

IN FOCUS

WITH THE GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



MARCH/APRIL 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

Welcome to the spring edition of Good Spirit School Division's In Focus. As we enjoy the refreshing warmth of the season, our division is full of activity and growth. Our students have been diligently engaging in a variety of academic pursuits, showcasing their talents at science fairs, and expanding their horizons through our "THINK" series events. Notably, students from grades 10 to 12 have participated in Think Agriculture and Think Trades, and we eagerly anticipate the upcoming Think Health event in May.

Our staff members have also been actively enhancing their skills through targeted professional development sessions, ensuring that our commitment to excellence in education continues to strengthen.

Additionally, the establishment of a cross-school book club involving Langenburg, Melville, and Esterhazy has been a fantastic development this semester. It has opened up new opportunities and fostered connections among students from different schools.

As you explore the stories and updates in this edition, let's reflect on the productive year we've had and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. With just two months left in the 2023-24 school year, let us continue to embrace each moment of learning and community building. Here's to enjoying the vibrant spirit of spring together!

Quintin M. Robertson
Director of Education/CEO



Pictured above: Board Member Balyski presents Years of Service Awards at Preeceville School with Director of Education Quintin Robertson and Superintendent of Schools Shaume Beatty.

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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 March and April, 2024, GSSD conducted multiple professional development sessions for staff.

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
In-Person Administrator Meeting	March 1, 2024	All GSSD In-School Administrators gathered at the Good Spirit Education Complex for a day of professional development, information sharing, and updates. The professional development session focused on assessment. The rest of the day highlighted Division updates, the use of Edsby Gradebook, and new graduation requirements.
Response to Intervention (Rtl) Template Pop-Up Sessions	March 13-14, 2024	School teams, including Professional Service Providers (PSPs), Student Support Teachers (SSTs), Admin and members of the Rtl teams learned more about the Rtl template. The session focused on the Rtl template, designating the meeting type, using the attendance tab to follow AP 340, and files and links.
Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® (NVCI) Training	March 21, 2024	In this one-day session, participants reviewed strategies for safely defusing anxious, dysregulated, hostile, or violent behaviour at the earliest possible stage. Participants included SSTs, administrators, and school counsellors.
Complex Needs	March 27, 2024	Participants from three schools were invited to spend the morning learning more about Autism, Down Syndrome, and the Crisis Cycle from three presenters. In the afternoon school teams presented a complex needs case scenario and were able to access support from the presenters and the GSSD PSP team to build a plan of support.
Social Emotional Learning Integrated Practices	April 8-10, 2024	This PD is part of a three-day event, with the third day scheduled for June 10. Participants from three pilot schools learned about trauma-integrated practices/strategies that align with the Circle of Courage framework to strengthen their knowledge and skills in the social-emotional domains of self-awareness, social awareness, and self-management.

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
Mental Health First Aid Training	April 16-17, 2024	This training was geared towards adults who interact with youth, including coaches, community groups, and community leaders.
Building Thinking Classrooms	April 23-24, 2024	The goal of Thinking Classrooms was to create a culture of deep thinking rather than mere information absorption. Practical teaching practices were identified that can transform any classroom into a thinking classroom; these practices encourage active thinking and bypass normative behaviours.
Annual Student Support Teacher (SST) Professional Learning Corner	April 29, 2024	Topics included reviewing Ministry Inclusion and Intervention Plan requirements, Rtl template, MMR, SST roles and responsibilities, Educational Assistant feedback, and break-out sessions planned for the afternoon.

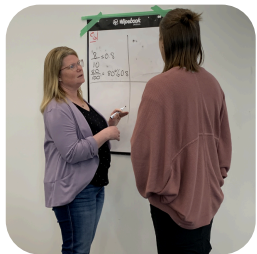


BUILDING THINKING CLASSROOMS, APRIL 23 & 24, 2024

Recently, GSEC hosted two days of professional development opportunities centered around “Building Thinking Classrooms.” This innovative concept, championed by Peter Liljedahl, a researcher from Simon Fraser University in Canada, aims to transform traditional classrooms into dynamic spaces where students actively participate in problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaborative exploration.

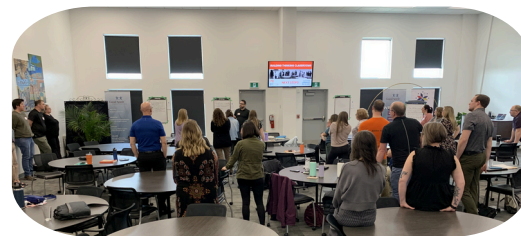


Liljedahl’s work spans over a decade, emphasizing the shift from passive information absorption to deep thinking. To achieve this, he identifies practical teaching practices that can turn any classroom into a thinking classroom. These strategies encourage active student engagement and challenge normative behaviors.



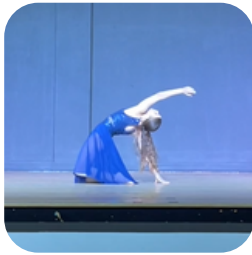
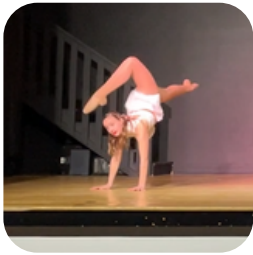
During the sessions which were facilitated by Kyle Webb, podcast host of “Think Thank Think,” participants explored topics such as hints and extensions, trauma-informed practices, and practical strategies for creating environments conducive to problem-based learning.

Notably, educators from Good Spirit School Division, Keeseekoose Chiefs’ Education Centre, and Prairie Valley School Division actively participated in these enriching sessions.



It’s inspiring to see educators and professionals coming together to enhance teaching practices and create more effective learning environments!

DR. BRASS PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY UNVEILS “AN AFTERNOON OF ART”



On Friday, March 15th, at 1:30 pm, the Dr. Brass Performing Arts Academy welcomed audiences to "An Afternoon of Art," an event filled with creativity and meaningful expression. The occasion featured original works by students from the academy.

The performances, ranging from dance solos to spoken introductions and group work, resonated with themes of resilience, authenticity, and musicality. Students, some with over a decade of dance experience and others newly acquainted with the performing arts, shared their unique creations through captivating performances. The remarkable artistry and individuality of each student were undeniable.

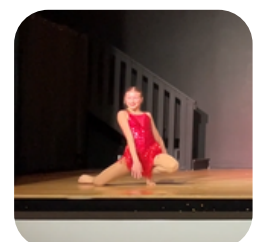
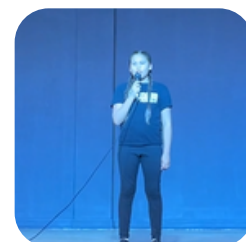
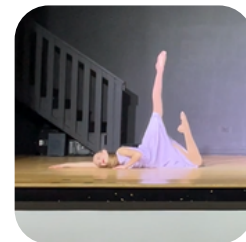
A notable aspect of the event was the empowerment students experienced through choreographing their own solos. Many expressed how this process fueled personal growth within their craft, highlighting the message that with determination, any aspiration is attainable.

The professionalism exhibited by students extended beyond their performances. Each solo was eloquently introduced by peers from the performing arts academy, who demonstrated maturity and confidence in their roles.

The event concluded with a group dance addressing the prevalent issue of cyberbullying. In a powerful display, the dancers shed light on the harsh realities of online bullying and the collective responsibility to combat it. Through research and choreography, they urged viewers to pause and reflect on their actions, questioning the impact of kindness versus cruelty in group dynamics.

Gratitude was extended to all attendees, including Mayor Mitch Hipsley. Special thanks were also offered to the Paper Bag Players for their generous donation of lighting equipment, transforming the Dr. Brass gymnasium into a captivating theater setting.

"An Afternoon of Art" not only showcased the wonderful local talent within the Dr. Brass Performing Arts Academy but also served as a reminder of the power of art to provoke thought and inspire positive change. Special thanks to Tammy Kostersky and Carrie Pengilly for their dedicated instruction of the Performing Arts Academy. Your empowering guidance to students is evident and deeply valued. As the curtains closed, the echoes of creativity and advocacy lingered, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.



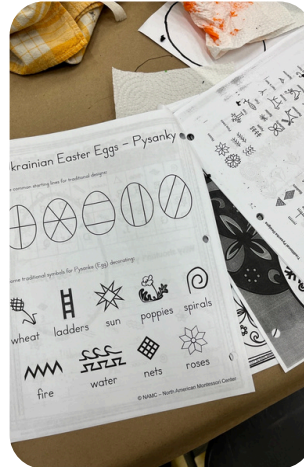
CANORA JUNIOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CREATES PYSANKY ПИСАТИ

On Tuesday, March 26, 2024, Grade 4 students at Canora Junior Elementary School (CJES) spent an entire day demonstrating their learning and putting into action their own creations of Pysanky писати. The Grade 4 students spent time in the classroom days prior to the event learning about the different tools to use, the steps of the писати process, the meaning and history behind the intricate designs, and the complete and utter concentration and persistence necessary in learning this skilled art. Students first planned out their creations on paper and used this as their guide with the eggs, beeswax, and coloured dyes.

Pysanky are raw eggs that are decorated using an ancient wax-resistance method. The word pysanky comes from the Ukrainian word pysaty (писати) which means "to write." Pysanky is an ancient art that originated in Ukraine and other Slavic countries. The practice of this artform has occurred for centuries and has been a popular one here with Canora's strong Ukrainian heritage.

The designs are "written" in hot wax with a special tool called a kistka (кістка) which has a small funnel attached to hold a small amount of liquid wax. The wax protects the pores of the egg shell from the dye. A small amount of beeswax is put into the top of the funnel and then melted in the flame of a candle before it is applied to the egg covering up the colour the artist is wanting to preserve for their creation. The artist, known as a pysankarka (писанкарка) writes parts of the design, dyes the egg one color, and writes more, following this process until the end, when all the layers of wax are melted off to reveal the final colorful and intricate design.

CJES is grateful to Grade 4 teachers Mrs. Exner and Mrs. Ostafie for their planning of this event for the students. CJES is also grateful to the many parents and grandparents who came to support their Grade 4 child on this family engagement day. As you can see from the photos, CJES has many talented and proud Pysanky writers!



CROSS-SCHOOL BOOK CLUB HELD AT LANGENBURG CENTRAL, MELVILLE COMPREHENSIVE, AND ESTERHAZY HIGH SCHOOLS

- How do we learn to embrace all parts of our identity?
- How can we find common ground with those we perceive as different from ourselves?
- How do our relationships influence how we learn to see ourselves?
- How are the challenges we face influenced by our mindset?

These are the questions that some Grade 7 and 8 students explored through their cross-school book clubs this year. Students from Langenburg Central School (LCS), Melville Comprehensive School (MCS), and Esterhazy High School (EHS) were given five novels to choose from. Once each student selected the novel they wanted to read, they were put into groups with students from other schools who also chose that novel. Throughout February and March, despite technology challenges, students engaged in online discussions and live virtual meetings with their book clubs through Google classroom.

The culminating project was for each student to create a visual essay to represent their understanding of one of the themes from their novel. Students from all the participating schools came together at LCS for a showcase of their final projects. During the showcase, students had the opportunity to share their project as well as explore the visual essays other students created. To wrap-up the entire unit, students were able to sit with their books clubs over lunch and discuss final thoughts on their books and the project overall.

There were definitely some nerves as students were arriving at LCS, but once the day got going, students really enjoyed the experience and many realized talking to new people wasn't as nerve wracking as they thought.

Thank-you to Laura Sveinbjornson, Valerie Brooks, Noelle Sapieha, Jasmin Mickleborough and Karen Hovind for all your work in organizing this project for your students!



SCIENCE FAIR SUCCESS AT KAMSACK COMPREHENSIVE INSTITUTE

Kamsack Comprehensive Institute (KCI) was buzzing with excitement as Science 9 students showcased their innovative projects at their recent science fair, brilliantly organized by educators Taylor Dietrich and Joanne Schwartz. The event was a spectacular demonstration of students' hard work and creativity.

Students from the Science 9 classes presented an array of intriguing experiments and findings, not only to their peers but also to an enthusiastic audience of parents and community members. The presentations covered diverse topics, reflecting both the curriculum and the students' unique interests. The fair provided a wonderful opportunity for students to apply their scientific knowledge in practical scenarios, enhancing their learning experience and fostering a deeper understanding of scientific principles.

Congratulations to all the young scientists of KCI, and a big thank you to Taylor Dietrich and Joanne Schwartz for orchestrating such a successful event. Here's to many more enlightening and engaging educational experiences in the future!



Pictured above: Grade 9 KCI students present their work to students, peers, and community members!

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

CANORA JUNIOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HOSTS 2024 WINTER GAMES

To commemorate the "official" end of Winter, Canora Junior Elementary School (CJES) students and staff enjoyed an amazing afternoon participating in a variety of outdoor winter activities!

On Friday, March 22, Canora had both sunshine and warm temperatures to aid in the good spirits and fun times of the afternoon.

Led by staff, students were divided into six different multi-grade house teams as they competed for points. Winter Games stations included: Tug-of-War, Sledding, Hockey, Sculpture Building, Snow Basketball, Snack, and Just Dance.

CJES is so very grateful to their generous School Community Council (SCC) who donated volunteer time to help with the Winter Games stations, as well as organizing and serving the hot chocolate and donut "long johns" for the snack station.

Congratulations go out to Team Wolverines for accumulating a whopping 304 total house points for the afternoon!



GRAYSON SCHOOL ENHANCES LEARNING THROUGH INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS



On April 15, 2024, Grayson School's grade 4/5/6 classroom welcomed local seniors for a special visit, kicking off a series of intergenerational interactions. This initiative is part of the school's efforts to enhance students' conversational skills by engaging them with elders from the community.



Over the next few weeks, these young learners will continue to meet with seniors, practicing and refining their communication skills while fostering valuable generational connections. Grayson School values the importance of such relationships and is proud to integrate this enriching experience into its educational programming.

THINK AGRICULTURE, APRIL 10, 2024



On Wednesday, April 10, Good Spirit School Division in partnership with RDIEC (Regina District Industry Education Council), Suncrest College and Pattison Agriculture hosted the first ever ‘THINK Ag Event’ at Pattison Ag and Suncrest College. A ‘THINK’ event is an opportunity for students to meet and learn about potential career opportunities within a particular job cluster.



All in all, the organizers deemed the day to be a huge success! Originally 63 grade 10-12 students from across the Good Spirit School Division had registered. The date of April 10 was chosen after the first date in March was pre-empted by province-wide strike action. The event proceeded with a shortened agenda to allow for the co-curricular day to proceed within the STF ‘Work to Rule’ Guidelines that were in place at the time. Fifty-four (54) students attended the day’s events representing; Canora, Churchbridge, Esterhazy, Langenburg, Melville, Norquay, Preeceville, Sturgis, and Yorkton Regional High School.



The day was very full and moved along rather quickly. Students arrived at Pattison Ag and were seated in the Pattison Teaching Theatre and took part in a presentation from the Ministry of Agriculture that involved an interactive game in which four students won additional prizes on top of the swag items that all students received. Second on the agenda was a site tour of the Pattison Ag Facility followed by a presentation showcasing potential career opportunities within the Pattison Organization. The students then took part in a panel discussion that featured representatives from Agronomy, Trades, AgBusiness, and Animal Science.

After the panel discussion the students were moved to the Suncrest Trades and Technology Centre (STTC). At STTC various organizations had booths set up for the students to learn more about their organization and to potentially drop off resumes for summer and future employment opportunities. Booths were on site from: Sask Crop Insurance, Pattison Ag, Louis Dreyfus Company, Cargill, Mosaic, Grain Millers, U of S College of Agriculture, Claas, and Legacy Co-Op.

After a wonderful pizza lunch that was catered by the YRHS Cafeteria, the students finished the day with five presentations from the University of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture, Mosaic, Sask Crop Insurance, Louis Dreyfus Company, and Grain Millers.

Thank you to all who made the event a successful and educational experience.

THINK TRADES, APRIL 18, 2024

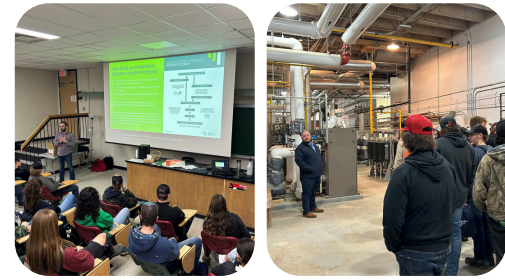
On Thursday, April 18, 70 grade 10-12 students from eight different high schools within the Good Spirit School Division (GSSD) were welcomed to the Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) Teaching Theatre for the start of THINK Trades, a Career Exploration Event. At a 'THINK' event students are introduced to possible careers within a specific job sector.

THINK Trades was sponsored by RDIEC (Regina District Industry Education Council) of which the GSSD is an affiliate member representing the East Central area of the province. Other sponsors included Suncrest College, Credence Construction and Louis Dreyfus Company. The day started at the YRHS where the attendees heard all about the benefits of pursuing apprenticeship from Garth Hunter of the SATCC (Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Commission). The group of students was then divided into two tour groups. One group took in a 'scaffolding demonstration' presented by Credence Construction and the other group were taken on an HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning)/Electrical Tour of the YRHS by GSSD Facilities Coordinator Chad Rennie. Mr. Rennie showed the group the highlights of the recent 19.5 million dollar upgrade to the school division's largest high school. After each group took part in both tours it was time for lunch.

After a fantastic pizza lunch served up by the YRHS cafeteria, the attendees were treated to a presentation from Louis Dreyfus Company, (LDC). LDC shared their current expansion plans and mentioned how they are in the process of adding another 120 positions to their operation. Selest Morley, LDC Human Resources Manager along with two of her colleagues discussed the many trades-related opportunities available. After the presentation from LDC the two groups were once again on the road to explore other trades opportunities within the city.

While one group headed to Rocky Mountain Equipment for a trades-careers presentation and tour of their new facility, the other group headed to Suncrest College. At Suncrest College the students were introduced to the HETTT (Heavy Equipment Truck and Trailor Transport) Program, as well as the Power Engineering course that the school offers. Once the two groups switched up their tour sites the day came to an end with all who attended having learned a significant amount about life as a tradesperson.

The next THINK Event is the THINK Health Event on Wednesday, May 8. This event is being held at Suncrest College and will showcase careers in four of the main healthcare sectors; Nursing, Therapies, Medical Lab Sciences, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).



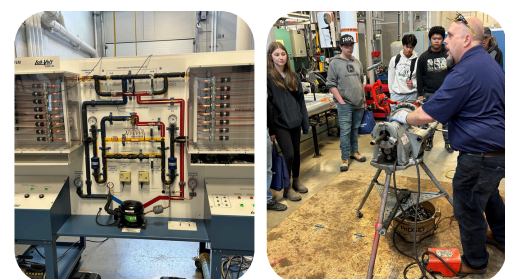
Pictured above: Garth Hunter of the SATCC starts the day with information about Apprenticeship. Chad Rennie presents a tour of the YRHS HVAC system.



Pictured above: Chad Rennie presents a tour of the YRHS Electrical system and Credence Construction presents a scaffolding demonstration.



Pictured above: At Suncrest College the students were introduced to the Heavy Equipment Truck and Trailor Transport Program and the Power Engineering course that the school offers.



Pictured above: A refrigeration system and a pipe fitting demonstration.

INVERMAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL HOSTS MISSOULA CHILDREN’S THEATRE: BLACKBEARD THE PIRATE



Thank you to the Invermay School Community Council (SCC) for bringing in Missoula Children’s Theatre! In only 5 days, Tour Actors and Directors Emily Shafritz and Lizzy Bowman worked with 60 students to present “Blackbeard the Pirate” on Friday, April 19 to a full house! This amazing opportunity allowed our students to act, direct, sing, dance and perform for our school community. The whole experience was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants, families, and community members.

The evening would not have been possible without the wonderful sponsors: D&M Wood, Invermay Community Hall, Invermay Recreation Board, Invermay School Community Council, Invermay School SRC, Rama Recreation Board, RM of Invermay No. 305, Village of Invermay, Clearview Agro Ltd., Grain Millers, Enge Farms, and Invermay School.



Pictured above from L to R: Sailors – Rebecca Karcha, Paisley Bosovich, George Hilario, Juan Migel Lucas, Kashton MacLean, Elissa Karcha, Bennett Carlson, Taelynn Maier, Lt. Maynard – Angelo Ferenal; Assistant Directors – Jazmari Lucas, Cassandra Ponte, Halo Engele as Sam the Clam, Samantha Landanganon; Music – Weston Glas (front), Kristian Oie; Tour Actor/Director – Lizzy Bowman; Parrots – Jhon Antonio, Brantley Shewchuk, Zaeem Julkarnain, Nixon Jack, Luke Ferenal, Max Dubas, Kyra Engele, Autumn Salmond, Armand Scheller, Elianna Giang-Khiu, Dominic Korchinski, Jaeyo Antonio, Nora Shewchuk, Tour Actor/Director Emily Shafritz



Pictured above from L to R: Beach Bums – Kyle Pena, Michael Mesias, Irish Ferenal, Addison Enge, Caidence Keller, Carson Wood; Pirates – Bluebeard: Bailey Maier, Redbeard: Rachel Enge, Blackbeard: Aron Cudal, Yellowbeard: Madeline Graham, Peachfuzz: Lexi Grona; Sea Creatures – Noah Jack, Ian Jacob Ferenal, Aspen Salmond, Caleb Korchinski; Mermaids – Hailee Ferenal, Keith Ferenal, Jessica Ke, Krystal Oie, Callie Bosovich, Francheska Quimson, Echo Sabiston, Sunny Ke, (missing) Rhianna Graham



Pictured above from L to R: Crabs – (back row) Brielle Enge, Karlie MacDonald, (front row) Morgan Graham, Hanna Enge, Candace Villete; Door workers – Thea Barcelona, Cassidy Bosovich; Crocodiles – Perseus Mesias, Alyssa Mesias

GSSD BASKETBALL TEAMS FIND SUCCESS AT HOOPLA, MARCH 23, 2024

On March 23, 2024, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, became the center stage for the Hoopla one-day basketball tournament, a thrilling event that brought together talented teams from across the region.

The Norquay & Sturgis Boys and Girls Basketball teams showcased their skills and determination, both securing the bronze medal in their respective categories. Their hard work, teamwork, and dedication throughout the tournament paid off, earning them a spot on the podium and the admiration of fans and fellow competitors alike.

Not far behind, the Preeceville Boys Basketball team demonstrated resilience and sportsmanship, securing a consolation prize following the bronze medal game.

Lastly, the Preeceville Girls Basketball team rose to the occasion, clinching the title of Provincial Champions! This remarkable achievement highlights their exceptional talent, strategic play, and the cohesive effort of the entire team.

The Hoopla tournament was a day filled with excitement, challenges, and triumphs. It provided a platform for young athletes to showcase their abilities, compete with the best, and learn valuable lessons in teamwork and sportsmanship.



Pictured above: NOR Boys Basketball team secures the bronze medal.



Pictured above: NOR & SCS Girls Basketball team secures the bronze medal.



Pictured above: PRE Boys Basketball team secures a consolation prize after the bronze medal game.



Pictured above: NOR & SCS Girls Basketball team.



Pictured above: NOR and PRE Boys teams play for the Bronze medal.



Pictured above: PRE Girls Basketball team earn the title of Provincial Champions!



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



TED TALK SPEAKER SAM DEMMA SPEAKS TO MENTAL HEALTH AT MACDONALD AND ESTERHAZY HIGH SCHOOL

Sam Demma, motivational speaker and advocate for mental health, recently visited both Esterhazy High School and Macdonald School, leaving a memorable mark on students and staff.

With an impressive resume including two TEDx Talks (pictured right), co-founding the "Pick Waste" Organization, and receiving the prestigious Queens Platinum Jubilee Award, Demma brought a wealth of inspiration and insight to the students at Macdonald School. His motivational speech to grades 6-9 was met with enthusiasm and gratitude, facilitated by the generous sponsorship of "Hope, Honour and Heroes."

At Esterhazy High School, the Youth Activist Club (YAC) brought in Sam Demma to talk about mental health and the concept of "emptying your backpack." His message emphasized how "our backpacks" can weigh us down if we don't take time to empty them of all the things that aren't serving us. Sam was warmly welcomed into the Warrior family as he engaged with the Esterhazy Student Association (ESA) and YAC students. EHS is very thankful for Sam's supportive message.

Across both schools, Demma's message of positivity and resilience resonated with students and staff. His genuine kindness and sharing of personal inspirational stories, coupled with the donation of his book to the Macdonald school library, further solidified his impact on the community.

Esterhazy High School and Macdonald School remain committed to fostering environments where students can thrive emotionally and academically. With heartfelt appreciation, both schools extend their gratitude to Sam Demma for his invaluable contribution to their journey towards brighter futures.



Pictured above: Sam Demma speaks to students and staff at Esterhazy High School. Sam Demma takes a group photo with students and staff in grades 6-9 at Macdonald School.



CANORA COMPOSITE SCHOOL HOSTS THE WHITE HATTER, BRINGING CYBERBULLYING TO THE FOREFRONT

On March 27th, Canora Composite School (CCS) hosted The White Hatter, a company that offers comprehensive training designed to equip individuals with essential skills and knowledge for navigating today's digital landscape. These presentations highlight the ongoing commitment to educate students on the importance of respectful and legal digital interactions. The presentations were made possible by Canora Composite School's initiative, with support from the Good Spirit School Division, which provided funding through the Comprehensive School Community Health budget.

In the presentation for grades 5-7, The White Hatter addressed cyberbullying as a type of digital peer aggression involving text messages, social media, and online gaming. The discussion highlighted how these acts, driven by power imbalances and social status, affect 32% of teens and stressed the significance of recognizing the real-world impacts of one's digital actions.

The conversation with senior students was directed towards more mature topics like sexting and the legal consequences tied to sharing intimate images without consent. As the digital landscape continues to evolve, it is crucial for students and parents to understand how to navigate it safely and responsibly.

"Pause, evaluate, and choose before you hit the 'send' button," is not just advice; it's a guideline that can prevent irreversible harm. Promoting respectful and lawful digital interactions helps create secure environments where every student feels safe and valued.



THE WHITE HATTER

Check out our Featured Students!

Every month we feature GSSD Students from around the Division! Staff and families can nominate students in three categories:

- Featured Artist
- Featured Athlete
- Featured Leader

FEATURED ARTIST
RYDER NYSTEDT
APRIL 2024

Ryder's work reflects an impressive attention to detail and a commitment to capturing realism in human portraits. His dedication to his craft is steadfast, as he continually hones his skills and seeks improvement in every medium and subject he explores.

LANGENBURG SQUAMISH EAGLES

Good Spirit School Division

FEATURED ATHLETE
STEPHAN ROY
APRIL 2024

Stephan's passion for skiing began at the age of 5, and he joined the Annapolis race team shortly after celebrating his 7th birthday.

Last year, Stephan received an exclusive invitation to participate in the Canada Winter Games as part of Team Manitoba.

This year, his skill on the slopes caught the attention of Team Canada, who invited him to try out for the Ski Cross events at both the Youth Olympic Games and the Junior Worlds.

Stephan's multifaceted athletic journey illustrates a true love for sports, leaving his mark in the world of competitive athletics!

Good Spirit School Division

FEATURED LEADER
ISABELLA KULAK
APRIL 2024

Isabella Kulak has recently achieved an extraordinary honor: The Jim Brady Medal of Excellence!

"My advice for others wanting to make a positive change is to not let anyone change who you are or decide your future for you."
Isabella Kulak

Good Spirit School Division

[Click here to view more!](#)

ESTERHAZY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

In early March, Esterhazy High School (EHS) Grade 11 students took a significant step towards understanding and supporting mental health by participating in the Mental Health First Aid training provided by the Saskatchewan Health Authority. This valuable certification empowers participants to identify the signs of mental health struggles and guides them on how to offer effective support to their peers in need.

The training was not only an educational journey but also an opportunity for students to develop empathy and skills that will serve them throughout their lives. The Saskatchewan Health Authority's trainers were notably impressed by the students' engagement and enthusiasm.

Thank you to Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) for generously covering the training costs through a mental health grant. Their support plays a crucial role in making this program accessible to EHS students year after year. EHS also wants to celebrate the dedicated trainers who, with their expertise and passion, make this enriching experience possible.



GOT THE DRIVE? WE'LL SUPPLY THE BUS! GSSD IS HIRING BUS DRIVERS

Good Spirit School Division is hiring...
SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

GSSD has introduced a Signing Bonus of
\$500
paid to any new driver after the 10th day of driving.

For more information contact:
transportation@gssd.ca or call 306-786-5505

Learning Without Limits... Achievement For All

Join our team as a bus driver and be part of the journey towards bright futures at Good Spirit School Division. To make your start with us even sweeter, GSSD is offering a \$500 Signing Bonus to all new drivers after their 10th day behind the wheel.

Are you ready to drive into a rewarding career? We're looking for you! For more information give us a call at 306-786-5505 or email GSSD at transportation@gssd.ca!



MEET A BUS DRIVER: ADAM FETSCH

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.

We are excited to introduce you to Adam Fetsch!

How long have you been a bus driver?

Let's see ... I think if I started in '91/'92 that would be around 33 years! My name is Mr. Fetsch, prior to becoming a substitute bus driver, I had my own regular run north of Ebenezer.

What inspired you to be a bus driver?

As a homeschool parent at the time (with a full-time high school wife), the hours worked out very well for our situation. I was able to complete the morning bus run and be home in time for Momma to run to her regular job at school. The afternoon routine worked mostly the same way. At the time our buses were allowed to be parked in town which made things much easier. I was also part of the emergency preparedness team making the bus available any time of the day or night to attend any incident where mass transportation might be required.

What other interests do you have?

Parish life at our church consumes a lot of our time. I enjoy volunteering wherever the need might be and like to paint sports lines for baseball, football, track and field, special programming and tons of soccer pitches in and around the parkland area.

Do you have a pet?

I had a golden spaniel named Shep...maybe one day again.

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

Bus driving becomes a part of your life ... a noble 'obligation' to try to make it through all kinds of crazy weather and conditions. May 2, 1997, the city was paralyzed by almost two feet of heart attack type snow ... one of the only vehicles that was still moving, was the school bus.

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

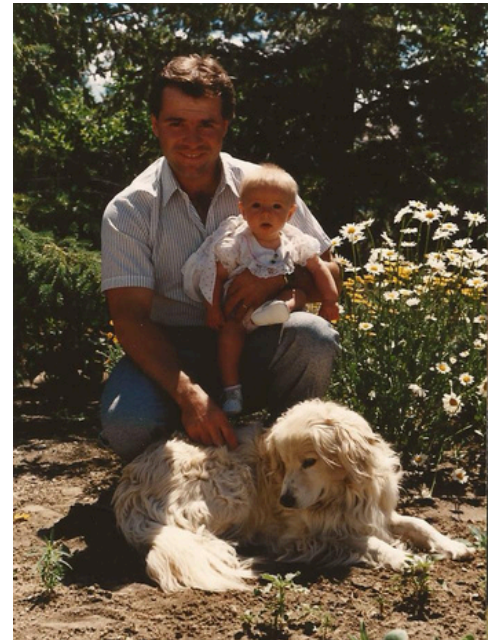
I like having other drivers on the 'ride along' because it provides a chance to share any concerns or procedures that work well with them and ideas to deal with adversities and generally see how other drivers are doing on their runs.

What is your favorite travel destination?

Well, I've never been to Spain...but I'd really like to go!

Would you recommend being a bus driver?

If you are someone who enjoys all kinds of students and the challenges that Saskatchewan can throw at you year-round, the hours work well, the pension reward at the end is nice and the holiday period through the summer months is hard to beat.



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



INTEREST BASED BARGAINING TRAINING AT THE GOOD SPIRIT EDUCATION COMPLEX

On Tuesday, March 19, 2024, the Good Spirit Teachers' Association (GSTA) LINC, alongside employees and board members of the Good Spirit School Division, participated in a training session on interest-based bargaining. Facilitated by Marie Amor, Senior Labour Relations Officer from the Government of Saskatchewan, the event proved to be both enlightening and productive.

During the session, participants dug into the intricacies of interest-based bargaining, learning valuable negotiation strategies aimed at addressing the underlying interests of all parties involved. Through dynamic discussions and practical exercises, attendees honed their communication skills and explored effective ways to prioritize shared interests and concerns.



Pictured above from L to R: GSSD Chief Financial Officer Keith Gervais, GSTA LINC Member Jana Martinuk, GSSD HR/Payroll Manager Raquel Spilchuk, GSTA LINC Member Christa Schmelinsky, GSTA LINC Member Stuart Wilson, GSTA LINC Member Karen Hovind, GSTA LINC Member Andrew Rondeau, GSTA LINC Member Cory Johnson, GSTA LINC Member Nicole Grolchoski, GSSD Director of Education Quintin Robertson, GSSD Trustee Lois Smandych, GSSD Trustee Jan Morrison, GSSD HR Contractor Laurie Anne Rusnak, GSSD Superintendent of HR Mick Parmar.

The atmosphere throughout the training was one of collaboration and professionalism. Attendees from various roles within the division actively contributed to discussions, demonstrating a collective commitment to working together towards mutually beneficial outcomes.

As the session concluded, Marie Amor commended the group for their engagement and willingness to embrace the principles of interest-based bargaining. The positive feedback highlighted the success of the training and highlighted the Division's and GSTA's readiness to approach future negotiations with confidence and unity.

With this newfound knowledge and skill set, the Good Spirit School Division is poised to navigate negotiations with integrity and effectiveness, ensuring that the best interests of students, educators, and the community remain at the forefront of all discussions.

CENTRAL OFFICE PROFESSIONALS ATTEND 78TH ANNUAL SASBO CONVENTION

From April 17th to 19th, members of the Good Spirit School Division (GSSD) team participated in the Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials (SASBO) 78th annual convention. The event brought together representatives from all 27 Saskatchewan school divisions to engage in a dynamic learning environment.

GSSD attendance included Accounting Manager Amanda Buchholzer, Chief Financial Officer Keith Gervais, IT Manager Jonas Prysliak, HR/Payroll Supervisor Raquel Spilchuk, Transportation Manager Ryan Hall, and Assistant to the Director Lauren Denysek. The convention serves as a vital platform for school business professionals to collaborate and share insights aimed at enhancing their respective roles within the education sector.

During the convention, attendees joined functional groups corresponding to their specific fields—such as Chief Financial Officers (CFO), Facilities, Finance, Payroll/HR, Technology, Transportation, Communications, and Procurement. These groups enjoyed the benefit of learning from external facilitators who provided targeted professional development on various relevant topics.

The convention's agenda was rich with keynote speeches covering essential themes like Building and Leading Stronger Intergenerational Teams, Reconciliation in Education, and Diversity and Inclusion Within the Educational Landscape. These discussions are crucial as they address the evolving challenges and opportunities within education, guiding our professionals to better serve their communities.

This annual gathering not only offers an opportunity for professional growth but also fosters a spirit of unity and cooperation among all Saskatchewan school divisions, reinforcing the shared mission to enhance education across the region.



Pictured above: GSSD Employees in attendance at the 78th Annual SASBO Convention in Regina.



**Interested in Governance?
Check out highlights from our
latest Regular Board Meeting
from April 25, 2024.**

[Click Here to View!](#)

FOCUSING IN ON...



A WEEK OF CULTURAL IMMERSION: HOOP DANCING AND LIFE LESSONS AT DR. BRASS SCHOOL WITH TERENCE LITTLEENT

During the week of March 18-22, 2024, students at Dr. Brass School (DRB) had the incredible opportunity to engage in a week-long educational and cultural immersion with Hoop Dancer Terrence Littleent. The week was filled with enriching teachings, finishing in a memorable performance on Friday, March 22, 2024.



Throughout the week, Terrence shared his wisdom and the art of Hoop Dancing, which was warmly received by students from the entire school. When Terrence inquired if the students enjoyed their time and learned something, every hand in the room went up.

The closing day began with a land acknowledgment by Tammy Kustersky, DRB Performing Arts instructor, followed by an inspiring introduction from Terrence. He expressed his gratitude for the week, highlighting the joy of being able to share his gift and story. He imparted five key teachings of Hoop Dance, which were bestowed upon him by his late uncle: Listen, Watch, Learn, Respect, and Love—love being the essential element that binds all teachings. Terrence praised the students for exemplifying these values throughout the week.



The final group performance on Friday included students from various DRB academies including Building Active Leaders, Performing Arts, Hockey, Basketball, and the Art Academy. After their performance Terrence applauded their confidence and quick mastery of the dance, which fostered self-love, self-worth, and self-confidence. Terrence shared a meaningful narrative about the hoops laid on Mother Earth, symbolizing the path of life and personal discovery. He related this to the significance of the butterfly, emphasizing growth and transformation, traits he observed in the students.



The event concluded with a solo performance by Terrence themed around the eagle, a symbol of comprehensive vision and maturity, represented by his dance with 17 hoops—the number of weeks it takes for an eagle to mature and leave its nest. This performance captivated the entire audience, leaving them in awe.

Terrence extended his heartfelt thanks to everyone at the school for their hospitality and support, making the week a profound experience for all involved.



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