



**Good Spirit School Division No. 204**

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Yorkton, SK S3N 0T7

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[www.gssd.ca](http://www.gssd.ca) or [feedback@mail.gssd.ca](mailto:feedback@mail.gssd.ca)

~ MEDIA RELEASE ~

**September 4, 2008**

## **GSSD IS **BOOK'N IT TO A BILLION** ON FAMILY LITERACY DAY**

The Good Spirit School Division has an exciting new literacy initiative entitled **Reading For All**. On Family Literacy Day, Friday, September 5, 2008, as part of the division-based literacy initiative, we will be announcing our exciting celebration of reading called **BOOK'N IT TO A**

### **BILLION.**

Reading is an essential life skill that both supports life long learning as well as providing personal pleasure. All families and communities within the Good Spirit School Division will join together in a celebration of literacy by assisting us in our goal of reading a billion seconds. Reading may occur in many forms including students reading by themselves, parents, grandparents and guardians reading with children, as well as adults reading on their own.

“Every year on Family Literacy Day many of our schools sponsor special events to highlight the importance of literacy. We are excited that this year all of the families and communities in the Good Spirit School Division will have the opportunity to participate in a literacy event through the launching of our reading celebration **BOOK'N IT TO A BILLION**”.

The progress of the division’s journey towards reaching the goal of one billion seconds of reading will be updated on the division website at [www.gssd.ca](http://www.gssd.ca).

For further information, contact Juanita Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Learning, at 786-4751.

# # #

The Good Spirit School Division provides education opportunities to approximately 5,700 students operating 28 schools in 17 communities throughout East Central Saskatchewan. Caring for children in a supportive environment is as important as offering excellence in educational programming. Our public schools value integrity, empathy, growth, equity and loyalty by ensuring “Students Come First”. Visit us at [www.gssd.ca](http://www.gssd.ca); contact 306-786-5500 or 1-866-390-0773.



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**September 23, 2008**

**GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION ANNOUNCES  
2008 GENERAL PROFICIENCY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS AND  
2008 GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS**

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division is pleased to announce that twenty Grade 12 students within our division have qualified for the Ministry of Education 2008 General Proficiency Awards. The Ministry of Education determines the number of recipients by division on total province-wide enrolments.

We are very proud to announce the following students as recipients of the \$400.00 General Proficiency Award: Chelsy Ostoforoff and Mykola Rostotski from Canora; Lindsay Griffith, Lynda-Rae Miller, Sarah Ohnander, Hilary Pask and Kirstin Kaczur from Esterhazy; Sarah Rathgeber, Kaliegh Zerr, Ben Petracek and Nicole VanCaeseele from Langenburg; Catherine Nygren, Brogan Kiss and Kelsey Lazar from Melville; Andrew Serhan from Preeceville; and Megan Clark, Brittini Allin, Brandon Fairhead, Braden Balabuck and Kristen Arnold from Yorkton.

Also, the Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division sponsors a \$400.00 scholarship at each of our twelve high schools which is awarded to the student with the top academic average. We are pleased to announce the following recipients: Chelsy Ostoforoff from Canora Composite School; Evan Daum from Churchbridge Public

School; Lindsay Griffith from Esterhazy High School; Jaden Stechyshyn from Fort Livingstone School in Pelly; Kristy Fogg from Invermay School; Jessica Pennell from Kamsack Comprehensive Institute; Sarah Rathgeber from Langenburg High School, Catherine Nygren from Melville Comprehensive School; Ashley Grywacheski from Norquay School; Andrew Serhan from Preeceville School; Ryley Tureski from Sturgis Composite School and Megan Clark from Yorkton Regional High School.

The Good Spirit School Division Board of Education would like to extend congratulations to all graduates and best wishes on a bright and promising future.

For further information, contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education, at 786-5500.

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**November 25, 2008**

**Yorkton Regional High School Takes Next Step in Renewal Process**

On November 21, 2008 the Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division approved the tender as supplied by Weber Construction of Yorkton for repairs to be completed at the Yorkton Regional High School. The areas disturbed by the recent removal of asbestos material are now being renovated to complete the renewal process. These areas include Upper A wing classrooms, the choir room, the band room and the drama classroom.

A start-up meeting is scheduled for the first week of December and the project is anticipated to be completed within a 12-week time frame.

"We are very excited about this project," stated Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education. "The removal of asbestos at the school was completed ahead of schedule and, with the tender now in place, the Yorkton Regional High School will soon realize the completion of this project. We thank the school for their patience in this process and applaud their efforts in being able to maintain a normal school environment for the students these past few months."

For further information, contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education, at 786-5500.

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**Contact Information:**

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**March 3, 2009**

**GSSD STUDENTS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION – A WINNING COMBINATION**

The Good Spirit School Division will be hosting a division-wide Standards Track Meet on March 24, 25 and 26, 2009 at the Gallagher Centre Flexi-Hall in Yorkton. Over 1,100 students from 26 schools in Grades 4, 5 and 6 will be participating in various indoor track and field events including 60 metre run, 800 metre run, high jump, long jump, shot put and relays.

“There has not been a track meet in Yorkton for over five years now and we are hoping that this will work towards filling that void,” states Mr. Dave Baron, Chair of the event.

“This type of event fits in with school physical education programming and provides the students with their first official introduction to track and field events in a competitive format.” Mr. Baron goes on to say, “If you listen to various news reports, kids today are out of shape. This is one way to pique their interest in exercise and get them involved in a sports discipline. Our hope is that it will also provide an excellent feeder system for Yorkton and area track teams into the future. This will see the collaborative efforts of teachers and staff from throughout the division working together to ensure a successful event.”

The top 16 finishers in each event will be invited to attend the Showcase Event being held one week later the evening of Friday, April 3, 2009 at the Gallagher Centre Flexi-

Hall. The top 3 finishers in each event will be awarded medals at the conclusion of the evening.

The public is invited to attend both the Standards Meet (being held during the school day) and the Showcase Event (being held in the evening) to help cheer our young students throughout their participation in various activities. Great things happen in the Good Spirit School Division when “Students Come First”.

For further information, contact Mr. Dave Baron at 783-9332 or Mr. Withman Jaigobin, Superintendent of Schools, at 786-4754.

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**May 11, 2009**

**PAINTED HAND CASINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
PROVIDES FUNDING TO THE VISIONS OF THE ELDERS PROJECT**

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division has received funding from the Painted Hand Casino Community Development Corporation in the form of a \$10,000 grant. The funding will be used towards the continuance of the Visions of the Elders Project.

The Visions of the Elders is a project which grew out of the Elders' Gathering held in Kamsack March 29, 2007. The Good Spirit School Division, in conjunction with elders from the Cote First Nation, the Keesekoose First Nation and the Key First Nation, work together to find ways in which to enhance the learning experience of students coming into the school system from these three communities. The Visions project has realized the development of a plan which sees Elders visiting schools as well as working with teachers and students to produce a publication of the local stories and history of the area.

"We appreciate the support of the Painted Hand Community Development Corporation in meeting our goal of working together with the First Nations community," states Mr. Alan Sharp, Superintendent of Program Development. "It has allowed a better understanding of the First Nations culture within our school division and enables us to work closely with our Elders in providing knowledge and support to all of our students." The Good Spirit School Division has worked together with the Elders to develop a DVD to be used in

classrooms division-wide to further the understanding of First Nations culture and history.

For further information, contact Alan Sharp, Superintendent of Program Development, at 786-5531.

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NEWS RELEASE  
Wednesday, May 6, 2009  
For release at 10 a.m.



## SUNRISE MONITORING AND PREPARING FOR H1N1 FLU VIRUS

Confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus are being reported throughout the world and in most of Canada. While cases outside of Mexico appear to be mild, this is a new virus previously unseen in the human population and so health agencies, including Sunrise Health Region are coordinating their efforts to track the illness and to respond if the cases become more severe.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Health will inform the public of the number of confirmed cases through the media and on their website. The most reliable information can be found on the Ministry of Health website, [www.health.gov.sk.ca/influenza-monitor](http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/influenza-monitor). The website is updated at 4:00 pm daily and has printable resources about prevention and self care tips for schools, parents and workplaces.

Another reliable source of information is the Public Health Agency of Canada website [www.fightflu.ca](http://www.fightflu.ca).

Sunrise Health Region has set up links to these resources on its website [www.sunrisehealthregion.sk.ca](http://www.sunrisehealthregion.sk.ca), people can also telephone 1-866-800-5510 to hear a recorded message with information updates specific to Sunrise Health Region.

“The single most effective personal protection from the H1N1 flu virus and from other viruses is to wash your hands often,” says Senior Public Health Inspector Gilbert Combres. “We recommend that people wash their hands several times a day using soap and water for twenty seconds; approximately the length of time it takes to sing the “happy birthday” twice over.”

Also recommended, as good ongoing practices are to cough or sneeze into the inside of your elbow or sleeve, keep six feet away from anyone who is coughing, and to stay home when you are ill.

There are many strains of flu circulating in our communities and if people develop flu symptoms they should not assume that it is H1N1 flu virus. The symptoms are the same as for other seasonal flu viruses and include some or all of the following; fever, cough, sore throat, headache, weakness, aches and pains. Most people recover from a flu virus within a few days. Visit your family physician if you are experiencing symptoms such as difficulty breathing, a cough that won't quit, or a fever that can not be lowered.

People who are not certain when to seek medical assistance can call HealthLine at 1-877-800-0002 for advice from a nurse.

The Sunrise Health Region has set up an Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) to plan the supplies, masks and medicines what would be needed should the illness take hold in our communities. The Sunrise Health Region EOC exchanges information with the provincial Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) to enable timely decisions and to provincially coordinate actions.

Visitors and patients may see increased use of face masks at hospitals and in emergency rooms. Staff members are being trained in the proper fit and application of face masks.

The health region is meeting with municipalities, police, schools and other community agencies to share information and provide prevention resources. The public will be informed by the health region and these agencies, as appropriate, when there are changes in the local situation.

Last year's flu vaccine provides no protection for the new H1N1 flu virus but it does protect from several other viruses still circulating in the region.

Experts around the world are tracking new cases and trying to slow down the spread of the H1N1 flu virus in the world, long enough to study the virus and to create a new vaccine.

The flu vaccination program for this year is over but people should bear in mind the wisdom of getting the flu vaccination each year. Annual flu vaccination provides protection against the most dangerous symptoms of flu from the previous year.

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For more information, please contact:

Sharon Tropin, Director of Communications

306.786.0144