

IN FOCUS

WITH GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



MAY/JUNE 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

As summer takes hold, I want to share some exceptional highlights from the Good Spirit School Division.

To our Grade 12 graduates, heartfelt congratulations on this significant milestone. Your dedication and commitment have yielded remarkable achievements. Carry the values of our school division—belonging, respect, responsibility, learning, nurturing, perseverance, and diversity—as you embark on new endeavors. Your perseverance thus far assures us of your continued success.

And to our educators and staff, I extend my sincere appreciation for shaping the lives of our students. Your dedication and passion have created a nurturing and inclusive environment. And a warm round of applause for our retiring staff members for their years of service. The Good Spirit School Division Board of Education was excited to recognize all at the Retirement Banquet on June 15, 2023.

Another exciting event was the First Interschool Powwow at Kamsack Comprehensive School (KCI). On June 13, 2023, KCI, Cote First Nation School, and Keeseekoose First Nation School came together to showcase rich Indigenous cultures, fostering unity and belonging. This celebration of tradition, teaching, and resilience promotes cultural diversity within our Division. It was incredible to see the community come together for a day of celebration and learning.

Lastly, the Gender Sexual Alliance Summit at GSEC exemplified respect and inclusivity, providing a safe space for collaboration and understanding. Students and staff from around the Division gathered for a day of activities, learning, and development. It embraced acceptance among students, staff, and community members and paved the way for future initiatives.

I am excited to present this edition of the In Focus as we focus on professional development, school accomplishments, Practical and Applied Arts (PAA) successes and more. As we conclude another fulfilling academic year, I extend my sincere wishes for a safe and joyous summer to all students, teachers, and families within the Good Spirit School Division. May these sunny months bring you well-deserved rest, new adventures, and cherished memories. See you refreshed and ready for an exciting new chapter when we reconvene!

Quintin M. Robertson
Director of Education/CEO



 @gssd_204

 @gssd204

 Good Spirit School Division 204 | Facebook

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FOCUSING IN ON...

Practical and Applied Arts at GSSD!

Melville Comprehensive School (MCS) Students Compete at Skills Canada Saskatchewan Competition

MCS Students Excel at National Skills Canada Competition

Yorkton Regional High School Students Compete at Skills Canada Saskatchewan Competition

YRHS Students Succeed at the Nationals Skills Canada Competition

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HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

By June 30, 2023:

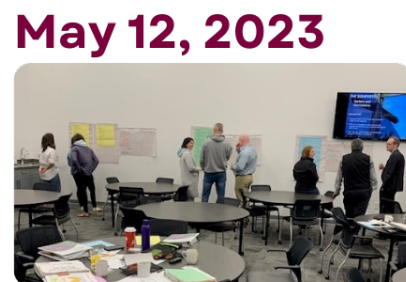
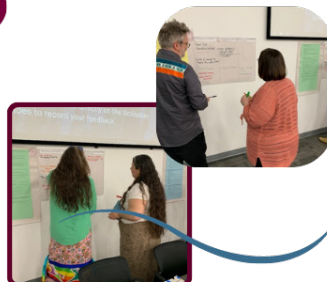
- 25% more students will exit Kindergarten at appropriate development (green) than when entering Kindergarten.
- there will be 10% more Grade 1 to 3 students reading at or above grade level as compared to fall 2022 data.
- there will be 2% more Grade 4, 7, & 9 students writing at or above grade level 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 worked towards the June 30, 2023, long term goal of committing to providing professional development and training days to staff, over 75 PD opportunities took place throughout the 2022-2023 school year.

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
Leading to Learn	May 12, 2023	Educators from across the province came together at the Good Spirit Education Complex on May 12, 2023, for the Leading to Learn Professional Development organized by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, aiming to foster inclusive and nurturing environments for all students.
GSSD Aspiring Leaders: Organizational Management and Conclusion	May 16, 2023	After attending five or more Aspiring Leaders sessions throughout the school year, GSSD employees spent the morning job shadowing leaders, and the afternoon learning about organizational management and discussing takeaways from the program.
Mental Health First Aid Training for Community Partners	June 8, 9, 2023	Community Partners from Yorkton and area gathered at the Good Spirit Education Complex for two days of Mental Health First Aid Training.
Hanen Teacher Talk Training Series	June 16, 19, 20, 2023	PreK teachers participated in Teacher Talk™ Training, which included sessions on encouraging language development, connecting language to literacy, and fostering peer interaction in early childhood settings, providing practical strategies to support children's communication, social, and literacy development while creating inclusive and interactive classroom environments.

LEADING TO LEARN



May 12, 2023

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

FORMER CANORA COMPOSITE SCHOOL STUDENT JOHN LANGAN RETURNS TO SPEAK TO STUDENTS AND STAFF



Canora Composite School (CCS) was very fortunate to have John Langan speak to the students and staff in an assembly at CCS on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Students also attended from Kamsack Comprehensive School (KCI).

John Langan is a Saulteaux/Cree Indigenous man from Keeseekoose First Nation. He once attended Canora Composite School and went on to receive his Grade 12 in Prince Albert. John is a graduate of the Indigenous Justice and Criminology Program at the University of Saskatchewan, an award-winning author of “A Spark in the Dark”, soldier with the Canadian Armed Forces, police officer with the City of Saskatoon, traditional knowledge/language keeper and most importantly a husband and father. John also speaks professionally nationwide to share the beauty of the Indigenous culture and ceremony. His story of resilience, unique upbringing, and ability to overcome obstacles in life through perseverance and determination help motivate his audiences.



Pictured above and to the left: John Langan, former CCS student returns to CCS to speak and inspire the students and staff. Students from KCI were also in attendance.

COLUMBIA STUDENTS GET A TASTE OF BUSINESS WITH SHARK TANK!

The eighth-grade classes at Columbia School were engaged in Social Studies units on Consumerism and group projects in ELA. As a culminating activity, students collaborated in groups to create an innovative product with a purpose in today’s society and devised a pitch to present to potential investors from “Yorkton Shark Tank.”



Columbia was fortunate to welcome distinguished guests, including Constable Kimberly Flett, Mark Forsythe, GSSD Superintendent of Schools, Jess Hull, the owner of Uptown Casuals, Vanessa Andres, the owner of Triple A Drilling and President of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, and Mitch Hipsley, the Mayor of Yorkton. They joined the Columbia Grade 8 class for a morning of exhilarating pitches. Each group received an investment, and the Sharks were highly impressed by the students’ inventive ideas.

Pictured above: Students and their “Sharks” catch a photo to celebrate a new business investment!

Pictured above: A group photo with the Grade 8 class at Columbia School and Yorkton’s local business owners and “Sharks.”

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

KITTLE AND GALLAGHER WORKSHOP IN SASKATOON



Pictured above: GSSD staff can't help but smile after two-days of incredible learning from Penny Kittle and Kelly Gallagher themselves.

On May 12, 2023, GSSD teachers from six different schools attended a workshop in Saskatoon. The timing of the two-day workshop was perfect as it came near the end of a year-long book study on the presenters' book *4 Essential Studies; Beliefs and Practices to Reclaim Student Agency*. Penny Kittle and Kelly Gallagher are experts in the field of student engagement when it comes to authentic writing and reading practices in the classroom. Attendees were inspired by the passion of the presenters as well as by the dynamic collaboration with the other participants. Our teachers left the workshop with a wealth of new ideas to try and a renewed energy to re-examine how we engage students in reading and writing in our classrooms. There are already plans in the works for cross-school collaboration next school year to keep this learning and engagement going!

JENNIFER AMES, MELVILLE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL BILINGUAL PROGRAM ALUMNI PURSUES DREAM TO TEACH FRENCH STUDIES



Pictured above: Jennifer Ames, Melville Comprehensive School Bilingual Program Alumni

JENNIFER AMES, MCS BILINGUAL PROGRAM GRADUATE

For as long as I have been in school, the French language has always been present in one way or another. I was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, into a family of anglophones. At a very young age, my parents decided to enroll me into a French Immersion program at a school called École St. Avila, despite the fact that neither of them spoke fluent French. After moving to Melville, Saskatchewan in 2015, I continued to pursue my education in French Immersion at St. Henry's Senior School, as well as Melville Comprehensive School during my high school years.

Many are quick to judge a small town French Immersion program, however, I am quick to defend it. Every school has their flaws, but I have seen firsthand just how hard French Immersion teachers work to provide a quality bilingual education to every single student who seeks it in my small community. At Melville Comprehensive School (where I earned my bilingual diploma) I was always amazed at how my teacher was able to take every opportunity to create an enriching and interactive French environment, even with a small class.

Through hard work, dedication to the language, and the encouragement and support from all of my Immersion teachers over the years, I was very fortunate to be able to graduate with my bilingual diploma.

Continued on next page...

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING



Pictured above: Jennifer Ames graduates MCS with a Bilingual mention on her diploma, allowing her to continue her French studies!

It was through seeing this hard-work and dedication to the students that inspired me to continue pursuing French education at the University of Alberta. I was very fortunate to have parents who immersed me in a second language very early in my life, and I will never stop advocating for other parents to do the same. For those with a bilingual diploma or degree such as myself, the opportunities are truly endless. Government employment opportunities, teaching positions that are in high demand, and even overseas work, the world is your oyster when you put in the work and pursue a bilingual education. I am grateful for all the opportunities given to me over the years, and I encourage every parent to enroll their own children into immersion programs so as to allow them to flourish on whatever path they wish to pursue in the future.



ABOUT MELVILLE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL'S BILINGUAL PROGRAM

LOOKING TO ENROLL? CHECK OUT THIS INFORMATION!

French Immersion programming is currently offered at Melville Comprehensive School (MCS) beginning in Grade 10 to students who have participated in the French Immersion program up to Grade 9 prior to attending MCS.

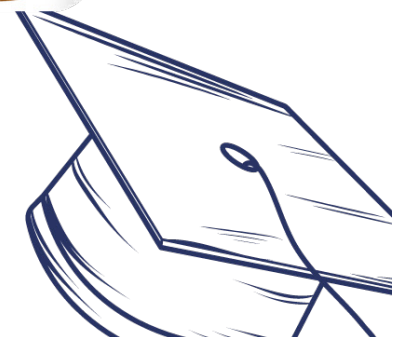
Students in Grades 10-12 are currently offered the opportunity to fulfill the bilingual program graduation requirements and earn a "mention bilingue" (bilingual mention) on their high school diploma. Students receive a mention bilingue when they complete a minimum of 12 of their 24 required high school courses in French.

The goal of the French Immersion program in Saskatchewan is to have students become functionally bilingual and able to pursue studies and training in either official language.

There are approximately 15 students enrolled in French Immersion at MCS, and their teacher is M. Thomas. Students can enroll in courses such as language arts, social sciences, and practical & applied arts in French.

Con-GRAD-ulations to all GSSD Graduating Classes!

- Bear Stream School
- Canora Composite School
- Churchbridge Public School
- Esterhazy High School
- Invermay School
- Kamsack Comprehensive Institute
- Langenburg Central School
- Melville Comprehensive School
- Norquay School
- Preeceville School
- Sturgis Comprehensive School
- Yorkton Regional High School

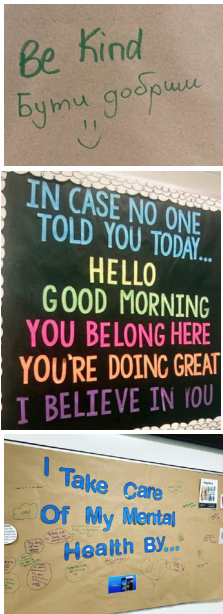


ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

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.

DR. BRASS' MENTAL HEALTH CAPACITY BUILDING (MHCB) PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS MENTAL HEALTH WEEK IN CANADA! MAY 1-7, 2023



Mental Health Week took place in Canada from May 1-7, 2023, with the theme “My Story.” The primary objective was to bring attention to community mental health programs and emphasize the importance of achieving universal access to mental health care. Dr. Brass’ MHCB Program played a significant role in providing valuable resources to the community throughout the week, promoting various methods for maintaining good mental health. It is crucial to recognize that mental health is as important as physical health.

Here are some key ways to engage in mental health initiatives:

1. Listen and offer support to individuals who share their personal stories with you.
2. Share your own experiences related to mental health with someone you trust, contributing to the destigmatization of mental health discussions.
3. Educate yourself about different types of mental health support available.
4. Understand the distinction between mental health and mental illness.
5. Express gratitude towards community programs or individuals who have positively impacted your mental health journey.

To stay updated on the uplifting posts and initiatives of the MHCB Program, follow them on Instagram @mhcb.drb. Together, we can work towards creating a society that prioritizes and supports mental well-being.

WAX MUSEUM OF COURAGE AT M.C. KNOLL

Grade 7 students in Mrs. Laviolette’s classroom participated in the inaugural Wax Museum of Courage on Wednesday, May 31st. This project was designed as part of the Dialogical Unit on Courage, aiming to connect students with individuals who exemplify courage. Following specific criteria, students chose a person of their choice and conducted research on their selected individual. Additionally, they were required to write a formal essay for Mrs. Laviolette.

As part of the project, students created a visual display featuring their chosen person’s name, pictures with captions, and intriguing or unique facts about them. Adding a unique twist to the traditional concept of a wax museum, students were asked to make or bring a button. When the button was pressed, the “statues” (students) came to life and presented a brief speech of 3-4 sentences, sharing information about themselves and the accomplishments or reasons why they are considered courageous. To further enhance the experience, students dressed up as their chosen person and brought any necessary props to effectively represent their individual.



ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

YORKTON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS NATIONAL YOUTH BAND OF CANADA, CELEBRATING COMMUNITY COLLABORATION



The Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) proudly hosted the National Youth Band of Canada on May 11, 2023, marking a significant event for the community. This exceptional group of auditioned students, aged 16 to 22, gathered for a week of rehearsals before embarking on a short tour. The National Youth Band's visit to Saskatchewan occurs once every decade, making Yorkton's selection as a tour stop a rare and fortunate opportunity.

Through the hard work of the YRHS Band Teacher, Adelle Zawatsky and the support of the local band community, the YRHS organized two successful school concerts, welcoming students from Rocanville, Grayson, Melville, Yorkton (Christ the Teacher School Division and GSSD), Saltcoats, Norquay, Preeceville, Sturgis, Canora, and Grenfell. The event ran seamlessly with the assistance of dedicated YRHS staff members, including Cheryl Miller, Tracey Krasowski, Oriahna Rhinas, Mike Chapman, the cafeteria staff and retired band teacher Larry Pearen. Their contributions, along with the mature and helpful participation of the choir students, ensured the wonderful execution of the concerts.

The exceptional organization and warm hospitality of the Yorkton community were acknowledged by the managing director of the Canadian Band Association, who expressed their anticipation for the event. This accomplishment reflects the community's dedication to providing extraordinary opportunities for students and solidifies Yorkton's reputation for hosting remarkable events and fostering strong community partnerships.

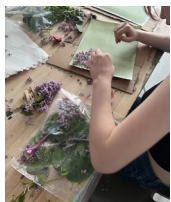


LIVE ARTS AT DR. BRASS



On Wednesday, May 31, students in the Visual Art Academy at Dr. Brass created their very own cyanotype prints! Cyanotype was invented in the mid-1800s and was an early form of photography. Students created a chemical solution that is reactive to light, painted it on paper, created a press using plants collected during a nature walk, and then exposed their prints to sunlight to create the effect of a photo negative. Finally, they rinsed their prints in water and watched the dark blue colour come to life!

This project was facilitated through the LIVE Arts program, a partnership between SK Arts and the Ministry of Education enabling teachers to bring a professional artist into their classroom virtually. The workshop was led by Saskatoon-based artist Gabriela García-Luna (www.gabrielagarcialuna.com) and facilitated by Patti Zerr (Dr. Brass Vice-Principal), Kerrilyn Trost (GSSD Curriculum Consultant), Sharon Roach (GSSD Instructional Coach), and Kristen Myers (GSSD Curriculum Consultant). Students enjoyed learning about a new art medium and experiencing the magic of cyanotype!



Pictured to the left: Dr. Brass Visual Art Academy students go through the process of creating their very own cyanotype prints!

ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

COLUMBIA SCHOOL EXPERIENCES CANADA EXCHANGE



The Columbia School Student Leadership Council seized a remarkable opportunity for an exchange program with a school from Kingston, ON. With Mrs. C. Swidzinski and Mrs. D. Krasowski leading the way, a group of 20 Grade 7 and 8 students embarked on an unforgettable journey. The initial leg of the exchange saw the Columbia crew warmly hosting students from St. Thomas More School. Together, they ventured to renowned destinations like Good Spirit Provincial Park, the Ukrainian Cultural Museum in Saskatoon, the Prairie Lily Boat Cruise, and Wanuskewin. The group even had the privilege of visiting Bilokreli's Vale Country Ranch, where Mr. Gillis expertly showcased the art of roping. Their adventures continued as they traveled to Moose Jaw to explore the Tunnels and the Western Development Museum, followed by a visit to the RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina. The Kingston crew bid farewell and returned home via plane, concluding an enriching experience.



After a brief intermission at home, the Columbia crew embarked on their own journey, flying to Kingston, ON. There, they immersed themselves in the vibrant city and its surroundings. Highlights included a visit to Toronto, where they marveled at the wonders of Ripley's Aquarium and cheered for the Blue Jays, capturing their moments of fame on the Jumbotron not once, but twice! The group also indulged in a breathtaking Thousand Islands River Boat Cruise, delved into the historical depths of the Kingston Penitentiary, and explored the charming city aboard a trolley. Their expedition continued to Ottawa, where they toured the Senate, witnessed the grandeur of the Parliament buildings and the National War Memorial, and explored the captivating exhibits of the Museum of Nature.



The exchange program forged lifelong friendships and memories for all who participated, creating an experience of a lifetime that will be cherished by each and every student involved.



Pictured in this article: Kingston students experience the beauty and history of Saskatchewan. Then up next, Columbia Students from Yorkton headed to Kingston to take in rich culture and even a Blue Jays game!



ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

GSSD STUDENTS AND STAFF TAKE PART IN THE QUEEN CITY PRIDE PARADE



Over 30 students, staff and family members from GSSD joined Regina Public Schools and walked in the Queen City Pride Parade this year.

The annual event was held downtown Regina on Saturday, June 10 and was the largest parade in the event's 30-year history. The parade contained 122 floats and organizations as well as thousands of spectators lining the parade route.

Pictured to the left: GSSD Students and Staff take part in the Queen City Pride Parade! What an amazing turn out, promoting inclusivity for all!

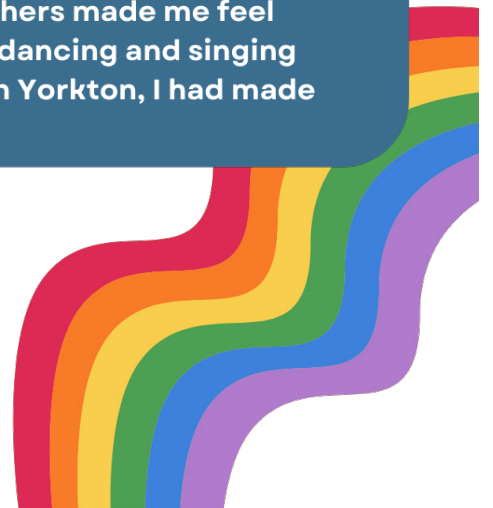
When asked what it meant to them to participate in the Pride parade, GSSD students said:

“it’s incredible to be completely surrounded by acceptance. There is no fear, no judgement, no hate – it’s just joy and celebration of everyone to be exactly who they are”

“I feel like I belong when I’m at Pride. I feel safe and comfortable knowing that I am with people who might not be just like me, but love and support me anyway”

“this is my second year walking in the parade and I looked forward to it for months! I also really liked the event in the park after the parade. There’s food trucks, performers and lots of booths set up. It’s a great way to support local/small businesses”

“I was really anxious when the day started because I didn’t know anyone else on the bus. But the other students and the teachers made me feel really welcome. By the time the parade started I was dancing and singing with the others. By the time the bus dropped us back in Yorkton, I had made real friends”



ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

MELVILLE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL'S STUDENTS AGAINST DRINKING AND DRIVING FIGHT IMPAIRED DRIVING WITH NEW BILLBOARDS



Pictured above: MCS SADD Chapter unveils their new billboards.

“If you drink, don’t get carried away!” This is the message being shared by the Melville Comprehensive School SADD (Students Against Drinking and Driving) Chapter in their most recent fight against impaired driving. The patented slogan can be found on three billboards—a permanent 4’ X 8’ billboard outside MCS, a permanent 8’ X 12’ billboard outside the city of Melville, and a temporary 10’ X 40’ billboard located along Highway 10 near Duff, Sk. The slogan is reinforced by a powerful image of six MCS students carrying a casket away from a hearse.

The billboards are the result of a yearlong project in partnership with SADD Saskatchewan, Matthews Funeral Home, TK Photography, and the City of Melville. The billboards were funded by SGI and the Community Grant Program for Traffic Safety and Injury Prevention Projects.

The billboards are just one of the many awareness activities that the MCS SADD Chapter undertook this school year. Led by Co-Presidents Abby Schicker (gr. 10) and Jenna Rathgeber (gr. 11), and teacher advisors, Sharon Roach and Sidney Rydzik, the MCS SADD Chapter is currently the most active SADD Chapter in the province of Saskatchewan. This was a title assigned to them when they won the Nicole Nakonechny Memorial Award at the Provincial SADD Conference in Saskatoon this past October. This was the 10th time the MCS SADD Chapter has won the award in the past 20 years under the leadership of Sharon Roach.



Pictured above: The new permanent billboard at MCS school.

Pictured to the left: The temporary 10’ X 40’ billboard located along Highway 10 near Duff, SK.

ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

MCS STUDENTS RAISE AND RELEASE 99 RAINBOW TROUT

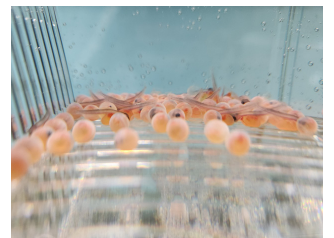
On Friday, June 16, 2023, students from Melville Comprehensive School (MCS) released 99 rainbow trout fingerlings into Wilson Lake near Springside as part of the FinS (Fish in Schools) program. While the FinS program was started in 2013 by the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation as a way to teach students about fish conservation, this was just the fifth time that science teacher, Sharon Roach, had participated in the program. MCS was one of 40 schools across Saskatchewan to be involved.

Roach's Environmental Science 20 class received 100 rainbow trout eggs on January 27th from the Saskatchewan Fish Hatchery in Fort Qu'Appelle. They cared for the fish with help from Sidney Rydzik's Science 8 class. The Grade 11 class was responsible for feeding the fish twice a day as well as changing the aquarium's water twice a week. Participating in the FinS program not only helped Roach's class partially fulfill the Environmental Science 20 Aquatic System's curricular outcomes, but it allowed her students to be hands on in doing so. By raising rainbow trout from eggs to fingerlings, students learned about their lifecycle and habitat needs. They learned that rainbow trout are barometers of their environments and that they must be carefully cared for. The program also taught students the importance of fish conservation and the importance that rainbow trout can have on their ecosystems.

The Environmental Science 20 and Science 8 classes received help releasing the fish from Melville Conservation Officer, Lexie Houdek.

For more information about the FinS program, contact James Villeneuve, Fisheries Project Coordinator with the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation at 306-694-8552.

Pictured right: MCS Students, with the help of Conservation Officers, release 99 rainbow trout into Wilson Lake! Below, the aquarium where the rainbow trout were cared for and raised, and lastly, the trout emerge as fingerlings from eggs!



LIZZY MCKAY SETS THE BAR WITH PERFECT ATTENDANCE AT MELVILLE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL



Lizzy McKay, a recent Grade 12 graduate at Melville Comprehensive School (MCS), achieved a remarkable milestone by maintaining perfect attendance throughout her Grade 11 and 12 years. Her unwavering commitment to attending school every day serves as an inspiring example for her peers and the entire school community. Lizzy's perfect attendance showcases her strong work ethic, resilience, and passion for learning. By never missing a day of school, she has fully engaged with the curriculum, actively participated in discussions, and formed meaningful connections with her classmates and teachers. Lizzy's

achievement highlights the vital role that consistent attendance plays in academic success and serves as a testament to her dedication and the supportive educational environment at MCS.

Lizzy was acknowledged for her perfect attendance at her Grade 12 grad in Melville on June 29, 2023. Congratulations and best of luck in your future!



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.

GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION HOSTS A GENDER AND SEXUALITY ALLIANCE SPRING GATHERING



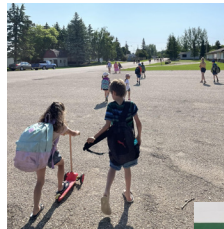
This year GSSD hosted its first Gender and Sexuality Alliance summit for students across the Division. It was an opportunity for students throughout GSSD to come together, network, learn and share. Staff from six different schools brought students from Grade 7-12 to GSEC on Saturday, May 27 for the afternoon event. It kicked off with a pizza lunch, then students were invited to move through stations of their choosing where they could create, read or decorate. From there, Jenn Tatton, a remote counselor from OUTSaskatoon, ran a self-care workshop and Lauren Denysek lead us through a voguing workshop - where there were many laughs shared by students and adults alike! To wrap the day, students were invited to share what their school's GSA has been working on, or wants to work on, to make their schools safer, more inclusive spaces for all students. Overall, it was a great afternoon, filled with joy and celebration!

WALK AND ROLL 2023

Wednesday, June 7, 2023, marked an exciting event at the Good Spirit School Division with the celebration of the 17th Annual Walk and Roll Day. This special day, initiated by the Yorkton Regional High School, aimed to promote active transportation among students and staff, encouraging them to walk or roll to school.

It was wonderful to see individuals embrace the opportunity to engage in healthy and sustainable commuting methods. In a wonderful show of support, the Division had the pleasure of awarding three bikes to two fortunate students and a staff member who participated in the Walk and Roll event.

Congratulations to the winners:
 K to 6 – Emmett Williams, Grade 2, Preeceville School
 7-12 – Bear Stream School
 Staff – Ashten Walker – Invermay School



Pictured left: Grayson School walks and rolls together!



Pictured above: Emmett met Quintin Robertson at Canadian Tire where he choose his bike with his sisters, mother and grandma!



Pictured right: Mrs. Walker won the staff bike from GSSD!



Pictured above: M.C. Knoll students meet to walk and roll to school together!

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIROMENTS

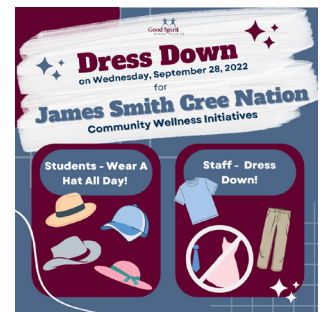
JAMES SMITH CREE NATION DONATION



Pictured above: The cheque of \$4,937.90 raised through a Division wide hat day was presented to James Smith Cree Nation.

On May 30, 2023, Cultural Advocate, Andrew Quewezance, Indigenous Education Consultant, Jess Armstrong and Director, Quintin Robertson traveled to James Smith Cree Nation to deliver condolences along with a \$4,937.90 cheque to go towards mental health and community wellbeing initiatives. Following the tragedy that occurred in James Smith Cree Nation in September, Good Spirit School Division schools raised the funds through a division wide hat day.

Thank you, students and staff, for your generous support. The health committee was very grateful to have received this generous donation and welcomed the representatives from Good Spirit School Division into their community with open arms.



SUMMER REMINDERS!

STUDENTS OF GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION

SUMMER READING CONTEST

JULY 1-SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

6 PRIZES TO BE WON!

Scan here to enter!

READ A BOOK FROM YOUR PUBLIC OR SCHOOL LIBRARY AND BE ENTERED TO WIN 1 OF 6 \$50 INDIGO GIFT CARDS!

Fill out the form with every book you read! Every book you borrow can be entered to win!

Good Spirit SCHOOL DIVISION

PARKLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY

GSSD 2023-2024 Student Registrations

During the summer, while schools are closed, central office remains open and is accepting student registrations for the upcoming school year!

Complete registration form online or deliver to the Good Spirit Education Complex

www.gssd.ca | registration



Hwy 9 North 5B Schrader Drive
Box 5060
Yorkton, SK S3N 3Z4



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

SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, the Good Spirit School Division has exemplified its commitment to fostering strong partnerships and meaningful collaboration through a series of three School Community Council (SCC) symposiums. These symposiums, attended by SCC members and staff, have provided a platform for dialogue, strategic planning, and parental engagement, culminating in a recent session that dove into the intricacies of budget unpacking.

The first symposium, held in January, explored the crucial role of SCCs, strategic planning, and the importance of parental engagement. This initial gathering sparked essential discussions on how SCCs can effectively contribute to the decision-making process within schools, ensuring the voice of parents and the wider community is heard and valued. Strategies for fostering meaningful parental involvement and creating a collaborative environment were shared, setting the tone for future symposiums.

In April, the second symposium took center stage, with a focus on budget consultation. Recognizing the significance of financial planning and resource allocation, SCC members and staff engaged in comprehensive discussions to gain insight into the budgetary process. Through transparent communication and shared perspectives, participants contributed to informed decision-making, aligning budget priorities with the needs and aspirations of the school community.

Most recently, the symposium held on Thursday, June 6, 2023, zeroed in on budget unpacking. This session aimed to demystify the complex budgetary framework, allowing SCC members and staff to understand the financial aspects of the school division. By dissecting and examining budget components, participants gained a comprehensive understanding of resource allocations, funding streams, and the implications for educational programs and services. This knowledge empowers SCC members to effectively advocate for the needs of students, ensuring resources are optimally utilized to enhance the educational experience.

The emphasis on budget unpacking showcases GSSD's commitment to transparency, collaboration, and active involvement of stakeholders in the decision-making process. By equipping SCC members and staff with a comprehensive understanding of the budget, GSSD promotes a shared sense of responsibility and ownership in shaping educational priorities and resource allocation.

Through open dialogue, strategic planning, and a deep dive into budget unpacking, GSSD continues to foster a culture of transparency and collaboration, ultimately working towards providing the best possible educational opportunities for students within the Division.

Save The Dates!
School Community Council Symposiums

You're Invited! All School Community Council Members and Administrators are welcome to join.

JANUARY
Role of the SCC, Strategic Planning, Parental Engagement
 📅 Tuesday, January 24, 2023
 📍 Birch Room, Good Spirit Education Complex
 ⌚ 6pm Supper, 6:30pm Session Will Commence

APRIL
Budget Consultation
 📅 Tuesday, April 25, 2023
 📍 Birch Room, Good Spirit Education Complex
 ⌚ 6pm Supper, 6:30pm Session Will Commence

JUNE
Budget Unpacking
 📅 Tuesday, June 6, 2023
 📍 Birch Room, Good Spirit Education Complex
 ⌚ 6pm Supper, 6:30pm Session Will Commence

FOCUSING IN ON...



PRACTICAL AND APPLIED ARTS (PAA)

FROM PHOTOGRAPHY TO WELDING TO OUTDOOR POWER AND EQUIPMENT, GSSD PAA STUDENTS FROM MCS AND THE YRHS REPRESENTED SASKATCHEWAN IN A BIG WAY AT RECENT PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL COMPETITIONS! CHECK IT OUT!

MCS STUDENTS COMPETE AT SKILLS CANADA SASKATCHEWAN COMPETITION

Aldren A-yl Pangilinan and Olivia Dumalski competed at the Skills Canada Saskatchewan competition in Saskatoon on Friday, April 28th. They were tasked with shooting and editing 15 photographs that demonstrated a variety of technical skills and composition techniques.

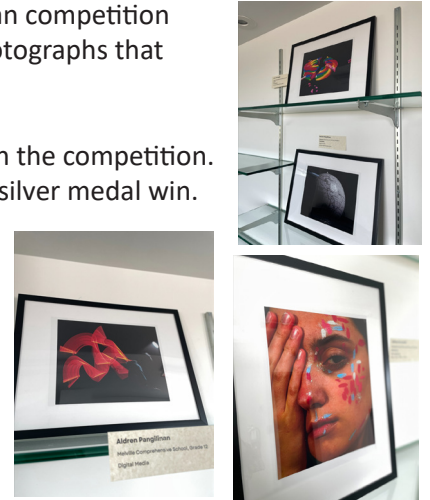
There were approximately 20 high school photographers from around Saskatchewan in the competition. Aldren won the gold medal in the competition and Olivia was a close second with her silver medal win.

As the first-place winner, Aldren represented Melville Comprehensive School and the Good Spirit School Division as a member of Team Saskatchewan who competed at the Skills Canada National Competition in Winnipeg from May 24-27, 2023.

Top photo: Aldren and Olivia's photography currently featured at the Good Spirit Education Complex.

Bottom left photo: Aldren's work using long exposure.

Bottom right photo: Olivia's self portrait



Congratulations to all participants and medal recipients from MCS at the Skills Provincial Competition.

Student Competitors:

Wourms, Austin- Outdoor Power & Recreation (Advisor: Stuart Wilson)
 Shicker, Abby - Baking (Advisor: Kara Deshais)
 Loveridge, Ava - Public Speaking (Advisor: Don Coleman)
 Dumalski, Olivia - Photography (Advisor: Don Coleman)
 Pangilinan, Aldren - Photography (Advisor: Don Coleman)
 Dobko, Hayden - Outdoor Power & Recreation (Advisor: Stuart Wilson)
 Appell, Alex - Carpentry (Advisor: Michael Wilk)
 Cooper, Ell - Welding (Advisor: Dennis Muzyka)

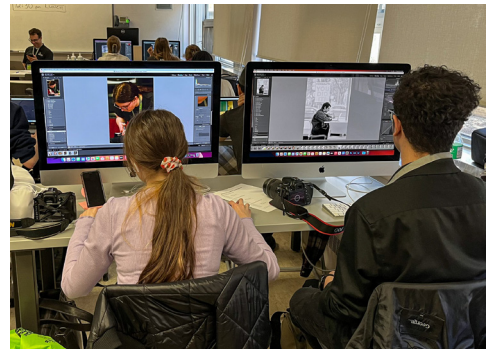
Medal Winners:

Appell, Alex	Carpentry - Gold
Pangilinan, Aldren	Photography - Gold
Dumalski, Olivia	Photography - Silver
Cooper, Ell	Welding - Gold
Wourms, Austin	Outdoor Power & Recreation - Bronze

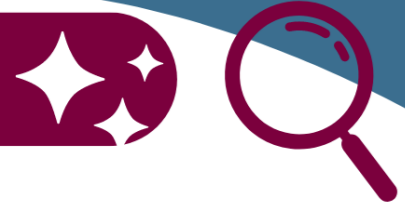


Pictured above: Hayden Dobko and Austin Wourms work on their small engines in the Outdoor Power & Recreation Division.

Pictured right: Olivia Dumalski and Aldren Pangilinan work on their images in the Photography Division.



FOCUSING IN ON...



MCS STUDENTS EXCEL IN NATIONAL SKILLS CANADA COMPETITION

The National Skills competition served as an exceptional platform for students from GSSD to showcase their knowledge and skills in a competitive environment. The experience proved invaluable, leaving the participants with a newfound appreciation for the trades and the diverse opportunities available to them.

Stuart Wilson, a teacher at MCS and newly appointed to the National Technical Committee (NTC) for Saskatchewan, recognized the immense benefits of the competition for both students and teachers. Wilson emphasized the value of collaborating with tradespeople from across the country, enabling teachers to gain a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities awaiting their students. This insight allows them to tailor classroom instruction to guide students towards rewarding career paths. Beyond the competition, the connections forged during this event are likely to have a lasting impact, serving as a valuable professional development opportunity and enriching the learning experience as a whole.



Pictured above: Mr. Stuart Wilson is supervising a Compulab electrical wiring test sequence.

Dennis Muzyka, also from MCS, proudly acknowledged the dedication and effort demonstrated by the GSSD Skills Nationals Competitors. The immense preparation time, surpassing 100 hours beyond regular class time for both students and teachers, underscored their commitment to excellence. While MCS did not secure any medals in this round, the mark differentials were as close as 0.39 marks, highlighting the students' impressive performance at the national level.



Pictured above: Saskatchewan Competitors get together for a group photo.

The achievements of GSSD students in the National Skills competition are a testament to their exceptional abilities and the unwavering support provided by their teachers. Through their participation, these students have gained invaluable experience, fostering a deeper understanding of the trades and the vast array of opportunities that lie ahead.

First two photos: Cooper Ell is featured while competing in the welding division.

Second two photos: Welding competitors take part in orientation.



FOCUSING IN ON...



YORKTON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (YRHS) STUDENTS COMPETE AT SKILLS CANADA SASKATCHEWAN COMPETITION

One of the trademarks of the YRHS has been showcasing the diverse strength of the Practical and Applied Arts Department at the Provincial and National Skills Canada Competitions every year. YRHS was excited to hear that they would return to an in-person 2023 competition instead of the pandemic Virtual Competitions. Just like the good days, YRHS loaded up a school van and drove to Saskatoon to remind the province about the Land of Orange. Overall, YRHS won four Provincial gold medals and two Provincial silver medals!

Outdoor Power & Recreational Equipment

YRHS took two students in the Outdoor Power and Recreational Equipment category and did not disappoint.

Hayden Klassen won the provincial silver medal as a Grade 11 student this year. Hayden is a well-rounded student who does well both academically and demonstrated excellence in the Practical and Applied areas. Hayden is a good team player and shows great focus when working in the shop. He is also able to think fast when trouble shooting.

Unfortunately for Hayden, another Grade 11 YRHS student, Jayden Kachur participated in the same competition category and took home the provincial gold. Jayden is a determined and hard-working young man. He put in extra time outside of class time to train and prepare for the competition which allowed him to stay focused and finish the tasks well.

Esthetics

Karma Heibert spent several months training for the Skills Canada competition in the broad area of Esthetics this year. This competition was six hours long and included a full manicure, hand & arm massage, nail art, pedicure, foot massage, french tips, and finally a corrective makeup and fantasy makeup application. The flawless work of this student earned them a unanimous gold medal from the judges!

Auto Service Technician

Kalan Fyck is a Grade 12 student who won the Gold medal this year at the Provincial Skills Competition in the Auto Service Technology category. Kalan is a high achiever whose work ethic and dedicated preparation helped him reach the top of the podium. Kalan sure lives up to the motto in Mr. Tkachuk's class... "YRHS Mechanics, Where We Build Performance!!"

This is the eighth consecutive provincial gold medal for the YRHS Mechanics program.

Public Speaking

Isabelle Easton is a Grade 12 student who finally won her Provincial Skills Canada gold medal in public speaking this year. "Finally" is emphasized because she already had two silver Provincial medals from previous years in public speaking. This is an impressive feat in such a competitive category. Great job Izzy!

Job Search

Elia Bolme is a Grade 12 student who competed in Job Search at Provincials this year. She earned the silver medal and when the gold medalist was unable to compete at Nationals, she received the invitation to Winnipeg and jumped at the opportunity to compete again.



FOCUSING IN ON...



YRHS STUDENTS SUCCEED AT THE NATIONAL SKILLS CANADA COMPETITION

At the end of May, YRHS had three students competing in Winnipeg at the National Skills Canada Competition. This competition is a long and grueling two-day event. As expected, all of the students represented the Land of Orange very well.

Isabelle Easton finished 7th in Canada in Public Speaking, Elia Bolme finished 6th in Canada in Job Search and Jayden Kachur won a National Silver in the Outdoor Power and Recreational Equipment category.

Jayden's hard work and attention to detail was what separated him from the other provinces. It will be exciting to see what happens next year when Jayden is in Grade 12 and the National Skills Canada Competition is in Quebec City. This is YRHS Mechanics second National silver medal in this category.



Pictured above: Jayden receives a silver medal for his work in the Outdoor Power and Recreational Equipment category. Congratulations Jayden!

Everyone is very proud that these students were able to showcase the quality of programming at YRHS.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY



Summer

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