



Good Spirit School Division No. 204

63 King Street East

Yorkton, SK S3N 0T7

Phn 306.786.5500 ~ Toll Free 866.390.0773 ~ Fax 306.783.0355

Website: www.gssd.ca or E-mail: feedback@mail.gssd.ca

~ MEDIA RELEASE ~

September 9, 2011

**GSSD STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT UNDERGOES MAJOR
CHANGES TO BETTER REFLECT STUDENT NEEDS**

The Good Spirit School Division Student Services Department, under the guidance of Mr. Quintin Robertson, Superintendent of Student Services, has undergone restructuring for the 2011/2012 school year. This reorganization has come about as a result of the need to provide students with a team-centered, focused commitment in the delivery of student services supports.

“We have a great team in place throughout the Student Services Department but, after careful consideration and feedback from our own staff as well as parents over the past school year, it was determined that we needed to tweak our delivery methods in order to be the most effective we can be,” states Mr. Robertson. As a result, Professional Service Providers (PSP’s) throughout the division have been relocated to three centralized locations in order to promote a team-centered environment and focus on working with students. Locations include Canora Composite School (North cluster), P.J. Gillen School in Esterhazy (South cluster) and Yorkton Regional High School (Central cluster). Each of the clusters include a Student Services Coordinator, Speech-Language Pathologist, Speech-Language Pathologist Assistant, Educational Psychologist, and Occupational Therapist; the number of PSP’s in each cluster differs due to varying staffing requirements in each of the three cluster areas. Student Services also wants to work more closely with partners in the area of curriculum and, as a result, the division’s three literacy coaches will be relocating to the Yorkton Regional High School this fall as well to join the team environment.

Mr. Robertson explains that, “This year, we are focused on communication, collaboration and capacity building among our professional staff. To enhance these main qualities in our service delivery, we needed to think differently in how we could do a better job of serving our students. As a result, the team approach is seen as the best route in which to accomplish this goal.” With offices now in similar locations, meeting as a team to discuss student needs and referrals will occur on a more regular basis. This will provide a hands-on approach in building capacity of our schools as well as enabling efficiencies in the way in which professional service provider’s work together. As an additional step to enhance PSP’s ability to deliver current programming requirements, the teams from each cluster will be strategically attending to each of their respective schools three times in the upcoming school year to keep abreast of current conditions.

“The ultimate goal of this shift is that writing student reports will become a collaborative effort with PSP’s aware of what is occurring in specific student circumstances. Instead of three to four reports for an individual student, there will be one report addressing all of the various aspects of a student’s Personal Program Plan,” declares Mr. Robertson. A Personal Program Plan (PPP) is a written document developed and implemented by the Student Services team and contains a compilation of student outcomes that have the highest priority for the student during the year. “This is the beginning of a long-term growth goal. We are working to ensure that, where there may currently be multiple reports on a student’s cumulative file, there will now be one main comprehensive report clearly evident by all Good Spirit School Division staff working directly with a specific student.”

As an extension to this exciting change, GSSD recently joined forces with the Leadership Services Team (through TPM Software) and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education to develop software which can take data from multiple sources and insert it into a student’s Personal Program Plan. This joint project is of great interest in the areas of incorporating functionality and ease of communication by way of inserting Student Services data into the MapleWood student software system currently in place division-wide. This will have a major impact on the classroom teacher’s ability to access up-to-date information and knowledge of past as well as current plans and reports in place for individual students.

The Student Services Department works diligently to ensure that services and supports are comprehensive, integrated and address the needs of the whole child by focusing on prevention, early intervention and effective transitions.

For further information, contact Mr. Quintin Robertson, Superintendent of Student Services, at 786-5504.

The Good Spirit School Division provides education opportunities to approximately 5,800 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; contact 306-786-5500 or 1-866-390-0773.

- 30 -

Contact Information:
Lynel Martinuk, Communications Coordinator
Phn 306-786-5501; Fax 306-783-0355
Email: lmartinuk@mail.gssd.ca



Good Spirit School Division No. 204

63 King Street East

Yorkton, SK S3N 0T7

Phn 306.786.5500 ~ Toll Free 866.390.0773 ~ Fax 306.783.0355

Website: www.gssd.ca or E-mail: feedback@mail.gssd.ca

~ MEDIA ADVISORY ~

September 2, 2011

GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION STUDENT OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division is proud to announce the launch of a new and exciting award program for students on a very special day province-wide, Provincial Students' Day.

"The Board of Education has a keen interest in recognizing student achievement and has been looking for a way in which to celebrate student successes," states Mr. Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education. "We are very proud to launch the Student of Distinction Awards which allows us to showcase student accomplishments both in individual schools and within their respective communities. Provincial Students' Day is an opportune time to highlight the fact that we value and respect students for all of the hard work they are doing on a daily basis to shape positive communities."

The Good Spirit School Division Student of Distinction Award is open to students of all ages and grade levels at each school facility. Each school will be provided an opportunity to nominate three to five candidates. An Administration-office based awards committee will choose a winner at each school (28 award recipients in total) with the award winners announced and presented during Education Week activities (this fall set for the week of October 16 to 22, 2011). Nomination criteria and forms will be available on September 6 for viewing on the website at www.gssd.ca.

Mr. Reeve goes on to say, "This is a special year as, due to the upcoming provincial election, each school division has been tasked with celebrating Education Week on an individual basis. We have taken this unique opportunity to tie in our Student of Distinction Awards with Education Week as a further way in which to showcase our students. The Board has chosen the theme "**Students Shaping the Future**" to illustrate the importance of how student accomplishments today prepares them to be leaders in the future."

Please accept this as your invitation to attend. The launch will take place:

When: **Tuesday, September 6, 2011**

Where: **Canora Junior Elementary School
232 3rd Avenue East, Canora**

Time: **1:00pm at the CJES Gymnasium**

For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education, at 306-786-5500.

- 30 -

Contact Information:

Lynel Martinuk, Communications Coordinator

Phn 306-786-5501; Fax 306-783-0355

Email: lmartinuk@mail.gssd.ca



Good Spirit School Division No. 204

63 King Street East

Yorkton, SK S3N 0T7

Phn 306.786.5500 ~ Toll Free 866.390.0773 ~ Fax 306.783.0355

www.gssd.ca or feedback@mail.gssd.ca

~ MEDIA RELEASE ~

October 11, 2011

**GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION ANNOUNCES
2011 GENERAL PROFICIENCY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS AND
2011 GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS**

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division is pleased to announce that twenty-three Grade 12 students within our division have qualified for the Ministry of Education 2011 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: Brandyn Rodgerson, Madison Bomboir, Joelle Bode, Kosta Stamatinos, Skye Breikreuz, Garth Dickey, Melissa Turner, Matricia Shwaga, Erin Litvanyi and Cordell Young from Yorkton; Sarah Johnson and Jill Yanke from Churchbridge; Katelyn Kirby from Esterhazy; Ashlie Dawe and Kaylyn Wallen from Invermay; Taylor Zerr, Nicole Wallen, Matthew Zerr, Brittany Adams and Kelsey Weiss from Langenburg; Melanie Elias and Holly Olijnyk from Melville; and Jinelle Holoboff from Kamsack.

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: Ashley Hermanson from Canora Composite School; Sarah Johnson and Jill Yanke from Churchbridge Public School; Katelyn Kirby from Esterhazy High School; Chantel Shevernoha from Fort Livingstone School in Pelly; Ashlie Dawe from Invermay School; Jinelle Holoboff from Kamsack Comprehensive Institute; Taylor Zerr from Langenburg High School; Melanie Elias from Melville Comprehensive School; April Hamm from Norquay School; Shantelle Stroeder from Preeceville School; Blaze Lisoway from Sturgis Composite High School and Brandyn Rodgerson 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.

#

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; contact 306-786-5500 or 1-866-390-0773.



Good Spirit School Division No. 204

63 King Street East

Yorkton, SK S3N 0T7

Phn 306.786.5500 ~ Toll Free 866.390.0773 ~ Fax 306.783.0355

www.gssd.ca or feedback@mail.gssd.ca

~ MEDIA RELEASE ~

October 12, 2011

PREECEVILLE SCHOOL TAKES NEXT STEP IN UPGRADE PROCESS

On October 6, 2011 the Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division approved the tender as supplied by CCR Construction Ltd from Regina for upgrades to be completed at Preeceville School. This will include installation of a new heating and ventilation system throughout the school excluding the gym and senior wing which are under separate stand-alone systems.

A start-up meeting is scheduled to occur within the next couple of weeks and the project is anticipated to be completed within the next twelve months.

“We are very excited about this project,” states Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education. “This new system will effectively replace the temporary one installed last fall and will provide the school with an efficient heating and ventilation upgrade. 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 this past year.”

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

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; contact 306-786-5500 or 1-866-390-0773.

- 30 -

Contact Information:

Lynel Martinuk, Communications Coordinator

Phn 306-786-5501; Fax 306-783-0355

Email: lmartinuk@mail.gssd.ca



Good Spirit School Division No. 204

63 King Street East

Yorkton, SK S3N 0T7

Phn 306.786.5500 ~ Toll Free 866.390.0773 ~ Fax 306.783.0355

Website: www.gssd.ca or E-mail: feedback@mail.gssd.ca

~ MEDIA RELEASE ~

January 13, 2012

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM AT YORKTON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division is proud to announce our first-ever artist-in-residence - former Melville student and resident, Shannon Litzenberger. Through her studies in dance and work as an artist, writer, choreographer, director and advocate, Ms. Litzenberger has achieved a tremendous career in Toronto, Ontario.

For three weeks, beginning on January 8, 2012, Shannon and her Toronto-based colleagues Marie-Josée Chartier, Jef Mallory, and Lindsay Zier-Vogel are working at the Anne Portnuff Theatre to develop Litzenberger's new production *HOMEbody* - an intimate portrait of her prairie roots in rural Saskatchewan. *HOMEbody* will premiere in Toronto in September 2012.

In tandem with the development of *HOMEbody*, these visiting artists are working with drama teacher Brennan Risling to animate an exciting creative process for Grade 10 and 11 drama students at the Yorkton Regional High School - guiding them through the creation of their own performance pieces that integrate a variety of artistic mediums including dance, theatre, text, and sound. "We were able to procure ArtsSmarts funding for this project and want to extend our sincere appreciation to Sask Culture and the Lotteries Corporation for this opportunity. The local arts community has been tremendous in their support of what we are doing in Yorkton and I appreciate their assistance," says Litzenberger.

"We are very excited and proud to have Ms. Litzenberger and her colleagues join us at the Yorkton Regional High School," says Mr. Withman Jaigobin, Superintendent of Schools. "Working with the local arts community through contributions from the Yorkton Arts Council, the Yorkton Film Festival and the Godfrey Dean Arts Gallery on this project is a great partnership and one which emphasizes the fact that we are able to provide YRHS students with a truly unique and rich experience."

On January 26th, at the conclusion of the three-week residency, a dance performance and reception will be held at the Yorkton Regional High School Anne Portnuff Theatre. The students and the artists will present and discuss their work, offering a rare behind-the-scenes look at the practice of contemporary dance making.

"I am thrilled to be back home to share this experience with local students," Litzenberger says. "As I develop my new production, I hope to capture many stories and experiences that characterize rural prairie life. I am eager to share my work, and the incredible work of the students with the local community".

Throughout the three weeks, YRHS students will be video blogging about their experiences to share their thoughts and feelings in this unique project. The videos can be viewed online at www.shannonlitzenberger.com/dance.

You are invited to contact Ms. Litzenberger to share her story. She can be reached via email at shannonlitz@me.com or by phone at 647-271-6354.

For additional information, contact Withman Jaigobin, Superintendent of Schools, via email at wjaigobin@mail.gssd.ca or by phone at 786-5500; also Shannon Litzenberger via email at shannonlitz@me.com.

See event details below.

The Good Spirit School Division provides education opportunities to more than 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; contact 306-786-5500 or 1-866-390-0773.

- 30 -

Contact Information:

Lynel Martinuk, Communications Coordinator
Phn 306-786-5501; Fax 306-783-0355
Email: lmartinuk@mail.gssd.ca

The Good Spirit School Division, in partnership with the Yorkton Arts Council, the Yorkton Film Festival, and the Godfrey Dean Art Gallery presents...

HOMEbody – An Evening with the Artists

Thursday, January 26th, 2012 at 7pm

Anne Portnuff Theatre

\$10 adults, \$5 students/seniors, FREE for YRHS students

Tickets available at the door.

Info – 306-786-5500 (Good Spirit School Division Administration Office)

Reception to follow.

Join us for an evening of dance performance and discussion with our first-ever group of artists-in-residence – contemporary dancer and choreographer, Shannon Litzenberger, director Marie-Josée Chartier, writer Lindsay Zier-Vogel and actor Jef Mallory. These Toronto-based artists are spending three weeks working at the Anne Portnuff Theatre to develop Litzenberger's new production – *HOMEbody* – an intimate portrait of her prairie roots in rural Saskatchewan. *HOMEbody* will premiere in Toronto in September 2012.

In tandem with the development of *HOMEbody*, these visiting artists are animating an exciting creative process for YRHS drama students, guiding them through the creation of their own performance pieces that integrate a variety of artistic mediums including dance, theatre, music, and text.

We hope you'll join us for this unique program where both the students and the artists will present and discuss excerpts of their work. A rare, behind-the-scenes look at the practice of contemporary dance making.

Shannon Litzenberger is a former Melville-area resident currently living and working as a professional artist in Toronto, ON. She received her formative training at the Melville Dance Association, Dance Innovations and at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. She went on to complete a BFA in Dance Performance at Ryerson University in 2001 and in 2005 received an MA in Dance at York University in Toronto. Over her decade-long career as a professional artist, Shannon has worked with some of Canada's leading choreographers including David Earle, DA Hoskins, Susie Burpee, Heidi Strauss, Darryl Tracy, Michael Greyeyes, and David Pressault.

**"...tall, proud, tender and defiant."
-Michael Crabb, National Post**

**"...dynamic and full of emotion...a delight to watch."
-Lucy Everleigh, Mooney on Theatre**



Good Spirit School Division No. 204

63 King Street East

Yorkton, SK S3N 0T7

Phn 306.786.5500 ~ Toll Free 866.390.0773 ~ Fax 306.783.0355

Website: www.gssd.ca or E-mail: feedback@mail.gssd.ca

~ MEDIA ADVISORY ~

April 23, 2012

GSSD CONTINUES A STRONG PHYSICAL EDUCATION TRADITION

The Good Spirit School Division will be hosting the fourth annual division-wide Standards Track Meet on April 24, 25 & 26, 2012 at the Gallagher Centre Flexi-Hall in Yorkton. Approximately 1,300 students from 27 schools in Grades 4 through 8 will be participating in various indoor track and field events including 50 metre run, 600 metre run, high jump, long jump, shot put and relays.

“This is an excellent event for the students of the Good Spirit School Division,” states Jason Trost, Chair of the event. “Obviously the event promotes physical activity for our youth but more importantly, the indoor track meet teaches children sportsmanship, integrity, confidence and numerous social skills. It’s a chance for all the schools of GSSD to come together in a friendly competition. All we ask is that students do their absolute best and I guarantee you will see many smiles as a result.”

Trost goes on to say that, “It’s our hope to pique the student’s interest in exercise and get them involved in a sports discipline. Hopefully this interest in track will carry on throughout their high school careers and even into adulthood.”

The top 18 finishers in each event will be invited to attend the Showcase Event being held one week later on Saturday, May 5, 2012 at the Gallagher Centre Flexi-Hall. New this year is the addition of grade 7 & 8 students to the Showcase Meet. Trost explains that “Grade 7 & 8 students have been invited to take part in shot put, 50 metre hurdles, triple jump, 600 metre run and a special quadathlon event which is a point total of all 4 events. He goes on to explain why such a large event is being made even larger. “Our organizing committee saw the benefits the Indoor Standards Meet had with our grade 4 to 6 students. We wanted to find a way to continue the track momentum into high school. Adding the grade 7 and 8 students seemed the next natural step and hopefully this will bolster track programming at the high school level around the division.”

Please accept this as your invitation to attend both the Standards Track Meet (10:00 am to 2:00 pm each day of April 24, 25 & 26) as well as the Showcase Event (Noon to 5:00pm on Saturday, May 5) at the Gallagher Centre Flexi-Hall in Yorkton. **Please note: Students with yellow name tags at the event do not have permission to have pictures published.** If you need clarification, please approach any of the volunteers in attendance.

For further information, contact Mr. Jason Trost at 786-5540 or Mr. Withman Jaigobin, Superintendent of Schools at 786-4754.

The Good Spirit School Division provides education opportunities to approximately 6,000 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; contact 306-786-5500 or 1-866-390-0773.

- 30 -

Contact Information:
Lynel Martinuk, Communications Coordinator
Phn 306-786-5501; Fax 306-783-0355
Email: lmartinuk@mail.gssd.ca



Good Spirit School Division No. 204

63 King Street East

Yorkton, SK S3N 0T7

Phn 306.786.5500 ~ Toll Free 866.390.0773 ~ Fax 306.783.0355

Website: www.gssd.ca or E-mail: feedback@mail.gssd.ca

~ MEDIA RELEASE ~

June 15, 2012

STRATEGIC PLAN UNVEILING PROMISES TO BE A MAJOR EVENT

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division is proud to announce that our new strategic plan for the next 5 years of operations will be unveiled to all staff members at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year on Wednesday, August 29, 2012.

The strategic plan document is a culmination of information and feedback received from November, 2011 to February, 2012 in the form of 4 public meetings, 19 focus groups and 893 website survey respondents (508 internal staff members responded as well as 385 members of the general public). All was collated with a wealth of information to help guide the creation of the strategic plan document. From a Board of Education and senior administration team retreat in March up to and including a focus group of employees held in early June, the strategic plan has been molded and shaped.

“Laura Soparolo of Laura Soparolo Consulting in Regina has been instrumental in guiding us through the process of going through the incredible amounts of information and putting it into a living, breathing document,” states Mr. Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education. He goes on to say, “There has been a tremendous amount of time and effort put into the creation of the plan and we want to thank all of those who took the time to provide us with honest feedback on how they view education within the Good Spirit School Division. We operate in 17 growing, vibrant communities and each person’s input was extremely valuable to ensure all unique perspectives were taken into account.”

An announcement of this magnitude requires a strong force to kick it off appropriately. One of Canada’s most requested motivational speakers has graciously agreed to join us on this very special day. Mark Tewksbury, 1988 and 1992 Olympic gold, silver and bronze medalist and world swimming champion from Calgary, Alberta will begin our school year with a bang. Mark’s athletic career highlights include 21 national titles, seven world records, and a cover appearance on TIME magazine. Mark was named Canadian Athlete of the Year in 1992 and inducted into the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame in 1993 and then the Canadian Sport Hall of Fame in 1995. He is now best known for the many things he does outside of sport. A celebrated speaker on the international circuit, Mark carries his message of optimism and perseverance to millions of people around the world.

Mr. Reeve states, “We are very honoured to have Mark join us on this very special day. His message of teamwork and collaboration is strongly linked to our strategic plan goals

and we couldn't think of a better way to start off the school year and new five year plan than sharing a special day together. It's also interesting to note that we will be Mark's first speaking engagement after his return as chef de mission of the Canadian Olympic Team competing in London England this summer. No doubt he will have some very interesting stories to share making the experience for all a truly unique, memorable event."

The opening staff day is being held at the Gallagher Centre Flexi-Hall to accommodate the nearly 1,000 staff members in attendance. The division would like to share this event with others and will soon be selling 200 tickets for interested community members division-wide. Details will be released in the near future.

For further information, contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education, at 786-5500 or Lynel Martinuk, Communications Coordinator, at 786-5501.

The Good Spirit School Division provides education opportunities to over 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; contact 306-786-5500 or 1-866-390-0773.

- 30 -

Contact Information:
Lynel Martinuk, Communications Coordinator
Phn 306-786-5501; Fax 306-783-0355
Email: lmartinuk@mail.gssd.ca