

IN FOCUS

WITH THE GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025

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 third edition of the In Focus for the 2024-25 school year! This issue celebrates the incredible achievements, community spirit, and dedication to learning that makes the Good Spirit School Division a remarkable place to grow and learn.

January and February offered a wealth of professional development (PD) opportunities, including a Division-wide PD Day on January 6th and 31st. Staff had access to over a dozen learning sessions during this time.

We also celebrated special events that brought our schools together. Family Literacy Day was marked from January 26 to February 2 with a division-wide contest themed “Learn to be Green, Together!” February continued the celebrations with French Second Language Week from February 3-7, and Staff Appreciation Week from February 9-15, all of which were embraced with enthusiasm and creativity.

School and community spirit continue to shine brightly. Congratulations to the Esterhazy High School Girls Volleyball Team for receiving the SHSAA/Sask Milk Sportsmanship Award. Meanwhile, Norquay School demonstrated incredible compassion and support through their “Buckets for Brain Cancer” fundraiser, rallying the community for a fellow student.

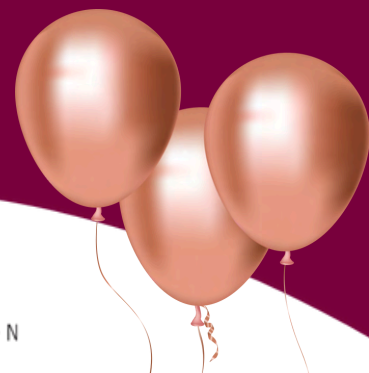
This edition of the In Focus captures these inspiring stories and more, showcasing the vibrant and caring community within GSSD. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to making our division a place where students truly come first.

Quintin M. Robertson
Director of Education/CEO



Service Recognition and SEASTARS Recipients were recognized throughout the Division during Staff Appreciation Week 2025!

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STUDENTS COME FIRST.

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FOCUSING IN ON

Staff Appreciation Week

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HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

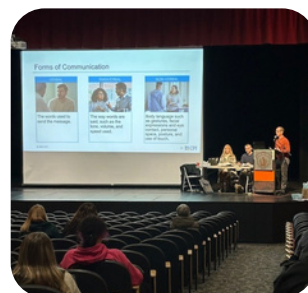
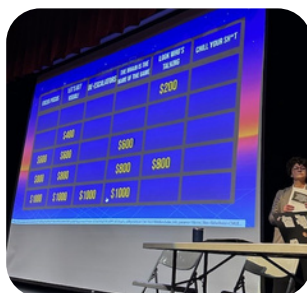


- Improving student outcomes
- Implementing the "Inspiring Success" Policy
- Developing GSSD leaders
- Ensuring consistent practices across GSSD schools
- Delivering high-quality teaching and learning resources
- Providing equal access to technology

GSSD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Professional development (PD) is essential to GSSD's commitment to high-quality teaching and learning. It improves student outcomes, aligns with the "Inspiring Success" Policy, promotes leadership growth, ensures consistent practices, and provides valuable resources. Check out the highlights of the professional development activities from January and February!

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
First Aid - Day 2 and Recertification	Jan. 6, 2025	The Standard First Aid Level C course, meeting Saskatchewan OHS and WFA standards, combines online theory and in-class practical training, covering CPR for all ages, AED use, mental health first aid, opioid overdose awareness, and more, with an option for recertification during the in-class session.
PD for Support Staff	Jan. 6, 2025	<p>The morning session in the Anne Portnuff Theatre focused on understanding distress behaviors using Crisis Prevention Institute approaches, with practical strategies to ensure safety when working with students. In the afternoon, participants attended one of three breakout sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout #1: Practical strategies from GSSD Professional Service Providers to support students. • Breakout #2: Onboarding for staff hired since September, including CUPE information. • Breakout #3: Guidance for Educational Assistants supporting students in Transition Youth Employment (TYE) work placements.



Pictured left: PD for Support Staff - A day of engagement and learning as Support Staff take part in professional development... including an educational and fun game of Jeopardy!

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING



PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
Band Teacher Professional Learning Community (PLC)	Jan. 6, 2025	This was an opportunity for Band teachers to connect and collaborate. The agenda was created in collaboration with Band teachers for their input.
Library Tech PLC	Jan. 6, 2025	Library Technicians joined a Webinar with the Follett Community. The session included discussion topics and a questions and answer session.
Phys. Ed. Teacher PLC	Jan. 6, 2025	This K-12 session focused on planning, assessment, and resource development for Physical Education Instructors.
Senior Science PLC	Jan. 6, 2025	Hosted by Ron Lutz and Jennifer Humphry, this session provided an engaging exploration of key concepts in modern physics.
Early Reading Intervention PD	Jan. 6, 2025	Dr. Georgiou led a session on using Reading Intervention Lessons to respond to early literacy data.
Transfer/Lift/ Repositioning (TLR) Training	Jan. 6, 2025	Participants received training in transferring, lifting, repositioning techniques, and moving objects. This registered program with the Saskatchewan Association for Safe Workplaces in Health awarded participants a certificate upon completion.

Pictured right: the Band PLC group meet to discuss processes, procedures and a collaborative agenda.



Pictured right: First Aid Training at the Good Spirit Education Complex.



PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
East Central District Athletic Association	Jan. 8, 2025	Executives meeting.
Virtual Administrator Meeting #5	Jan. 9, 2025	This meeting provided Administrators with updates on the first report card window of the school year, along with important information from Facilities, Human Resources, Transportation, Curriculum, and more!
Math Matters Discussion Group	Jan. 22, 2025	The discussion will focus on MathUP. Success stories and challenges were shared, as well as an opportunity to engage in collaborative problem-solving.
150 Years of Treaty 4 Territory - Lunch & Learn	Jan. 24, 2025	Employees of the Good Spirit Education Complex engaged in a four-part learning series to honor 150 years of Treaty 4 Territory. In this second session of the four, participants watched a video featuring Eric Tootoosis and had the opportunity to discuss and reflect in small groups.
School Based Prep Day	Jan. 31, 2025	School based staff utilized the day to engage in professional development activities and preparation work.

150 YEARS OF TREATY 4 TERRITORY - LUNCH & LEARN

Employees at the Good Spirit Education Complex (GSEC), in partnership with community members, have launched an initiative to host four Treaty 4 Learning events throughout the year in recognition of the 150th anniversary of Treaty 4. Upon completing all four events, GSEC will receive a Treaty 4 medallion, symbolizing its commitment to ongoing learning about history, reconciliation, and Treaty 4.



The first event took place on September 27, 2024. The second event, held on January 24, 2025, featured a video of Eric Tootoosis discussing Treaty 4, followed by a traditional meal of soup and Bannock. GSSD will host two more events before the end of the 2024-25 school year.

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
NVCI Refresher Training	Feb. 4, 2025	This one-day session reviewed strategies for safely managing challenging behaviors.
Administrator Meeting #6	Feb. 6, 2025	This daylong meeting included updates from the Division office and breakout sessions that included “Understanding Early Years Data” with Dr. Kierstead and Dr. Georgiou and a “Sask Youth Apprenticeship (SYA)” Presentation.
Prekindergarten PLC	Feb. 7, 2025	Prekindergarten teachers, educational assistants, and GSSD’s Early Learning Intensive Support (ELIS) speech-language pathologist gathered for a morning of updates and professional development.
Artificial Intelligence Presentation with Alec Couros	Feb. 28, 2025	Alec Couros from the University of Regina presented to the Consultant team and AI working group, exploring ways to expand AI usage and enhance learning opportunities.
Behaviour as Communication	Feb. 28, 2025	Behaviour Consultant Kaylee Miller facilitated this session for Prekindergarten Teachers and Educational Assistants.

GRADE 4 STUDENTS AT LANGENBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL EXPLORE ELECTRICITY

On February 10, 2025, the Grade 4 class at Langenburg Central School had an electrifying lesson on electricity, thanks to a visit from Mitch Crittall, owner and operator of Prairie Tech Electrical.

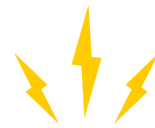
Crittall engaged students with hands-on learning, demonstrating different insulators and conductors while emphasizing the importance of electrical safety. His expertise helped bring the science of electricity to life, making the lesson both educational and memorable.



Pictured left: Students take a photo with Mitch Crittall, owner and operator of Prairie Tech Electrical.



Pictured right: Students eagerly participate in the lesson.



FRENCH-SECOND-LANGUAGE EDUCATION WEEK, HELD FROM FEBRUARY 3-7, 2025

In recognition of French-Second-Language Education Week, held from February 3-7, 2025, French Immersion students from Melville Comprehensive School, Good Spirit School Division (GSSD) visited École St. Henry's Junior and École St. Henry's Senior, and Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools (CTTCS). This year's theme, "Discover the cool side of French! Découvrez le côté cool du français!", inspired a variety of engaging activities!

On Wednesday, February 5, Grade 10-12 French Immersion students spent time with Grades 1-4 students at École St. Henry's Junior School, participating in winter-themed activities. They learned about the Carnaval de Québec, read stories, created winter-themed figures with clay, and experienced rolling maple syrup in the snow, reminiscent of a "cabane à sucre."

Later in the week, on Friday, February 7, Grade 10-12 French Immersion students engaged with Grades 5-9 students in an "Omnikin" tournament, a physical education game created in Québec, aligning with the "cool" theme.

These visits provided younger French Immersion students with the opportunity to practice their French with high school students, showcasing the benefits of continuing in the French Immersion program through Grade 12. Additionally, high school students had the chance to develop their leadership skills by mentoring younger students in French.

These enriching experiences were made possible through a partnership between CTTCS and GSSD.



Pictured: Students from GSSD and CTTCS come together to collaborate and celebrate French Second Language Week!



Did you know...

Students in Melville can access French Immersion programming from Grade 1 to 12 and earn a bilingual mention on their high school diploma!

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

YRHS HOSTS SUCCESSFUL 2ND ANNUAL SENIOR CURLING BONSPIEL

The Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) hosted its second annual for-fun Senior Curling Bonspiel during the weekend of January 11, 2025, in Yorkton, creating an incredible opportunity for curlers to connect, gain valuable experience, and prepare for upcoming high school playdowns. The two-day event saw participation from senior teams across grades 9 to 12, offering a competitive yet friendly environment.

All four YRHS teams had an eventful weekend on the ice. Participating teams included:

- Boys Teams (5): Yorkton Regional (Pihach), Yorkton Regional (Breitkreuz), Wynyard Composite, Sacred Heart, and Swift Current Comprehensive
- Girls Teams (4): Yorkton Regional (Nagy), Sacred Heart, Melville Comprehensive, and Churchbridge Public
- Open Teams (6): Yorkton Regional (Vogel), Canora Composite, Swift Current Comprehensive (2), Sacred Heart, and Melville Comprehensive



Pictured above: Teams showcased a perfect balance of fun, sportsmanship, and competition. Congratulations to all who participated, and to all who made the event a success!

Special thanks are extended to everyone who contributed to the event's success: the Yorkton Curling Club for hosting, the teachers and coaches for bringing their teams, spectators for cheering on the athletes, and Coach Nathan Bewcyk, Coach Barb Woytas and Coach Mandie Foster for their leadership.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the ice makers, led by Neil Weinmaster, whose hard work and dedication ensured the event ran smoothly. Their efforts were integral to making this weekend possible.

INVERMAY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS TEACH K-4 STUDENTS ABOUT FIRE SAFETY



Pictured: Excited students get to learn about fire safety and see a fire truck up close!



On Wednesday, February 5th, K-4 students at Invermay School enjoyed an engaging and educational presentation from the Invermay Volunteer Firefighters. The team shared essential fire safety tips, teaching students how to stay safe around fire hazards and be prepared in case of an emergency.

The visit's highlight was getting an up-close look at the new fire truck and hearing its loud siren, bringing excitement and curiosity to the young audience.

A big thank you to the Invermay Volunteer Firefighters for their dedication and effort in teaching students about fire safety!

ESTERHAZY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINS SHSAA/SASK MILK SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Esterhazy High School is celebrating a big achievement! The Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association (SHSAA) and Sask Milk have awarded the Girls Volleyball team with a Sportsmanship Award for their outstanding attitude and teamwork during the provincial championships.

This award doesn't just recognize the team—it's a reflection of the entire school's commitment to respect, positivity, and sportsmanship. The nomination came from Trevor Viergutz, head coach of the Indian Head Girls Volleyball team, who praised Esterhazy's athletes for their high energy, competitive spirit, and positivity.

A special banner presentation was held on February 10, 2025, honoring the team's accomplishment. As part of the award, SHSAA and Sask Milk provided milk for students and staff to enjoy during the celebration.

Congratulations to the Esterhazy High School Girls Volleyball team on this well-deserved recognition!



“Esterhazy’s team members are outwardly positive no matter what the outcome. They are a competitive high energy team who are never out of the fight.”

Trevor Viergutz – Head Coach of the Indian Head Girls Volleyball Team



FAMILY LITERACY WEEK 2025

Family Literacy Day was celebrated on January 27, 2025, with the theme “Learning to Be Green Together.” Schools, classrooms, and families were encouraged to pledge to learn more about eco-friendly practices. GSSD hosted a contest with prizes to celebrate the occasion. Check out the winners below!

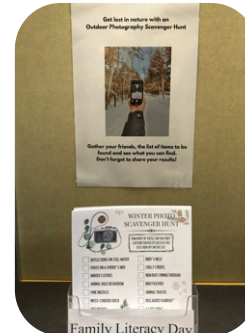
School Category Winner: Macdonald School

Macdonald School celebrated Family Literacy Day with a range of engaging activities designed to promote literacy and environmental awareness.

Younger students participated in an outdoor scavenger hunt in the school’s outdoor classroom, using themed posters to guide their exploration. Older students chose from several activities, including starting an indoor garden, taking part in an outdoor photography scavenger hunt, creating butterfly shapes through recycled book folding, and exploring the local antique shop to learn about secondhand items.

Grade 9 students, Kiana Niefer and Adyson Serhan, also participated in the “Learning to Be Green” contest, supported by librarian Courtney Ehman, who set up an interactive display for planting gardens.

Macdonald School’s creative approach to literacy and environmental education earned them the top spot in the school category!



Continued on next page...

FAMILY LITERACY WEEK 2025

Classroom Category Winner: Miller School

The Grade 5/6 class participated in GSSD’s “Learn to Be Green” challenge by having an energy-free day in their classroom. They aimed to go without power for the school day, avoiding the use of lights, calculators, computers, Chromebooks, and SMARTBOARDS (while keeping the heat on for safety and maintaining running water in the bathroom).

To minimize waste, the class used only recycled paper or reusable activities for their tasks. They began the day by creating a Green Classroom Pledge, discussing simple ways to positively impact the environment and how small changes could lead to a larger global impact.

The Grade 5/6 students are also promoting eco-friendly practices throughout the school. They created an interactive bulletin board with a Green Pledge Tree, made from recycled paper, where the rest of the school can share ideas on how to be green. They also made posters using the backs of old art projects to encourage recycling.

Students expressed enthusiasm for continuing energy-saving habits, such as using no lights and SMARTBOARDS. They enjoyed finding creative ways to express their ideas beyond traditional writing.



School Category Winner: P.J. Gillen School

Families were invited to the library after school to explore books with their children. The event featured a read-aloud session of "Dear Earth, Love Your Friends in Room 5," followed by an activity where children wrote letters to Earth and made environmental pledges.

A themed activity area included a table with recycled books turned into bookmarks and a play-dough sensory station. There was also a small maker-space with recycled materials for creative projects, as well as a table offering free books.



PREECEVILLE SCHOOL AND MACKENZIE SOCIETY VENTURES INC. FOSTER COMMUNITY AND INCLUSION



Preeceville School has strengthened its partnership with Mackenzie Society Ventures Inc. (MSVI) this year, fostering community connections and promoting inclusion. MSVI, an organization supporting adults with disabilities, and Preeceville School have collaborated to create opportunities for students to visit the Mackenzie Training Centre (MTC) and for MSVI participants to engage with students at the school.

The kindergarten class has especially enjoyed visits from MSVI participants, working together on fun activities like decorating Christmas cookies, making ice cream, and crafting Valentine Love Bugs. Regan King, Day Program Supervisor at MSVI, shared, "Teaming up with Preeceville School... has been such an enriching experience... Nothing brightens our day more than hearing the chorus of little voices saying, 'Hi Mackenzie!'"

The participants from MSVI expressed their joy in joining the classroom, with comments like:

- **Joel:** "I like going over to the school and having fun with the kids."
- **Dwight:** "I like being with the kindergarten class and helping them make stuff."
- **Corey:** "I love doing the crafts and visiting with the kindergarten class."



Kindergarten teacher Miss Stoll reflected, "I love watching how excited the kids get when I say the Mackenzie Society is coming for a visit... It is just such an awesome thing to see and be a part of!"

Preeceville School is grateful for this meaningful partnership, which has also involved participation in community events, fundraising for Telemiracle, and supporting student initiatives. Looking ahead, the Grade 8 class is excited to visit MTC and continue building friendships. The school eagerly anticipates more shared experiences and memorable moments.



Pictured above: MSVI members joined PRE School for Ugly Sweater Day in December and helped hand out candy canes.

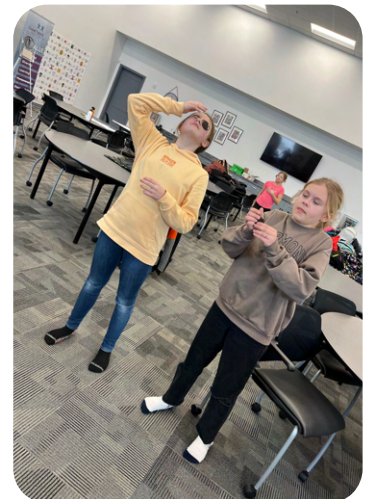
	<p>"They make me happy! They are cool!" -Adley</p>		<p>"I like Dwayne! I like making crafts with him!" -Rayan</p>
	<p>"I like reading with them" -Zoe</p>		<p>"I loved making ice cream with them!" -David</p>
	<p>"They make me happy; I love making things with them!" -Callie</p>		<p>"They are so fun, I just love doing things with them!" -Abigail</p>
	<p>"I just get excited to see them!" -Aubree</p>		<p>"They make me feel happy!" -Scarlett</p>

Above: PRE Kindergarten students tell us how they feel about their newfound friendships

LANGENBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL'S PAC TEAM PLANS FOR FUN AND SUCCESS!



Langenburg Central School's (LCS) Peer Activity Council Leadership Team (PAC - Junior Student Representative Council) brought their energy and creativity to the Good Spirit Education Complex on January 28, 2025. Their mission? To plan exciting noon activities and spirit days that will keep PreK to Grade 7 students engaged and having fun all year long!



But it wasn't all planning—team building and leadership development were key parts of the day. The group participated in interactive games that boosted their communication and public speaking skills, preparing them to lead with confidence.

The PAC Leadership Team is made up of enthusiastic Grade 6 and 7 students who are not only school leaders but also role models. They take on the challenge of organizing activities and volunteering at events throughout the school year, bringing school spirit to life.



The day was filled with fun and laughter, including a pizza lunch and a celebratory trip to the Yorkton Bowling Arena. It was the perfect mix of planning, bonding, and fun, setting the stage for an exciting year ahead at LCS!



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

GRAIN MILLERS CORPORATION DONATES \$50,000 TO CCS WELLNESS AND SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

Canora Composite School (CCS) is committed to providing students with a high-quality education that supports their well-being while fostering connections to agriculture and sustainability in Saskatchewan. Through the CCS Wellness and Sustainability Initiative, over \$100,000 has been raised in the past four years, funding a 5,750 sq. ft. garden, native and fruit-bearing plantings, a hydroponics program, classroom vermicomposting, and an expanded kitchen for new courses and learning opportunities.

A generous \$50,000 donation from Grain Millers Corporation in December 2024 allowed CCS to purchase equipment to address food insecurity and improve access to nutritious meals. The school plans to offer breakfast, lunch, and snack programs featuring healthy, locally grown options, integrating farm-to-fork learning into its cooking courses. This initiative has received recognition from RCE Saskatchewan for its impact on food security and sustainability. With additional support from the School Community Council and Good Spirit School Division, CCS constructed a new commercial kitchen, completed in September 2024, enabling the return of commercial cooking courses.

“Over four years ago, CCS staff created a plan to improve our school kitchen. At the time, we couldn’t safely offer a commercial cooking class or any Practical and Applied Arts (PAA) course in the existing space. Staff worked hard to secure grant funding for the equipment we needed to make our vision a reality.”

-Mr. Serdachny, CCS Principal



Pictured above: On December 20, 2024, General Manager Terry Tyson presented Principal Derek Serdachny with a cheque for \$50,000.

Equipping the kitchen remains a priority, and the Grain Millers donation will help enhance the nutrition program by funding essential equipment.



GRAIN MILLERS

Many CCS families face rising grocery costs, and the school aims to provide affordable, nutritious meals while offering free breakfast and snacks. As the program expands, CCS looks forward to sharing further updates with the community.

For more information or to contribute to the initiative, please contact Canora Composite School.



BUCKETS FOR BRAIN CANCER: NORQUAY KNIGHTS RALLY COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR CHEYENNE

On February 14-15, the Norquay Knights Ladies Basketball team hosted the "Buckets for Brain Cancer" fundraiser, uniting the community in a powerful show of support for Cheyenne, a Sturgis student bravely battling brain cancer. All proceeds from the event were dedicated to Cheyenne and the Pediatric Cancer Ward at the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, embodying the spirit of hope and solidarity.

The event kicked off on February 14th with a heartwarming Lasagna Supper at the Legion, perfectly timed for Valentine's Day, encouraging families and friends to share a meal before heading over to the school for the much-anticipated PINK Game. The Norquay Knights faced off against Sacred Heart Girls, with the crowd dressed in pink to #painttheprovincepink, a vibrant display of unity and hope. The game was extra special with Cheyenne joining the NOR Girls on the bench!

The festivities continued on February 15th with a delicious pancake breakfast cooked by the Norquay firefighters, bringing the community together once more to support Cheyenne's journey.

The success of "Buckets for Brain Cancer" is a testament to the power of community.

#PaintTheProvincePink
#BucketsForBrainCancer



Norquay and Sturgis Schools extend their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this event unforgettable:

- Coaches Stacy Rubletz, Jen Lindgren, and Megan Lord, along with the Sr. Girls basketball team, whose dedication and hard work made this tournament possible.
- Parents, volunteers, generous donors, officials, participating teams, and fans—thank you for showing up with open hearts and unwavering support. Your contributions made this weekend a beautiful example of teamwork and community spirit.

This event was more than just a basketball tournament; it was a testament to the love, strength, and unity of the Norquay and Sturgis communities. It was one of multiple fundraising efforts held throughout the community, with hopes to continue supporting Cheyenne in the future.

TEAM BLAKE'S BREAKTHROUGH T1D WALK

Blake Erickson is a Grade 4 student at Preeceville School. He was named as a national ambassador for Breakthrough T1D (previously known as JDRF Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation), a walk that is held each year to help raise funds for T1D research.

Blake has significantly raised awareness about Type 1 diabetes in our school and community. He has even visited our senior science classes to share his insights. Below is the script from a video Blake made, which will be featured on the T1D website.

"Hi, I'm Blake, I was diagnosed at age 2. I'm 9 now and I don't even remember life before diabetes. I'm excited to talk to you about Breakthrough T1D Walk! It's an annual fundraising event to support type 1 diabetes research, and it's a chance for all of us to come together for a great cause. This year is my 8th Walk. I got involved because I wanted to spread awareness & show support to all those living with Type 1 Diabetes.

Type 1 Diabetes impacts an estimated 300, 000 Canadians, and research is crucial to finding a cure. Every step we take in the walk helps fund the life-changing research. You can get involved by signing up to Walk, fundraise, donate or sharing the event with others to spread the word.

Join me at Breakthrough T1D Walk or donate today to help end T1D. Thank you for your support. See you at the walk!"

Visit Team Blake's Breakthrough TD1 Walk [webpage](#), or head to www.breakthrough1d.akaraisin.com/ui/2025BreakthroughT1DWalk for more information about Type 1 diabetes, and the Breakthrough TD1 Walk.



COLUMBIA SCHOOL CELEBRATES LOVE YOUR CULTURE DAY

Columbia School celebrated Love Your Culture Day, embracing the vibrant diversity within its community. February is a special time to honor Black History Month and Indigenous Storytelling Month, recognizing the rich histories, voices, and traditions that shape the world.

The school is a beautiful mosaic of cultures from around the globe, and Love Your Culture Day provided an opportunity for students and staff to share and celebrate their heritage. Through clothing, food, language, and storytelling, the Columbia School community came together to express cultural pride and appreciation.



This celebration highlighted the strength that comes from diversity and the importance of embracing each other's traditions and stories. Columbia School continues to inspire unity and respect, proving that diversity truly is a source of strength.

ESTERHAZY HIGH SCHOOL (EHS) LEARNS ABOUT CYBER SAFETY



Grade 8A at EHS recently took an important step towards staying safe online by learning about cyber safety, with a focus on cell phones, apps, and gaming. Thanks to Cst. Herring, students gained valuable insights on how to protect their personal information, avoid online dangers, and make smart choices while using digital platforms.

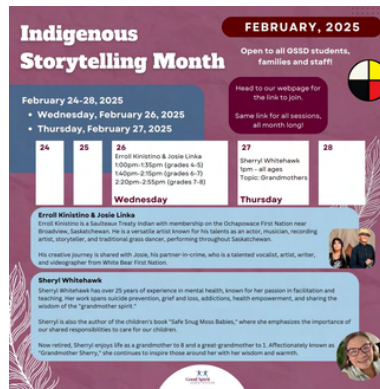
INDIGENOUS STORYTELLING MONTH

February was Indigenous Storytelling Month, featuring a series of storytelling sessions with elders and knowledge keepers who shared their stories and wisdom with Division students, staff, and families.

Most sessions were livestreamed, allowing for widespread participation. Featured storytellers included Iris Acoose, Norman Fleury, Heather O'Watch, Erroll Kinistino, Josie Linka, Sherryl Whitehawk, and others.



Elder Iris Acoose shares her story at Dr. Brass School. She has a wealth of information and is a great storyteller.



Thank you to the Indigenous Education Team for organizing and hosting the storytellers!

DIVISION-WIDE CELEBRATION OF PINK SHIRT DAY

Sturgis Composite School



Students at Sturgis Composite School stood against bullying and spread kindness by wearing pink on Wednesday, February 26, 2025.



Invermay School



Invermay School celebrated Pink Shirt Day by creating a kindness bulletin board featuring handprints and kind messages from every student and staff member.



Dr. Brass School



Dr. Brass School took a unique approach to Pink Shirt Day by launching the Be Kind Rhythm Project. This initiative aimed to raise awareness about the positive effects of kindness on mental health while promoting leadership, teamwork, and community partnerships.

The project featured a rhythm “cup” performance set to Zak Abel's uplifting song "Be Kind," taught by the Performing Arts Academy (PAA). Students, staff, and community partners, including the Yorkton Fire Department, City Council, Good Spirit School Division (GSSD), and more, joined in the fun.

PAA taught students and community partners a rhythm dance, which was filmed and edited into a collaborative video.

On February 26th, everyone gathered at Dr. Brass School wearing specially designed Pink Shirts by a Dr. Brass student. Together, they performed the rhythm dance as one large group, promoting unity and kindness. The event was recorded, and the final video was shown to the school community before being shared on social media.

This creative initiative brought together students, staff, and community partners, spreading a powerful message of kindness and inclusion.

[Click here to view Dr. Brass' Pink Shirt Day Rhythm Project on YouTube!](#)

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



TRUSTEES AND SENIOR STAFF ATTEND LEADS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On Wednesday, January 8, 2025, Trustees Morrison, Smart-Sondergaard, Brass, and Pohl joined Admin Office Staff, Director of Education Quintin Robertson, Chief Financial Officer Keith Gervais, and Communications Coordinator Lauren Denysek at The Role of the Director & Sr. Staff in Working with an Elected Public Sector Board workshop. The event was hosted by LEADS (League of Educational Administrators, Directors, and Superintendents of Saskatchewan).

The day began with an insightful presentation by Ted Amendt and Ben Grabinski, who shared their extensive knowledge on leadership and governance structures.



In the afternoon, participants engaged in team-based case studies and problem-solving exercises, focusing on effective governance, policy, and procedures. The workshop proved educational and helped strengthen relationships between Trustees and GSSD staff.

SASKATCHEWAN SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION'S SCHOOL FOR NEW TRUSTEES

New Trustees Gain Insights at SSBA School
On January 30-31, 2025, Trustees Pohl, Morrison, Brass, Palmer, Smart-Sondergaard, and Stav attended the SSBA's School for New Trustees in Saskatoon, joined by Director of Education, Quintin Robertson. This session was especially valuable following the November 2024 elections.



Trustee Pohl appreciated the emphasis on protecting decision-making processes and enjoyed the interactive breakout sessions. Trustee Stav noted insights on effective board meeting organization and financial processes. Trustee Smart-Sondergaard found the event informative, while Trustee Palmer valued practical examples from "101 Board Room Problems."

Overall, the session provided useful knowledge and networking opportunities for the new trustees.

Stay Up-To-Date With Board Meetings and Happenings!

www.gssd.ca > Board Meetings





Staff Appreciation Week

February 9-15, 2025

NORQUAY SCHOOL



On February 10, 2025, Norquay School gathered for a special assembly in honor of Staff Appreciation Week.



Several team members received service recognition awards and Mrs. Rubletz received a SEASTARS Award, recognizing her exceptional contributions.



The assembly also highlighted student achievements, as January's Students of the Month were honored (*missing two students*).

DR. BRASS SCHOOL

On Friday, February 14, 2025, Dr. Brass celebrated their service award and SEASTARS award winners. Trustee Cara Makort helped in the presentation.

- 10 years: Mrs. Badowich, Mrs. Vaughan, Mrs. Kindiak
- 15 years: Ms. Bilan
- Sea Star Winner: Ms. Banga



GOOD SPIRIT EDUCATION COMPLEX

On February 7, 2025, the GSEC staff meeting was filled with celebration as employees were honored for their years of service. Congratulations as well to Jaime Kennedy for receiving a SEASTARS Award for an Individual Making a Marked Difference.



Congratulations to all!

GSEC Service Recognition Awards

- 10 Years of Service
 - Kendall Buhler (MBG)
 - Regan Cobb (GSEC)
 - Sharon Cymbalsty (GSEC - retired)
 - Joyce Sagel (Bus Driver)
 - Raquel Spilchuk (GSEC)
 - Mike Syvret (GSEC)
 - Sheila Tillman (GSEC)
- 15 Years of Service
 - Shaune Beatty (GSEC)
 - Jhonnette Derkatch (GSEC)
- 20 Years of Service
 - Bettyanne Brewster (Bus Driver)
- 30 Years of Service
 - Brad Hanson (Bus Driver)
- 40 Years of Service
 - Brian Rosenmeyer (Bus Driver)



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FOCUSING IN ON...



COLUMBIA SCHOOL

Columbia School was proud to recognize the following employees for their years of service:

- Melanie Ricketson – 10 years
- Nancy Zawislak – 10 years
- Bret McDowell – 15 years
- Ashley Needham – 15 years
- Darcie Krasowski – 20 years



PREECEVILLE SCHOOL



To wrap up Staff Appreciation Week, a few Grade 6 leaders at Preeceville School delivered Thank You cards to staff members and valued substitute staff, sharing gratitude on behalf of all the students!

KAMSACK COMPREHENSIVE INSTITUTE

On February 11, KCI held its Staff Appreciation assembly to recognize the years of service and outstanding contributions made by staff members to the Spartan family. Those honored included:

- Mr. Angeloni – 15 years of teaching service
- Mr. Kitsch – 20 years of teaching service
- Mrs. Schwartz – 30 years of teaching service
- Mr. Ralph Hilderman – 45 years of driving students within the school division and beyond

Additionally, Mrs. Schwartz and Ms. Dietrich received the Sea Star award for their exceptional work with the STOMP program in their classrooms last year. Congratulations to all the recipients—these accolades are well-deserved! KCI greatly appreciates and values the dedication and impact each of these staff members brings to the Spartan family.



VICTORIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Congratulations Mrs. Nahnybida on 10 years of service!

Thank you!



Our Motto
Our Mission
Our Values
Our Vision

Students Come First
Building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures
Learning Without Limits, Achievement For All
Belonging, Diversity, Learning, Perseverance & Responsibility