

IN FOCUS

WITH GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



MARCH/APRIL 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

I hope students, families, and staff were able to take some time to relax and recharge during the April break!

Teachers and staff have been busy attending various professional development opportunities. From workshops on the latest instructional strategies to sessions on social and emotional learning, our staff members have been committed to enhancing their knowledge and skills to better serve students. I am so proud of the dedication and hard work staff have shown, and I am confident that their continued learning will have a positive impact on students.




Furthermore, I would like to take a moment to highlight the recent School Community Council Symposium that took place on April 25th. The symposium provided an opportunity for community stakeholders to provide feedback and insights on the Board's priorities and GSSD's strategic goals. We also had an opportunity to engage in conversation about the state of the 2023-24 budget. The Board believes that working collaboratively with community stakeholders is essential in providing the best possible education for students.

The grand opening of the joint GSSD-Parkland Regional Library at Grayson School took place on April 27th. This initiative embodies our mission of building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures.

Overall, I am excited about the many great things happening within our school division. From our commitment to supporting the well-being of students and staff to our dedication to continuous learning and collaboration with our community, we are confident that we are on the right track in providing an excellent education to students. We look forward to sharing some incredible stories and events that are happening around the Division from March and April, 2023!

Quintin M. Robertson
Director of Education/CEO

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 Good Spirit School Division 204 | Facebook

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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 60 PD opportunities have been held so far.

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
Mental Health First Aid for Adults who work with Youth	March 6 & 7, 2023	A facilitated training that focused on skills in understanding topic areas including mental health and mental health problems, substance and mood related disorders, feeding and eating disorders, anxiety and trauma related disorders, deliberate self-injury and psychotic disorders.
GSSD Aspiring Leaders: Instructional Leadership	March 9, 2023	Lisa Wotherspoon, GSSD Superintendent of Learning, led a Teams presentation that focused on Instructional Leadership.
NVCI Spring Refresher	March 15, 2023	In this one-day session participants reviewed strategies for safely defusing anxious, dysregulated, hostile, or violent behavior at the earliest possible stage.
GSSD Aspiring Leaders: Supports for Leadership	March 23, 2023	Withman Jaigobin, Saskatchewan Teachers Federation Representative, led a Teams presentation that focused on Supports for Leadership.
Grad Coach Seminar	March 27, 2023	A small group discussion where participants engaged in in-depth analysis and critical thinking on a specific topics related to graduation and how students can be supported.
VTRA Level 2 Training	March 28 & 29, 2023	Bonnie Randall from Center for Trauma Informed Practices delivered the VTRA Level 2 Training to over 50 participants from around the community.
Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment Training (F&P)	April 5, 2023	The purpose of this session was to provide training for teachers to effectively administer the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment.
Building Thinking Classrooms with Peter Liljedahl	April 17, 2023	This workshop introduced teachers to Thinking Classroom Practices through interactive, hands-on learning. The “thinking classrooms” model can be applied in any subject or grade level.
Student Support Teacher Annual Professional Learning Community	April 27, 2023	Student Support Teachers from around the Division gathered to continue their professional development. Throughout the day seminars and breakout sessions occurred.

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING (MHFA) FOR ADULTS WHO INTERACT WITH YOUTH



On March 6 and 7, 2023, 22 GSSD staff including classroom teachers, administrators, educational assistants, and school counselors participated in the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) for Adults Who Interact with Youth from The Mental Health Commission of Canada. Kyla Christiansen and Michelle Goulden facilitated the training that taught skills in understanding topic areas including mental health and mental health problems, substance related disorders, mood related disorders (depression and bi-polar disorder), feeding and eating disorders, anxiety and trauma related disorders, deliberate self-injury and psychotic disorders.

The aims of MHFA are:

- Preserve life where a person may be a danger to themselves or others
- Provide help to prevent the mental health problem from becoming more serious
- Promote the recovery of good mental health
- Provide comfort to a person experiencing a mental health problem

The key outcomes of MHFA training are:

- 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
- Increased help provided to individuals in crisis or experiencing a mental health problem

The evaluations from participants showed the training was valuable and increased the skills for the participants in their work with youth. GSSD has met its goal of having at least one staff trained at each school and will continue to provide this training yearly.



VIOLENT THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT (VTRA) LEVEL 2 TRAINING



On March 28 and 29, 2023, Bonnie Randall from Center for Trauma Informed Practices (CTIP) facilitated VTRA Level 2 training at the Good Spirit Education Complex. The training aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to identify, assess, and manage potential threats of violence in various settings. Through interactive discussions and practical exercises, participants learned about the importance of early intervention, threat assessment models, and effective communication strategies. The training provided valuable insights and tools for participants to enhance their ability to prevent and manage potentially violent situations, contributing to safer and more secure communities.

Good Spirit School Division was proud to open its doors and host community partners and groups for the training, providing a collaborative space for over 50 participants to complete their VTRA Level 2 Training. The two day session concluded with a resigning of the Yorkton and Area Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol. Head to the “Effective Policy and Procedures” section on page 13 to learn more.



HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

BUILDING THINKING CLASSROOMS WITH PETER LILJEDAHL COMES TO THE GOOD SPIRIT EDUCATION COMPLEX!



GSSD was excited to welcome Peter Liljedahl to the Good Spirit Education Complex on Monday, April 17, 2023. Educators from the Division took part in the Professional Development Day, where they learned practical strategies to create a collaborative, student-centered learning environment that fosters deep thinking and problem-solving skills.

During the seminar, participants explored the key concepts and strategies outlined in Peter's book, *Building Thinking Classrooms*. Through interactive discussions and hands-on activities, they learned how to design and facilitate a classroom environment that promoted critical thinking, collaboration, and student engagement. By the end of the seminar, participants

had a toolkit of practical strategies to help them create a dynamic and effective learning space for their students.

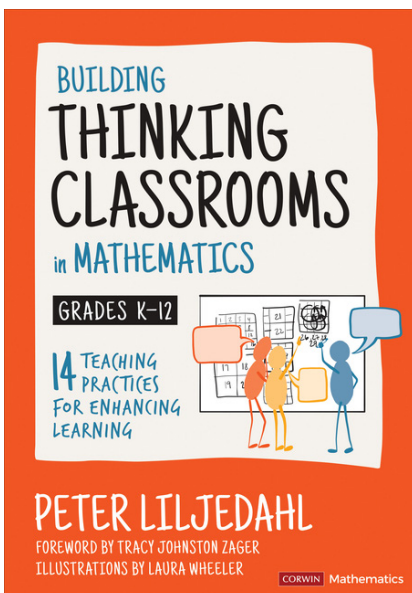


Thank you to Wipebook for providing the division with their reusable and scannable whiteboards. The day was seamless, as Wipebook allowed educators to write, erase, and digitize all their notes from the incredible seminar with Peter. The perfect solution for staying organized while remaining eco-friendly.

Did you know...

Building Thinking Classrooms is a valuable resource for teachers who want to help their students develop the critical thinking skills that are essential for success in today's world.

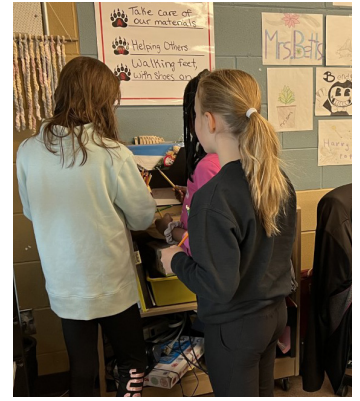
Building Thinking Classrooms has been praised for its clear and concise writing style, as well as its practical advice for teachers who want to make a difference in their students' lives.



HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

GSSD EDUCATOR RECEIVES #WELOVETEACHERS AWARD FROM STAPLES CANADA

This year, Staples launched a #WeLoveTeachers campaign, inviting people to nominate teachers who they believe make a difference in the lives of their students and deserve to be recognized for their extraordinary efforts. The campaign was open to all residents of Canada, and participants had to fill out a form with the teacher's details and provide a justification for their nomination. From the numerous submissions, only eight teachers were selected as winners. Congratulations to GSSD's Cassandra Betts at P.J. Gillen School on being selected to receive one out of the eight prizes from across the country!



Above Left: Cassandra Betts with her gift cards and an appreciative thank you card from Staples Canada.

Above Right: Kids in Mrs. Betts' classroom line up to use the new electric pencil sharpener that was purchased with the provided gift cards!

The award package included a \$1,000 Staples gift card for the teacher's classroom, a \$250 Visa gift card for personal use, and an additional \$250 Visa gift card for the person who nominated the teacher. Upon receiving the award, Mrs. Betts was thrilled and couldn't wait to share the news with the class. However, the official announcement was made two months later, and during that time, Mrs. Betts and her students brainstormed ideas on how to best use the Staples gift card.

The students came up with several great suggestions, including purchasing an electric pencil sharpener, which turned out to be a significant upgrade in the classroom. After taking it out of the box, students lined up to sharpen their pencils and pencil crayons. The next purchase will be an iPad for the classroom, which will allow Mrs. Betts to choose which apps can be on it and give students access to technology for their projects.

Mrs. Betts felt humbled and grateful for receiving the award, acknowledging that she was not the only deserving teacher out there. She believes that teaching is not just a job but a beautiful opportunity to make a positive impact on students' lives.

"Mrs. Betts goes far above and beyond with her students. She genuinely loves them and they love her back. She receives little notes and homemade cards throughout the year from her students telling her she is "The best teacher ever!" and all the parents agree. There is always laughter and smiles beaming out of her classroom. When a child is feeling down, she notices and talks with them. She listens and does the best she can to help."

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.

GSSD DRUM GROUP PARTICIPATES IN LOCAL POWWOW

The Good Spirit School Division has a team of skilled drum keepers, who are dedicated to imparting their knowledge to young men. For the recent Yellow Thunderbird Lodge Traditional Powwow, held on March 4 and 5, 2023 at the Gallagher Center, the esteemed drum teacher and coach, Mike Meeches, lead the proceedings.

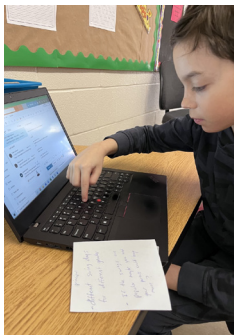
Mike has been teaching drumming to students at three different schools in Yorkton, namely Columbia, Dr. Brass, and the Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) since 2021. Given the varying levels of proficiency and confidence among the students, Mike extended an open invitation to all students from the different schools, encouraging them to participate in the event. The accompanying photograph depicts the presence of two students from YRHS, one from Columbia, and one from Dr. Brass.



GSSD is proud of each individual that attended the powwow that day and everyone involved for sharing their talent and culture with the community.



PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY AT MILLER SCHOOL

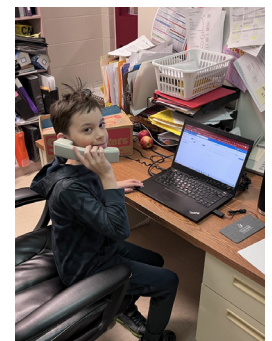


On Friday March 3rd, the diligent and committed Principal of the day, Zayden Haywood, showcased exceptional leadership skills at Miller School. Zayden had secured the opportunity to be Principal for the day through his participation in a Telemiracle fundraiser, and he made sure to make the most of his time in this role.

From the outset, Principal Haywood came well-prepared, demonstrating a keen understanding of the needs and wants of the Miller students. In a morning meeting, he successfully negotiated longer recesses for the students, as well as announcing a forthcoming Hot Lunch (Pizza) for the month. However, the responsibilities of being a principal extended beyond just these exciting announcements.

Mr. Haywood also proved his courage in dealing with other principals within GSSD, responding to their emails and providing assistance with behavior problems they were encountering in their schools. He displayed his commitment to education by participating in reading interventions throughout the morning, emphasizing the importance of learning and skill development.

Finally, to recognize the hard work of the students throughout the week, Principal Haywood declared the last ten minutes of the day as free time. Zayden Haywood's exemplary performance as Principal of the day at Miller School served as an inspiration to both students and staff alike.



ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

INVERMAY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL PAVES THE WAY IN LEADERSHIP



The Invermay School Student Representative Council is a shining example of how young people can make a positive impact in their community.

They organize monthly theme days such as denim danger day, surfer vs. biker day, favorite t-shirt day, and green day, ensuring that every student can participate.

The SRC also hosts Elf on the Shelf/Spirit week before Christmas break, with interactive activities and fun dress up days. Volunteers also demonstrate their involvement in the community by selling tickets for the Winter Festival at which they provide face painting for all! The Invermay SRC truly shows the

importance of giving back and being responsible citizens.

Incentives such as movie days, dances, and end of year fun days are offered to motivate students to participate in fundraisers like Mom's pantry, Cowboys Caviar, and Cookies Crumble. The SRC also provides giveaways such as water bottles and free lunches to students who participate. Their end-of-year fun day is always a highlight, featuring water activities, swim trips, and bouncy activities, making Invermay School a unique and enjoyable place for students.

Overall, the Invermay School SRC is paving the way for future leaders and inspiring others to make a difference in their own communities.

SPRINGSIDE SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC) "SHINES BRIGHT"

The members of the Springside SCC are highly motivated and caring individuals that exemplify caring in action by always putting students first. SCC Chairperson Rochelle Berrns characterizes her team as "successful because of the dedication each member has to the school, students, and community. Each person's gifts come together to create a very positive atmosphere in which to work together."

In the last year alone, efforts included two successful One School, One Book initiatives, regular hot lunches, Christmas dinner, staff appreciation (the SCC supply staff with food and do noon supervision all week), and the purchase of a shed for storage and snowshoes for outdoor wellness. Some members have participated in Learning Walks, providing invaluable feedback to staff in the process.



Springside's SCC is currently engaging the community in raising funds for playground equipment. They just concluded a community auction during which members used their free time to sort and prepare donated items for sale and delivery. They hosted a Tapp's Steak Night and are running a raffle for equipment.

Some members also serve the community on the Springside Lions Club, and they work together to provide swimming lessons at the Gallagher Centre for Grade 3 and 4 students each year. The Lions also join in with hot lunches and the Christmas celebrations that are so valued by students and families at Springside.

The SCC's recent achievements demonstrate the impact of their generosity and dedication when they are physically present in the school. Their collaborative efforts have greatly benefited the growth of students, staff, and community. The school and GSSD are grateful for their contributions and thank them for helping Springside "Shine Bright!"

ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

YRHS CURLING TEAMS CONQUER A GREAT SEASON



YRHS Mixed Curling Team

The Senior Curling Team at the Yorkton Regional High School had a successful year as all three teams were able to qualify for Regionals. The Mixed team of Kaden Pihach, Elia Bolme, Gage Keller and Anthony Dubiel won a silver medal at ECDA Districts which qualified them for Regionals in Lampman. They first played Regina Balfour where they played well, but lost 10-8. The team regrouped for their next game against Whitewood, but were unable to pull off the win, losing 8-5. Despite the losses, this team played well and will be a strong contender next year with more experience under their belts.

The Girls team of Izzy Easton, Kyla Farquharson, Kali Neff and Jenna Laycock also won a silver medal at ECDA Districts and then traveled to Regionals in Wawota for a chance to go to Provincials. The girls lost their first game 5-4 to Winston Knoll, but then came back with a convincing win of 12-3 over Oxbow. They then faced Esterhazy and were able to win 12-6 putting them into the B Semi-Final. The girls lost the B Semi-Final against Carnduff with a score of 6-2 which ended their run for provincials. This was a new team that gained some awesome experience that they will carry forward to next year.



YRHS Girls Curling Team



YRHS Boys Curling Team

The boys team won the gold medal at ECDA Districts this year. At Regionals, also in Lampman, the boys Taylor Spokowski, Rylan Pihach, Kale Nabozniak and Carson Kerluke lost their first game to Weyburn 8-1, but then were able to win against Regina LeBoldus 4-2 which put them in the B Semi-final against Ogema. They were able to win over Ogema with a score of 9-3. The boys then faced Sturgis in the B Final and were able to come up with a 5-4 win and qualified for Provincials!

The YRHS Senior Boys Curling team travelled to Rosthern to compete in the SHSAA Provincial Curling Championship. This is the second consecutive trip to Provincials for graduating players Spokowski and Nabozniak who were looking to improve on their record from last year. They lost to the home team of Rosthern in their first game, but quickly bounced back to win against Wynyard and Swift Current. This put them in a tiebreaker game for a playoff spot versus Rosthern. The team came up with a convincing tiebreaker win and clinched their spot in the playoffs. The semi-final was against a tough Saskatoon Holy Cross team who had dominated their pool. The boys played a good game against this team, but were unable to come up with the win. This put them into the Bronze Medal game where they faced Swift Current. This game was close throughout and in the end, Spokowski needed to make a takeout for the win. The team's hitting was their strength all weekend and Spokowski was able to make the shot for the Bronze medal win. Coaches Lana Stanek-Sebastian and Nathan Bewcyk were impressed by the boys level of play this season and their efforts to continue improving their gameplay in terms of skills and strategy. This is only the seventh time that a YRHS Boys team has won a medal at Provincials. The last time was in 2009 when Jayden Schwaga's team brought home the gold. This speaks to the high level of competition at these provincial events and to the skill of these players to bring home bronze.

Overall these three YRHS teams had a great season of competitive games and impressive gains in skills and strategy that will set them up well moving into next season.

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

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.

DR. BRASS' BUILDING ACTIVE LEADERS SPREADS KINDNESS WITH THEIR SASKTEL BE KIND ONLINE GRANT

The Community of Yorkton is soon to see kindness and care spread around the city from the help of the Building Active Leaders (BAL) group at Dr. Brass. The BAL team and Michelle Goulden, GSSD Mental Health Capacity Building Coordinator and Kristen Nagy, Building Active Leaders Teacher, recently submitted a proposal for the SaskTel Be Kind Online Grant. Their grant was accepted, and the group received a grant of \$1,500! The money was devoted to purchasing classroom bikes and supplies for kindness initiatives.

The planned kindness initiatives include visiting nursing homes, leaving positive messages on walking/biking paths, and spreading positive energy while role modeling a healthy lifestyle. The bikes will remain at Dr. Brass to be available for all students. Community bikes will allow inclusiveness and access for all students to partake in activities and have a means of transportation.

This initiative will impact many within the community, and will bring cheer and positivity to all it reaches. The new purchasing of bikes will also allow Dr. Brass to collaborate with other schools in the city. Stay tuned as Building Active Leaders will be kicking off their mission with a bike rodeo late April 2023!



INVERMAY RED CROSS YOUTH GROUP SERVING THOSE IN NEED

The Red Cross Youth Group is a dedicated team that strives to make a positive impact on their school and the wider community. The group focuses on promoting core values such as kindness, respect, and inclusion, regardless of differences in gender, age, ability, religion, or culture. They carry out various activities that help those in need and spread positivity.

One of the main goals of the group is to serve those in need, whether it's through financial assistance or small acts of kindness to give hope. They participate in many events such as the Remembrance Day Program, where they set up chairs and help decorate the hall. During Christmas, the Red Cross Youth Group organizes several events such as the Christmas Tree of Hope and the Christmas Wreath Spreading the Cheer. They also volunteer for the Christmas Dinner cleaning tables and assist the public with carrying food and beverages to their tables. The group organizes many other activities throughout the year, such as the Valentines for Vets program, Pink Day, and the Roughrider Reading Program.



The Red Cross Youth Group also engages in various fundraising activities to support their yearly projects. They accept cash donations that go towards educational and athletic purposes, as well as families in need. The group is committed to making a difference and spreading positivity throughout their school and the wider community. They work tirelessly to promote inclusion and teamwork while demonstrating the importance of kindness and respect.

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIROMENTS

MEET A BUS DRIVER: STEPHANIE GREEN

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 Stephanie Green!

Hello, my name is Stephanie Green and I have been a bus driver for GSSD for 10 years. I started out as a spare driver which soon turned into a regular driver in the Yorkton area. Now my regular route is basically in my own backyard in my community of Langenburg.

What inspired you to be a bus driver?

Without a doubt, it was my mom who inspired me to be a bus driver, who is still a bus driver for GSSD herself! I admire how she's able to drive her bus AND get everything done between 9am and 3pm! Her "get-up-and-go" enthusiasm must have rubbed off on me because I now enjoy the lifestyle as well.

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

Every day is an adventure as a bus driver! From the students to the weather. From the beauty of the changing seasons to the sublime beauty of the sunrises – bus driver life is never dull!

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

If I could invite anyone to be a guest on my bus, it would be mothers with young, pre-school age children. They would see that this is a job that you can take your kids with you to. Myself being a mother of two young kids, ages two and four (and a third on the way!), I LOVE that I'm able to take them along with me! Both of my kids have been riding the bus since they were 4 months old – so they are expert riders by now! They love going for bus rides with Mom!

Would you recommend being a bus driver?

Yes, absolutely! Being a bus driver gives you a unique lifestyle. The regular schedule allows time for all the things one has to do and needs to do and it allows for things one wants to do between 9am-3pm. The buses are beautiful and come with anchor clips for car seats that precious little ones need to be able to ride along with their parent! Another bonus of being a bus driver is having the same holidays as the kids do when the littles become school-aged - don't forget those wonderful summer holidays!



“If you are looking for a unique lifestyle or for something to do as a “stay-at-home mom,” then bus driving is for you!”

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIROMENTS

PREECEVILLE STUDENTS TRAVEL TO YELLOW QUILL FIRST NATION

On Monday, March 20, 2023, the Indigenous Studies 10 students from Preeceville School had the opportunity to visit Yellow Quill First Nation with students from the Nawigizigweyas Education Centre. Students had an enriching experience filled with various activities and learning opportunities.

Mr. Scott from Nawigizigweyas Education Centre spoke to the students about some of his family history on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation and the value his ancestors put on education. Mr. Scott shared his students' definitions of success and highlighted that the students at Nawigizigweyas Education Centre have similar definition of success as them.

Mr. Scott introduced a traditional hand game which many Indigenous People play. The students were divided into two groups and a member from one team had to guess which hands two members from the other team had hidden the smiley faced discs on. If successful, then the other team had to give up one of their sticks. If the team guessed incorrectly then the other team got the chance to guess. Upon the conclusion of the game, Mr. Scott allowed the students to keep the game pieces in hopes that they will share the game with others.

Students also took part in a Blanket Exercise. The Blanket Exercise is an interactive educational lesson that teaches the history of colonization in Canada over the last 500 years.

Throughout their visit, the students were able to engage in traditional practices and gain valuable insights into the lives and traditions of the indigenous community.



SALTCOATS MUSTANGS CELEBRATE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Mustangs' month-long focus on inclusion during the month of February was a valuable learning experience for all involved. Through various activities and discussions, the students gained a deeper understanding of what inclusion truly means, and how it can be practiced in their daily lives.



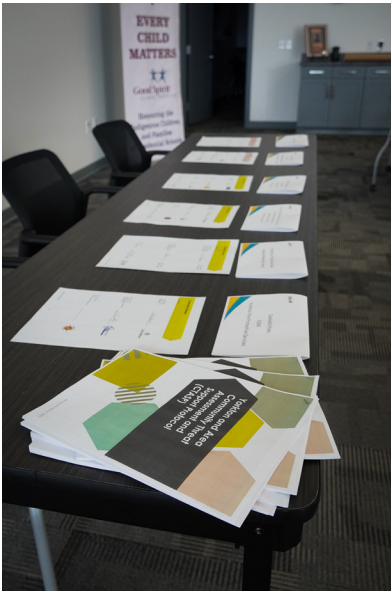
The culminating event on February 27, 2023, was a true celebration of the students' newfound knowledge and commitment to inclusion. It was heartening to see the students' enthusiasm as they worked together to decorate their shirts with meaningful symbols and slogans. The success of the event was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students and teachers. The Mustangs can be proud of the progress they have made towards creating a more inclusive and welcoming community.

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

YORKTON AND AREA COMMUNITY THREAT ASSESSMENT AND SUPPORT PROTOCOL RESIGNING



On March 29, 2023, the Yorkton and Area Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol (CTASP) Document was resigned in the presence of more than 20 core and community partners. This updated Protocol includes new additions and revisions that encompass Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) as a Trauma-Informed and Equity and Inclusion-Guided Practice.

The Yorkton and Area CTASP is a Multi-Disciplinary Partnership Committed to:

- Early intervention;
- Violence prevention;
- High-risk assessments;
- Interventions and supports; and
- Creating and maintaining internal processes and practices consistent to the model, in accordance with other CTASP partners.

The shared goal is safer schools and communities.

The CTASP demonstrates our commitment to creating safe learning and work environments in our community for individuals of all ages and abilities.

The Yorkton and Area Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol (CTASP) reflects the work of J. Kevin Cameron, Executive Director of the Center for Trauma Informed Practices, the Yukon Threat Assessment Program (Y - TAP) and, the Alberta Children and Youth Initiative.



Front row, from left to right: Brittany Frick & Alison Dubriel (Parkland College), Angela Chernoff (Bruno's Place), Jaime Johnson (Good Spirit Board of Education), Mitch Hipsley (City of Yorkton), Walter Streelasky (City of Melville), Laura O'Brien (Parkland Regional Library), Quintin Robertson (Good Spirit School Division), Britton Houdek (Saskatchewan Health Authority)

Back row, from left to right: Shaune Beatty (Good Spirit School Division), Kimberly Flett (Yorkton RCMP), Kimberly Mineau (Ministry of Social Services), Teresa Weber (Ministry of Social Services), Gary Hutton (Big Brothers Big Sisters), Edith Montesclaros (East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre Inc.), Aleks Hoerber (SaskAbilities), Chad Holinaty (Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools), Erin Huser (Good Spirit Housing Authority), Terri-ann Lepowick (Yorkton Tribal Council), Andrew Sedley (SIGN)

EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

SGI BUS INSPECTIONS



On March 16, 2023, SGI and the Department of Highways conducted an inspection of the GSSD buses that transport students to and from school. The inspection was aimed at identifying any potential safety issues and ensuring that the buses meet all required safety regulations.

Following a thorough inspection, SGI had no concerns with the GSSD school buses. This is great news for the students and their families, as it means that they can have peace of mind knowing that their children are traveling to school safely each day. It also reflects positively on GSSD, as it demonstrates commitment to providing safe and reliable transportation services for students.

Communities That GSSD Buses Travel To:

S	E	G	G	R	A	Y	S	O	N	N	C	C	T
P	P	R	E	E	C	E	V	I	L	L	E	H	E
R	T	Y	A	M	R	E	V	N	I	T	A	U	K
I	E	C	T	P	S	A	A	C	A	N	O	R	A
N	E	S	T	E	R	H	A	Z	Y	S	E	C	S
G	L	A	N	G	E	N	B	U	R	G	I	H	T
S	R	A	Y	L	G	C	V	D	E	Q	A	B	U
I	M	E	O	K	A	M	S	A	C	K	L	R	R
D	Q	O	R	C	Y	A	U	Q	R	O	N	I	G
E	E	N	K	O	V	O	L	Y	L	O	O	D	I
N	K	A	T	M	E	L	V	I	L	L	E	G	S
G	S	T	O	C	K	H	O	L	M	A	E	E	E
R	T	E	N	C	G	R	S	S	I	S	T	O	O
O	T	E	L	S	A	L	T	C	O	A	T	S	O

- NORQUAY
- CHURCHBRIDGE
- ESTERHAZY
- CANORA
- YORKTON
- STURGIS
- GRAYSON
- PREECEVILLE
- SPRINGSIDE
- LANGENBURG
- INVERMAY
- SALTCOATS
- KAMSACK
- STOCKHOLM
- MELVILLE

Can you find them all!?

FOCUSING IN ON...



THE PRESCHOOL AND PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM (PPEP)



The Preschool and Parent Education Program (PPEP) is a unique and innovative program that provides high quality learning experiences for children and their parents. It is based out of Esterhazy High School and has supported GSSD’s mission of building strong foundations for bright futures for almost 30 years. PPEP supports parents to be their child’s first and most important teacher, while also providing a holistic early childhood education for their children. The program is funded federally through the Community Action Plan for Children, and provincially through the Community Initiative Fund. It is the only CAPC project of its kind in Saskatchewan that includes both a parent and children’s program.

PPEP provides a unique opportunity for families to learn and grow together, setting a solid foundation for future success. An integral part of the program is the supportive connections made among parents that last well beyond their years in PPEP. Parents are engaged in their

child’s learning in the classroom and through various activities that give back to the community such as helping with Christmas food hampers, visits to care homes, clothing and book exchanges, and the Coats for Kids program. Memorable family events include potluck meals, family dances, cross country skiing, bowling, sleigh rides, and field trips to various businesses around the community. The parent program uses interactive discussions and presenters to engage parents and provide learning opportunities around safety, nutrition, mental and physical wellness, child development, positive parenting and discipline. While the parents are learning, their children are engaging in invitations to learning and play in a nurturing environment just down the hall.



The PPEP program welcomes children and families who are interested in connecting and learning together, and it is free thanks to the sponsors listed above and GSSD. PPEP can be reached at (306) 745-2893.

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

FOCUSING IN ON...



THE PRESCHOOL AND PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM (PPEP) HIGHLIGHTING: PRISCILLA DANCOSK



The Division would like to highlight a long-term dedicated GSSD employee who graduated from Esterhazy High School in 2001. Priscilla Dancosk completed an Alternative Education program. As part of it, she completed some work experience credits in PPEP. It quickly became evident that working with children was a natural fit for Priscilla. As part of Priscilla’s graduation plan, Mrs. Huckell, Vice-Principal, accessed a grant that funded work placements for students with barriers to employment. Priscilla began employment in PPEP as a classroom helper after graduation. When the grant funding ran out, the PPEP team knew they had to find a way to continue employing Priscilla in PPEP. Fast forward 22 years and Priscilla is now the longest running staff member in PPEP. After all these years, she still loves working with children and being part of the Esterhazy High School staff!

It’s wonderful to see a former student successfully employed with GSSD. Priscilla helps children in the classroom and provides assistance to staff in the program in many ways. She is an incredibly kind and caring person who takes a genuine interest in others, and she is a daily dose of sunshine for everyone she interacts with at school.

Priscilla was excited to attend the recent GSSD service awards event with family members and co-workers. She wears her GSSD pin with pride and is a shining example of what success can look like when the right supports are in place.



Congratulations
Priscilla!

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- Our Vision** Belonging, Respect, Responsibility, Learning, Nurturing, Perseverance, and Diversity