

IN FOCUS

WITH GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



May 18, 2017

PEOPLE CAPACITY FOCUS

Strategic Focus

GSSD is a community of learners and believes collaborative partnerships with students, staff, families and community members will enhance educational opportunities.

Long-term Goal

- By June 2020, GSSD will enhance system effectiveness by investing in staff through training and development.
- By June 2020, GSSD will enhance system effectiveness by enhancing existing external partnership and by seeking new opportunities.

CELEBRATING SASKATCHEWAN READS WORKSHOP

Good Spirit School Division had a high profile at the recent Celebrating Saskatchewan Reads Workshop hosted by the Provincial Reading Team in Regina and attended by school division teams from across southern Saskatchewan. The exceptional work in literacy by Good Spirit teachers and literacy team members was highlighted on three separate occasions throughout the day. Provincial reading team member Mrs. Lisa Wotherspoon, Superintendent of Education, led a session demonstrating the connection of reading to writing. Lisa has led the literacy team in doing the groundwork in preparation for next year's provincial writing assessments. Mrs. Simone Homeniuk and Mrs. Charlotte Raine were asked to present a session on extending SaskReads into the middle and high school grades. Simone and Charlotte recounted their work with teachers regarding independent reading and dialogical learning. The highlight of their presentation was sharing the videos of literacy in action in Mrs. Kendra Helfrich's grade eight class from Yorkdale and Mrs. Leslea Hanson's senior English class from Preeceville. As well, one of the speakers drew attention to an article written by Charlotte Raine outlining the support Good Spirit provides for school library programs and classroom libraries. The article was recently published in the Sask School Library Association journal *The Medium* and reposted to the Saskatchewan Reads website. The literacy team had to battle a late spring snowstorm to get to Regina, but it was well worth the effort to showcase the work being done by GSSD teachers.



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN NEW TEACHER RESEARCH

Good Spirit School Division is pleased to support the University of Saskatchewan in their research to explore

effective and sustainable ways of supporting beginning teachers in the early years of their careers.

On Monday, May 15, three GSSD teachers participated



in a focus group discussion about their experiences as beginning teachers. These discussions will help the research team explore the value of existing mentorship programs and create a beginning teacher survey that will be used to assess beginning teachers' experiences with mentorship and induction in Saskatchewan. The research will provide meaningful feedback to our school division regarding how we support our teachers new to the profession.

GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PD Event	Date	Topic / Outcome
Gender Sexual Diversity	April 25, 2017	This was the second of three meetings regarding the development of the GSSD Gender and Sexual Diversity Leadership Team. The team will complement our current support from fYrefly Saskatchewan. It is our desire to build internal leadership capacity in this area so that we might provide strategies, suggestions and support to all schools within our division.
Healthy Youth Relationships	April 26, 2017	Counsellors were joined by members of the Red Cross for the "Healthy Youth Relationships" program. The program deals with healthy dating and partner relationships. Saskatchewan has the highest rate of domestic violence in the country and the Red Cross believes that the first step to solving the problem is to help our young people understand the characteristics of a healthy relationship. This includes effective communication, conflict resolution and understanding consent. Participants in the training are able to train youth as facilitators and do workshops for teachers, parents and students.

LOCAL INITIATIVE AWARD WINNER 2017

The Saskatchewan Physical Education Association (SPEA) annually recognizes five physical educators in the province who are creative and unique in their approach to the instruction of physical education and physical activity. SPEA's Local Initiative Award recognizes physical education programs that are making a positive difference for students within their own local school communities.



Mrs. Melissa Johanson from Macdonald School recently received this award at the provincial SPEA Conference held in Saskatoon from May 10–12. The theme of this year's conference was "The Nature of Movement". The conference was themed around outdoor education

and its' connection to physical education, physical activity, physical literacy, and overall health and wellness. Melissa was recognized for her leadership and efforts in creating an outdoor learning environment at Macdonald School. Melissa has been instrumental in supporting an outdoor learning environment that is multi-faceted and responsive to the needs of her students, the school, and the community of Stockholm. Her shared vision of bringing nature into the school has been a collaborative approach within her school and the students are enjoying their new learning experiences from a more naturalistic setting. Melissa's dedicated service and exciting ideas have truly inspired the community of Stockholm and Macdonald School to collaboratively invest in the learning of their most important asset; the children and students.

Congratulations Melissa!

NATIONAL ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

It all started in 2007 with a seemingly simple idea. Mr. Darren Wandy wanted to inspire today's youth to become more active and engaged with the outdoors. He was seeking an activity that our youth could partake in today, and continue to develop over their life-time. The solution was presented to him; NASP, a United States archery program designed for kids. Since its' inception, the program received rave reviews from all of the student participants of various skill-levels and abilities. The National Archery in the Schools Program was extremely popular in the eastern states and in all school-aged groups. After some lengthy research and contact with its'

founder, Roy Grimes, NASP Archery agreed to come to Saskatchewan.

Prior to the commencement, there were conditions that had to be met; a non-profit organization was needed for sponsorship and ten schools were required to commit to piloting the program. Within minutes of agreeing to these conditions, ten schools were onboard to participate and after some groundwork, the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation joined the movement.

Currently, within Good Spirit School Division, there are 22 schools involved in the program. Within Saskatchewan, as far north as Stony Rapids, reaching all corners of the province, there are over 175 schools involved and that number grows each month.

Because of dedicated GSSD staff who train to become coaches, our students have the opportunity to participate in NASP

So what makes this program so popular and so successful? Archery is non-discriminatory; all abilities and all skill-levels are welcome. We have witnessed children with prosthetics, vision impairments, archers in wheelchairs, children with down syndrome or autism, and athletic and non-athletic students participate and experience success in this sport. Ultimately, it is the archer competing against themselves.

We had the incredible experience of participating in tournaments all across North America. Teams travelled to Worlds in Florida and Kentucky, the home of NASP Archery. This year, the Canadian National tournament was hosted in Edmonton. Our own archers were even asked to represent Canada at a Worlds tournament in South Africa! As the program gains momentum, we will continue to tour around the province through numerous numbers of locally hosted tournaments as well as participate in online tournaments.

Because of dedicated GSSD staff who train to become coaches, our students have the opportunity to participate in NASP. To become a certified coach, one must complete the one-day training and purchase a package of equipment.

NASP students have improved their school attendance, earned higher grades, increased classroom engagement, increased positive self-concept and actively participated in a group. As we have witnessed repeatedly, the National Archery in the Schools Program embraces its' motto of 'Changing lives, one arrow at a time.'



Saltcoats School Coaches:
Steve Farquharson,
Dana Kostelnuk,
Dale Sidoryk



Canora Junior Elementary Coaches:
Rod Steciuk,
Thomas Lowes,
Jennifer Prychak



Coaches Leann Jarvis,
Darren Wandy, Michael Jarvis



YRHS Provincial Champs
Coach Michael Jarvis (left side)

A MATH JOURNEY AT SPRINGSIDE SCHOOL

Three years ago, Springside School asked the question, “how are we doing in math?” Principal Jason Trost and the staff of Springside School couldn’t answer that question. That was the start of a math journey that has included a system of interventions in math, the creation of a reporting tool for the GSSD Grade Level Screeners, adoption of the SK Common Assessments in every grade, alignment of school based budgets to support core instruction and an allotment of Student Support Teacher time specifically for Math classroom support.

Springside School started by adopting the SK Common Math Assessments. They needed to make sure all of their students were being asked the right questions. This also ensured their math classes had grit. They found a large number of students who were not at level on these assessments. From there, Springside School developed a plan for students who were not successful with the common assessments. The staff felt that these students lacked basic numeracy and that would become the basis of their interventions.

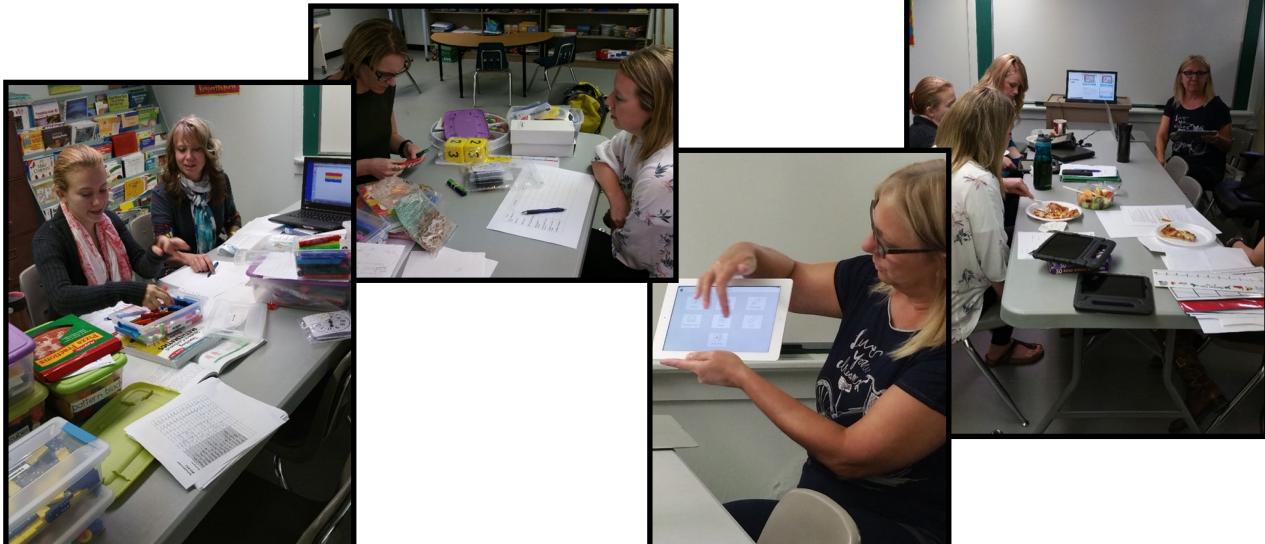
The GSSD Math Screeners and reporting tool were instrumental in determining the math gaps for every student in Grade 1 to Grade 8. They could identify students that had gaps in understanding specific to numeracy outcomes. After using screeners to identify gaps, students who were flagged were then further assessed using a diagnostic tool to determine misconceptions in place value, adding, subtracting, multiplication, division and/or fractions. Small groups of students were then targeted by the math interventionist, the classroom teacher and administration. Those children received a 45-minute

math intervention every second day.

As the interventionist, Ms. Lana Steiner, worked closely with classroom teachers through the years, strong conversations frequently emerged around individual students and general classroom instruction to address the student’s progression of learning.

To further support classroom instruction, a number of math manipulatives were purchased for each classroom with the staff goal of creating purposeful small group instruction. To ensure the manipulative investment was integrated in Guided Math, Jason Trost arranged a personalized math professional development called a “Lunch-in”. Over the course of a morning and noon hour, Jason covered classes to free up each math teacher to work closely with the interventionist, Lana Steiner, Math Coach Cindy Smith, and Digital Learning Coach Michelle Morley. Teachers were given opportunities to use the manipulatives, explore meaningful games and activities that specifically support numeracy outcomes. They could reflect on difficulties in student learning, and brainstorm ways to bridge the gaps in understanding. These collaborative conversations, sharing of resources, and shared expertise will enrich math instruction at Springside School.

In May of 2016, the grade 6 class had nine students below level according to the GSSD screeners; in 2017 there are two. The math journey is far from over but Springside School is now able to answer the question, “how does your school do in math?”



INTERNAL PROCESS FOCUS

Strategic Focus

GSSD is committed to provide equitable, balanced opportunities among schools, students and staff.

Long-term Goals

- By June 2020, GSSD will increase service to students and schools through development, revision and refinement of processes with an aim to improve communication, efficiency, and equity.

BUDGET 2017-2018

Budget discussions have formally been underway since the Ministry announced its' funding to school divisions on March 22. Since that time, numerous meetings have been held to discuss staffing allocations and department plans to incorporate the funding reduction to grants and the increase in operating costs of approximately \$3 M.

At the meeting on April 13, the Board had approved a one-time retirement incentive for teachers on continuing contracts who are eligible to retire as of June 30, 2017. This incentive was successful and the Division is now able to finalize teacher staffing for 2017-2018 without having to declare a teacher redundant. In addition, given the Board's agreement to forego recruiting of Administrators for this one year under the requirements of Board Policy 15, the placement of Administrator's in vacant positions has occurred in a timely manner which has then allowed for final teacher staffing placements to be completed, for the most part, prior to May 19.

The Board will be reviewing its' governance budget in detail at the Regular Board Meeting on May 18 along with additional information pertaining to transportation services. The Board will be reviewing the final budget at a Special Board Meeting on June 8 which will allow time for consideration and further clarification in advance of the Regular Board meeting on June 15 at which time it is anticipated that the budget will be approved for submission to the Ministry.

A series of Regional meetings are tentatively planned for the week of June 19 to layout the budget plan to the School Community Councils.

STUDENT AND FAMILY FOCUS

Strategic Focus

GSSD exists to provide the highest level of student learning & well-being. All students will experience learning environments rich in the opportunities and experiences necessary to promote intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth.

Long-term Goals

- By June 2020, at least 85% of GSSD students will be at grade level in reading, writing and math.
- By June 2020, at least 90% of students exiting Kindergarten in GSSD will be ready for learning.
- By June 2020, GSSD will achieve a 3-year graduation rate of 85%.
- By June 2020, <10% of GSSD students will report being affected/impacted by depression and anxiety.

RECIPIENT OF THE SASKATCHEWAN AGRICULTURE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP



Brayden Fraser of Churchbridge Public School was a recipient of the 2017 Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship valued at \$2,000. Visit the [Government of Saskatchewan website](#) to view the article released on May 1, 2017. Congratulations Brayden!

The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation highlighted Churchbridge School's Agriculture in the Classroom program which Brayden is a part of. To view the YouTube video click on the following link: [The Teacher Project | Amanda's Story](#).

QUALITY DAILY PHYSICAL EDUCATION (QDPE) AWARDS

The Saskatchewan Physical Education Association (SPEA) and Physical and Health Education Canada (PHE Canada) would like to congratulate the following schools within the Good Spirit School Division for qualifying for the 2016-2017 Quality Daily Physical Education (QDPE) Award: Churchbridge Public School, Columbia School, Invermay School, M.C. Knoll School, Macdonald School, Miller School, P.J. Gillen School, and Yorkdale Central School.

In order to qualify for the award, the school physical education program had to meet or exceed all of the Ministry of Educations' current physical education curriculum guidelines as well as supplementing these curricular activities with intramurals, extra-curricular physical activity, and quality instruction. These schools have joined a select number of schools from within Saskatchewan and Canada who have made the commitment to provide a high quality physical education program for their students.

QDPE programs have a strong emphasis on the aims of

the physical education curriculum which includes skillful movement, relationships, and active living. Physical literacy is also a foundational element that supports quality physical education instruction. Children who attain high levels of physical literacy early in life have a greater opportunity to be active lifelong learners throughout their whole lives. A strong physical education program helps

students maintain a healthy sense of well-being and fitness.

Healthy students have a greater focus to learn and thus do better in their academic pursuits.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners!



HOPE, HONOUR AND HEROES Mental Health Awareness Walk at Macdonald School

On Saturday, May 13, 2017 Macdonald School hosted the second annual Hope, Honour and Heroes Walk. The walk is in honour of those individuals, past and present, who suffer from mental illness. Funds raised from the walk go towards supporting mental health initiatives within the school, community, and province. Macdonald School uses the walk as a culmination of the school's efforts to combat student anxiety and depression. The school is taking part in GSSD's FRIENDS pilot project to help support positive mental health instruction at the school level. The implementation of a school wide (Kindergarten - Grade 9) mental health curriculum at the school has been in place for the past year. This initiative is also supported by the Macdonald School Community Council, the community of Stockholm, Social Services, Mental Health, and the Sunrise Health Region.

The walk at the school is held in honour of Scott Hegedus, a former student of Macdonald School, who passed away from his struggles with mental health. Scott's family still resides in Stockholm and they have been instrumental in keeping his legacy alive at the school level and within the community. A new mental health teaching gazebo built with the support of his family was dedicated to the school and the community at this year's walk. Every part of the gazebo has a connection to the life of Scott and the hope is for all to have a brighter future. The support of the Good Spirit School Division was also recognized.

Macdonald School is part of the Comprehensive School Community Health umbrella and the financial and instructional support for positive mental health initiatives has been greatly appreciated! This walk is an example of the great things that can happen when there is collaboration between all educational stakeholders supporting the unique learning and personal needs of its' students.



Mental Health Gazebo at Macdonald School

POWER OF IDEAS TOUR

Yorkton Regional High School was very fortunate to be accepted as a host for the Power of Ideas Tour, a traveling science show that worked its way across Canada and stopped at 60 schools. The Power of Ideas Tour is a joint partnership between Perimeter Institute and Actua and is part of the larger Innovation150 initiative celebrating Canada's 150th birthday. Mr. Wayne Clark, Senior Science Teacher at YRHS, masterminded this week of cutting edge science exploration along with the help of Ms. Cindy Smith, GSSD Math and Science coach. The science topics targeted students in Grades 7-12 and included:

- **Power of Ideas Exhibition** — An engaging exhibition from Perimeter Institute with hands-on, mind-expanding activities that spanned a whole gymnasium. Hundreds of youth and their families explored the cosmic speed limit, the mysteries of dark matter, black holes – and even more importantly, the power of ideas, big and small.
- **Innovation Presentation** - An inspirational talk that drew on stories from Canada's past and present to explore the tools and traits you need to turn ideas into reality.
- **Actua Maker Mobile** — A moving maker space packed with exciting, cutting-edge technology that encouraged youth to experiment and build with hands-on learning. Students had a unique opportunity to learn how to create and prototype using design software, and watch their inventions come to life with 3D printers and laser cutters.
- **Go! Science Outreach** The Saskatchewan Science Centre's Go! Science Outreach team gave presentations that were very interactive, including the science of grain elevator explosions as well as robot construction.

In addition to the jam-packed exhibits and shows that were part of the tour, Mr. Clark arranged sessions with an RCMP Accident Reconstructionist, who demonstrated the application of calculus and physics to real work that RCMP do during traffic investigations. There was a session on engineering, featuring a female engineer who talked about career opportunities for women in science, as well as a show put on by our very successful YRHS Robotics students and their teacher, Mr. Chiasson.

Over the course of three days, YRHS hosted over 2,000 students, including nearly every school in GSSD and

Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division. The students had the opportunity to explore and ask questions. The demos were dynamic and interactive.

The hosts of the tour included six young scientists with backgrounds in Marine Biology, Neuroscience and Quantum Physics, and one stage show manager who came straight from Cirque de Soliel! These folks did an amazing job engaging our students and opening a world of possibilities to them.

We were so pleased to have this opportunity in our division. Thanks to Wayne Clark and Cindy Smith who worked tirelessly to make this happen! Mr. Clark is retiring next year; this was certainly a fitting way to leave a legacy of passion about science and hands-on learning!



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Strategic Focus

GSSD believes that we are all accountable. Board members, students, staff, families and community members have a responsibility, both individually and as part of the learning team, to participate and to contribute positively to public schools.

Long-term Goals

- By June 2020, GSSD will implement division wide approaches to find efficiencies and increase value-add in order for the division to be responsive to the challenges of student and staff needs.

SILVER STREAM SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

It's been a building year at Silver Stream Colony School. There is one more piece of the puzzle being added this spring. The playground equipment that was at Hoffman School in Langenburg has been moved to Silver Stream Colony School! Thank you to the men of Silver Stream Colony for all their hard work taking down and moving all of the playground equipment to the colony in two days. The students, colony members and Mrs. Heather Mund are very excited and thankful to have this structure for the kids to play on.



The ground was filled and levelled before the equipment was transported from Langenburg



Focusing
in on ...

THE GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

It is no secret that Administrative Assistants are integral members of every school team. They are often the first point of contact for the public and thus serve as the ambassadors for our schools and school division. GSSD Administrative Assistants are masters at multi-tasking and time management. They are somehow able to keep everyone organized and calm, despite the natural chaos that can exist within a regular school day.

Administrative Assistants are the friendly smile and caring face for our students. They know the students by name and intuitively understand what each one of them needs. Often they are the voice of encouragement and sound advice for both students and their parents. Not only do our families rely on their care and expertise but likewise each member of a school staff does as well.

GSSD Administrative Assistants are experts in many computer programs including Maplewood, SchoolCash, Bellamy, and Microsoft Office. They work tirelessly to ensure that school administrators are supported so they can be successful in their jobs. Our Administrative Assistants often have a hand in the organization of hot lunch programs, fund raising projects, special events transportation, booking of substitutes and much more. The significant contributions of these individuals make them the foundation in our schools...they are the glue that holds the school family together!

Everyday's An
ADVENTURE
When You're An
**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**





Your positive, caring, hardworking characteristics are greatly appreciated!

GSSD FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

Our Motto

Students Come First

Our Mission

Building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures

Our Values

Belonging, Respect, Responsibility, Learning, Nurturing

Our Vision

Learning Without Limits...Achievement For All