

IN FOCUS

WITH THE GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

FROM THE DIRECTOR

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

As summer shifts to autumn and the early snowfall graces us, we enter the September and October In Focus. These months at GSSD signify more than a seasonal change; they mark the start of a dynamic academic journey.

The new school year commences with excitement as students, teachers, and staff return to our schools.

Professional development remains a key focus for GSSD staff during these initial months. Our educators and support teams continuously seek growth through workshops, seminars, and collaborative sessions, enhancing their teaching strategies.

September and October brought numerous opportunities, including Career Explorations 2023 which over 1800 students attended, igniting their career and education possibilities.

School sports, such as cross country, golf, volleyball, and football, have students and staff working diligently, instilling teamwork and sportsmanship.

We also reflect on the important National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th, where GSSD schools and staff honored the past, educated for the present, and shaped the future.

Family and student engagement events have further strengthened our school communities.

September and October have seen a whirlwind of activity, from academic initiatives to sports adventures, from Truth and Reconciliation commitments to family involvement. It all embodies our vision of Learning Without Limits, Achievement For All.

As you browse through the first edition of the In Focus for the 23-24 school year, we invite you to celebrate the spirit of learning, growth, and community thriving within the Good Spirit School Division.

Quintin M. Robertson
Director of Education/CEO

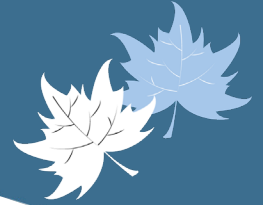


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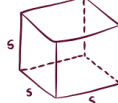
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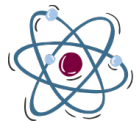
Focusing In On...

**Science
Technology
Engineering and
Math (STEM)
Lab Opens at
Melville
Comprehensive
School!**

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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 August, September, and October, GSSD conducted multiple professional development sessions for staff.

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
New Teacher Orientation Day	Aug. 24/23	New GSSD Teachers gathered at the Good Spirit Education Complex to prep for the upcoming school year! This day was full of new introductions, getting to know GSSD's vision, values, motto and aspirational statement and meeting the staff that will be supporting throughout the year.
Division Wide PD: Trauma Informed Practices	Aug. 29/23	Dr. Nathalie Reid started the day with a presentation about embracing transformative insights to create a safer, more supportive learning environment for all. The GSSD Counsellors then concluded the morning with a presentation to support all GSSD schools with Trauma-Sensitive Spaces and practices.
Cultural Event	Aug. 31/23	GSSD Administrators and Admin Council engaged in a day of education on the history of Residential Schools and colonial practices in Canada. The program featured enlightening talks by Andrew Quewezance, Sol Sanderson, Robin Cote, and Elder Vincent Cadotte.
Fountas & Pinnell Training	Sept. 8/23	Literacy training on Fountas and Pinnell regarding literacy instruction and reading assessment for educators that had not yet been trained in GSSD.
Instructional Training (presented by the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation Learning Unit)	Sept. 14/23	This session focused primarily on the role of a coach, and the skills of paraphrase and mediational questioning, to support teacher thinking and problem-solving during coaching conversations.
Intervention Training	Sept. 15/23	This training was for new interventionists that will be running literacy intervention for the current school year.
Mathology Training	Sept. 30/23	Grade 3 GSSD Teachers took part in a virtual session on Mathology, providing educators with effective strategies and resources to enhance math instruction in the classroom.



HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
Beginning Your Journey to Anti-Racist Education	Sept. 21 & 22/23	This two-day session brought understanding to the disparities witnessed within the education system, the frustrations and questions one experiences about the practices and approaches within schools, and the assumptions and ideologies that manifest ongoing inequities.
Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® Refresher	Oct. 5/23	In this one-day session, participants reviewed strategies for safely defusing anxious, dysregulated, hostile, or violent behaviour at the earliest possible stage.
Division Wide PD	Oct. 10/23	Keynote Speaker Dr. Niigaan Sinclair spoke to the Division on Anti-Racism.
Leading to Learn Signpost #1 at the Good Spirit Education Complex	Oct. 10/23	GSSD Administrators gathered for an afternoon of Anti-Racism professional development at the Good Spirit Education Complex. This was the first of two Leading to Learn Signposts that will take place this school year.
Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® Two Day Training	Oct. 18 & 19/23	During this comprehensive two-day course, participants learned to recognize various stages of escalating behavior in individuals and how to de-escalate these situations safely.
Violent Threat Risk Assessment Level 1 Training	Oct. 23 & 24/23	This two-day training taught community partners (mental health, social services, youth probation, RCMP, Yorkton Tribal Council, and relevant staff, etc.) the multidisciplinary process of determining whether a threat maker actually poses a risk to a target(s) they have threatened.
Mental Health First Aid for Adults Who Work with Youth	Oct. 26 & 27/23	A facilitated training that focused on skills in understanding topic areas including mental health and mental health problems, substance and mood related disorders, feeding and eating disorders, anxiety and trauma related disorders, deliberate self injury and psychotic disorders.

NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION DAY

August 24, 2023 was an exciting day at the Good Spirit Education Complex! Over 20 passionate educators joined the Good Spirit School Division to embark on a journey of learning and growth for the upcoming year. The day began with a thought-provoking “What’s Your Why?” activity, igniting the spark that drives our educators.

Teachers then dove into GSSD’s strategic plan and priorities to ensure a collective vision for success with Director of Education, Quintin Robertson. A spirited scavenger hunt followed, helping our new teachers acquaint themselves with the support network within GSSD’s vibrant community. The afternoon kicked off strong with “speed introduction” sessions. New staff met Coaches, consultants, superintendents and more as they strengthened their purpose and expertise.

As the day unfolded, the excitement of the new school year grew.

Strategic Plan Report: In Focus



HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

OVER 1000 ENTRIES FOR GSSD'S ANNUAL SUMMER READING CONTEST!

The Good Spirit School Division's dedication to nurturing a passion for reading and advancing literacy was evident through its successful summer reading contest. This contest garnered an astounding 1000+ entries from students throughout the Division, showcasing their enthusiasm for books.

In a festive celebration, the Division recognized six winners who each received \$50 Indigo gift cards, opening the doors to exciting new literary journeys. These prizes were distributed on the occasion of International Literacy Day, which fell on Friday, September 8th, further emphasizing the significance of this day. This initiative served as a powerful reminder of the Division's commitment to literacy and the joy of reading.

Pictured to the right: Summer Reading Contest Winners from Langenburg Central School, Preeceville School, MC Knoll and PJ Gillen were awarded with their prize.



ESTERHAZY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPLORE QUEBEC

Grade 12 Esterhazy High School (EHS) students Marissa and Winter had the opportunity to participate in the Explore program in Nicolet, Quebec this summer. Explore is a five week language program available to high school and university students across Canada so they can learn a second language. The Explore program fully immerses students to acquire new language skills more quickly.

Thanks to this unique opportunity, Winter and Marissa learned so much about the Francophone language, culture, and people. They appreciate how the facilitators helped the participants learn to communicate effectively in French and all the wonderful opportunities they were given to use their new language skills in various settings. Marissa and Winter made friends from all over Canada through Explore, and the connections they made with the 45 students involved made them feel like they gained a whole new family. As an added bonus, Winter and Marissa were able to earn a high school credit for this experience through GSSD's Special Project Credit opportunity. This is a great example of strong foundations for bright futures, as the girls feel this opportunity will open employment doors in their future.

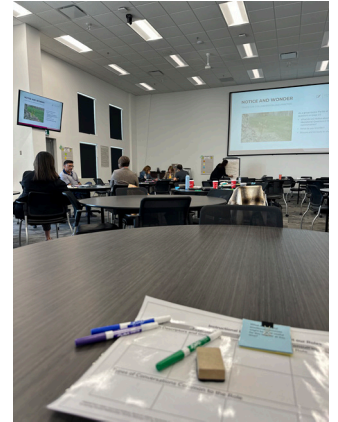


HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

IN-PERSON ADMINISTRATOR MEETING

On Thursday, September 28, 2023, GSSD Administrators, Consultants, and the Admin Team gathered at the Good Spirit Education Complex. This day included a robust program centered around Professional Development, exploring themes of evaluations and assessments, truth and reconciliation, and the far-reaching impact of artificial intelligence within the realm of education.

The meeting was not limited to structured presentations and discussions alone. The day also featured informal table talks, opportunities for networking, and a moment of self-reflection, as participants collectively contemplated the ongoing school year's journey and the influence educators hold in shaping the lives of the next generation. This day focused on the commitment to continuous growth and collaborative engagement within the educational community.



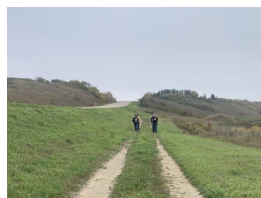
GSSD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Every year, the Good Spirit School Division awards scholarships to the highest-achieving Grade 12 student in each of its high schools, recognizing their outstanding academic accomplishments and fostering a commitment to educational excellence.

Congratulations to the 2022-2023 school year recipients!

School	Name of Student	Average
Bearstream School	Marietta Hofer	92.7%
Canora Composite School	Zoe Thomas	95.2%
Churchbridge Public School	Brody Johnson	98%
Esterhazy High School	Thomas Drader	96.2%
Invermay School	Kayla Dubas	85%
Kamsack Comprehensive Institute	Brandt Bloudoff	96.4%
Langenburg Central School	Jennica Roulston	98.4%
Melville Comprehensive School	Christian Mikolas	98.6%
Norquay School	Shayla Goertzen	81.4%
Preeceville School	Zachary Sorgen	96.4%
Sturgis Composite School	Trina Correos	95.3%
Yorkton Regional High School	Isabelle Easton	96.7%

ACTIVE LEARNING WITH WRITING ON THE PRAIRIES



On Tuesday, September 26th, the ELA A30 classes from Churchbridge Public School (CPS) and Langenburg Central School (LCS) came together for a field trip that had the school bus venturing down backroads out to a variety of prairie locations. The students spent time in fields, barns, creeks and walking trails as they collected observations on the landscape and places to be used for future writing projects. Mrs. Zerr and Ms. Prince have been working on planning their ELA A 30 classes together, and this was great way to bring both CPS and LCS Grade 12 students together and learn outside the classroom for a morning.



HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

CAREER EXPLORATIONS 2023

Good Spirit School Division was pleased to partner with Suncrest College and Christ the Teacher School Division to co-host the Career Explorations Event on Tuesday, October 17th at the Gallagher Centre in Yorkton. Over 1800 students from 15 different area schools attended the event. We were very pleased to have students in attendance from Chief Gabriel Cote Education Complex and Keesekoose Education Centre in attendance this year. Students and staff were treated to over 75 exhibitors in the Flexi-Hall along with presentations from various educational institutions and local businesses in the four Conference Rooms.



Exhibitors provided several door prizes that all students in attendance were eligible to win. In order to be drawn for a prize students needed to attend at least one presentation and have collected stamps from the exhibitors in their Career Explorations Passport. Nicole Loria was the Grand Prize winner. Nicole is a Grade 12 student from the Yorkton Regional High School. She is pictured receiving her Lenovo Tab 9 from Mike Haczkwicz, GSSD Education Career Liaison/Regina District Industry Education Council (RDIEC) Program Facilitator.

MILLER SCHOOL CELEBRATES TAKE ME OUTSIDE DAY 2023



Miller School embraces the outdoors during Take Me Outside Day on Wednesday, October 18, 2023.

As part of the nationwide initiative, Miller School is proud to be an active participant in promoting outdoor learning and nature connection. Take Me Outside is a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging students and educators to embrace the beauty of the great outdoors as an extension of the classroom.



At Miller School, they acknowledge that learning goes beyond the four walls of a classroom, so students were thrilled to share and participate in outdoor learning on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. Their morning even included a snack around the fire to stay warm! The Take Me Outside Initiative encourages children and youth to spend more time outside, fostering a healthier balance between screen time and outdoor activities.

Miller School is excited to be a part of this movement and looks forward to more outdoor adventures, exploration, and learning in their beautiful natural surroundings.



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

COLUMBIA STUDENTS ATTEND THE ANNUAL TREATY 4 GATHERING



Pictured above: Cowessess Princess Sasha and Clorice Delorme-Meeches are shown speaking and partaking in the traditional style of dance.

The Grade 2/3N, Grade 4s, and Grade 8s at Columbia School were very fortunate to spend time learning at various student activities as part of the annual Treaty 4 gathering at Fort Qu'Appelle.

For the past 30 years, an annual gathering has taken place in the Qu'Appelle Valley to reconnect, recognize, and honor the spirit and intent of Treaty 4. This week-long gathering takes place on the original site where Treaty 4 was entered into, during the week of the anniversary when Treaty 4 was made. It promotes true acknowledgment and appreciation of the First Nations' history in the Qu'Appelle Valley's traditional lands and territories.

The students had the privilege of hearing from one of their very own classmates, Cowessess Princess Sasha, who is a Grade 5 student leader at Columbia School. Sasha welcomed everyone to the Pow Wow demonstrations taking place over the noon hour at the gathering. The students were also fortunate to witness Clorice Delorme-Meeches, who danced in the traditional style and shared her gifts with everyone. It was indeed a great week for learning and celebrating at the Treaty 4 gathering.

39TH ANNUAL AUTUMN SUMMIT CROSS COUNTRY MEET

The 39th Annual Autumn Summit Cross Country Meet was held on Friday, September 29, 2023, at the Saltcoats Regional Park. With the event falling on the Good Spirit School Division Orange Shirt Day, all athletes and coaches were encouraged to wear an Orange Shirt to the event. The day began in a good way with Indigenous Cultural Coach, Robert Severight opening the day with the drum. The event showcased the athleticism and sportsmanship of our GSSD athletes from grades three to twelve. Thank you to the Mustangs for organizing another amazing event!



ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

MACDONALD SCHOOL EXPERIENCES STOCKHOLM CROP FOR COMMUNITY EVENT



On Tuesday September 26th Macdonald school students and grade 7 science students from Esterhazy High School (EHS) took the afternoon to learn about wheat and the agriculture industry. The students traveled out to the field where the wheat crop was being harvested. The day was organized by the Stockholm Crop for Community fundraising project. This project raises money to maintain recreational locations for children in the village of Stockholm (arena, ballpark and school). The main contributors who make this fundraiser possible are Mosaic Potash Esterhazy, Sharpe's Soil services in Stockholm and local farmers who contribute equipment and labour.

The following were the stations/activities and the local businesses/volunteers who shared their knowledge. The children rotated through 6 learning stations covering the end to end process of food production.

1. Nutrients for Life presented a fact finding race about fertilizer and the 4R application principles of soil stewardship (right nutrient, right time, right place, right rate/amount).
2. Canada West Harvest Centre toured the children around their Claas demo combine, explaining how the machine works. These combines are top in class machines showcasing mechanical engineering.
3. Mountain Stream Farms (local family farm) shared information about the importance of a tractor on the farm and the function of a grain cart in improving harvest efficiency.
4. G3 Melville representatives provided a lesson in grain quality. Students were able to test the moisture content of a wheat sample straight from the field and they also learned about the Falling Number (FN) test for wheat protein.
5. G3 Melville Elevator 101 provided students with information about Wheat Markets, Logistics and Transportation of Saskatchewan grain around the world.
6. Sharpe's Soil Services provided a Wheat you Eat station operating a small electric wheat grinder and allowing children to use a mortar and pestle to grind wheat into flour themselves (this station is also known as the cookie station)



The kids had lots of fun learning through hands on activities on this beautiful sunny day.

ADVENTUROUS OUTDOOR LEARNING FOR KAMSACK COMPREHENSIVE INSTITUTE (KCI) AT DUCK MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL PARK

On October 19, 2023, a group of Grade 6 students, accompanied by three Grade 9 students from KCI embarked on a memorable journey to the land-based fall camp at Duck Mountain Provincial Park. Under the guidance of the experienced Mr. Clifford Crane, they undertook a remarkable hike, exploring the Fen Trail and ascending to the ski hill.

Following this adventure, a hearty lunch of hot dogs and s'mores awaited them, and the day concluded with a creative challenge: constructing natural shelters without tools, capable of accommodating the entire group in a prone position. It was a perfect autumn day for outdoor learning and exploration!



ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION GOLF AND CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

ECDA Senior Golf Districts

Males:

- 1st – Tyrone Keshane (KCI)
- 2nd - Briel Beblow (Canora)
- 3rd - Davin Desroche (SHHS)

Females:

- 1st – Ella Kozak (SHHS)
- 2nd – Taylin Ruf (KCI)
- 3rd – Cloee Becker (Churchbridge)



District Cross Country

Intermediate Boys:

- Gold- Kraeten Haas (SHHS)
- Silver- Hudson Maier (Preeceville)
- Bronze- Kyler Bilokreli (YRHS)

Intermediate Girls:

- Gold- Kaelyn Shukin (Canora)
- Silver- Jesse Mucha (Melville Comp)
- Bronze- Sasha Mazhandu (Esterhazy)

Junior Boys:

- Gold- Eddie Baron (YRHS)
- Silver- Aiden Tetz (MCS)
- Bronze- Josiah Carroll (Preeceville)

Junior Girls:

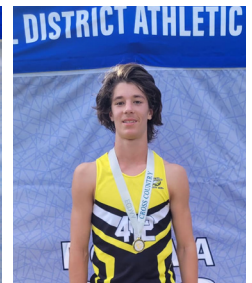
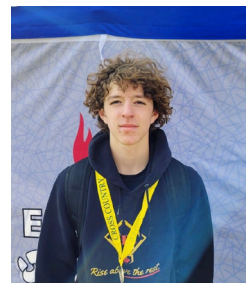
- Gold- Laila Pawlik (YRHS)
- Silver- Kassidi Antony (YRHS)
- Bronze- Hilary Erhaze (SHHS)

Senior Boys:

- Gold- Jerin Keough (Langenburg)
- Silver- Ryame Soanes (SHHS)
- Bronze- Braden Johnson (SHHS)

Senior Girls:

- Gold- Jessica Madsen (YRHS)
- Silver- Esnia Brits (Langenburg)
- Bronze- Yuka Burrell (SHHS)



GRAYSON HOLDS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NIGHT FOR KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 3

Grayson School’s K-3 Family Engagement Night proved to be an absolute hit! Students and their families gathered for an evening filled with fun and learning. The event began with an engaging round of sight word and letter recognition bingo, as children and parents enthusiastically marked their cards and celebrated each correct call.

Following the lively game, families came together to unleash their creativity in a Halloween-themed craft project. As they worked on their spooky creations, the spirit of togetherness and shared enjoyment filled the room.

One of the most heartening aspects of the evening was the fantastic turnout of parents who attended to support their children’s educational journey. Their active participation and enthusiasm added to the success of this event, highlighting the strong sense of community and partnership within Grayson School. It was an evening to remember, fostering connections, learning, and creating cherished memories for our K-3 students and their families.



ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

NORQUAY LEADERSHIP TEAM ATTENDS CANADIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

On October 10, 2023, a dedicated leadership team from Norquay School embarked on an inspiring journey to New Brunswick. Mrs. Ebert, accompanied by Jake Foster, Haylie Kabatoff, Carson Ebert, and Alexis Lindgren, ventured to Saint John, New Brunswick, to participate in the Canadian Student Leadership Conference.

Throughout the conference, this enthusiastic group had the privilege of engaging with remarkable keynote speakers, such as Orlando Bowen, who instilled in them the values of resilience and teamwork. Drew Dudley, another inspiring speaker, encouraged them to embrace the belief that leadership is within everyone's reach and a noble aspiration.

In addition to these enlightening sessions, the Norquay team attended various breakout workshops led by experts like Nick Foley, Dave Conlon, and Jeff Gerber. Each workshop offered unique insights into leadership and motivated them to continuously strive for improvement. Notably, the boys also had the opportunity to tour the Saint John Pulp Mill, where they reassured their peers that the billowing "smoke" was, in fact, harmless steam.

Demonstrating their commitment to community service, the students organized a spontaneous "pop-up Relay for Life" event that not only ran smoothly but also raised substantial funds for cancer research.

Amidst their busy schedule, the Norquay crew managed to explore the local attractions. They ventured over the bridge to Prince Edward Island, recognizing it as a unique opportunity. They also visited iconic locations such as Hopewell Rocks and the St. Martin Sea Caves.

This experience was both enlightening and enriching, allowing the Norquay team to broaden their horizons, forge new friendships, and discover a different facet of Canada. They wholeheartedly wish that more students will have the chance to embark on similar transformative journeys in the future.



ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

LANGENBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL HOSTS CROSS COUNTRY DISTRICTS

Langenburg Central School (LCS) had the privilege of hosting cross country districts at Carlton Trail Regional Park this year. Approximately 440 runners were welcomed from across the division. The event was skillfully organized by LCS teachers Kristine Neustaeter, Bailey Hruska, and Luke Krienke (pictured to the right). Such an endeavor requires the collaborative efforts of many, and LCS is fortunate to be part of a community where individuals generously volunteer their time to bring these events to fruition.



Congratulations!

LANGENBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL HOSTS A SPOOK-TACULAR HAUNTED HOSPITAL!

The Drama 10/20/30 class at Langenburg Central School (LCS), on Thursday, October 26th, hosted a Haunted Hospital that drew in many families. They were treated to an array of spooky characters, eerie props and set pieces, and the utilization of AI technology to craft a terrifying hospital setting that kept attendees screaming throughout the evening. The Food Studies 10/30 class also offered delectable snacks for purchase. The event proved to be an enjoyable night, fostering family engagement and immersing LCS families in the Halloween spirit.



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



GSSD INDIGENOUS CULTURAL EVENT FOSTERS LEARNING AND CONNECTION

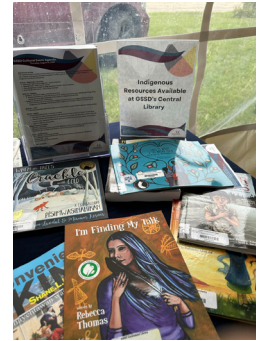
On August 31, 2023, the Good Spirit School Division hosted its first Cultural Event for Administrators and Leaders within the Division. The day aimed to deepen participants' understanding of colonial practices in Canada's history and present while forging stronger connections to Indigenous cultures and experiences. It commenced with Elder Vincent Cadotte's prayer, followed by GSSD Cultural Coach Robert Severight and his drum group's powerful performance of the Treaty 4 Victory Song and the Flag Song, setting the stage for a day of significance.

The event featured impactful speakers sharing their insights and experiences, including Andrew Quewezance, a survivor of the residential school system and Robin Cote, an Indigenous woman navigating systemic challenges. Attendees enjoyed a locally sourced Indigenous meal, celebrating Indigenous cuisine, and flavours during lunch. The event continued with a comprehensive talk on colonial practices and policies in Canada's history with Sol Sanderson, emphasizing the ongoing impact on Indigenous communities. To end the day in a good way, an interactive session allowed attendees to share their reflections, fostering a sense of community and mutual learning. The day concluded with a traditional Round Dance, symbolizing unity and healing. Participants left with a deeper understanding and a renewed commitment to promoting Indigenous reconciliation and awareness.

Pictured to the right: Quintin Robertson introduces presenter and residential school survivor Andrew Quewezance. Indigenous resources available at GSSD's Centralizes Library are shown. Administrators and attendees take part in a traditional round dance.



Pictured left: Robert Severight and Quintin Robertson thank Sol Sanderson for his presentation and knowledge.



CENTURY FIELD LIGHTS GRAND OPENING

On September 30th at 7:00 PM, the Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) and community came together to usher the grand opening of the Century Field Lights. A ribbon-cutting marked the commencement of the evening.

The lights and installment was made possible by the generous contributions of several sponsors, with the Kinsmen Club of Yorkton at the forefront, offering a remarkable \$150,000 donation. Additional sponsors, including RH Electric, Triple A Directional Drilling, Potzus Construction, Yorkton Concrete, and Credence Construction, generously donated their labor.

As the evening unfolded, the crowd was treated to football game and a captivating performance by the YRHS marching band during halftime. This display of unity and generosity reminds us of the remarkable things that can be achieved when a community bands together.



HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

YORKTON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MAJOR CAPITAL RENOVATION



The Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) has embarked on a transformative journey with its \$17.7 million capital renovation project funded by the Government of Saskatchewan, aimed at rejuvenating the school’s infrastructure and improving the overall learning environment.

This extensive initiative, which commenced in December 2020 is scheduled to be completed Fall of 2023. The project is currently on schedule and under budget. The renovated YRHS is set to usher in a new era of quality education and enhanced facilities for students, families, staff and the community.

The Main Goals of this capital renovation are enhanced air quality, improved learning environments, classroom renovations and an improved building envelope.

This investment promises to benefit not just the YRHS community but also Yorkton and the surrounding area by improving facilities like the theatre and gymnasiums, making them more desirable venues for various events and activities.



Yorkton Regional High School: Major Capital Project
September, 2023

STUDENTS COME FIRST

The Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) has embarked on a transformative journey with its \$17.7 million capital renovation project funded by the Government of Saskatchewan, aimed at rejuvenating the school’s infrastructure and improving the overall learning environment. This extensive initiative, which commenced in December 2020 is scheduled to be completed Fall of 2023. The project is currently on schedule and under budget. The renovated YRHS is set to usher in a new era of quality education and enhanced facilities for students, families, staff and the community.

Enhanced Air Quality and Climate Control
One of the primary focuses of the YRHS renovation project was air quality. Outdated HVAC units have been replaced with modern classroom ventilators equipped with heating and air conditioning, offering improved climate control for everyone in the school community. In addition to HVAC improvements, the renovation project involved replacing the roof system and all windows for better efficiency and insulation, and cladding both above and below the windows. The project also extended to the renovation of the A-Wing classrooms, which received upgraded flooring, ceilings and paint.

Main Goals

- 1 Enhanced Air Quality
- 2 Improved Learning Environments
- 3 Classroom Renovations
- 4 Improved Building Envelope

Historical Significance and Future-Forward Vision
Originally constructed in 1967, YRHS had reached a point where significant investments were imperative. This project brings with it the promise of greatly improved air quality, a more comfortable climate, and an energy-efficient building envelope. The use of MERV 13 filtration systems meets ASHRAE standards for cleaner air and the introduction of Bipolar Ionization further enhances air quality within the school. Notably, these renovations are expected to extend the building’s longevity, ensuring that it continues to provide quality educational opportunities to students within the Good Spirit School Division (GSSD).

Challenges and Innovative Solutions
This project was unique in that it was executed while students and staff continued to use the facilities. Typically, renovations of this magnitude occur in unoccupied buildings. Additionally, supply chain issues forced the project team to adapt and find alternative solutions to stay on track. Temporary power solutions were established while electrical work was being completed to ensure heating systems remained operational while the building was occupied.

Timeline:

- 1967 YRHS was built.
- December, 2020 YRHS Major Capital Project is initiated.
- December, 2021 Design plans are completed.
- April, 2022 On-site work begins.
- November, 2023 Projected completion date.

A Bright Future Ahead
In conclusion, the Yorkton Regional High School capital renovation project signifies a substantial step towards creating an optimal learning environment for students. It not only enhances air quality but also modernizes the infrastructure to meet current and future educational needs. This investment promises to benefit not just the YRHS community but also Yorkton and the surrounding area by improving facilities like the theatre and gymnasiums, making them more desirable venues for various events and activities.

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

INVERMAY SCHOOL'S BREAKFAST PROGRAM: FUELING MINDS AND NOURISHING FUTURES

Invermay School has been offering a vital Breakfast Program every Tuesday and Thursday since fall 2018, made possible through the unwavering support of the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF).

Mrs. Grona's persistent grant applications have secured an impressive \$10,000 in funding for this school year. This funding supports two dedicated staff members, Mrs. Walker and Ms. Wallin who oversee the program's operations, planning menus, purchasing groceries, and serving students.

The diverse and nutritious menu includes toast, yogurt, fresh fruit, and juice on Tuesdays and muffins or cereal, yogurt, fruit, and juice on Thursdays. The last Thursday of each month brings a special treat: pancakes and sausages, a student favorite!

In addition to breakfast, the program now provides snacks on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, ensuring consistent nutrition for students.

Invermay School's commitment to student well-being is evident through the success and growth of its Breakfast Program. With Mrs. Melissa Grona, Mrs. Walker, Ms. Wallin, and CIF's support, the school fosters a nurturing environment where every student can thrive.



LANGENBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL AND CHURCHBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL LEARN ABOUT TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

On Friday, September 29th, Langenburg Central School welcomed a very special guest, Cote Elder Vincent Cadotte, who generously shared his personal story and profound insights into the journey of Truth and Reconciliation. Vincent's engaging and heartfelt conversation with students and staff left a lasting impact on everyone present.

At Churchbridge Public School, the significance of Orange Shirt Day was celebrated with a deep sense of community and remembrance. The day began with a school-wide assembly, where Mr. Blair commenced the proceedings by reading a meaningful land acknowledgment, acknowledging the history and traditions of the Indigenous peoples. The assembly also featured Vincent Cadotte, who provided invaluable insights into the history and experiences related to residential schools.

Following the assembly, students engaged in a creative endeavor by crafting feathers for a large art display. This artistic expression served as a reminder of the collective commitment to fostering understanding, empathy, and reconciliation as the communities came together to honor Orange Shirt Day and continue the important journey of healing and learning.



Photo credits to The Four Town Journal, Thursday, October 5, 2023 Edition

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

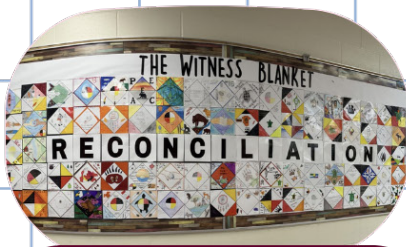
CANORA COMPOSITE SCHOOL (CCS) ENGAGES IN TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



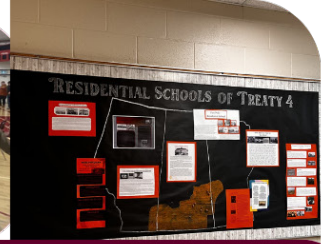
Students created Every Child Matters stepstones.



The Grades 5 & 6's created stepstones which have been placed throughout the school grounds.



The entire school came together and contributed to the creation of a witness blanket.



A Residential School wall project was created by the Indigenous Studies 10 class.



The Grade 5A's created a medicine wheel & artwork wall.



Robert Severight presented at the Truth & Reconciliation assembly that Grades 5-12 took part in.



The Grade 7's attended a land-based learning camp.



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



BOARD MEETING INFORMATION

In GSSD's ongoing efforts of maintaining transparency, a summary post of key points from Board Policy 7 – Board Operations was posted and shared with families during the second to last week of October. The one-pager goes into topics like regular and special Board meetings, closed session, agendas, public speaking and minutes. To view the whole policy, click the link below!

[Board Policy 7 - Board Operations](#)

We'd also like to highlight our upcoming meeting dates!

- November 16, 2023
- December 14, 2023
- January 25, 2024
- February 29, 2024
- March 28, 2024
- April 25, 2024
- May 23, 2024 (Special Meeting)
- June 13, 2024
- August 15, 2024 (Organizational Meeting)

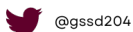
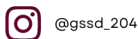
Meetings will be held at the Good Spirit Education Complex in the RM of Orkney or via Video Conference at 10:00 a.m.

The Board of Education's Annual Work Plan is also available to view on our website! This Policy outlines topics that will be addressed at each Board Meeting throughout the 2023-24 School Year. Click the link below to view!

[Board Policy 2 Appendix A - Annual Work Plan](#)

All Board information can be found at [GSSD.ca > Board](#).

GSSD also posts From the Board Media Releases after every Board Meeting. These articles are a great summary of past meetings and topics.



Board Meeting Information
Dates, Times, and the Annual Work Plan

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates!

Board Policy 2 Appendix A Annual Work Plan

Annual Work Plan for Board Meeting Topics

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

The Board will hold regularly scheduled meetings at the Good Spirit Education Complex in the RM of Orkney or via Video Conference at 10:00 a.m. according to the following schedule in 2023-2024.

- November 16, 2023
- December 14, 2023
- January 25, 2024
- February 29, 2024
- March 28, 2024
- April 25, 2024
- May 23, 2024 (Special Meeting)
- June 13, 2024
- August 15, 2024

Good Spirit SCHOOL DIVISION

www.gssd.ca > Board

Board Meeting Information

In our ongoing efforts to maintain transparency and keep our community informed about the operations of the Good Spirit Board of Education, here is an overview of some essential Board policies and procedures. The details in this message are derived from Board Policy 7 – Board Operations.

Understanding the distinction between our regular and special meetings and the nature of our discussions, whether public or private, is vital to understanding the Board's operations.

Regular Board Meetings:

- Typically held at the Good Spirit Education Complex in Yorkton at 10 a.m. on the outlined dates.
- In unique situations, meetings might take place via phone or video conferencing.
- Although GSSD's Board of Education follows a set schedule, there may be occasions when adjustments are necessary.
- Open to the public, except for closed sessions.

Special Board Meetings:

- Convened to address urgent matters.
- Special Meetings are public, with the business nature clearly specified.
- Any addition to the meeting agenda requires the unanimous consent of the Board.

Closed Sessions:

- These sessions exclude the public and press and contain sensitive matters that necessitate private discussions.
- Closed session topics could range from individual student/employee concerns to property matters and more.
- Discussions remain confined to the specific topic. At the end of these sessions, only a resolution to return to the open meeting is made. No motions are passed during closed sessions.

Meeting Agendas:

- Set by the Board Chair in collaboration with the Vice-Chair and Director. Board Members can request to add an item to the agenda.
- Business order includes acknowledgments, delegations, reports, and more.
- Public may request to present a delegation at a Board Meeting, which once approved, would be placed on the agenda.
- Board Members receive the electronic agenda three days prior to the meeting, and the public can access it on the Division website or at the Division Office at that time.

Public Speaking at Board Meetings:

- Speaking to the Board at meetings is limited to approved delegations.
- Individuals who have been approved as delegations may address the Board to present an issue or make suggestions to the Board of Education.
- Delegations must adhere to procedures outlined in Board Policy 7.

Meeting Minutes:

- Thorough records of meetings are kept through minutes to encompass a wide array of details, such as who was present and motions made.
- Records are unofficial until formally adopted by resolution of the Board. Post-adoption, they stand as the official record of the Board's business.

For a comprehensive look at all GSSD Board Policies, we invite you to visit GSSD's Board Policy Handbook ([GSSD.ca > Board > Board Policy Handbook](#)). Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement with the Good Spirit School Division.

Good Spirit SCHOOL DIVISION

www.gssd.ca

EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Parents' Bill of Rights



In light of recent legislative activities, we wish to provide clarity regarding the "Parents' Bill of Rights" which was unveiled by Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill in the Saskatchewan Legislature. Understanding the "Parents' Bill of Rights":

- **Purpose of the Bill:** This legislation has been designed to clearly outline the rights of parents concerning their children's education.
- **The Notwithstanding Clause:** The "Notwithstanding Clause" allows the government to pass a law that may go against certain rights protected in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, but for a temporary period. In the context of this Bill, this clause ensures that if a student under the age of 16 desires to change their gender identification within the educational environment, parental consent will be required.
- **The Emphasis on Parental Involvement:** Minister Cockrill has been vocal about the crucial role parents play in the decisions affecting their children. GSSD echoes this sentiment and has always been a champion for active parental engagement. Our longstanding commitment revolves around building stronger relationships between our schools and communities. We emphasize:
 - Fostering connections and transitions.
 - Valuing feedback from all stakeholders.
 - Transparent communication.
 - Creating partnerships that support GSSD's main focus areas of High-Quality Teaching and Learning; Effective Policies and Procedures; Engagement of All Students, Families, and Communities; Healthy, Sustainable Physical and Social Environments.
- **Background:** This Bill builds upon the "Parental Inclusion and Consent" policy from August and is a response to a Court of King's Bench injunction that aimed to halt the said policy.

Parents Rights As Outlined in the Bill:

We wish to assure you that GSSD's practices have long been in harmony with the rights outlined in this Bill, and in many areas, we've already established robust systems.

- **Active Participation in Decisions:** Parents have been and will remain at the heart of decision-making processes for their child's education within GSSD.
- **Updates on Attendance, Behavior, and Performance:** Tools like EDSBY and procedures like Student Led-conferences, Inclusion and Intervention Planning, among others, ensure that parents stay informed.
- **Consultations:** Open channels with educators and staff have always been available. Your voice is vital.
- **Access to School Files:** This has consistently been a practice in GSSD.
- **Course Information:** This has always been in place in GSSD Schools. The introduction of EDSBY and the SaskDLC process further empowers parents with choice.
- **Code of Conduct and Discipline:** Every GSSD school engages with their community to develop comprehensive guidelines, ensuring respect and safety.
- **Disciplinary Actions or Investigations:** Always compliant with the Education Act and Regulations, GSSD values transparency. Systems like R360 have been used in GSSD for many years to support behaviour tracking and monitoring. Communication with parents is a key element of this program.
- **Expulsion Review:** While no student has faced expulsion in GSSD over the past ten years, parents can always seek a review. Any suspension that could result in an expulsion automatically is referred to the GSSD Student Discipline Committee. Parents are always included in the meeting.
- **School Attendance Issues:** Systems like EDSBY have strengthened our communication pathways regarding attendance. Attendance is closely monitored and tracked at the division and school level. Parents receive communication in multiple manners to ensure students are in attendance and safe when absent.
- **Consultation about Learning Capacity:** GSSD's team of professionals always collaborate with families to ensure the best for each student. Meetings are frequently held with external partners to ensure a wrap-around approach is taken.
- **Opening Exercises:** GSSD has an administrative procedure (AP 206 Opening Exercises) in place supporting parents' rights to excuse their child.
- **Medical or Dental Treatments:** Typically, school divisions do not engage in medical or dental procedures. However, when supporting students with complex medical needs, GSSD takes a comprehensive approach guided by the child's family and medical team. GSSD follows strict practices directed by medical professionals and parents.
- **Sexual Health Content and Gender Identity:** At GSSD, our commitment to the well-being and safety of our students remains unwavering. To elevate our administrative procedures, we've intensively reviewed the provincial curriculum to identify outcomes related to sexual health. Provincial curriculum has been available for parental review for many years. Furthermore, GSSD's report cards are directly aligned with curricular outcomes. Please be assured that as we continue to prioritize student safety and wellness, we will adhere to provincial directives. Parents are not just informed; they are active participants in the decisions that affect their children's life and education.
- **Joining the School Community Council:** GSSD has always welcomed and supported parents in our SCCs. GSSD provides support to schools and SCCs through grants, professional development, and advocacy sessions with the Board of Education. Each GSSD Board Trustee is assigned an SCC. They attend meetings throughout the year to support this important work.

In conclusion, Minister Cockrill's emphasis on parental involvement resonates with GSSD's mission. We champion a shared journey in education, where the collaboration of school, family, and community ensures the best for our students.

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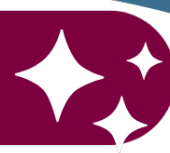
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To get an expanded view of the document, visit our website!

FOCUSING IN ON...





SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM) LAB OPENS AT MELVILLE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL!


The newly established Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Lab at Melville Comprehensive School (MCS) offers students exciting opportunities to delve into cutting-edge technologies.

On October 3rd, MCS held a grand opening ceremony for the STEM Lab, which is conveniently located within the school's library. MCS expresses its profound appreciation for the addition of this lab, aligning with the school's goals of providing specialized instruction and academics alongside training in semi-skilled and skilled labor trades.


MCS Students & Staff would like to thank our amazing sponsors for making our STEM Lab a reality.






Assistant Superintendent Don Mackenzie is seen here cutting the ribbon in recognition of CN's commitment to our community and the future of our students.




Our thanks go out to the Painted Hand Community Development Corporation for their donation and continued support of our school.



Prairie

Prairie Co-op General Manager Terry Vanmackelberg and Kim Wihak are seen here cutting the ribbon in recognition of their support of our safe inclusive environment for all students.



Equipped with four 3D printers, a variety of programmable robots, and access to diverse educational programs, the STEM Lab allows students to engage in learning and exploration at their convenience throughout the school day.

The establishment of the STEM Lab has been a long-anticipated endeavor, with the grant application process initiated in the fall of 2022. Over time, the lab has garnered support from several sponsors, including Prairie Co-op, Best Buy Canada, Painted Hand Community Development Corporation, and Canadian National Railway. Additionally, GSSD generously donated computers to enhance the lab's capabilities.

The inauguration of the STEM Lab at Melville Comprehensive School marks a significant milestone in fostering technological innovation and academic excellence within the institution. With the enthusiastic support of various sponsors and the school's commitment to offering a diverse educational experience, this state-of-the-art facility promises to be a hub of creativity and learning for generations of MCS students to come.

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