

IN FOCUS

WITH GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

FROM THE DIRECTOR

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Here we are over halfway into the school year! I sincerely hope each of you had the opportunity to enjoy valuable time with loved ones during the Christmas and February breaks.

When school resumed on January 4, 2023, students, staff, and families had the opportunity to show their support by participating in GSSD’s Ribbon Skirt/ Shirt Recognition Day. I was elated to see how enthusiastic the staff and students were to acknowledge this momentous event. I was astonished to feel the warm welcome I received at the Cote First Nation. I was honoured and humbled to receive a gift of a blanket which recognizes our commitment to ongoing reconciliation in our school division.

As part of our commitment to increasing GSSD’s leadership capacity, In-School Administrators met on January 5th via our electronic platform TEAMS and in person on February 28th. The meetings focused on critical information sharing, professional collaboration, and leadership capacity building in areas outlined in the GSSD Leadership Framework – Setting Direction, Leading the Instructional Program, Developing People, and Creating a Learning Organization. During the February meeting, the Division’s senior leadership continued discussions about current and future budget development efforts. This process begins every January when school divisions are required to submit projected enrollments to the Ministry of Education for the upcoming school year. GSSD is projecting an enrolment increase of 226 students from 2022-23 projected enrolments. At the same time, this is excellent news and will likely result in increased funding. We anticipate over 1 million dollars worth of additional expenditures outside the Division’s control (i.e., fuel, insurance, staffing costs). Further work to develop a balanced budget will continue throughout March & April.



Continued on next page.

FROM THE DIRECTOR/CEO, CONTINUED

In February, the Division participated in the provincial staff appreciation week with the theme of Champions of Learning. Parents, students, staff, and the community could highlight GSSD staff members' work and acknowledge their unwavering efforts. In addition to the staff appreciation week, GSSD hosted multiple SEASTAR events across the school division to recognize staff that have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Seeing so many GSSD staff recognized for their commitment and excellence was genuinely inspiring. The month of February concluded with the Board of Education Service Recognition banquet. Over 100 GSSD staff members were recognized for 10, 20, 30, and 40+ years of service. The program was held at the Gallagher Centre in Yorkton, and the attendees enjoyed fellowship and an incredible comedian. Some lucky staff members also received word that they won this year's staff recognition draw.

Staff Appreciation Week 2023

February 12-18, 2023

GSSD students, families, and staff, we want to hear from YOU!


Tell us about a GSSD staff member who you think is a Champion of Learning! Fill out the Microsoft Form!



On February 17, 2023 I was proud to wear pink for Pink Shirt Day with my fellow colleagues and students from across the Division. Pink Shirt Day is also known as Anti-Bullying Day across Canada. GSSD is proud to recognize this day that originated in Nova Scotia, Canada. By wearing pink we work towards the Division's values of belonging, respect, responsibility, learning, nurturing, perseverance, and diversity.

Quintin M. Robertson
 Director of Education/CEO

 @gssd_204

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 Good Spirit School Division 204 | Facebook

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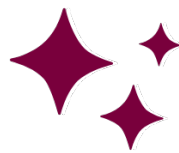


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FOCUSING IN ON...

GSSD Division Wide Swim Program



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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 50 PD opportunities have been held so far.

On January 30, 2023, over 200 Good Spirit School Division employees gathered at the Yorkton Regional High School for professional development. Educational Assistants (EAs), Student Support Teachers (SSTs) and Practical Applied Arts (PAA) teachers attended sessions throughout the day about various topics and specialties while Bus Drivers took part in their First Aid Training. While YRHS was bustling with staff, the Good Spirit Education Complex hosted around another 100 employees. It was a successful and fulfilling day of education as people were able to interact and learn together as a team.

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
Aspiring Leaders PD: Emotional Intelligence	January 19, 2023	As part of the Aspiring Leaders PD those who take part in six sessions or more will get the opportunity to shadow a leader in April, 2023.
Library Technician Professional Learning Community	January 30, 2023	Library Technicians gathered to collaborate and continue discussions around the work of the library as part of the school community.
Transportation Department First Aid Training for GSSD Bus Drivers	January 30 & 31, 2023	Education on providing individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to provide immediate assistance to someone who has been injured or has suddenly fallen ill.
Practical Applied Arts Professional Learning Community	January 30, 2023	Participants spent the morning in large groups learning about curriculum and assessment, facilities and equipment, etc. The remainder of the day included opportunities to meet in discipline-specific small groups.
Band Professional Learning Community	January 30, 2023	Participants had the opportunity to engage in information sharing and co-planning, including division-wide opportunities and considerations.
Supporting Newcomers: What You Can Do to Support EAL Students	January 30, 2023	This session explored methods to support English as a Second Language students as they begin their education in Canada.
SLP 101: The Role of the SLP in Schools and How You Can Support Students with Speech & Language Needs	January 30, 2023	This session focused on: What is the role of the SLP in the school? What types of students does the SLP work with? How can an SLP support the speech and language needs of students they are working with?

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
Teaching Treaty Outcomes Through Play for Prekindergarten, Kindergarten and Grade 1 Teachers	January 30, 2023	Participants explored ways in which early learners can be invited to investigate the important concepts and teachings embedded in the Saskatchewan Education outcomes through age-appropriate play-based provocations and inquiry processes.
Educational Assistant & Student Support Teacher Professional Learning Community	January 30, 2023	Keynote speaker: Kaylee Miller, Autism Specialist
Supporting Students with Intensive Needs in the Pool Program for Specific Staff	January 30, 2023	GSSD Staff focused on ways to support students in the water according to their sensory motor profile and comfort level.
Features of Autism: what you might see and how we can support, for all EAs & SSTs	January 30, 2023	In this session EAs and SSTs explored the features of Autism and how these translate into everyday life working with students on the spectrum by discussing some of the behaviors you might observe and how to appropriately respond.
Let's Get Visual, for all EAs & SSTs	January 30, 2023	This hands-on, interactive presentation taught the 5 Ws of visuals!
Supporting Students in the Transitioning Youth to Employment (TYE), for all EAs & SSTs	January 30, 2023	TYE staff reviewed the role of the EA in the work experience placement setting and how to support students on the job.
Social Emotional Learning: Self-Awareness, for EAs & SSTs	January 30, 2023	Participants had the chance to understand and explore how their behaviour and mental health affects those around them.
Building Relationships with Indigenous Learners and Their Families, for all EAs & SSTs	January 30, 2023	EAs and SSTs dove a little deeper into what intergenerational trauma is, what some of the causes are and how it impacts the students that we work with.
Introduction to Trauma-Informed Care, for all EAs & SSTs	January 30, 2023	In this session participants learned how to define trauma, the impacts of trauma on learning and behaviour and how school staff can support all students, including those whose life has been impacted by trauma.
VTRA Level 1 Training	February 6 & 7, 2023	This two-day training taught community partners (mental health, social services, youth probation, RCMP, Yorkton Tribal Council, and relevant staff, etc.) the multidisciplinary process of determining whether a threat maker actually poses a risk to a target(s) they have threatened.
Aspiring Leaders PD: Safe Schools	February 9, 2023	As part of the Aspiring Leaders PD, those who take part in six sessions or more will get the opportunity to shadow a leader in April, 2023.

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

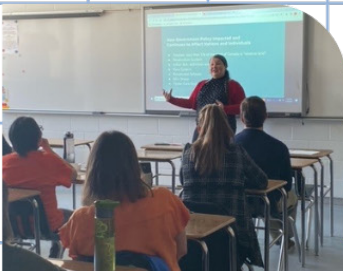
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION



Keynote Speaker Kaylee Miller presenting to EAs and SSTs



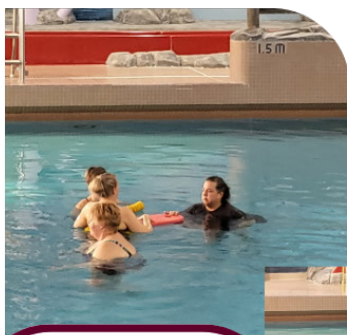
Library Techs engage in small break out groups as they discuss community engagement



GSSD Indigenous Student Success Consultant Jesse Armstrong speaks about building relationships with indigenous learners and their families



PreK, Kindergarten and Grade 1 Teachers discuss Teaching Treaty Outcomes Through Play



The Swim Program participants learn ways to support students in the water according to their sensory motor profile and comfort level



GSSD Educational Psychologists Deb Bulitz, Gary Scheffler and Kim Unterschute present on the Features of Autism



GSSD Speech Language Pathologists focus on how students with speech and language needs can be supported

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION: FIRST AID TRAINING FOR BUS DRIVERS

On January 30, at Yorkton Regional High School, and January 31, at Good Spirit Education Complex, 93 GSSD bus drivers participated in first aid training.



First Aid Training will help to ensure bus drivers have the tools needed when or if there is a need on the bus. While this is not an SGI requirement to operate a school bus, this brings considerable benefit to the students of GSSD.

The training was put on by St. John Ambulance for all regular and spare bus drivers.



First Aid training is an essential skill that will benefit GSSD Students. By learning how to respond in emergency situations, bus drivers can help save lives, reduce the severity of injuries, and provide comfort and support to those in need.



GSSD Bus Drivers engage in active learning at the Yorkton Regional High School and Good Spirit Education Complex as they complete their two day First Aid Training.

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

GSSD STAFF RECEIVE THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE MEDAL

Throughout the month of January seven GSSD staff were presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal: Melville Comprehensive School (MCS) Vice-Principal Darren Wandy, Dr. Brass Vice-Principal Patti Zerr, Churchbridge Public School (CPS) Principal Amanda Kornaga, MCS teacher John Svenson, Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) Teacher Roby Sharpe, YRHS Teacher Perry Ostapowich, and Kamsack Comprehensive Institute Admin Assistant Wendy Becenko.

The Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal was created to celebrate the 70th anniversary year of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne, which began on February 6, 2022. The medal is a tangible way for the Province of Saskatchewan to honour Her Majesty for her service to Canada. It also recognizes Saskatchewan citizens of all ages, and from all walks of life, who have made contributions to Canada, Saskatchewan, and to the recipient's community.



Award winners pictured to the left. From left to right: Darren Wandy, Patti Zerr, Amanda Kornaga, and John Svenson



Moose Jaw North MLA Tim McLeod, left, and Canora-Pelly MLA Terry Dennis, right, presents Wendy Becenko, centre, with a Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal. Photo by Rocky Neufeld / Kamsack Times



Award winners pictured to the right. From left to right: Roby Sharpe and Perry Ostapowich.

Darren Wandy was recognized in the category of volunteerism, Patti Zerr in the arts category, Amanda Kornaga in the education category, John Svenson in the sports category, Wendy Becenko for her work and volunteerism in Kamsack, Roby Sharpe in the sports category, and Perry Ostapowich for his work with the Legion. All recipients have worked to make Saskatchewan a better place. Congratulations!

Congratulations!

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.

COLUMBIA'S ONE SCHOOL ONE BOOK KICKS OFF WITH THE HELP OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC)

This is Columbia School's tenth year of One School One Book (OSOB). The book chosen this year is *The Barren Grounds* by David A Robertson, an Indigenous author from Winnipeg.

The Kickoff was on Friday, January 6 with every family in the school receiving a copy of the book which were all purchased by the Columbia School SCC. Over the course of January and February students answered morning trivia questions for their chance to win prizes donated by SaskTel. They also took part in various activities that built school community and spirit. Every student in the school was added to a team with different Cree animal names.

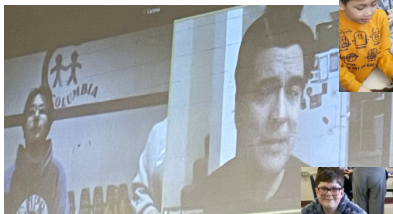
The wrap-up took place on the morning of Friday, February 17, with all students taking part in various stations throughout the school tied to the book.



The wrap up spanned the course of an evening and a day. Columbia School invited families to attend a Soup & Bannock Night with Clorice and Sasha Delorme speaking about their journey through finding their identity and what they gain from partaking in pow wow dancing. There was a nice turnout for this event and families enjoyed the presentation along with visiting later over soup and bannock.



The next morning, the students of Columbia School met for a schoolwide assembly and were fortunate to have the author, David A Robertson speak to all the students and answer submitted questions of some very lucky students who were presented with the second book in his series, *Great Bear*.



Students then broke into their teams and proceeded through various activities related to the book: Barren Grounds Obstacle Course, Beading, Constellation Art, Barren Grounds trivia booklet, snack of bannock and juice, and checking out animal pelts from the Trapline, presented by Floyd Hendrickson of the Saskatchewan Trappers' Association.



A big thank you goes out to the Columbia School SCC for purchasing all the books for the families, to Legacy Co-Op for the donation of snack items, to SaskTel for prizes and to Unifor and SIGA for their donation that made it possible for Columbia to provide soup and bannock, have special presenters, and buy supplies for the event.

ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

GAME NIGHT AT MELVILLE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL



On January 19, 2023, the School Community Council and Melville Comprehensive School sponsored their very first Games Night! In an effort to support numeracy and literacy in a fun and engaging way, the MCS SCC purchased many board games for the students to access. Appropriate titles were provided by the staff. Games Night was held in the cafeteria from 7-9 pm. MCS was happy to see about 60 people in attendance.

There were a couple of guessing games at the front table that were a big hit. There was also a door prize.

The event was supported through community engagement! Popcorn was supplied by Melville Minor Hockey. The Grayson Mobile Playground Program donated refreshments, and the MCS SCC members donated some craft supplies as well.

There were three craft stations available for the younger siblings to participate in and many crafts were made. Many tables were filled with students and parents trying out many different games. The games were enjoyed by all; MCS’s next Games Night is planned for April 20, 2023.



NORQUAY SCHOOL HOLDS THEIR ANNUAL SKATE-A-THON!

On Friday, February 17, 2023, Norquay School Kindergarten to Grade 6 students participated in their annual Skate-a-thon. This year Norquay School decided to raise funds for the local rink as this is a popular learning and activity space for the school and students. Students raised a total of \$1,517.50!

Grades 7-12 students participated in a curling bonspiel. There was lots of laughter and fun to be heard throughout the rink. Many games of “Go Fish” were played upstairs while waiting for their turn to curl.

Norquay School would like to recognize and thank the awesome parent volunteers who worked in the canteen for the curlers and fed them an amazing lunch! Also, thank you to all the parents and grandparents who came to help tie skates.

What a great day for students!



ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

A BOOK VENDING MACHINE MEANS SWEET READS AT P.J. GILLEN SCHOOL!

P.J. Gillen School added a real treat to their school this year....a book vending machine! It has been a highlight of the school and a busy place for students. There is always excitement and anticipation of what book will show its cover next.

Students can purchase books from the vending machine with a special book coin. Coins can be earned two different ways throughout the year:

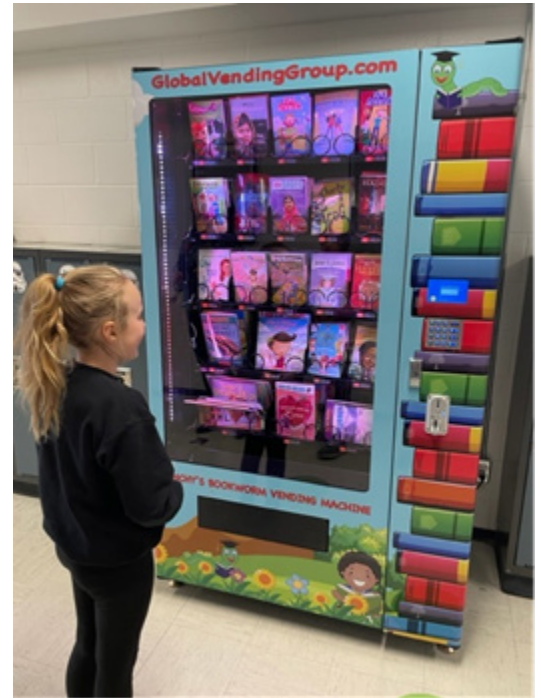
1. Students can purchase a book coin with their Positive Behavioural Interventions and Supports (PBIS) points that they earn for displaying our PAWS values.

Positive Attitude
Act Responsibly
With Respect
Safe 🐼

2. Students are awarded PAWSitive Panda Cards from their teachers during monthly assemblies. PAWSitive Panda Cards are earned when students display PAWS values in and around our school. With each card also comes a book coin!

PBIS helps P.J. Gillen to focus on recognizing their PAWS values. Students work hard and are proud to earn their PBIS points...many choosing to purchase books!

A special thank you to the P.J. Gillen's School Community Council for keeping the book vending machine stocked with new books!



RED DRESS BEADING WITH P.J. GILLEN STAFF

The staff at P.J. Gillen enjoyed working alongside Indigenous Student Success Consultant Jesse Armstrong during the morning of January 31, 2023. Part of their commitment as a staff is to learn more about and play a role in Reconciliation. Jesse shared information regarding Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Staff learned how to bead beautiful Red Dress pins. Members of P.J. Gillen's School Community Council and Board Member Jade Anderson also joined the activity.



Pictured to the right: P.J. Gillen staff members and Board Member Jade Anderson learn about Reconciliation and how to bead beautiful Red Dress Pins.



ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM AT THE GOOD SPIRIT EDUCATION COMPLEX

The Board of Education believes in relationship building; working to build or maintain ethical relationships, networks, or contacts with people who are, or may be, potentially helpful in achieving mutually beneficial goals. School Community Councils (SCCs) were invited to the Good Spirit Education Complex on January 24, 2023, for an evening of information and collaboration.

Quintin Robertson, Director of Education/CEO, welcomed everyone to the SCC Symposium and acknowledged the meeting originated on Treaty 4 Territory.

Role of the SCC was the first topic of the evening. Robertson highlighted the supporting documents available on the GSSD website. Within the School Community Council section, members have access to the SCC Operations Manual and the professional development (PD) modules. New this year, is the roll out of the SCC PD plan. There are six modules available to support members in their role of supporting improved learning and well-being of students in their schools:

- Roles and Responsibilities of SCC Members;
- SCC Operations;
- SCC Action Plans;
- SCC Communication;
- Student Learning; and,
- Student Well-being.

Lisa Wotherspoon, Superintendent of Learning, provided a presentation on Parental Engagement (Learning Walks). A learning walk is a facilitated and structured walk of the school/classrooms during the school day. The focus of the learning walk is children and their learning as opposed to teachers and the teaching. Prior to the Learning Walk, parents are invited to think of some questions such as “What would I like to find out about the learning environment at my school?” or “Is my family represented in the school?”. During the walk, parents are invited to watch the learning, look around the room while thinking about their own questions, learning, and discovery, and take five or six photos with a Division device. After the walk, conversation is guided with the following statements/questions:

- With an elbow partner, share one photo you took that best sums up your learning today.
- What is one sentence you would use to describe what you learned from the learning walk today?
- What is one aspect you would like to know more about?
- What is one thing you would say to another parent about the learning environment at our school?

Good Spirit School Division’s values are Belonging, Respect, Responsibility, Learning, Nurturing, Perseverance, and Diversity. Robertson invited attendees to review and provide feedback on each value and definition.



SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

STRATEGIC PRIORITY
EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE
ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

Information for the Board - 10 Fast Facts

1. SCC Mandate: The mandate of the SCC is for members to support improved student learning and the well-being of students in their school. SCCs help to encourage parents and community members to engage in both the learning success and wellness of the students in their community.

2. The membership of the SCC includes both elected and appointed members. The members fall into four main categories: (1) representative members (9 to elected members), (2) secondary student representative members (1 or 2 high school students), (3) First Nations representative members, and (4) permanent members (principal and teacher). Note: Additional members can be appointed if needed to represent the diversity of the school community and to encourage community engagement.

3. Role of the SCC Chair: oversees council operations, conducts council meetings, ensures all members have input into discussions and decisions, acts as a spokesperson for the council, and prepares the council meeting agendas in consultation with other council members.

4. Role of the SCC Vice-Chair: supports council chair, performs responsibilities assigned by council chair, intends to stand for chair when current chair term expires, and conducts council meetings in the absence of the council chair.

5. Role of the SCC Secretary: records and prepares council meeting minutes, receives and sends correspondence on behalf of the council, takes charge of the official records of council, and ensures that appropriate notice is given for all council meetings.

6. Role of the SCC Treasurer: manages the council finances.

7. Responsibility of the SCC Members

- Understand Students
- Become Knowledgeable of Supports
- Encourage Participation
- Provide Feedback to Board
- Develop Action Plans
- Make Recommendations
- Communicate Plans, Initiatives, and Outcomes
- Communicate Expenditures
- Participate in Networking and Learning Opportunities

8. In addition to the nine responsibilities of SCC members, there are three other areas that councils may choose to pursue. These include providing suggestions:

- to the Board on policies, programs, and educational service delivery.
- to the school staff regarding school programs, and
- to other organizations, agencies, and levels of government on student needs related to student learning and well-being.

9. Code of Conduct

- There is an expectation as a member of the SCC to conduct yourself in a certain manner. The SCC Code of Conduct addresses this expectation.
- Discussions: The council is not a forum to discuss any student, parent, teacher, school personnel, or community member.
- Confidentiality - If you are approached as a council member by a parent or community member, the discussion should be treated with discretion and the people involved should be kept confidential.
- Conduct - SCC members must adhere to the following:
 - Honour the role of the SCC.
 - Be guided by the overall vision and purpose of the SCC.
 - Perform duties with honesty and integrity.
 - Endeavour to be familiar with the vision, mission and shared values of the school division and perform duties accordingly.
 - Endeavour to become familiar with administrative procedures of the school division.
- Work to ensure that the well-being of students is of primary focus in all decisions.
- Respect the rights of all individuals.
- Encourage a positive atmosphere where individual contributions are valued.
- Contribute to consensus building.
- Encourage and support parents and students with individual concerns to act on their own behalf and provide information on processes for addressing concerns.
- Work to ensure that issues are resolved through due process.
- Strive to be informed and only share information that is reliable and correct.
- Respect all confidential information.
- Declare any conflict of interest.
- Support public education.

10. GSSD's website provides links to all SCC Training Materials Related to Roles and Responsibilities

gssd.ca

LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS...ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

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.

FAMILY LITERACY DAY INSPIRES STUDENTS TO CELEBRATE THEIR HERITAGE

In honour of Family Literacy Day this year, Good Spirit School Division held a Celebrate Your Heritage Contest. GSSD schools, classrooms and families were encouraged to participate with the chance to win prizes that were announced on Family Literacy Day, January 27, 2023.

Participants shared how they were celebrating their heritage by cooking/baking a traditional dish or by picking up a book and learning something new. It was uplifting seeing all participants learning about their history and culture.

Congratulations to all participants, as pictured to the right. And check out the winners for each category here!



Congratulations to Zisu at M.C. Knoll School for winning the family category in GSSD's Celebrate Your Heritage Contest. Zisu and her family made boba and read about it in both Chinese and English! Boba is a type of milk tea that originates from Taiwan.

Thank you for sharing with us Zisu! And thank you to Phil Adams, Principal of M.C. Knoll school for helping present Zisu with her prize.

In the classroom category, Mrs. Martinuk's EAL Class won! They celebrated Christmas traditions from different cultures, made perogies, and continue to explore and learn about the different cultures that encompass the class.

They loved their prizes of engaging board games!



Miller School won the school category. Shaune Beatty, GSSD Superintendent of Schools, stopped by to deliver their prize!

Miller School held a school wide reading buddy celebration with students bringing selections that celebrated their family identity and borrowing books from their local library that Mrs. Coleman kindly prepared.

Miller chose to complete this challenge as a school to show their diversity between students and their commitment to celebrating each and everyone of their school members for their differences. Some of the heritages they learned about were; Ukrainian, Indigenous, Irish, German, French, Chinese, Mexico and so much more!

An interesting fact the students learned: "When we are kind, we end up with more friends, and when we are kind it makes us feel better (Emma, Kaiden and Grace)"

Pictured top right: all the participants and their submitted photos.

Pictured middle left: Zisu and Mr. Adams.

Pictured middle right: Mrs. Martinuk's class with their certificate and prize.

Pictured above: Mr. Beatty with a Miller student and faculty to accept their prize!

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

MEET A BUS DRIVER: ANNE STUPAK

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 Anne Stupak!

Hello, my name is Anne Stupak and I am a bus driver for the Good Spirit School Division. This is my fifth year of bus driving. I started out as a spare driver. It was my son Cory who works for GSSD that stated “they’re always looking for bus drivers Mom” so I applied, took the training with Ron Wunder and became a bus driver as part of my retirement plan. My route takes me from Springside to Yorkton and back. Driving between 157 to 187 kms per day, depending on the extra-curricular trips and fuel ups. I have often been asked how I like bus driving and how can you stand all those kids? My first response is always “I have the best kids!” The elementary students are dropped off first and then we have the long run into Yorkton from Springside. For the most part the kids are totally lost in their ear pods and cell phones. They don’t say much and are very respectful of each other and the rules of the bus.



The best part of driving a bus is seeing the changing of the seasons. September comes with harvest, then the seemingly endless days of winter, which then melts into spring. Yes, driving during the winter can be a challenge and at times downright scary, but then there are days of sun and hoar frost and it’s simply beautiful. Seeing the sunrises and sunsets at that time of the year always confirms to me that we live in the province of “living skies”.

A bonus to this job is having the hours between bus runs to pursue my other interests. Between morning Pickleball games, urban poling walks or hosting clinics for walking with poles. You will also find me in the pool for aquacise classes. The regular schedule allows me time to do all the things I need to do and want to do between 9-3. I save the cross-country skiing or cycling for the weekends. I also appreciate having all the same days off as the kids do. Summer holidays are great and once the school year starts again it puts me back into my routine.

Do I recommend others to become a bus driver? Yes, those that ask me about it always get the same answer... I love it and I have the best kids! If you are looking for something to do, become a bus driver!

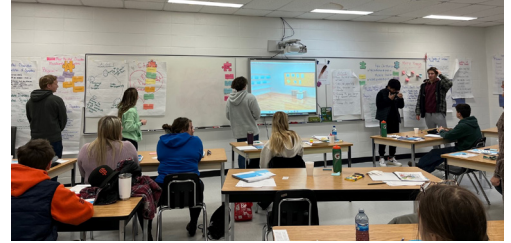
The training is provided, the pay is great and benefits are a real bonus to me in my retirement. Yes, there are some driving conditions that are not the best but there are more good ones than bad ones, just like kids there are more good ones than those that cause trouble. The buses are in good condition and the support we get as drivers is affirming. I think this job is ideal for those who retired early and for those that are busy raising children. How nice to be off when your kids are and still have the hours between runs to get other things done. I hear all kinds of reasons for not taking on driving, but for the most part the reasons are based on fear of the unknown.

I feel this job as a bus driver is an important part of a student’s experience. These kids all need to get to school, and I feel it’s my job and responsibility to get them there safely and send them on their way with a smile. From the Good Morning greetings to wishing them all a Great Day or simply a safe and wonderful weekend. This job gives me purpose in my days, and I feel good when I get them all home safe at the end of the day. And it’s even better when an unexpected “Thank you” comes from one of my high school students.

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIROMENTS

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING IN PREECEVILLE

On January 11 and 12, 2023, the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) course was delivered by Kyla Christiansen and Michelle Goulden to 23 students in the Mental Health 20 class at Preeceville School, and their teacher, Donna Hamilton. The students were engaged in the learning, and wonderful participants. Superintendent Mark Forsythe and Principal Doug King stopped in, and the students taught them some of what they had learnt.



Some outcomes for participants undertaking an MHFA course:

- Increased awareness of signs and symptoms of the most common mental health problems;
- Decreased stigma related to mental health;
- Increased confidence interacting with individuals experiencing a mental health problem or crisis; and,
- Increased help provided to individuals in crisis or experiencing a mental health problem.

As youth can be the first to know when a peer may be struggling, they are often in a unique position to offer initial support. The facilitators can be contacted to present to MH20 classes, or any students over the age of 16.



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

SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE KEY FIRST NATION AND GSSD

Since September 2022, Senior Leadership of the Good Spirit School Division has met five times with a contingent from The Key First Nation. Initial meetings focused on the development of a trusting relationship and the establishment of an ethical space. Ethical space focuses on creating a place for knowledge systems to interact with mutual respect, kindness, generosity and other fundamental values and principles. All knowledge systems are equal; no system has more weight or legitimacy than another. The group has shifted our focus to developing a joint service agreement between the First Nation and GSSD. When it is completed, it will guide the services provided by GSSD to The Key First Nation. It will continue our journey toward student learning and well-being.



FOCUSING IN ON...



GSSD DIVISION WIDE SWIM PROGRAM

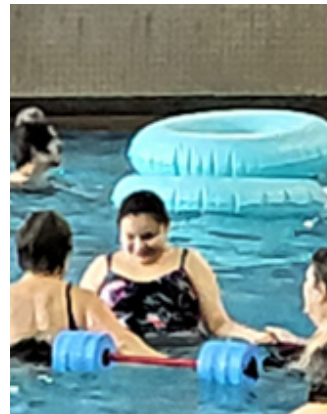
Since its inception, the Swim Program at the Gallagher Center in Yorkton has been a favourite experience for GSSD students and staff.

Each year students are selected for the swim program based on physical or social-emotional needs. Approximately 60 students from across the division come together once a month to socialize with each other, build confidence and work on increasing their physical wellness through water related programming, specific to each student.

The program is supported by our occupational therapist, Maureen Blight, who works closely with staff and students to ensure everyone is getting the best possible experience at the pool. School level staff and division level staff provide both in water and side of pool supervision and support.



You can see from the pictures included that our GSSD family loves to spend time together working on mobility goals, developing social skills and having a lot of fun at the swim program.



On January 30, 2023, 19 GSSD employees took part in the Pool Program's Professional Development Training. The PD was a capacity building learning opportunity and focused on:

- Therapeutic Approaches and Techniques;
- Become familiar with the wheelchair accessible washroom with track and lift system in the family change area;
- Learn how effective water wheelchairs can be in transferring non-ambulatory students in and out of the water;
- Learn ways to support students in the water according to their sensory motor profile and comfort level;
- Experience how flotation systems can enhance the therapeutic experience for students in the water; and,
- Student Skill Development - Recreational Experience - LifeSkill Opportunity.

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