



**Good Spirit School Division No. 204**

63 King Street East

Yorkton, SK S3N 0T7

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

**~ MEDIA RELEASE ~**

**August 20, 2010**

**~ YRHS OPEN FOR THE START OF SCHOOL ~**

Over the course of the summer, the Yorkton Regional High School has been undergoing extensive clean-up and restoration due to massive flooding on July 1, 2010. The affected areas include the basement, the mechanical room which houses the boilers, water heaters and various electrical equipment as well as the crawl space.

Clean-up efforts have been focused on getting the duct work and air handling equipment up and running efficiently in order to ensure proper disposal of environmental contaminants. "Dr. Don Figley, an environmental consultant from Saskatoon, performed air quality testing this past week at the high school and has confirmed that the facility is sound and ready to resume normal school activities," states Mr. Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education. "We are extremely happy to report that the restoration efforts throughout the summer have gotten us to this point where we will not have to alter the school year. Over the next few days, we will continue to monitor the facility and ensure all instructional areas remain available and safe for use."

The gymnasium floor was also damaged due to water seepage and high humidity content in the building. It has been screened, refinished and sealed this past week to ensure safety and will be usable for the beginning of school. The floor will be retested again in approximately six months to ensure no permanent damage has occurred. Also, a classroom in the lower library remains currently under construction and is the current focus of work to have it operational for August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Post August 30<sup>th</sup>, restoration work remains to be done in the basement area housing some offices and storage. It is set to be completed mid to late September and does not affect school operation. The boiler units and associated electrical equipment, also not required to be operational for the start of school, are on target to be completed mid-September.

Mr. Reeve concludes by saying "A major restoration company from Ontario, CDT, was tasked with the majority of the clean-up and has done a great job. Also, a special thank you to Jared Edwards and our YRHS facilities staff as well as Teresa Korol, GSSD

Facilities Manager, who have dedicated countless hours to this unexpected summer project. We are currently working with Stantec Consultants, Yorkton Plumbing and Nixon Electric in the final stages of refurbishment. Throughout the summer, our focus has been to ensure a safe environment for staff and students and our goal has been reached.”

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

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**~ MEDIA RELEASE ~**

**August 30, 2010**

**GSSD PROUD TO ANNOUNCE HIRING OF AN EAL COORDINATOR**

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division is excited to announce the hiring of Carol McCullough as our English as an Additional Language (EAL) Coordinator. This newly created position is in response to the large number of EAL children moving into the school division attendance area. With the increasing number of immigrant families moving into Saskatchewan, we are experiencing an influx of English as an Additional Language learners in our schools.

The coordinators job will consist of two main roles. The first is to support teachers in their understanding of instructional strategies in supporting students as they learn English as an additional language. The second role is to assist teachers and schools to realize the benefits and joys that result from having EAL students in their classroom. "This is a definite enhancement to the division's philosophy of inclusion in our role of ensuring all students have access to appropriate programming. Our inclusive school communities reflect respect and appreciation for all cultures," states Juanita Brown, Superintendent of Instruction and Learning. "The division value of equity among all is very important in everything we do and positions such as this ensure it is a reality."

Carol will provide direct instructional support for EAL students at YRHS due to the higher concentration of EAL learners located here. She will also provide support for teachers and students throughout the division in terms of programming and resources. Mrs. Brown goes on to say "This position is the culmination of much time and effort on the part of many people and we are happy that Carol will be guiding this important initiative as we move forward."

For further information, contact Juanita Brown, Superintendent of Instruction and Learning, by phone at 786-4751 or via email at [jbrown@mail.gssd.ca](mailto:jbrown@mail.gssd.ca).

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~ MEDIA RELEASE ~

**August 30, 2010**

**SUMMER MATH INSTITUTES SUCCESSFUL**

This past summer, the Good Spirit School Division hosted two Summer Math Institutes; one geared towards K to 8 educators and the other focused on Grade 9 and 10 teachers. The Summer Math Institutes provide educators with opportunities to learn new practices in teaching mathematics according to the expectations of the renewed curriculum.

For the past three summers, a two-day K to 8 Summer Math Institute followed up by three ongoing days of professional development throughout the academic year have been held. This Institute has trained 80 math mentors. The math mentors are then responsible to return to their home schools and collaborate with other teachers in working through the changes introduced in the renewed math curriculum. A second Summer Math Institute geared towards Grade 9 & 10 teachers was introduced this year. This five-day Institute aligned with the renewed grade 10 math curriculum being implemented this fall. The Good Spirit School Division contracted Professor of Mathematics at York University and University of Toronto, Dr. Trevor Brown, to work with these teachers.

“Both of these Summer Institutes provide teachers with a multitude of opportunities to gain expertise in engaging their students in the learning and understanding of math,” states Susan Maserek, Superintendent of Schools. “Our approach to teaching math has changed dramatically over the past few years. There is more emphasis on having children make sense of the math they are learning and to communicate their understanding in various ways.”

Four years ago, the provincial Assessment For Learning data showed that this school division, along with the entire province, was struggling in the area of problem solving. As a result, the Good Spirit School Division’s “**Know Problems**” initiative was undertaken. Summer Math Institutes provide our teachers with the necessary skills and a deeper understanding of the importance to refine their practices and design a more problem-centered math classroom.

Mrs. Maserek goes on to say, “Although we started these Institutes to increase capacity within our own teaching community, we were pleased to be able to open up both Institutes to teachers from other school divisions. This was well received and we plan to continue these Institutes in the future. We are noticing a change in attitude among students. When they are actively engaged in their own learning, they are enjoying math and seeing the connections from the math they are learning to real-life situations.”

For further information, contact Susan Maserek, Superintendent of Schools, by phone at 786-5500 or via email at [smaserek@mail.gssd.ca](mailto:smaserek@mail.gssd.ca) .

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~ MEDIA RELEASE ~

**October 28, 2010**

**GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION ANNOUNCES  
2010 GENERAL PROFICIENCY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS AND  
2010 GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS**

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division is pleased to announce that twenty-two Grade 12 students within our division have qualified for the Ministry of Education 2010 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: Allie Smorodin from Canora; Matthew Kaeding and Jennifer Marlowe from Churchbridge; Dustin Lowenberger, Lauren Gillespie, Samantha Sikora, and Melanie Kaczur from Esterhazy; Janelle Fogg from Invermay; Jeremy Ruten from Kamsack; Michelle Schepp and Britney Hrywkiw from Langenburg; Regis Neilson, Nicole Kreiser and Alyssa Nixon from Melville; Darcy Griffith from Norquay; Katherine Walker, Teigan Binsfeld and Jessica Antonichuk from Sturgis; Kristin Boychuk, Kirsten Stout, Nicole Maddaford and Margaret Green 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: Allie Smorodin from Canora Composite School; Matthew Kaeding from Churchbridge Public School; Dustin Lowenberger from Esterhazy High School; Natasha Smith from Fort Livingstone School in Pelly; Janelle Fogg from Invermay School; Jeremy Ruten from Kamsack Comprehensive Institute; Michelle Schepp from Langenburg High School; Regis Neilson from Melville Comprehensive School; Darcy Griffith from Norquay School; Rodney Serhan from Preeceville School; Katherine Walker from Sturgis Composite High School and Kristin Boychuk 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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**~ INFORMATION UPDATE ~**

**October 17, 2010**

**TRAGIC BUS ACCIDENT IN MELVILLE**

On the afternoon of Friday, October 15 at approximately 4:15 pm, a Good Spirit School Division bus was involved in a collision with a diesel fuel tanker truck south of Melville.

Tragically, the driver of the bus lost her life in the accident. Four students were on the bus at the time and all were taken to St. Peter's Hospital in Melville. All four children were students of Good Spirit School Division; two attend at Miller Elementary School and two attend at Melville Comprehensive School.

The division has put in place a tragic events response team and families are able to contact their local school to access counseling services. The Good Spirit School Division extends their deepest sympathies to the families involved in this incident.

Updates will be provided as known with the intention of respecting the privacy of the families involved.

For media and/or general public inquiries, contact Mr. Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education at 786-4750.

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~ MEDIA RELEASE ~

January 5, 2011

**GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION MAKING TECHNOLOGICAL LEAPS  
AND BOUNDS INTO THE FUTURE**

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division looks forward to embarking on the new year ahead in 2011 by reflecting on the drastic changes which took place this past summer. All schools as well as the Administration Office took part in a major upgrade to technology allowing us to truly affect the quality of education delivered to students.

Since the inception of the Good Spirit School Division in 2005, it has been a goal of the technology department and senior administration to implement a technology plan division-wide that would see all schools brought to a level playing field. For the past few years technology refreshes were being completed as per past agreements in differing parts of the division. In essence, at any time in the cycle, there would always be some facilities 1-3 years behind in technology. The goal was to completely redesign, refresh and replace 100% of the educational technology and related infrastructure throughout the entire school division.

In the summer of 2009, the Good Spirit School Division started work with the IBM K-12 division to discuss the future of the technology landscape. "IBM offered a total solution that was manageable not just from the technology perspective but also the staff perspective," states Withman Jaigobin, Superintendent of Schools and supervisor of the Technology Department. "We based our work upon existing partnerships from previous divisions and expanded on it to look at ensuring technology inequities were addressed in all of our facilities." In order to accomplish the goals of both equality and appropriate preparation for the future, GSSD invested in an IT Optimization study through the IBM K-12 Services Consulting Group. It was aimed at shaping what the 2010, 5 year refresh project would look like for the division.

Once the technology refresh had a concrete, approved plan, GSSD, IBM and MicroAge staff took on the massive challenge of completing this task over the summer months of July and August. This included the removal and proper recycling of 2000+ workstations and servers, configuration and deployment of 1600 workstations and 550 teacher laptops, an active directory redesign, a complete replacement of division cabling, a replacement of 189 network switches, the design and configuration of 3 network VLAN's and installation of 160 wireless access points, professional development training for all 600 teachers division-wide, division image builds for elementary, high school and administrative profiles as well as the configuration and implementation of IBM ISS firewall solutions.

Mr. Mike East, Industry Executive with the IBM K-12 Business Unit, stated “It (the technology refresh) demonstrated thought leadership as it clearly positions Good Spirit to be the leading school division in Western Canada – giving them the infrastructure to truly allow their schools to move to 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning practices – and effective use of educational technology to improve student achievement.”

Mr. Jaigobin points out that “The significant changes include new computer workstations for every student and a wireless infrastructure in every school. Also, one of the main components of the rollover is the investment in providing all teaching staff with a laptop, one of the few divisions Canada-wide to do so. Personal laptops are putting technology tools and resources in the hands of our teacher. In this way, we are serving the ever-changing needs of students by ensuring teaching staff are up-to-date and have easy access to technology.”

“Our technology department, under the direction of Withman Jaigobin and Shawn Kostiuk, GSSD Network Coordinator, worked extremely hard to make this technology refresh happen in only two short summer months,” states Mr. Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education. “By mobilizing forces with outside agencies such as IBM and MicroAge, our goal of an up-to-date, sustainable technology environment for both students and staff to take advantage of has become a reality. Throughout the process, we continually emphasized that this investment must ultimately improve the level of education and student achievement within the Good Spirit School Division.”

The school division and IBM recognize the large technology learning curve many will go through due to the refresh and, as a result, the next 2 years will see both work together to ensure staff have the necessary skill set to use the tools effectively.

For further information, contact Mr. Withman Jaigobin, Superintendent of Schools, at 786-4754.

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~ MEDIA RELEASE ~

**April 21, 2011**

**YRHS SYNCHROTRON SCIENCE FIELD TRIP: THE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

This past February, Mr. Wayne Clark, Yorkton Regional High School Senior Science teacher, escorted seven scientifically minded students to the Canadian Light Source (Synchrotron) in Saskatoon. Cordell Young, Jonathan Machnee, Kali Meszaros, Brandon Campbell, Matthew Tripp, Adesawa Oloko and Hayley Popick engaged in authentic real-world science as they used the amazing capabilities of the largest new science facility in Canada. The group enjoyed the experience so much that they were provided the opportunity to share a presentation with the Board of Education prior to the Board's regular meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2011.

Students on the Beamlines gets high school students from across Canada directly involved in cutting-edge scientific research at the Canadian Light Source. The programme is supported by NSERC, PromoScience and the Canadian Light Source.

The group of budding scientists attended a three-day session. On the first day, they were provided with an orientation to the facility and a session on how the Synchrotron works. Similar to a group of researchers, the students needed to formulate a hypothesis that they intended to test the following day. The experiment is run on the second day and the third day is spent pouring over the observations and determining scientific conclusions according to the data gathered. Not only do students undertake the experience of working in a world-class facility but they come to realize that science is not "cookie-cutter"; it is not like a textbook where there is one definitive answer to a question but rather numerous unknown variables come into play that can change the outcome immeasurably.

"The Students on the Beamlines Project provided me with an amazing experience," states Brandon Campbell, one of the student participants. He goes on to say, "It allowed me an opportunity to work at a world-class facility that scientists and researchers from around the world regularly use."

Hayley Popick explained, "It was challenging and at times frustrating to take the concepts that we had quickly learned and try to apply them to our experiment without much outside help. Then seeing that our experiment worked and gathering conclusions felt like so much more of an achievement."

The Board of Education espouses the virtues of hands-on academic experiences and appreciates the opportunity to share such learning adventures as this directly with staff and students. "It is interesting to see that our local students can take advantage of world-class facilities such as the Canadian Light Source to further their studies in the area of science," states Raymond Sass, Board Chair. He further stated, "As a Board, we recognize that students are able to take advantage of opportunities outside of the regular classroom atmosphere. Successful field trips such as this may indeed shape a young mind to make a career decision towards a specific area of study they didn't necessarily have access to in the past."

For further information, contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education, at 786-5500 or visit the Canadian Light Source website at [www.lightsource.ca/media/quickfacts.php](http://www.lightsource.ca/media/quickfacts.php).

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The Canadian Light Source is Canada's national centre for synchrotron research and is a global leader and a recognized centre of excellence in synchrotron science and its applications. Since 2005 the CLS has hosted over 4,000 user visits from academic institutions, government, and industry, and delivered over 15,000 experimental shifts to users from across Canada and 16 countries. CLS operations are funded by Western Economic Diversification Canada, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, National Research Council of Canada, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the University of Saskatchewan.

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**~ MEDIA RELEASE ~**

**May 27, 2011**

**PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL OF TEACHER SERVICES**

We have been advised that effective Monday, May 30, 2011 and until further notice, all Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) members are participating in a withdrawal of services deemed as voluntary by the STF. As a result, teachers have been instructed not to participate in events scheduled outside of the school day. Schools will continue to be open and will operate under normal instructional hours.

The withdrawal of school services outside of regular school hours will result in the rescheduling or cancelling of many events. Schools will be communicating with parents to inform of all rescheduling and/or cancellation of events.

We have been informed by representatives of the STF that teachers in the Good Spirit School Division will continue to honour their commitment to provide noon hour supervision as outlined in the local collective agreement. This will provide appropriate supervision to ensure student safety and well being throughout the school day.

"The partial withdrawal of services by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation will result in a situation that is far from what we normally experience. However we are confident, given the assurances of the STF, that the safety and well-being of our students as well as the integrity of the educational program will be maintained," states Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education. "We are hopeful that a resolution will be reached soon and that we can return to normal school operations."

For further information, contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education, at 306-786-5500. Also, refer to our website at [www.gssd.ca](http://www.gssd.ca) for updated information.

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**~ MEDIA RELEASE ~**

**May 31, 2011**

**FULL REINSTATEMENT OF TEACHER SERVICES**

We have received notice that a special mediator has been appointed to assist the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) and the Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee (GTBC) in reaching a collective agreement. The STF has provided assurance that there will be no further job action during the 2010/2011 school year which means we will be able to resume normal school operations for the month of June.

Schools will make every attempt to reschedule events that have been cancelled or altered due to previous job action. School principals will ensure all necessary details are communicated in a timely manner.

"We wish to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during the recent STF job action," states Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education. "We are optimistic the mediation process will lead to an agreement."

For further information, contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education, at 306-786-5500. Also, refer to our website at [www.gssd.ca](http://www.gssd.ca) for updated information.

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**~ MEDIA RELEASE ~**

**May 3, 2011**

**TEACHER STRIKE INFORMATION**

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division has today been informed by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation that teachers in Saskatchewan will engage in a province-wide strike on Thursday, May 5, 2011.

As a result of this strike, and to ensure the safety and well-being of students, all schools in the Good Spirit School Division will be closed to students on Thursday, May 5, 2011. As well, school buses and extra-curricular activities in the division will be cancelled on Thursday. Officials from the Saskatchewan Teacher's Federation have informed us that teachers will return to their regular duties on May 6, 2011. Schools in the Good Spirit School Division will be open on Friday.

"The Good Spirit School Division will act to ensure the safety and well-being of students as our ultimate priority," states Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education. "Plans are being formulated to deal with the potential implications of further strike action."

For further information, contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education, at 786-5500. Also, refer to our website at [www.gssd.ca](http://www.gssd.ca) for updated information.

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~ MEDIA RELEASE ~

**May 20, 2011**

**TEACHER STRIKE INFORMATION**

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division has been informed by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation that teachers in Saskatchewan will engage in a province-wide strike on Wednesday, May 25 and Thursday, May 26, 2011.

As a result of this strike, and to ensure the safety and well-being of students, all schools in the Good Spirit School Division will be closed to students on Wednesday, May 25 and Thursday, May 26, 2011. As well, school buses and extra-curricular activities in the division will be cancelled on both days. Officials from the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation have informed us that teachers will return to their regular duties on May 27, 2011. Schools in the Good Spirit School Division will be open on Friday.

"Our priority continues to be the safety and well-being of students which requires the closure of schools when teachers engage in strike action" states Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education.

For further information, contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education, at 786-5500. Also, refer to our website at [www.gssd.ca](http://www.gssd.ca) for updated information.

The Good Spirit School Division provides education opportunities to approximately 5,900 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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**~ MEDIA RELEASE ~**

**May 31, 2011**

**FULL REINSTATEMENT OF TEACHER SERVICES**

We have received notice that a special mediator has been appointed to assist the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) and the Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee (GTBC) in reaching a collective agreement. The STF has provided assurance that there will be no further job action during the 2010/2011 school year which means we will be able to resume normal school operations for the month of June.

Schools will make every attempt to reschedule events that have been cancelled or altered due to previous job action. School principals will ensure all necessary details are communicated in a timely manner.

"We wish to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during the recent STF job action," states Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education. "We are optimistic the mediation process will lead to an agreement."

For further information, contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education, at 306-786-5500. Also, refer to our website at [www.gssd.ca](http://www.gssd.ca) for updated information.

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