

# IN FOCUS

WITH THE GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Dear Good Spirit School Division Family,

As we dive into the January and February, 2024, edition of the In Focus, I am once again reminded of the strength, dedication, and spirit that define our community. January was full of activity, with high school students navigating their way through finals and then heading into the second semester of this school year.

February was a month rich with moments of engagement, learning, and well-deserved recognition. We celebrated Family Literacy Day, a reminder of the joy and importance of reading and storytelling in our lives. The much-anticipated February break offered everyone in our school division—students, families, and staff—a chance to rest, rejuvenate, and enjoy precious moments with family and friends.

It's important to highlight that February also served as a time to express our heartfelt gratitude towards our staff. Staff Appreciation Week allowed us to acknowledge the tireless efforts, dedication, and passion of our educators and support staff. Their commitment to our students' success and well-being is the backbone of our division, and we are profoundly grateful for each and every one of them.

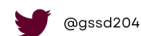
Moreover, February wrapped up on a high note with an inspiring advocacy session led by our Grade 7 and 8 students from across the division. These young leaders joined the Board of Education to share their insights, hopes, and dreams, reinforcing the importance of student voice in shaping our educational journey.

As we reflect on these stories of achievement, celebration, and advocacy, I am filled with optimism for the future. These narratives are a testament to the vibrant, dynamic community that makes the Good Spirit School Division truly exceptional. Let's carry this momentum forward, continuing to support one another in our shared mission to provide a nurturing, inclusive, and enriching learning environment for all.

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



*Pictured above: Quintin Robertson thanks students and staff for attending the February 29, 2024, Regular Board Meeting for an Advocacy Session with the GSSD Board of Education.*



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February 11-17, 2024**

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## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Improving student outcomes
- Implementing the "Inspiring Success" Policy
- Developing GSSD leaders
- Ensuring consistent practices across GSSD schools
- Delivering high-quality teaching and learning resources
- Providing equal access to technology



### GSSD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Professional development (PD) plays a crucial role in GSSD's commitment to high quality teaching and learning. Aligned with the long-term goals of improving student outcomes, implementing the "Inspiring Success" Policy, developing GSSD leaders, ensuring consistent practices across GSSD schools and delivering high-quality teaching and learning resources, PD remains a cornerstone of these efforts. Throughout the first half of the school year, GSSD has conducted multiple professional development sessions for staff.

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
Admin. Meeting #4 via TEAMS	Jan. 11/24	This Administrator Meeting touched on topics such as upcoming graduation requirements, updates and details on Job Action, and upcoming and future professional development opportunities.
Division Turn Around Day	Jan. 31/24	EAs, LTs, & PLCs (PAA, Band, & PE)
Keynote Speaker Joe Sanfelippo	Jan. 31/24	Joe delivered an engaging and important talk on "I'm just", a phrase we hear all the time. Leadership is not a title, it's an action and it starts from within. Identifying leadership traits in yourself changes your mindset when thinking about leading those around you.
Library Technician Professional Development Day	Jan. 31/24	This PD explored the ordering and resources, Interlibrary loans, Inventory tips and tricks, Collaborative discussion groups and library update ideas and sharing.
Educational Assistant Professional Development Day	Jan. 31/24	Throughout the day, professionals were able to choose from a multitude of sessions to attend, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LessonPix 101</li> <li>• Trauma Integrated Practices</li> <li>• Who Knew – Strategies to Engage and Motivate</li> <li>• "Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder"</li> <li>• Rational Detachment – Staying calm and in control – even in a crisis moment.</li> <li>• Pool Session - capacity building interactive learning opportunity</li> <li>• Large Group Presentation</li> </ul>
Occupational Health & Safety Training, Level 1	Jan. 31/24	This session focused on navigating Saskatchewan's Occupational Health and Safety legislation and effective OHC operations. Participants will learned to identify, assess, and recommend solutions for workplace hazards, and handle health and safety concerns.

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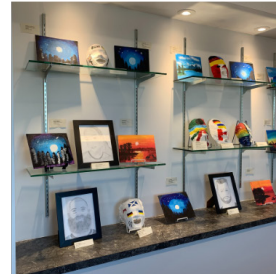
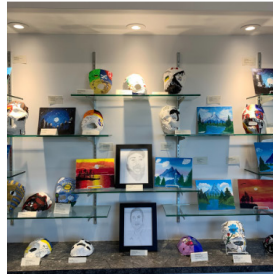
## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
GSA Advisor Workshop	Feb. 6/24	This day hosted a PD event for all school-based GSA advisors. This day was a chance to discuss ideas for starting and running GSAs as well as planning for upcoming GSSD events such as the GSA Summit and/or Regina Pride parade. The day also included Rev. Carla Blakely who brought a wealth of experience in this area.
Response to Intervention (RtI) Pop Up Template	Feb. 12/24	Schools teams, including PSPs, SSTs, Admin and members of the RtI teams were invited to join a pop-up session to learn more about the RtI template. The session focused on the RtI template, designating the meeting type, using the attendance tab to follow AP 340, and files and links.
Blended Learning PLC PD	Feb. 15/24	During this session, participants dove into Blended Learning: Inclusivity and Artificial Intelligence Integration. This professional development was all about introducing the practical side of Blended Learning, emphasizing its inclusive essence and the seamless incorporation of AI into teaching and learning practices.

### GOOD SPIRIT EDUCATION COMPLEX (GSEC) ART DISPLAY

Students from Columbia and Macdonald Schools showcased their talents in GSEC's January and February exhibit.

Landscape Paintings: "Along with exploring multiple mediums in visual arts, students focused on tinting, shading, and blending of acrylic paint. We then looked at elements of a landscape drawing/painting and perspective. Students were then encouraged to replicate a landscape painting that they were drawn to and in ELA were to write a descriptive paragraph of their landscape."



Masks: "These tied into our Culture Unit in Social Studies. Students were to reflect on their family's culture and what they feel represents who they are. They completed a pre-planning of their mask and then proceeded to create their masks from plaster casting and finally painted them to represent themselves."

Darcie Krasowski, Teacher - Columbia School

"Our middle years students complete one in-depth realistic portrait project each year. It's amazing to see how rapidly students' drawing and shading skills develop. Students start by drawing a grid on their reference photo which helps with orientation of different features on the page. We learn about drawing what we see and being careful not to fall back on "autopilot" assumptions about the appearance and proportions of facial features."

Samantha Smart, Teacher - Macdonald School

"Our art classes were intertwined with other subject areas to help integrate various curricular outcomes."

Strategic Plan Report: In Focus

THIS EXHIBIT SHOWCASES ART FROM  
GRADE 8 COLUMBIA SCHOOL  
GRADE 9 MACDONALD SCHOOL



## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

### BLENDDED LEARNING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

On February 15th, the Good Spirit School Division hosted teachers and administrators from Churchbridge Public School, Esterhazy High School, Invermay School, Kamsack Comprehensive Institute, Melville Comprehensive School, Macdonald School, Norquay School, Salcoats School, Yorkton Regional High School as well as the GSSD Consultant Team for a Professional Development Day dedicated to Blended Learning. The theme for the day was, "Essential for some, good for all." Blended Learning is the combination of active engaged learning online with active engaged learning offline that provides students with more control over the time, place, pace, and path of their learning (Tucker). Given GSSD's commitment of 1:1 Chromebooks in grades 4-12 and 3:1 iPads in K-3, GSSD is uniquely positioned to add Blended Learning practices that allow teachers and students to purposefully engage current and new technologies.



Digital Learning Consultants Michelle Morley and Shawn Kostiuik, and Student Services Consultant Val Ruf designed the day to be as practical as possible. During the morning sessions, the group engaged in various rotation models and investigated Artificial Intelligence tools that teachers can use. In the afternoon, Val Ruf and Sidney Ridzyk (MCS) demonstrated how the Ready, Do, Done strategy works and Val demonstrated the Text to Tables strategy that helps students organize written compositions. The day ended with time for the group to begin looking at how the various strategies can support their current lesson.



Michelle Morley, Shawn Kostiuik and Val Ruf will continue working with this group as they introduce Blended Learning into their teaching practices.

## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

### CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS STORYTELLING MONTH IN FEBRUARY

**Indigenous Storytelling Month**  
FEBRUARY, 2024  
Open to all GSSD students, families and staff!

**February 27 & 29, 2024  
Tuesday and Thursday!**

Head to our webpage for the link to join. [Click here for all sessions, all month long!](#)

26	27	28	29	1
	<b>Boston Bear</b> Fr. 8-12: 10:00pm Youth Mental Wellness Awareness		<b>Heather O'Watch</b> Tue-Thu. 1:00-4:00pm Ch. 8: 8:00-10:00am Pract & HELP: 10:00-10:50am Ch. 8 & 8.5: 11:00-11:50am	
<b>Tuesday</b>		<b>Thursday</b>		

**Boston Bear**  
Boston Bear is from the Cheechewic First Nation in the southeast corner of Saskatchewan. In Treaty 4 Territory, he is the youngest son of Brian and Lynn Bear. Boston was born into a hunting family and took part in traditional life as a young age. His education was great. Boston can't wait to share his past and future with his family. Like many First Nation youth, he struggled with home life, bullying in school and loss of family members he was close to.  
His knowledge comes from a long line of teachings passed down from his father, mother, his Muskhom Matinee Ancestral Spirit and his Ancestral Grandfather. At 22 years old, Boston has a vision to start his camp as a way to help others the way that he helped himself, through land-based teachings.

In 2020, the late Boston had cancer in his brain when he hosted his First Youth Mental Health Awareness Hour, in Moose Mountain Provincial Park, at GSSD Life.

**Heather O'Watch**  
Heather O'Watch is a Métis and Cree woman from the Cheechewic First Nation in Treaty 4 Territory. Heather is enrolled in a Master's Degree in Public Policy (MPP) at the University of Saskatchewan. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies from the First Nations University of Canada. Heather currently works for a global indigenous rights organization and advocates for indigenous voices and their rights.  
When not working or studying, Heather spends her time: creative writing, Heather invents published Austin's Star, and she loves to travel.

In the month of February, Indigenous Storytelling took center stage, weaving a tapestry of cultural heritage and wisdom. The ensemble of storytellers included George Allary, Joanna Potyondi, Nina Wilson, Lorena Cote, Danny Whitehawk, Boston Bear, and Heather O'Watch. Their voices resonate across generations, bridging the past with the present.

These captivating sessions were all-inclusive, inviting PreK-Grade 12 students to embark on a journey through narratives that touched upon essential life lessons, youth mental health awareness, traditional medicines, the 60s scoop, residential schools and more. Whether experienced in-person or virtually, these storytelling moments reached students, families, and staff throughout the entire Division. A big thank you goes out to the GSSD Indigenous Education team for curating and orchestrating these storytelling sessions, fostering understanding, empathy, and connection.



### TERRANCE LITTLENT BRINGS HOOP DANCING TO PJ GILLEN SCHOOL

PJ Gillen School had the privilege of hosting an extraordinary two-day event in February, thanks to Dance Saskatchewan Inc. The school welcomed Terrance Littletent, an acclaimed Hoop Dancer, who shared his passion and profound connection to the art form with both students and staff.

Terrance Littletent, a keeper of his Cree heritage, brought more than just a dance to the school; he brought a story woven through the circles of his hoops. He explained how the hoop embodies the past, present, and future, representing his ancestors, his community, and the generations to come. For Littletent, the hoop is a symbol of home and identity, deeply rooted in the Cree belief that raising a child is a community's collective responsibility. This philosophy highlights the importance of understanding and appreciating diverse cultures while being proud of one's heritage.

The workshop concluded with a captivating presentation, where Littletent performed with glowing hoops under effective lighting, creating an unforgettable spectacle for all attendees. This event was not just an artistic display but an educational experience, illuminating Indigenous cultures and traditions.

Both parents and students had high praise for the workshop. Describing Mr. Littletent as an "outstanding teacher and performer," many are already looking forward to his return. The impact of the workshop was evident in the children's enthusiastic responses, with one parent sharing, "My kid LOVED this class!" Another added, "My kids absolutely loved this! Thank you for putting it on!" The sentiment was echoed across the board, with numerous parents expressing gratitude for a "wonderful" experience that left their children "raving about this workshop."

The event at PJ Gillen School highlights the importance of embracing and celebrating cultures. Thanks to Terrance Littletent and Dance Saskatchewan Inc., students and staff at PJ Gillen School were given a memorable introduction to the beauty and depth of Hoop Dancing, fostering a deeper appreciation for Indigenous culture and traditions.



# ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

- Fostering connections and supporting transitions
- Valuing input from students, families, staff, and the community
- Communicating openly and clearly
- Forming partnerships to support GSSD's priority areas

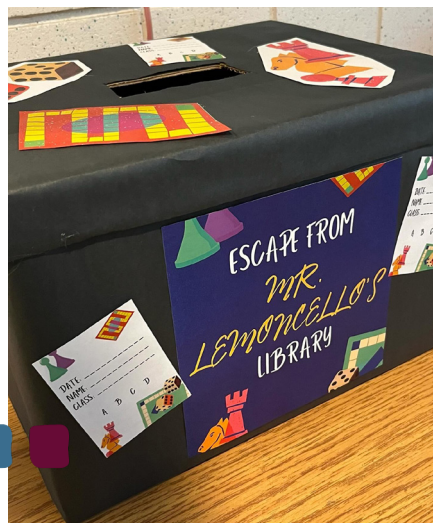
## MC KNOLL SCHOOL EMBARKS ON A LITERARY ADVENTURE WITH ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK

On January 4, 2024, MC Knoll School, in collaboration with St Michael's School, launched their exciting "One School, One Book" program. The event kicked off with an engaging assembly where students were treated to a video from New York by Chris Grabenstein, the author of *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*. Chris read Chapter 1 and introduced the book, sparking enthusiasm among the students. The annual initiative of One School, One Book, is a journey of shared reading and enhanced literacy.

Each family received a copy of the book and an M.C. Knoll drawstring bag. Families were invited to read together at home each evening with parents reading to their children. There was also an online read aloud available for families. Each morning, a trivia question was read based on the reading and two lucky winners were drawn each afternoon. Over thirty-one days of reading, M.C. Knoll celebrated sixty-two trivia winners! Based on the themes of the book, families were also invited to complete a brain teaser puzzle together and send their answers in for another chance to win. Spirit days were held almost every Friday including Book Character Day, Trivia Day, Game Character Day, Team Colour Day, and Buddy Board Game Day.

MC Knoll's One School, One Book concluded on February 16. Each classroom completed a virtual escape room where they needed to solve puzzles like the characters in the book. Once successful, they discovered a ticket to watch the movie in the afternoon. The entire school gathered in the gym that afternoon to celebrate the final winners and enjoy the movie. M.C. Knoll is grateful to their School Community Council for their generous contribution toward the purchase of the books. This annual activity supports the family of Knights in building a community of readers.

"A library doesn't need windows, Andrew. We have books, which are windows into worlds we never even dreamed possible." – Chris Grabenstein, *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*.



## ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

### MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS MAKE THEIR WAY TO COLUMBIA SCHOOL FOR ONE SCHOOL ONE BOOK 2024!



Columbia School celebrated its eleventh annual One School One Book event, featuring the beloved book, "Mr. Popper's Penguins" by Florence and Richard Atwater. The event kicked off with the exciting reveal of the book and a special visit from a penguin all the way from Antarctica! Families were invited to read a chapter nightly, enabling students to participate in a trivia contest each morning for a chance to win prizes.



For the event's duration, students were grouped into "Penguin Groups" to compete in various activities, including a spirited "Snowball Tournament" during a fun-filled assembly.



On Thursday, February 8, Columbia families gathered in the school gym to enjoy the Jim Carrey movie "Mr. Popper's Penguins." To say that the event was well-attended would be an understatement!



Wrapping up on Friday, February 9, the students engaged in a series of penguin-themed activities, ranging from a "Trip to Antarctica," creating clay penguins, enjoying oreo penguins, to dancing the Penguin Shuffle, drawing penguins, participating in a penguin relay race, coloring, word searches, and playing penguin bingo. It was a day full of joy and laughter for everyone involved!

Special thanks to SIGA, SaskTel, and Unifor for their annual support in covering the costs of books and prizes, and to Legacy Co-Op for providing snacks for the movie night and wrap-up activities.





## ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

### MELVILLE & AREA JOB FAIR PROVIDES INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY



Good Spirit School Division had the good fortune to be invited to attend the Melville & Area Job Fair that was held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. MCS Principal, Mr. Wandy, along with his school team and School Community Council Members at Melville Comprehensive School (MCS) did a masterful job of putting together a very meaningful experience for the students, local businesses, and community members.

The event, hosting over 40 booths, was available from 1:30-4:00 pm for students in grades 9-12 from MCS, St. Henry's Sr. School in Melville, and nearby schools including Ituna High School. A majority of the booths represented job opportunities for students right in the area.

Educational booths from Suncrest College and Saskatchewan Polytechnic were also present showcasing potential pathways to careers.

At 5:00pm the inner workings of the MCS Cafeteria was cleared to make space for a fantastic meal and supper program. Melville Mayor Walter Streelasky and MLA for the Melville-Saltcoats constituency, Warren Kaeding spoke briefly. Both gentlemen mentioned how a Job Fair such as this one is a true step in the right direction with regards to linking students to potential employers and vice versa. GSSD Career Education Liaison Mike Haczkwicz delivered a presentation for business owners and parents showcasing the many new credit possibilities that exist for students to embrace. The presentation shared information and stories about Apprenticeship, Dual Credits, Special Project Credits, and Volunteerism Credits. The work of RDIEC (Regina District Industry Education Council) was also mentioned.

After the supper break the booths fired back up for an evening session that ran from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. This portion of the event was open to the general public, who as adults in the community, may have been seeking employment for themselves. The evening session was also very well attended. Ryan Hall, GSSD Transportation Manager, attended the evening session to provide insights into possible career paths within GSSD. He discussed opportunities in Building Maintenance, Bus Driving, and roles as an Educational Assistant. Participants received vibrant brochures containing information and links to various GSSD career options.

As the event drew to a close both, Mr. Wandy and Mr. Svenson were very pleased with what had been accomplished. Both are looking forward to next year's event, which according to Mr. Wandy, may have to bump a couple of basketball practices so that the gymnasium might be used to house even more booths.



## ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

### FAMILY LITERACY DAY IN GSSD!

Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. Since 1999, thousands of schools, libraries, literacy organizations and other community groups have taken part in the initiative. ABC creates free learning and promotional resources for anyone that wants to get involved. Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development, improving a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well.

The theme for Family Literacy Day was "Have a family party!"

To celebrate, GSSD held a contest for all GSSD families. Families entered the contest by sending in pictures of their family party. Families sent in pictures of creating their own party invitations, decorating their party room, making yummy food, dressing up, singing and dancing, and playing fun games! Winners of the contest were from Yorkdale Central, Miller, and Macdonald Schools!

A Family Literacy Day Free Livestream event was also held, where Saskatchewan writer, spoken word artist and educator Khodi Dill shared from his picture book "Welcome to the Cypher" (illustrations by Awuradwoa Afful). CBC describes the book as a "joyful celebration of rap, creativity and self-expression."

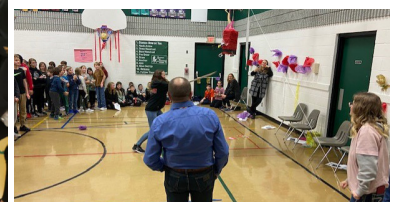


### SALTCOATS SCHOOL THROWS A FAMILY LITERACY DAY PARTY!

Saltcoats School marked the 25th Family Literacy Day with a festive celebration, aligning with this year's theme of "Let's Have a Family Party!"

During the event, students showcased their literacy skills by sharing pieces they had written in class with fellow students, staff, and attending family members. The celebration continued with each class and the staff and family members enjoying a fun-filled Piñata smashing session, filled with candy. Special thanks go to the Grade 7/8 Leadership Group for their creative work in crafting the Piñatas.

No celebration is complete without food, and everyone enjoyed a delicious cupcake. Overall, it was a great opportunity for students to share how their writing has developed through the school year.



ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

**CHURCHBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL SHINES IN DRAMA AND ARTISTIC FLAIR**

Churchbridge Public School (CPS) has recently demonstrated wonderful talent in both drama and art, captivating audiences and showcasing the creative abilities of its students.

The Junior CPS Drama Production "Cinderella's Crunchy Christmas Cake," was an instant hit among the school's audiences. The production featured a cast of 25 students from grades 4, 5, and 6, under the guidance of two grade 9 co-directors. This collaborative effort resulted in a delightful theatrical experience for everyone involved.



*Pictured Above: "Cinderella's Crunchy Christmas Cake" performs for their fellow peers!*



*Pictured: Brynn (above) and Chloe (below) showcase their art at the Senior Art Show.*

In the realm of visual arts, the first CPS senior art show, featuring works from the Art30 class, was a resounding success. Taught by Patti Zerr, students had the opportunity to not only exhibit their artwork but also to sell their pieces.

Among the talented artists were Brynn Debnam, a grade 12 student, Chloe Becker from grade 11, and Ella Choptuik, who won the People's Choice Award for her impressive "Venom" painting. Their work, along with that of their peers, highlighted the depth of talent at CPS, marking the event as a triumph of student creativity and artistic expression.



*Pictured Above: Ella is shown with her artwork and her winning piece "Venom"*



These achievements in drama and art at Churchbridge Public School reflect the vibrant and dynamic spirit of its students and educators, who together are creating a rich and inspiring learning environment.

**MICHIF EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM WELCOMES GEORGE FAYANT FOR AN EDUCATIONAL RED RIVER CART WORKSHOP ON JANUARY 31ST**

The Michif Early Learning Program hosted George Fayant on January 31st with an educational Red River Cart Workshop.

The workshop included a presentation on the history of the Red River cart and the antique tools used to build it. Participants had the opportunity to assemble and keep a small-scale model of the Red River cart.

It was a fantastic evening of information, entertaining stories from George, and audience engagement; and the stew and Bannock supper that followed was outstanding!

Mr. Fayant was born and raised in southern Saskatchewan near the Qu'Appelle Valley and has been building Red River Carts since 1998.

Thank you to the organizers for all their work in coordinating set up, troubleshooting, materials, and clean up!



## HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

- Enhancing mental health and well-being for students and staff
- Offering safe and inviting facilities
- Promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion



### COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS: PREECEVILLE SCHOOL'S SUPER SLAM TOURNAMENT RAISES OVER \$23,000 IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL FAMILIES

On December 29, 2023, Preeceville School hosted a Super Slam 3-on-3 basketball tournament, a fundraising event for two local high school students facing life changing health challenges. Archer Franklin, a Grade 12 student from Kelvington, underwent a bone marrow transplant this fall due to a life-altering condition diagnosed in May. Since June, he and his family have resided between University Hospital and a rented suite. Cheyenne Peterson, a Grade 10 student from Sturgis, was diagnosed with a brain tumor in October and has been receiving treatment in Saskatoon since then. She and her family have been in and out of Saskatoon for her treatments since.



After a day of basketball, events and competitions, the success of the Super Slam fundraiser was remarkable. The gym buzzed with energy as players and spectators from Preeceville, Sturgis, Kelvington, Norquay, Canora, Yorkton, and other areas gathered in support. Along with the event, a Facebook auction was held to raise additional funds. The event was a true testament to community spirit and generosity. Thank you to Arlene and Cliff Prestie and Dallas Burym who spearheaded the event.

Thanks to the overwhelming support, the event raised an impressive \$23,553.00 for Archer and Cheyenne! All proceeds will be going directly to the Franklin and Peterson families. A hearty congratulations to all the tournament winners!



Thank you to everyone who contributed:

- All the basketball players from the mentioned communities for their participation and donations.
- Flipping Fashions from Kelvington for their generous donation of Super Slam shirts for the winning junior and senior teams.
- Western R.V. Country from Calgary for sponsoring the custom jerseys for the senior tournament winners.
- Numerous families and businesses for their cash contributions and auction/raffle items.
- Those who donated through auction bids and supported the event by attending.
- Evan Rostotski, John Algabrae, Jesse Santos, Cliff Prestie, and Heath Morin for their game officiating, and Meghan Morton, Cary Franklin, Emily Prestie, and Laura Sliva for managing registrations and the 50/50 draw.
- Dallas Burym for organizing the online auction.
- Tammy, Ryan, and Lexi Prouse, along with Addison Danielson and Cassidy Paterson, for their assistance throughout the tournament.
- Rachelle Kashuba for managing the serverly during both tournaments.
- Preeceville students for their help with donations, officiating, and managing the raffle table, and to Kim Murray, Becky Scheller, and Leslea Hanson for supervising.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in this incredible community effort!

## HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

### HEARTFELT DONATION ENHANCES ACCESSIBILITY AT ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS WATER PARK

Cindy van Eeden, a Yorkton resident and Student Services Consultant at GSSD, has generously donated two new water wheelchairs to the Access Communications Water Park to support increased access and inclusion for individuals with physical disabilities.

Thanks to contributions from friends and various organizations, along with Cindy's own fundraising efforts, she managed to secure the necessary funds for two water wheelchairs and their straps for the park.

Her commitment to improving accessibility is not only professional but also personal, as she is the mother of a child, Connor, who had physical and cognitive challenges that limited his recreational opportunities. "Connor adored the water, and it was his happiest place, second only to watching Blues Clues," van Eeden shared. Remembering Connor, who passed away in 2018, the family was inspired to fundraise in his memory. They previously benefited from using accessible chairs after Connor broke his leg, which ultimately led to his inability to walk. "This donation aims to allow others the joy of water play and the ease of access to the Water Park's facilities, encouraging more community members to enjoy the water," she added.

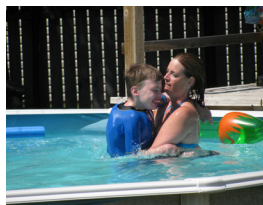


*Photo credits to SaskToday.ca. From left to right, Lisa Wotherspoon, GSSD Superintendent of Learning, Jacklyn Spencer, Val Ryf and Cindy van Eeden, GSSD Student Services Consultants, van Eeden family members, Maureen Blight, GSSD Occupational Therapist.*

Connor, described by his mother as exceptionally joyful in the water, faced significant health challenges from a young age. Following a severe seizure at 14, just before starting at YRHS as a Raider, he suffered a broken femur, which after a second break, led to the loss of his ability to walk. The aquatic wheelchairs at the Gallagher Center became essential for their continued swimming activities, representing a lifeline for Connor and his mother's shared joy in water.



Graham Erickson, the Water Park Supervisor, expressed the city's gratitude for the donation, highlighting its significance in promoting accessibility and convenience for all visitors. This contribution is seen as a vital step towards making the water park more accessible and inclusive, addressing the demand for such chairs in the past.



The donation in memory of Connor, who lived from February 28, 1998, to November 16, 2018, ensures that individuals of all ages facing mobility challenges can now more easily enjoy the pool and engage in fun activities, honoring the spirit of a boy who loved the water deeply.

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

CHURCHBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL UNITES: A COMMUNITY'S TRIUMPH FOR RYLAN

An online auction held on February 29, 2024, has brought the community together in a significant way, raising an impressive \$23,700. Organized to support Rylan and his family's journey to the Mayo Clinic for vital medical treatment, the auction witnessed an outstanding response from the community, running for just eight hours from noon to 8 p.m.

The event's success is a reflection of the community's spirit and generosity. This initiative was more than just a fundraiser; it was a testament to the community's commitment to supporting its members.

Rylan's family has been met with an outpouring of support, alleviating some of the financial pressures associated with their travel and treatment at the Mayo Clinic. The community's contribution goes beyond financial aid; it's a message of hope and solidarity to Rylan and his family.

Expressions of gratitude have flowed from Rylan's family, who are deeply moved by the community's kindness. They extend their heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed, participated, and helped spread the word about the auction. Their journey to the Mayo Clinic, set to begin this Saturday, is now marked with the community's support.

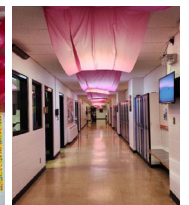
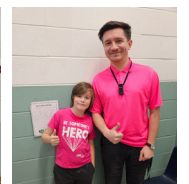


GSSD UNITES IN KINDNESS TO CELEBRATE PINK SHIRT DAY 2024

Across the Good Spirit School Division, schools vibrantly celebrated Pink Shirt Day 2024, championing the cause of kindness and taking a stand against bullying. From KCI to Norquay School, and Springside to Victoria and Sturgis Schools, students and staff donned pink shirts as a symbol of solidarity and commitment to fostering a culture of respect and understanding.

At KCI, the day was marked by meaningful discussions and activities focused on promoting kindness. The students and staff came together, wearing pink, to engage in classroom discussions that emphasized the importance of being kind to others. Norquay School transformed its hallways with decorations and embarked on a collaborative art project. The day culminated in a photo session in the gym, capturing the spirit of unity among those who wore pink. Springside School highlighted the creativity of its students, particularly in the grade 2/3 class, where students excelled in writing about kindness and crafting inspiring artwork. Victoria School and Sturgis School also recognized Pink Shirt Day, with Sturgis School rallying around the motto, "Let's lift each other up." This message resonated throughout the Good Spirit School Division, underlining the collective effort to create an environment where every student feels valued, understood, and uplifted.

Pink Shirt Day 2024 in GSSD was not just about wearing a color; it was a powerful declaration of the dedication to building strong foundations of belonging, diversity, and responsibility.



## HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS



### MEET A BUS DRIVER: AMANDA NAGY

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 2023-24 school year, the transportation team will be highlighting drivers from across the Division.

Meet Amanda Nagy!

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

I have been driving school buses for almost 5 years. I started just before COVID and like everywhere else, bus driving was a unique challenge. We all got through it and are grateful to be back to normal.

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

I had great conversations with my children's bus drivers and once my youngest boy was in school full time I had the opportunity to drive the route around my own home. I was then able to drive my children to school as well as my neighbors' children all the way down my highway into town. It worked well for my family and I've always loved children and the peace of driving.

#### What other interests do you have?

I tend to be busy driving my boys to their activities which I try not to miss at the same time. I love watching them do what they love. I enjoy gardening, reading, curling and watching football. My family and I enjoy the outdoors as much as possible as well. We like to try new northern lakes during the summer months.

#### Do you have a pet?

We have spoiled outdoor animals. A Husky/Rottweiler cross named Bella and seven cats that catch mice but enjoy cuddling as well.

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

Adventure is definitely the way to describe bus driving. The weather, roads and having a busload of children is always an adventure. I'm always satisfied when I arrive safely to town and have positive interactions with the children on the bus.

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

I think it would be fun, yet at the same time a learning experience to invite my bus children's parents for a ride along on the bus. The kids would get a kick out of it and the parents would get to see the dynamic amongst the children, the driving conditions and the route that we travel twice daily.

#### What is your favorite travel destination?

Anywhere hot! My husband and I like to get away on a hot holiday once a year if we can.



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

Most definitely! It worked for me so I can still put my family first, see the neighborhood children grow up, enjoy beautiful sunsets and sunrises and see lots of wildlife.

## EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

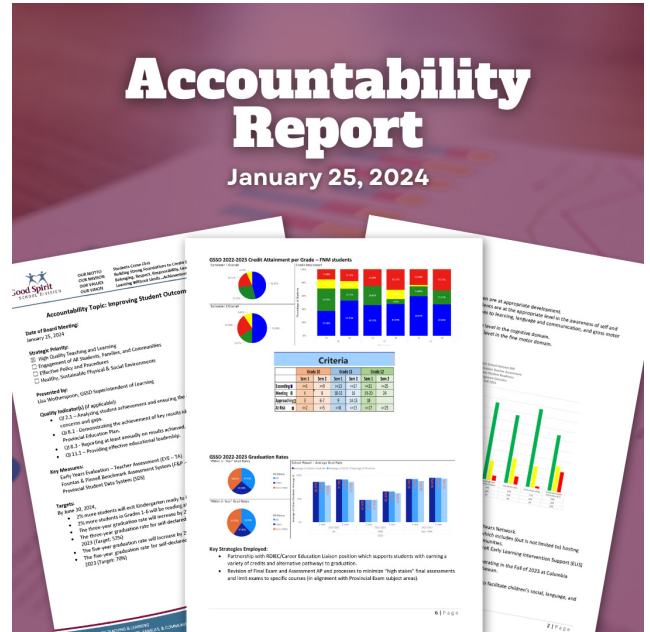
- Upholding clear, high-quality Board of Education Policies
- Maintaining transparent, high-quality administrative procedures aligned with Board policy
- Focusing on educational approaches that prioritize student success
- Allocating resources to improve experiences for students, staff, and the community



### IMPROVING STUDENT OUTCOMES: FALL ASSESSMENT DATA & CREDIT ATTAINMENT REPORT

Lisa Wotherspoon, Superintendent of Learning, recently presented an important accountability report at the January 25, 2024, Regular Board Meeting, focusing on Improving Student Outcomes, which highlighted the Good Spirit School Division's (GSSD) commitment to enhancing educational achievements. This report, including Fall Assessment Data & Credit Attainment, is essential in understanding how GSSD is making significant strides in education.

The report emphasized the importance of early learning goals, aiming for students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 to achieve specific benchmarks in learning readiness and reading levels. Data from Fall 2023 showed that a significant majority of GSSD kindergarten students are meeting expected levels in various developmental areas. To further these achievements, strategies such as specialized training for Kindergarten teachers in Heggerty Phonological and Phonemic Awareness, a new Speech and Language Pathologist role, and the introduction of the Michif Early Language program have been implemented.



For older students, the Fountas & Pinnell data revealed that while a majority are reading at or above grade level, there is a notable gap among self-declared First Nations and Métis students. Addressing this, GSSD has introduced structured literacy programs, professional development opportunities, and new instructional resources. Upcoming strategies include forming an Early Learning steering committee and further professional development in the Science of Reading.

Additionally, the Division reported a positive credit attainment rate in the 2022-23 academic year, surpassing provincial averages. This success is attributed to various initiatives like partnerships with educational councils, revisions in assessment policies, and expansion of support for Indigenous students. Looking forward, GSSD plans to refine its approaches through new policies, timetable audits, and enhanced student and parent engagement tools like myBlueprint.

This comprehensive approach by GSSD not only reflects its dedication to continual improvement but also emphasizes the importance of tailored educational strategies. By focusing on early learning, reading proficiency, and credit attainment, GSSD is effectively paving the way for improved student outcomes, ensuring that each student is equipped with the skills and knowledge needed for future success.

To view the report in its entirety head to GSSD.ca > Board > Board Meetings > 2024 01 25 Regular Board Meeting > [Accountability Report - Improving Student Outcomes/Fall Assessment Data & Credit Attainment Report.](#)



## EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

### GSSD BOARD OF EDUCATION JOINS ADVOCACY FOR NATIONAL SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAM

The Good Spirit School Division (GSSD) is aligning with the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) and the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) in an advocacy campaign for a new initiative—a healthy, universal, cost-shared school food program. This campaign is gaining momentum at both provincial and national levels, marking a pivotal step towards enhancing the nutritional well-being of students across Canada.

In a significant move, the CSBA has initiated dialogue with Jenna Sudds, Federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, focusing on the potential of the Pan-Canadian School Food initiative.

School boards nationwide are being rallied to contribute to this cause. They're encouraged to engage in pre-budget consultations and communicate directly with the Deputy Prime Minister, advocating for the inclusion of this initiative in the upcoming federal budget. The SSBA is leading by example, having already dispatched a letter and offered input for the pre-budget consultation, with a strategic meeting with MP Rosemarie Falk on the horizon. This meeting aims to solidify support for the initiative within the federal government.

On January 26, 2024, The GSSD Board of Education demonstrated their commitment by actively voicing their support for the Pan Canadian School Food Private Members Bill and its funding mechanisms. By reaching out to local Members of Parliament and Deputy Prime Minister Freeland through a well-crafted letter, the Board is ensuring that the voices of GSSD stakeholders are heard at the highest levels of government.

This collective effort highlights GSSD's dedication to not just educational excellence but to fostering a healthy, supportive environment for all students. Through such initiatives, GSSD continues to advocate for policies that directly benefit the educational and holistic well-being of students.



*Pictured above: Invermay School's Breakfast Program funded by grants from the Community Initiatives Funds and run by members of the school.*

### Did you know...

About 18 schools within GSSD have nutritional program.

Food programs within the Division cost over \$130,000 a year to run.

This funding is supported by the Division, partnerships, grants, families, and more.



# FOCUSING IN ON...

## STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK FEBRUARY 11-17, 2024

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week was held from February 11th to the 17th. GSSD celebrated the hard work and dedication of our educators and staff members who play a crucial role in shaping the future of our students. The theme of the week was “Shaping The Future Together”.

GSSD received over 75 submissions from the community, highlighting the amazing work carried out by our dedicated staff every day! Their commitment and positive impact within GSSD are truly admirable. Service recognition awards were given for staff members reaching years of service milestones, and SEASTARS awards were given to those individuals who embody the qualities of Sparkling Examples of Accomplished, Skillful, Talented, And Radiant Staff.

Thank you to all GSSD staff for all you do!

*Pictured are GSSD Staff receiving awards at Langenburg Central School, Invermay School, Esterhazy High School, Dr. Brass, Kamsack Comprehensive School, Columbia, Victoria, Sturgis Composite School, and the Good Spirit Education Complex.*

### Staff Appreciation Week 2024

February 11-17, 2024

**LORRAINE ORESS**  
Canora Composite School

Her attention to detail, ability to adapt and her willingness to learn makes her a successful Educational Assistant for all grade levels!

**KENDRA SIMON**  
Victoria School

Kendra is a breath of fresh air! Her calm demeanor and genuine smile always lets you know she has your back. You will find her lending a hand wherever one is needed and advocating for her staff, students, and families always!

**LOIS SHANDYCH**  
GSSD Board Member

We want to take this opportunity to thank Lois for her constant encouragement and support. Thank you for your outstanding leadership and for creating an environment where students can thrive! Your dedication, passion, and commitment has made a positive impact on our school community. We are grateful for your leadership!

**MRS. WERLE**  
Churchbridge Public School

A patient, gentle and compassionate individual. She recognizes the positive qualities in those around her, including the students in her classroom. She goes above and beyond for children and is a great team player!

**BONNIE JONES**  
GSSD SLP

It was great having Bonnie join our school. Her smile is contagious and the students and staff love her!

**GSSD Indigenous Education Team**

GSSD's Indigenous Education Team has done an amazing job in organizing Indigenous Storytelling Month. The sessions bring value and knowledge to students across the division and provide an opportunity to learn and listen. Thank you for all your work. It is very appreciated and does not go unnoticed!

**Students Come First.**  
February 12, 2024



- 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, Diversity, Learning, Perseverance & Responsibility