Parkland Outdoor Show & Expo, Archery, Millionaires Baseball Club and the Cross



Photo above: Coach John Svenson received an award in the Sports category.

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (ECDAA) SENIOR CURLING RESULTS 2019

The district Senior Curling took place in early February, results are as follows.

Senior Girls:

Gold Medal: Esterhazy High School
Silver Medal: Yorkton Regional High School
Bronze Medal: Sturgis Composite School

Senior Boys:

Gold Medal: Sturgis Composite School
Silver Medal: Norquay School
Bronze Medal: Preeceville School

Senior Mixed:

Gold Medal: Canora Composite School
Silver Medal: Yorkton Regional High School
Bronze Medal: Sacred Heart High School

The 2019 ECDAA Regionals will take place in Yorkton at the Gallagher Centre the first weekend of March.

Girls: Esterhazy High School and Yorkton Regional High School

Boys: Sturgis Composite School and Yorkton Regional High School

Mixed: Canora Composite School and Yorkton Regional High School.

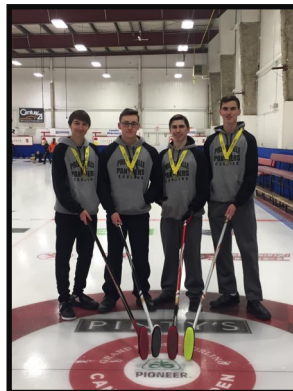


Photo above: Preeceville School's Sr. Boys team.



Photo above: Sturgis Composite School Sr. Boys team.



Photo above: Yorkton Regional High School's Senior Mixed team.



Photo above: Canora Composite School's Senior Mixed team.

A huge congratulations to all GSSD Senior Curling teams, and good luck to the teams heading into the Regionals!

GOOD TIMES AROUND GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



Photos above: Calder School recently held a Family Fun Night and a Family & Friends Potluck Lunch. Both with great success!

Photos to the right: Canora Composite School leaders hosted a pancake breakfast to kick off exam week in late January.



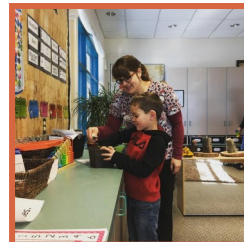
Photo to the left: Students from Esterhazy High School are suited up for a tour of Harvest Meats.



Photos to the left: Victoria School students show their presentations at the schools Science Fair.



Photo to the left: Students at Invermay School dance another indoor recess away with GoNoodle guided dance.



Photos above: Kindergarten students and their families spend time together during M.C. Knoll's Kindergarten Family Engagement Day.



Photos: Miller School (Left) and Davison School (Above) participate in the Red Cross "Day of Pink" on February 27.

Photo to the right: Students from Preeceville School took part in the "Telemiracle Bed Push" from Preeceville to Sturgis!



Photos to the right: Friendly Valentines Day door decorating competition at Grayson School.



Photo to the left: The "Melville elementary archery club" is back and students are having lots of fun!



Photos above: Another excellent Art Show at Sturgis Composite School. Thank you Mrs. Lesser for guiding these students to reach their full potential.

laugh•learn•play•collaborate

It's time to register!

Prekindergarten

Children who are 3 (by Sept. 30) or already 4 may complete an application to attend.

Register by the end of May.

PreK selection is based on the Ministry of Education eligibility criteria.

PreK program locations:

Canora Junior Elementary School

Columbia School - Yorkton

Davison School - Melville

Dr. Brass School - Yorkton

Langenburg Central School

PPEP Program - Esterhazy

Victoria School - Kamsack

Kindergarten

Children who were born in 2014 can register for Kindergarten.

Register by the end of April.

Visit www.gssd.ca for registration information or call your local school.



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.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM

On February 26, 27 & 28 members of the GSSD Senior Administrative Team traveled to three different communities in the division to engage in conversations regarding the 2019-20 budget.



Photo above: North Cluster SCC Symposium

School Community Council (SCC) members were informed of how the Division, under the leadership of the Board, aligns the budget with the Division's strategic plan, Division priorities, and the Provincial Education Sector's Strategic Plan (ESSP).

SCC members participated in a dotify activity. During this activity, each school SCC was asked to place a red dot under the budget priority that they believed deserved the strongest consideration. They were then asked to place blue, green, and yellow dots under the priority areas that they considered to be the top three considerations going into the 2019-20 school year.

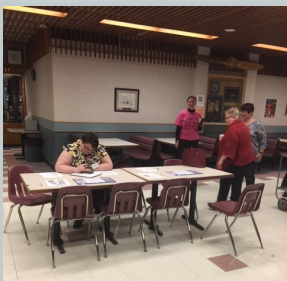


Photo above: Central Cluster SCC Symposium

Director Robertson reviewed the draft 2019-20 School Calendar and encouraged those in attendance to complete the calendar survey prior to the end of the day on February 28.

The SCC were provided with detailed examples of how the Board of Education, through the budgeting process, actualized GSSD's aspirational statements of Student Learning & Well-being, Equitable and Balanced Opportunities, Accountability for All, People Engagement, and Sustainable Infrastructure.

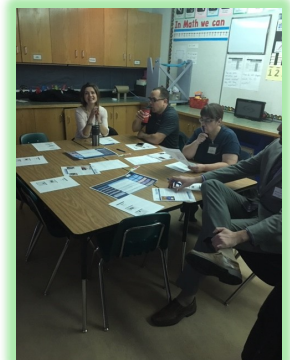


Photo above: South Cluster SCC Symposium

PARKLAND COLLEGE ADVOCACY SESSION



Photo above: Left to Right: Kami DePape, Interim President, Wendy Wilson, Trades & Technology Centre Coordinator, Gwen Machnee, University Program Coordinator.

During the January 31 Board of Education meeting, members from the Parkland College in Yorkton joined GSSD's Trustees and Senior Administration for an advocacy session during lunch. The group engaged in conversations about their partnership and programming enhancements. Quintin Robertson and Donna Kriger have arranged to meet with Kami DePape to review the Learning Alliance between the Parkland College and Good Spirit.



Focusing in on ...

GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION INDIGENOUS ACHIEVEMENT COACHES

Good Spirit School Division is committed to increasing graduation rates for First Nations and Métis (FNM) students within the division. During the 2018-19 school year, an innovative FNMI High School Graduation Coach Program that provides comprehensive, individual, in-school support and a cultural room for FNMI students was introduced at both the Yorkton Regional High School and the Kamsack Comprehensive Institute.

The Indigenous Student Achievement Coach works to restore the social and cultural systems that once guided youth, including mentoring. Together the coach and the cultural room promote positive outcomes rather than simply preventing negative ones. In the work of the graduation coach, significant connection to school and learning is accompanied by significant relationships. With the support of the school administration, school graduation coach, and the Indigenous Student Achievement Coach FNM students are making stronger connections to school and are receiving the support necessary to stay in school and to achieve academically.

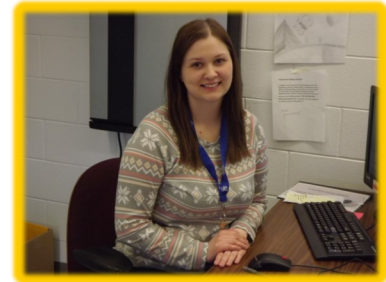


Photo above: Rayne Townsend, Indigenous Student Achievement Coach at Kamsack Comprehensive Institute.

The program offers students a home place in which they are able to feel a sense of belonging. The freedom to come and go as students please also enables them to take personal and social responsibility for their own learning. While the program offers a variety of supports, it has six specific areas of focus:

- ⇒ Relationships and Mentoring;
- ⇒ Transitions;
- ⇒ Culture;
- ⇒ Career Counselling;
- ⇒ Academics; and,
- ⇒ Parental Engagement.

The Good Spirit School Division is proud to have Barbara Pelletier supporting students at the Yorkton Regional High School and Rayne Townsend providing support to the FNM students at the Kamsack Comprehensive Institute. Their work as Indigenous Student Achievement Coaches has already resulted in an increased sense of belonging and improved attendance rates among FNM students at their respective schools.



Photo above: Barbara Pelletier, Indigenous Student Achievement Coach at Yorkton Regional High School.



Photo above: Rayne Townsend sits in the cultural room at KCI.

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