



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 5, 2012

**Relocatable Classroom Construction Set to Begin at
Canora Junior Elementary School**

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division is proud to announce the official sod turning ceremony marking the start of construction of three new relocatable classrooms at Canora Junior Elementary School (CJES).

“Planning for the future is a primary objective of the division and, with increased enrolments projected for the foreseeable future, we needed to do something now to be proactive in this situation,” states Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education. “We are already past capacity in this facility and we are very happy to announce this much needed expansion of the elementary school in Canora.”

“The initial planning meeting for facility construction was held on Tuesday, August 28th at CJES with the construction work being undertaken by G. Hahn Contracting Ltd,” states Teresa Korol, Facility Supervisor. “Construction is slated to start on September 17th and estimated completion is set for eight to ten months or approximately next summer.”

We are honoured that Honourable Ken Krawetz, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, will be in attendance at the sod turning ceremony. This is a very special day for the school in that their MLA will be in attendance to help them celebrate their expansion.

“We could not be happier with this recent announcement and are definitely looking forward to a bright new addition to our facility to welcome future students,” states Mr. Rod Steciuk, Principal at CJES. He goes on to say, “It is with great pleasure that we share this special day with not only our staff and students but also it is Grandparents’ Day at our school. The past, present and future of our school is tightly knit with the community as a whole and we are just ecstatic that this day is here.”

The Honourable Ken Krawetz made note of this special day stating, “I am looking forward to being a part of this exceptional day at Canora Junior Elementary School. Growth province-wide is being illustrated in our own backyard with the need for projects such as this. I am very proud to be a part of this revitalization project and always look forward to an opportunity to share days such as this with our community as they look ahead to a bright future.”

The division’s newly unveiled vision of “**Learning Without Limits...Achievement For All**” plays a role in days such as this. We are always looking for ways in which to enrich the learning environment of students and facility improvements are high on that list.

- 2 -

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

When: **Friday, September 7, 2012**
Where: **Canora Junior Elementary School**
232 3rd Avenue East, Canora
Time: **Ceremony begins at 11:00 am; Hot dog lunch to follow**

For further information, contact Mr. Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education, at 786-5500 or email at dreeve@mail.gssd.ca.

- 30 -

Contact Information:
Lynel Martinuk, Communications Coordinator
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~ **MEDIA RELEASE** ~

October 25, 2012

SUBDIVISION ELECTION RESULTS RELEASED

Election results of Wednesday, October 24th will see the Good Spirit School Division Board of Education welcoming five (5) new members. The complete Board member listing is as follows (* indicates previously acclaimed; ✓ indicates new to the Board):

*Subdivision #1	Bryan Cottenie	Kamsack/Norquay
Subdivision #2	Christopher Balyski	Preeceville/Sturgis
Subdivision #3	✓ Shannon Leson	Canora/Invermay
*Subdivision #4	✓ Florence Stachura	Calder/Rhein/Springside
*Subdivision #5	Lois Smandych	Churchbridge/Langenburg
*Subdivision #6	Robert A. Simpson	Melville/Grayson
*Subdivision #7	Dorothy-Jo (DJ) Cairns	Esterhazy/Stockholm
Yorkton-At-Large	✓ Gordon Gendur	Yorkton
	✓ Richard Haacke	Yorkton
	Bonnie Rushowick	Yorkton
*Subdivision No. 11	✓ Gilda Dokuchie	Key First Nation Reserve

“Elections are always an interesting time for school divisions in setting the course for future operations,” states Sherry Todosichuk, Superintendent of Business Administration and Returning Officer. “Our polling stations were well run with voter turnout as expected. Subdivision No. 2 saw a 17.8% voter turnout; Subdivision No. 3 had 20% and the City of Yorkton had approximately 26% (which is a guesstimate based on voter turnout for the election of Mayor realizing that not all voters would have taken part in the school division election).”

Mrs. Todosichuk goes on to say “We would like to wish our departing Board members all the best in their future endeavours including Carla Pelechaty from Canora, Joelann Pister from Rhein as well as Raymond Sass and Lenore Pinder from Yorkton. Their contributions, dedication of time and efforts played an integral role in guiding the division’s direction, especially in terms of our newly implemented strategic plan.”

A Board member orientation meeting for new members is scheduled for Monday, November 5, 2012 with the Organizational Meeting of the Board of Education scheduled for Thursday, November 8, 2012. At the organizational meeting, the Board will elect the Chair, Vice-Chair and various subcommittee members for the upcoming year.

For further information, contact Sherry Todosichuk, Returning Officer at 786-5500.

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October 25, 2012

**GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION ANNOUNCES
2012 GENERAL PROFICIENCY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS AND
2012 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 2012 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: Keegan Kirk, Jori Shiner, Kathryn Fullmann and Carter Yont from Langenburg, Cassandra Sullivan, Brooke Malinoski, Kelsi Rieger and Kennedy Conquergood from Melville, Hayden Reitenbach and Adam Marlowe from Churchbridge, Rorey Slonski from Kamsack, Cherie Bright from Canora, Caleb Friedrich, Brandon Campbell, Yvette Bourque, Brandi Neibrandt and Justine Berlinic from Yorkton, Lindsay Berthelet, Karlieh Gurniak and Kasey Gillespie from Esterhazy, Meagan Barabash from Preeceville and Ashley Carnegie from Sturgis.

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: Cherie Bright from Canora Composite School; Hayden Reitenbach from Churchbridge Public School; Lindsay Berthelet from Esterhazy High School; Sophia Alfelor from Fort Livingstone School in Pelly; Joshua Minhinnick from Invermay School; Rorey Slonski from Kamsack Comprehensive Institute; Keegan Kirk from Langenburg High School; Cassandra Sullivan from Melville Comprehensive School; Callie Holodniuk from Norquay School; Meagan Barabash from Preeceville School; Ashley Carnegie from Sturgis Composite High School and Caleb Friedrich 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.

- 30 -

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November 22, 2012

YRHS IS GOLDEN!

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division is very proud to recognize the amazing achievements of the YRHS Robotics team. This past week, they participated in and were awarded the top ranking in the WorldSkills Americas robotics competition in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Team members in attendance include Bo Chiasson (Grade 11) and Jayden Leister (Grade 12) as well as coach Mr. Kevin Chiasson, YRHS Practical and Applied Arts teacher.

The YRHS Robotics team consists of four members: Bo Chiasson, Jayden Leister, Rachel Machnee and Taylor Pachal. All 4 students attended the Skills Canada provincial competition as well as Skills Canada Nationals competition but only 2 students from the first place team can participate in international competitions. The WorldSkills Americas competition included teams from North and South America. The next and final step is attendance at the WorldSkills International competition held in Leipzig, Germany in July, 2013 where they will compete against teams from around the world.

Bo and Jayden have been preparing for the past 4 months through a series of modules by practicing their programming skills on a robot similar to the one they would be given to work with at the competition. Two days before competition, the students learned that there had been dramatic changes to 2 of the 4 modules meaning that everything they had practiced was incorrect. Instead of getting frustrated, Bo and Jayden worked extremely hard to forge through the new material and understand it for the competition; a truly remarkable feat. Not only did they learn the material but they mastered it with their robot being nicknamed "Usain Bolt" due to the high level of accuracy and speed it was able to attain.

"We are ecstatic that our students are not only able to compete on the world stage but that they are the individuals leading the way in their field," states Bryan Cottenie, Board Chair. "This is a great opportunity for our students to show that the work they are doing in a classroom setting is of international standard. Mr. Chiasson and his team are to be commended on their dedication to not only this competition but to the upcoming WorldSkills competition in Leipzig, Germany next summer."

The YRHS team competed against students attending trade schools comparable to SIAST-aged students; they were the youngest team in attendance making their win that much more remarkable. Bo and Jayden achieved a final mark of 91.5 out of 100 with the second place finisher scoring 82 points; it was a decisive victory.

"It's not all about winning but about personal growth, that has been our goal all along, to develop personally," states Kevin Chiasson. He goes on to say, "This was a perfect

scenario where students were under pressure in a competitive situation and they performed wonderfully. The color of the medal didn't really matter but it was experiencing the international level of competition and achieving our goal that helped us all to personally grow." The group estimates that they will spend approximately 2000 hours in preparation for both international competitions. Mr. Chiasson also states, "Community support with volunteers helping in both time commitments and funding has been tremendous. Without them, we wouldn't have been able to achieve the levels we have. Additional support is always welcome as we prepare to head to Germany in July."

The Practical and Applied Arts Department at the Yorkton Regional High School has seen dramatic growth in this newer course offering at the school. In the fall of 2009, the YRHS Robotics Club started as an extra-curricular activity with 3 students involved. Over the years, and as interest has grown, a Robotics 10 course was implemented at the school by Mr. Chiasson and, due to rising popularity, Grade's 9 and 11 robotics courses are now being developed to allow students to continue with their interests in this area.

On the afternoon of Monday, November 26, Bo and Jayden along with Mr. Chiasson will be at the Legislature in Regina to demo their robot for Members of the Legislature. Afterwards, they will join Greg Ottenbreit who will introduce them to the Legislative Assembly.

For details on Bo and Jayden's trip to Sao Paulo, check out the team's dedicated Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/yrhsrobotics>. The link can also be found on the GSSD website at www.gssd.ca. As the year progresses, the students will continue to post updates to this page up to and including WorldSkills International in July, 2013.

For further information, contact Mr. Kevin Chiasson at 786-5560 or Mr. Alan Sharp, Superintendent of Program Development, at 786-5500.

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March 21, 2013

Provincial Budget Announces Funding for Langenburg

In yesterday's provincial budget, Finance Minister Ken Krawetz announced \$1.9 million dedicated funding to begin the planning of new school projects, one of which will be located in Langenburg within the Good Spirit School Division.

"The announcement is excellent news for our division," states Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education. "This basically provides us the ability to enter the next phase of planning for a new school in Langenburg through the development of a design for the facility. Senior administration, the Facilities Department and the community of Langenburg have already put in many hours to get us to this stage and we are very excited at the prospect of a new school. It is a huge investment in the future of our children."

Mr. Bryan Cottenie, Board Chair, affirms that, "As a Board, we are thrilled with the announcement and eager to see what the next few years will bring. We look forward to working collaboratively with the Ministry of Education as well as the community of Langenburg to ensure that the facility plans allow for current and future needs. The ability to offer our students a new facility in which to learn and grow is very exciting and parallels our mission of **"Building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures"**."

For further information, contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education, at 306-786-5500.

The Good Spirit School Division strives to provide safe, caring, welcoming schools for children. Our primary objective is to foster a respectful learning environment to achieve student success and well-being in each of our 28 public schools throughout East-Central Saskatchewan. Our values of belonging, respect, responsibility, learning and nurturing ensures "Students Come First". Visit us at www.gssd.ca; contact 306-786-5500 or 1-866-390-0773.

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March 27, 2013

2013/2014 Finalized School Calendar is Released

After significant public feedback and review by the Board of Education, the school year calendar for 2013/2014 has been finalized. Three options were presented for staff and community feedback and, after an overwhelming response rate of over 1,600 completed surveys, approximately 90% indicated that they wanted to retain the winter break in February, 2014.

“A sincere thank you to all of those who took the time to provide us with their thoughts and opinions around the structuring of next year’s school calendar,” states Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education. “Through the Board of Education’s desire to ensure that actions are taken in a transparent way, this goes a long way towards showing how important the public and staff members are in our decision-making process.”

Additional instructional minutes will be required to meet the provincial regulations of a minimum of 950 instructional hours in the time frame of September, 2013 through to the end of June, 2014. The calendar has been developed to provide for 310 minutes of daily instructional time; this compares to the current standard of 300 minutes of instruction per day. School Community Councils will be looking at options to set their respective school’s daily schedules to meet this newly revised criteria.

“School Community Councils are very important in ensuring that the school day meets with mandatory legislated requirements as well as it being the best fit for their local community needs,” expresses Mr. Reeve. “As a division, we appreciate the efforts of the many who make our schools wonderful places for our students to learn and grow; cooperation is a key component of making this reality.”

The finalized calendar is available on our website at www.gssd.ca.

For further information, contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education, at 306-786-5500.

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April 9, 2013

GSSD FOCUSES ON STUDENT WELL-BEING WITH INDOOR TRACK MEET

The Good Spirit School Division will be hosting the fifth annual division-wide Standards Track Meet on April 16, 17 & 18 at the Gallagher Centre Flexi-Hall in Yorkton. Approximately 1500 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, 50 metre hurdles and relays.

For the last 5 years, a group of dedicated teachers, administrators and retirees from all corners of the GSSD have come together to plan the Indoor Track Meet. Jason Trost, GSSD track committee chair states, "The Good Spirit School Division has made student's well-being a priority. If we truly want our children to grow and develop into well rounded citizens, we need to provide them with opportunities to become involved in extracurricular activities that promote physical, mental and social health. Our track meet does exactly that; it's designed for all students, not just elite athletes, and over the past 5 years we have seen children cheering each other on, trying their very best and celebrating their accomplishments."

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 athletics will carry on throughout their high school careers and even into adulthood. However, just as important, student well-being is increased when they experience success. Watch a child's face after they clear a high jump bar, win a sprint race or throw the shot further than they thought they could. It's the look on their face that tells us just what children are capable of in life."

The top 18 finishers in each event will be invited to attend the Showcase Event being held one week later on Saturday, April 27, 2013 at the Gallagher Centre Flexi-Hall. Trost explains that, "Grade 7 & 8 students have again been invited to take part in Shot Put, 50 Metre hurdles, Triple Jump, High Jump, 600 Metre run and a special Aggregate event which is a point total of any 3 events entered. It's always fun. The energy of children is contagious. You can't help but be excited for the competitors when they experience success."

Please accept this as your invitation to attend both the Standards Track Meet (10:00 am to 2:00 pm each day of April 16, 17 & 18) as well as the Showcase Event (10:00 am to 5:00 pm April 27) 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 306-786-5520 or Mr. Alan Sharp, Superintendent of Schools at 306-786-5500.

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~ MEDIA RELEASE ~

June 11, 2013

YRHS ROBOTICS TEAM WINS NATIONAL GOLD MEDAL

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division is very proud to recognize the amazing achievements of the Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) Robotics team. This past week, they participated in and were awarded the top ranking in the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) in Vancouver, BC. Team members include Brayden Miller (Gr 9), Carter Park (Gr 9), Josh Tysowski (Gr 9) and Mike Kozushka (Gr 11) as well as coach Mr. Kevin Chiasson, YRHS Practical and Applied Arts teacher.

“This is the second year in a row that one of our Robotics teams has won Canadian gold and I couldn’t be more proud,” states Kevin Chiasson. He goes on to say, “For young students, our boys showed a lot of character and tenacity. They had to go up against the heavily favoured Ontario team whose members were all in Grade 12. They didn’t back down, were aggressive when they needed to be and stood their ground to become the eventual winners in a very heated contest.”

It all began last September when any students interested in robotics as an extra-curricular activity at YRHS would meet every Wednesday after school. The school year is spent getting ready for both robotics and sumobot competitions. Mr. Chiasson took the students to Skills Saskatchewan competition on April 25 & 26. Brayden, Carter, Josh and Mike won gold and the chance to advance to SCNC.

In Vancouver, the team won 3 matches beating PEI and BC as well as an exciting last second victory over Ontario to put them directly in the finals. Ontario won the next match to make it back to face Team YRHS. The gold medal match did not disappoint as it went into sudden death overtime to determine SK as the winner. It was a hard fought battle with the SK team, as the underdogs, garnering the support of the crowd as the match wore on.

Mr. Chiasson smiles and says, “It’s my job to get the team excited at the right times and calm them down at the right times. We faced a lot of adversity in those few short days and, as a judge commented, they didn’t allow themselves to get frazzled and remained calm and collected.”

Some major issues crept in including the fact that the airline company would not allow the robot batteries on board the plane. Luckily, Mr. Chiasson was able to locate the appropriate batteries for purchase once they got to Vancouver. For a period of about 24 hours, the team also misplaced and thought they had lost two of their toolboxes at BC Place. These tool boxes contained key robot components that they could not compete without. Again, with a little bit of Raider luck, they located them at the wrong competition venue. Just to make it even more interesting, the robot broke down twice in Day 2 of

competition. Instead of letting it get to them, the students used their training to figure it out quickly. "Any one of these issues might have sidetracked many teams but these young students remained focused and composed learning amazing life skills along the way," states Kevin Chiasson.

"We are thrilled that our students are once again showing their skills on both a provincial and national level," states Bryan Cottenie, Board Chair. "These are going to be our engineering students of the future and familiarization at this young of an age is a huge advantage. Mr. Chiasson has once again shown his dedication to this up and coming area of instruction in the Practical and Applied Arts curriculum and we are happy to see the tremendous growth this non-traditional class is achieving."

The Practical and Applied Arts Department at the Yorkton Regional High School has seen dramatic growth in this course offering at the school. In the fall of 2009, the YRHS Robotics Club started as an extra-curricular activity with 3 students involved. As interest has grown, there are now 3 Grade 9/10 robotics classes this past year with a Grade 10/11 class also in place.

Last year's winners, Bo Chiasson and Jayden Leister, were present at the competition as spectators but they also offered their help and advice if and when they were asked. They were seen cheering on the younger team to victory and looked just as excited as them when the victory was achieved.

"We couldn't run this program without the strong support of Alan Sharp and the Good Spirit School Division," expressed Mr. Chiasson. "It is an expensive venture to take these 4 young students and myself to a national competition and Mr. Sharp was very encouraging and helpful when it was needed."

For details on both this amazing achievement as well as our current reigning WorldSkills Americas gold medalists (Bo and Jayden) and their trip to WorldSkills international competition in Germany this July, check out the team's dedicated Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/yrsrobotics>.

For further information, contact Mr. Kevin Chiasson at 306-786-5560 or Mr. Alan Sharp, Superintendent of Program Development, at 306-786-5500.

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