

# IN FOCUS

WITH GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

WELCOME BACK!

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

I recognize that staff may have returned to school with some trepidation about what the school year may hold. I understand that the last several years have been very challenging. To maintain a psychologically healthy and safe workplace for everyone while maintaining a work-life balance, GSSD has embarked on a new Well at Work initiative. I invite you to learn more about this initiative by viewing the [GSSD Well at Work Initiative video](#).

This fall, Good Spirit staff had two opportunities to participate in division-wide professional development (PD), collaborative learning, and anti-racism/anti-oppressive education guest speaker presentations. Inside this issue of the In Focus, you will see the many PD sessions led mainly by exceptional GSSD staff.

School staff have been very creative when acknowledging and planning their amazing events during Provincial Students' Day, International Literacy Day, National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, World Mental Health Day, Education Week, Bus Driver Appreciation Day, Saskatchewan Libraries Week, School Sports Week, and Digital Citizenship Week. You will find some of these events highlighted on school and division social platforms and within this publication.

Saskatchewan school divisions were asked to provide feedback to the Education Sector on the new Provincial Education Plan. I want to thank the stakeholders who were able to join the 2022-23 Provincial Education Plan feedback session on October 26, 2022; your feedback has been submitted for their consideration.

I am excited about the opportunities GSSD students will have resulting from forming a new partnership with the Regina District Industry Education Council and signing a new Education Service Agreement with Cote First Nation. These two partnerships will have a positive impact on student learning and well-being and contribute to GSSDs Vision of Learning Without Limits...Achievement for All.

I am grateful to all GSSD employees for providing safe, welcoming environments for all students and to all parents/caregivers for entrusting your children with us daily! I would like to wish you a fantastic rest of the school year!

**Quintin M. Robertson**  
Director of Education



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## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

By June 30, 2023:

- 25% more students will exit Kindergarten at appropriate development (green) than when entering Kindergarten.
- there will be 10% more Grade 1 to 3 students reading at or above grade level as compared to fall 2022 data.
- there will be 2% more Grade 4, 7, & 9 students writing at or above grade level compared to the June 2022 data.
- there will be 2% more Grade 2, 5, & 8 students at or above grade level in math compared to the June 2022 data.
- the number of students in Grades 4 to 12 reporting high levels of anxiety will reduce by 2% from spring 2022 data.
- the three-year graduation rate will increase by 2% from the June 2022 data.
- the three-year graduation rate for self-declared Indigenous students will increase by 5% from the June 2022 data.
- the five-year graduation rate will increase by 2% from the June 2022 data.
- the five-year graduation rate for self-declared Indigenous students will increase by 5% from the June 2022 data.
- students in Grades 7 to 12 will report a 2% increase in student intellectual engagement from spring 2022 data.

## GSSD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Professional Development (PD) is an important part of high quality teaching and learning. As GSSD work towards the June 30, 2023 long term goal of committing to providing professional development and training days to staff, we have held over 32 PD opportunities so far.

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
GSSD Cyber Security Training	August 29, 2022	As cyber attacks become more eminent in our daily lives, all GSSD staff were required to take part in this training in order to keep information safe, and know how to identify potential threats.
GSSD Sponsored Keynote Speaker: Introduction to Anti-Racism: Creating Safe Spaces for all	August 29, 2022	Dr. Sheelah McLean provided critical examination of three common myths about racism and inequality. Using specific examples, we analyzed how colonial myths show in our schools, and what we can do as educators to begin to address them.
Heggerty Training	August 29, 2022	During this session participants learned how to use the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Primary Manual. A practical session looking at using the resource to build phonemic and phonological awareness skills in the classroom.
Website Training	August 29 & October 11, 2022	With the implementation of new GSSD websites, administrators and administrative assistants took part in this session to get to know the details and how to maintain the new sites.
Anti-Racism: Continuing the Conversation	August 29, 2022	This session explored the concepts and ongoing effects of systemic racism and oppression in Canada. Systems of power and oppression impact our lives today.
Strategies to Promote Early Language and Early Literacy Skills	August 29, 2022	A fun afternoon of language learning! Participants learned practical strategies to use in the classroom to build early language and early literacy skills.
Using GSSD resources to integrate Social Emotional Learning outcomes into your classroom instruction	August 29, 2022	The presentation provided the theory behind the importance of Social-Emotional Learning and how it impacts student achievement.

## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
So, You Want to be an In-School Administrator	August 29, 2022	A session for anyone aspiring to become an In-School Administrator. The GSSD Leadership Framework was explored and questions were answered about administration and leadership.
Everyone's an Asset Builder	August 29, 2022	In this session, positive supports and strengths that young people need to succeed are identified and focused on.
Up and Down the Worry Hill	August 29, 2022	A session about normalizing and not giving into the cycle of escape and avoidance. With many things in life that create anxiety, nervousness, and discomfort, knowing how to provide an opportunity to grow through these discomforts is key.
Using the Expanding Expression Tool and Story Grammar Marker in the classroom: A Make and Take session	August 29, 2022	Expanding on the multisensory tools that are Expanding Expression Tool (EET) and Story Grammar Marker (SGM). Each tool was reviewed in depth.
Circle of Courage	August 29, 2022	The Circle of Courage is a model of positive youth development first described in the book Reclaiming Youth at Risk, co-authored by Larry Brendtro, Martin Brokenleg, and Steve Van Bockern.
National Film Board Campus, Curio and Gale Webinar: an in-depth review of digital content, lesson plans and teacher tools	August 29, 2022	Participants learned extensive features of the digital platforms National Film Board, Curio and Gale; how to effectively search for content as well as how to integrate into instruction in class and through Google classroom.
Gender and Sexual Diversity: Deepening the Discussion	August 29, 2022	This session focused on deepening one's understanding of identity as it relates to gender and sexual orientation.
Supporting English as an Additional Language (EAL) Learners in the Classroom: Goal Setting and the Common Framework of Reference (CFR)	August 29, 2022	This presentation explored instructional strategies to support English language acquisition for EAL students in the classroom using CFR Continuums as a guide for setting goals and achieving growth.
Teaching Tools to Engage All Students and Reduce Stress	August 29, 2022	This presentation focused on tools to engage learners and ensure they are able to build independent learning skills.



## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
“Rethinking Why We Choose Books In School”: Diversifying Literature for Book Clubs	August 29, 2022	This session focused on the importance of shifting our practice and diversifying literature to increase student engagement and improve mental well-being.
Getting into Coding...A microBIT at a Time	August 29, 2022	Participants gained hands-on experience with Microbits and the online block coding software platform, <a href="http://makecode.microbit.org">makecode.microbit.org</a> .
An Introduction to Building Thinking Classrooms in Grades 7-12	August 29, 2022	This session was an introduction to Peter Liljedahl’s Thinking Classroom framework. Participants learned four major forces that shape a thinking classroom.
Edsby Gradebook’s Grader Introductory Session	August 30, 2022	A pop-up session for Grade 7-12 Teachers who wanted to have an introduction to a new feature in Edsby.
Levelled Literacy Intervention Training	September 9, 2022	This session provided training for teachers to effectively instruct Levelled Literacy.
Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment Training	September 16, 2022	The purpose of this session is to provide training for teachers to effectively administer the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment.
Accreditation Seminar: Initial and Renewal	September 21 & 22, October 12 & 13, 2022	Teachers were able to learn or renew their accreditation.
SEL: Self-Reflecting & Taking Action, Exploring Goggle Chrome, & Targeted Behaviour	October 11, 2022	Participants examined Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) by completing a self-reflection and making an action plan to target modeling SEL with students.
Professional Learning Community	October 11, 2022	The Library Techs met in person to participate in professional learning and sharing including a “book swap”, a “how to” around diversity audits and a focus on creating inclusive libraries.
Professional Growth Plan Process for Professional Development Continuum Walkthrough	October 11, 2022	In this session, Form 412-3 Professional Growth, was talked through in detail.

## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
Prekindergarten Professional Learning Community	October 11, 2022	The PreK teachers joined together for a morning of Professional Development and sharing. The topic of inclusivity in early childhood education was explored.
MySchoolSask & Edsby	October 11, 2022	This presentation, for administrative assistants, focused on how to best assist schools and families in proper data keeping and new features.
Transfer Lift & Repositioning Certification	October 11, 2022	Staff members were provided guidance and training for effective lift, transfer, and handling techniques for specific students.
Under One Sun	October 11, 2022	Rhonda Smallchild took participants through a tour of the Under One Sun resource that GSSD recently purchased for all schools.
Take Action for Reconciliation	October 11, 2022	Cornelia Laliberte presented on how this resource can be used in the classroom to further student understanding and knowledge of Indigenous people.
Anti-racism/anti-oppressive education: Bubbling Up	October 11, 2022	This session explored the relational work alongside Indigenous youth that Dr. Sean Lessard has engaged with over the course of his career.
Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Refresher Training	October 19, 2022	In this one-day session participants reviewed strategies for safely defusing anxious, dysregulated, hostile, or violent behavior at the earliest possible stage.
Violence Threat Risk Assessment Level 1 Training	October 24 & 25, 2022	This two-day training taught community partners (mental health, social services, youth probation, RCMP, Yorkton Tribal Council, and relevant staff, etc.) the multidisciplinary process of determining whether a threat maker actually poses a risk to a target(s) they have threatened.
Friends Resilience Training	October 27, 2022	Friends Resilience is a research-based anxiety and depression prevention program that aligns with the Health Curriculum. This training was for teachers in Grades 1, 4 and 6 who had not been trained.



## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

### CAREER EXPLORATIONS 2022

After two long awaited years, we were so excited to have Career Explorations back up and running in full force! We had over 1,500 students attending from across school divisions in East Central Saskatchewan. The day kicked off at the Gallagher Centre at 9:30 a.m. with over 70 booths ready to share their knowledge with the students.

While booths were sharing information in the Flexihall, over 20 presentations took place upstairs in the conference rooms of the Gallagher Centre. Universities, colleges and cooperations did a fantastic job at inspiring the leaders of tomorrow.

Students were encouraged to ask questions by participating in a Career Explorations Bingo. The more questions asked to vendors, the more chances of winning some awesome door prizes, including an iPad!



Photo above: Mark Forsythe and Donna Court from GSSD.



Photo above: A busy Flexihall as students engage with vendors!



Photo above: Representatives from Parkland College share a friendly smile.



Photo above: Chad from CTCS waves hello!



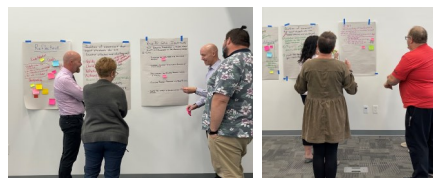
Photo above: Mark Forsythe with the Grade 11's from Preeceville School.

Photo above: Terrain from Kamsack Comprehensive Institute took home the iPad!

Thank you to Legacy Co-op for sponsoring this event, and to GSSD's partners; Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools (CTCS) and Parkland College. From putting welcome bags together, to making sure the day ran smoothly, we appreciate everyone's help in the community for making this event a success!

### ACCREDITATION SEMINAR

Grade 12 teachers in Saskatchewan schools must be accredited in their subject area in order to administer their own final exams. For the first time this year, we were able to host our own Accreditation Seminar at the Good Spirit Education Complex for Good Spirit School Division teachers. Kendra Helfrich, Instructional Coach with GSSD, is a trained Accreditation Facilitator and was able to facilitate the seminar with the support of a colleague from Saskatoon. A total of 13 teachers participated in four days of learning and discussion on best practices in assessment while working towards their accreditation.



Photos: Participants work together to analyze and assess. Engaged learning is achieved by grouping participants together and utilizing sticky notes and prompts.

### FOUNTAS & PINNELL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On Friday, September 24, 2022, Kerrilyn Trost offered Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment training. GSSD provides this training to teachers who are new to administering the assessment. Since this is a standardized assessment, the training is vital for the results to be valid. The Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment assesses both decoding and comprehension and is used to guide instruction and determine reading levels for students in GSSD. The training also includes a follow-up coach visit with a side-by-side assessment and conversation on how to use the results to address students' reading instruction.





## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

### SUMMER READING CONTEST



This summer the students of Good Spirit School Division had the chance to enter the Summer Reading Contest. Every book borrowed from their local library was another chance to enter to be able to win one of three \$100 gift cards to Indigo.

There were 494 entries for the contest! On International Literacy Day, September 8, 2022, Susan Robertson, Curriculum Consultant, from GSSD headed out to Churchbridge Public School, P.J. Gillen School, and Saltcoats School to personally deliver the prizes and congratulate the winners. Check out the winners below!



*Photo above: Susan Robertson and Conner from Churchbridge.*



*Photo above: Susan Robertson and Kaybria from P.J. Gillen.*



*Photo above: Susan Robertson and Lynn from Saltcoats.*

### NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION DAY 2022

Good Spirit School Division was excited to welcome new teachers to GSEC (Good Spirit Education Complex) on August 24, 2022. They spent the day with Jason Trost, Superintendent of Human Resources, and officially became apart of the GSSD family. The teachers got to meet fellow employees of GSSD by completing a scavenger hunt around the Education Complex.



*Photo to the left: Jason Trost speaks to the room of fellow GSSD employees.*



*Photo above: The new teachers gather in the Birch Room at the Good Spirit Education Complex*



*Photo above: New teachers engage with Jesse Armstrong and Clorice Delorme, GSSD's Indigenous Student Success Consultants.*



*Photo above: A new teacher engages with Michelle Morley & Shawn Kostiuk, GSSD's Digital Learning Consultants (back table) and Shaune Beatty, Superintendent (front table)*

After lunch, new teachers had the chance to engage with some of the consultants, coaches and superintendents at GSSD by participating in "Speed Questioning." Each group had three minutes to ask questions, then it was time to switch tables!

## ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

By June 30, 2023:

- there will be a 2% increase in student attendance based on the 2021-2022 data.
- GSSD will deepen relationships with families and communities by increasing our understanding of Indigenous identities, histories, and worldviews.
- GSSD will deepen relationships with families and communities by engaging in authentic opportunities to promote student intellectual, physical, social-emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being.
- GSSD will demonstrate a commitment to the establishment of new and reaffirmed partnerships such as Regina District Industry Education Council, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, Early Years Engagement Network, and Indigenous Advisory Council.

### EDUCATION SERVICE AGREEMENT SIGNING BETWEEN GSSD & COTE FIRST NATION

The Good Spirit School Division and representatives from the Cote First Nation have been meeting since September 2020 to co-construct a comprehensive service agreement. The agreement is founded on respect, transparency, and accountability as both parties strive to provide equitable and balanced opportunities for Indigenous students living on Cote First Nation attending a GSSD school. This agreement will be a model agreement as the Division works with other First Nations in the region. A formal signing ceremony was held at Kamsack Comprehensive Institute on October 11, 2022.



*Left photo: Mark Lucas and Delvina Whitehawk exchange a hug while Quintin Robertson, Jonas Cote and Chief George Cote interact.*

*Right Photo: Quintin Robertson, Delvina Whitehawk, Jaime Johnson and Chief George Cote interact after signing the agreement.*



*Left photo: Quintin Robertson, Delvina Whitehawk, Jaime Johnson and Chief George Cote sign the agreement.*

*Right photo: Quintin Robertson welcomes everyone to the signing, with Robert Severight and the drum group from Cote First Nation.*



*Left photo: A group photo of attendees, all coming together to celebrate and commemorate the signing of the Education Service Agreement between Cote First Nation and Good Spirit School Division.*





## Education Service Agreement Signing

October 11, 2022  
Kamsack Comprehensive Institute  
Kamsack, SK



Cote First Nation #366  
PO Box 1659, Kamsack, SK, S0A 1S0  
Telephone (306) 542-2694, Fax (306) 542-3735



Good Spirit School Division  
5B Schrader Drive, Yorkton, SK, S3N 3Z4  
Telephone (306) 786-5500, FAX (306) 783-0355

### Welcoming

- Quintin Robertson, Director of Education, Good Spirit School Division

### Opening Prayer

- Vincent Cadotte, Councillor and Knowledge Keeper, Cote First Nation

### Drum Group

- Robert Severight, Councillor, Cote First Nation

### Introduction of Dignitaries

- Chief George Cote, Cote First Nation
- Chief Isabel O'Soup, Yorkton Tribal Council
- Jaime Johnson, Board Chair, Good Spirit School Division
- Delvina Whitehawk, Councillor, Cote First Nation
- Brian Shingoose, Councillor, Cote First Nation
- Joseph Cote, Councillor, Cote First Nation
- Vincent Cadotte, Councillor, Cote First Nation
- Pamela Whitehawk, Councillor, Cote First Nation
- Robert Severight, Councillor, Cote First Nation

### Introduction of Cote First Nation and Good Spirit School Division Staff

- Faith Watson, Executive Director, Treaty Education Alliance
- Valerie Cote, Education Coordinator, Cote First Nation
- Mick Parmar, Superintendent of Schools, Good Spirit School Division
- Mark Lucas, Principal of Kamsack Comprehensive Institute, Good Spirit School Division
- Laura Reilkoff, Vice Principal of Kamsack Comprehensive Institute, Good Spirit School Division
- Karie Thomas, Principal of Victoria School, Good Spirit School Division
- Jonas Cote, Principal of Chief Gabriel Cote School, Cote First Nation
- Jesse Armstrong, Indigenous Student Success Consultant, Good Spirit School Division
- Clorice Delorme, Indigenous Student Success Consultant, Good Spirit School Division
- Andrew Quewezance, Cultural Advocate, Good Spirit School Division
- Cliff Crane, Cultural Coordinator, Yorkton Tribal Council and Good Spirit School Division
- Tiare Laporte, Indigenous Student Success Lead, Kamsack Comprehensive Institute, Good Spirit School Division
- Lana Kulak, Indigenous Community Work, Good Spirit School Division

### Signing of Education Service Agreement

- Chief George Cote, Cote First Nation
- Delvina Whitehawk, Councillor, Cote First Nation
- Jaime Johnson, Board Chair, Good Spirit School Division
- Quintin Robertson, Director of Education, Good Spirit School Division

### Honour Song

- Robert Severight, Councillor, Cote First Nation

### Lunch

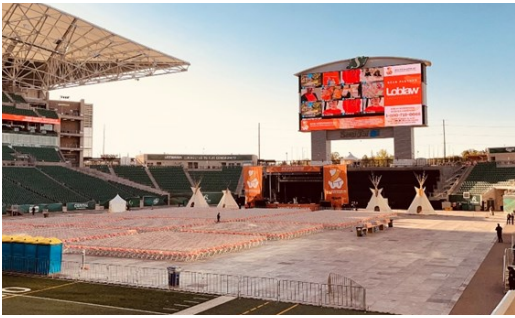
- Kamsack Comprehensive Institute Gym



# ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

## NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

September 30, 2022, marked the second National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, also recognized as Orange Shirt Day. The day is an important step in the reconciliation process, as it allows us to pause and recognize the intergenerational harm that residential schools have caused to Indigenous families and communities.



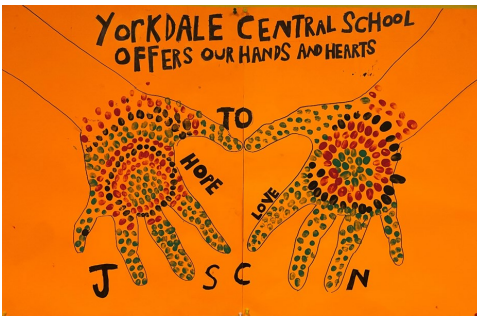
Across the Division, staff and students took actionable steps towards reconciliation. GSSD Schools spent the week leading up to September 30th learning about reconciliation and taking part in events that were held across the city and province.

*Photo to the left: Some schools attended Miyo-Wiciwitowin Day at Mosaic Stadium in Regina, Saskatchewan. The agenda for the day included a multitude of speakers, traditional dancers, and drum groups.*

### Truth and Reconciliation Activity:

Students, staff, families, and schools of GSSD were encouraged to answer the question “What Does Reconciliation Mean to You?”. The purpose of this challenge was to inspire everyone to creatively express what reconciliation means to them and allow them to begin imagining a future of togetherness among Indigenous Peoples, and all Canadians, regardless of race, culture or religion.

Indigenous Student Success Consultants, Jesse Armstrong and Clorice Delorme received over 50 entries. Winners will be announced within the coming weeks.



*Photo above: Yorkdale placed their fingerprints on this poster to create a message of hope.*



*Photo above: Staff at YRHS recognized Truth and Reconciliation by wearing their Orange Shirts.*



*Photo above: Staff at GSEC took their lunch hour to learn about the history of beading.*



*Photos to the left: Langenburg Central School created an orange chain that read “every child matters” on every piece of paper. The linked chain is representative of showing how we are all part of working towards reconciliation together.*

## ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

### GSSD & GOOD SPIRIT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION LINC AGREEMENT

The current GSSD & Good Spirit Teachers' Association (GSTA) LINC agreement expired on June 30, 2018. The LINC bargaining committee, with representatives from the GSTA, GSSD Senior Administration, and the Board of Education, conducted interest-based bargaining on March 29, April 26, and May 17, 2022. All contract items were reviewed and discussed in a collaborative effort to ensure a clear understanding and address the concerns of both parties. A tentative agreement was reached and presented to the GSTA membership on May 24, 2022. GSTA members accepted the proposed agreement overwhelmingly, with 98.5% in favour. GSSD Board ratified the agreement at their Organizational Meeting on August 18, 2022.

#### Summary of changes:

- 3-year term, one year retroactive
- Language updated to reflect current practice and gender neutrality
- Addition of 'in-laws' and 'step' to the definition of an immediate family
- Discretion to use five earned days off consecutively
- Hazardous road days to be accessed from the point of residence. Days may also be used outside of the point of residence if the local authority does not recommend travel
- GSTA representative will attend Division initiated transfers meetings

#### Other actions not in the formal agreement:

- GSTA representative collaborated with GSSD Senior Administration and In-school Administration to develop guidelines related to items such as recess and noon hour supervision ratios
- GSTA representatives collaborated with GSSD Senior Administration and In-school Administration to review and revise the allocation of school-based release days for Fountas & Pinnell Assessment, Early Years Evaluation Assessment, Transition Meetings and Inclusion and Intervention Plan Meetings



### THE REGINA DISTRICT INDUSTRY EDUCATION COUNCIL (RDIEC)

The *Regina District Industry Education Council* (RDIEC) connects education and industry to provide increased opportunities for students to learn about future career pathways. As RDIEC's newest affiliate partner, GSSD joins other school divisions across south Saskatchewan in being able to offer these increased opportunities within our local communities, businesses, and schools. Program Facilitator Thad Swidzinski, will be organizing events such as Career Spotlights with local businesses. Stay tuned for further updates on this exciting new initiative!

For more information, please visit [www.rdiec.ca](http://www.rdiec.ca) or contact Thad Swidzinski, Program Facilitator ([thad.swidzinski@gssd.ca](mailto:thad.swidzinski@gssd.ca), (306) 621-7064) or Kristen Myers, Curriculum Consultant ([kristen.myers@gssd.ca](mailto:kristen.myers@gssd.ca), (306) 786-4777).





## ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

### TERRY FOX WALK & RUN

On September 18, 2022, schools across Good Spirit School Division raised funds by organizing a Terry Fox Run. Schools carried signs and walked through the streets of their local cities to bring awareness to an amazing cause, and continue the legacy of Terry Fox. Since 1980, The Terry Fox Run has raised over \$850 million dollars. As a Division, we are proud to contribute to that number every single year. Funds raised go towards cancer research in Canada and through the legacy of Terry Fox, GSSD students, staff and schools will continue to support the cause of bringing hope and health to millions of Canadians.

**Anything's  
possible if  
you try.**



#### From Miller School to M.C. Knoll:

Miller School and M.C. Knoll came together on Friday, September 23, 2022, to gain an appreciation for Terry Fox's sacrifices by putting together a staff relay. The relay started at Miller School in Melville and spanned all the way to M.C. Knoll School in Yorkton. The run commenced at 8:45 am with students outside Miller, ready to cheer on their teachers! The runners involved were Chad Lechner, Stuart Wilson, Sharon Roach, Michael Wilk, and Lorraine Huang, with support from Quintin Robertson, Shaune Beatty, Darren Wandy, Michael Sweatman, Angela Morgan, and Phil Adams.



*Photo above: Staff and the local RCMP gather outside Miller School to begin the run.*



*Photo above: A smiling GSSD staff member runs down Highway 10 followed by a police escort.*

The goal of the run was to become role models for students and create awareness of what Terry Fox accomplished. As 42 years has passed, we must remember all that Terry Fox did. It is our responsibility to continue his legacy! While fundraising may be a by-product of this endeavor, it is not the primary goal.

*Photo below: Michael Wilk high fives the M.C. Knoll students as the relay comes to a close!*



The joint efforts of Miller, Melville Comprehensive, and M.C. Knoll Schools raised over \$3,500!

An honourable mention to M.C. Knoll who raised over \$2,000 for cancer research in Canada.

**“When Terry stopped running, it is up to all of us to continue.”**

## ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

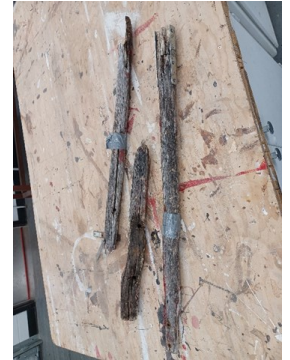
### HISTORIC PLOW GETS AN OVERHAUL: ESTERHAZY HIGH SCHOOL PARTNERS WITH LOCAL MUSEUM



*Photo above: The three EHS students and Dave Moore stand with the plow in front of the Esterhazy Flour Mill.*

Three students from Esterhazy High School (Ashton Carriere-Chaisson, Kaden Plaquin and Jack Chretien) with Dave Moore, president of the Esterhazy Museum (pictured to the left), undertook the restoration of a local historic plow. On behalf of the local museum, Bob Unchulenko approached Kent Daniel, Esterhazy High School Practical Applied Arts teacher, wondering if any students would be interested in partnering with the museum on this project.

The basic plow was intact, but the wooden handles were nothing more than firewood (photo to the right). The boys recreated and installed new wooden handles. With some critical thinking, some trial and error, the use of some modern hand tools, paint, and of course some good old fashioned labour, these boys helped ensure this historic plow will be around for future generations to learn about Saskatchewan's historic past.



This plow came to the Kolin district (south of Esterhazy) in 1887 and was shared by three families who used it to break up the prairie sod and start their new lives in a new territory. The plow, originally donated to the Museum by Karl & Edna Hendrich, now has a new future and will continue to educate future generations about our historical past.

*Photo to the left: "The Sod Breaking Plow." A plaque states the history of the plow and what future students can learn from it.*

### JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF LIBRARY SERVICES

On August 16, 2022, the Village of Grayson, Parkland Regional Library, and the Good Spirit School Division met to sign a new joint venture agreement. The agreement will allow a branch of the Parkland Regional Library to operate from Grayson School.

All patrons will have the right to borrow from both library collections. Good Spirit School Division will provide public access to the library and will ensure full accessibility to the facility, including wheelchair access, thanks to the GSSD Facilities Department.

With the goal of opening the library in November, the agreement will be reviewed after six months, and after the initial review, the agreement will be renewed annually.

GSSD is very excited to be able to bring more books, learning, and knowledge to not only Grayson School, but the Village of Grayson as well. Thank you to everyone involved in making this agreement a success!



*Names (L-R): Colleen Stinson, Village Administrator, Charlotte Raine, Parkland Regional Library Consultant, Sara Campbell, Principal of Grayson School, Lisa Wotherspoon, Superintendent of Learning*

*Front: Laura O'Brien, Parkland Regional Library Executive Chair*



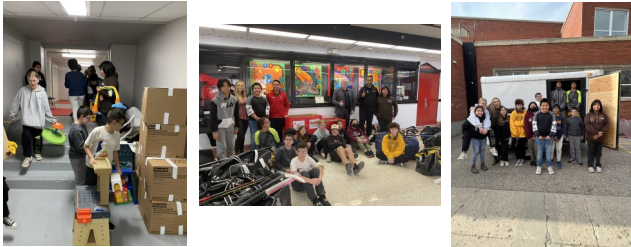
ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

**DR. BRASS SCARES AWAY HUNGER & HOSTS A FUNDRIVE**

Dr. Brass Building Active Leaders hosted a haunted house with the help of Mrs. Zerr's art academy. The group collected a bin full of non-perishable food items and the art students provided beautiful face painting to anyone who came. It was a great success with over 190 people attending from all over Yorkton.



*Photos above: The art students paint the faces of attendees and students help engage visitors of the haunted house!*



*Photos above: Dr. Brass students help organize all the items collected and pack the trailer full!*

Dr. Brass also hosted a FunDrive to collect non-perishable food items for the Scare Away Hunger Campaign through Royal Honda in Yorkton. Building Active Leaders helped load up all the items that were donated to the Soup Haven and distributed to schools and families in need. The trailer was packed! Special thanks to Dr. Brass School Community Council for making this happen, Syrita Emery for her organization of this drive and Tammy Kustersky for the trailer to transport.

**EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION RESULTS**

The first few months of the school year have been packed with athletics of all sorts. The Division is proud to be able to offer a plethora of sports and activities that students can engage in. Below are some results from events that have taken place.

**Senior Cross Country**

Jerin Kough from Langenburg Central School won a Silver Medal in the Junior Boys Category at Provincials  
 Eddie Baron from Yorkton Regional High School won a Bronze Medal in the Intermediate Boys Category at Provincials

**Senior Golf Districts**

- Male Category:
  - Gold- Nathan Matechuk (YRHS)
  - Silver- Ty Chisholm (SHHS)
  - Bronze- Dylan Brass (YRHS)
- Female Category:
  - Gold- Ella Kozak (SHHS)
  - Silver- Taylin Ruf (KCI)
  - Bronze- Blakely Hildebrandt (LCS)



**Junior Volleyball Districts**

- Male Category:
  - Gold- Preeceville
  - Silver- Sacred Heart
  - Bronze- Esterhazy
- Female Category:
  - Gold- MCS
  - Silver- Sacred Heart
  - Bronze- Yorkdale



## ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

### NEW SALTCOATS PLAYGROUND

Celebrations and congratulations to Saltcoats School as they officially unveiled their new playground! The journey started in the fall of 2019 with a financial goal of \$125,000. Two and a half years later, in the spring of 2022, this goal was exceeded. In the last week of June 2022, all the efforts of the community came into fruition when the structure was delivered, and then installed by a group of amazing volunteers.

A creative mind was turned to for fundraising, as in-person events weren't possible with the onset of COVID-19. Fundraising included raffles, In Good Taste, Mom's Pantry, Cowboy Caviar, Gourmet Popcorn, Little Caesar's pizza kits, chocolate almonds, hot lunches, online auctions, and more! Through the work of School Community Council (SCC) members Ashley Morrison, Alanna Arbuster, Brittany Norberg, Hiedi Fiola, Mandy Tangedal, Marilyn Herron and Tina Nabozniak and others, funds were raised. Saltcoats would like to thank the local businesses and people of the communities of Saltcoats and Bredenburg for their very generous donations. This helped greatly in reaching the targeted goal.

It was an incredible journey, and when asked if the team would do it all again, the answer is "YES!," just to see the smiles on the students' faces.

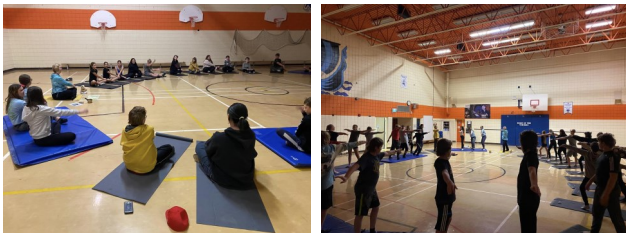
*Photos to the right: SCC members and Ron Gillis, principal of Saltcoats School, cut the ribbon for the official opening of the Saltcoats School playground!*



### ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

#### Yorkdale Central School Outdoor Learning:

The 4H class took advantage of a beautiful day and went on a nature walk. Students recorded the names of plants, insects & spiders they discovered living in their neighborhood habitat. *(right)*



#### Macdonald School Yoga:

Mrs. Petracek spent some time with the Grade 7 and 8's teaching them basic yoga poses, partner balances, and Shavasana. *(left)*



#### Norquay Kindergarten Learning:

Students in Kindergarten at Norquay School use props and toys to achieve hands-on learning. Pictured here, students are utilizing LEGO and synthetic foods to engage their minds. *(right)*



#### YRHS Thanksgiving Feast:

The Raider's hearts and tummies were full after volunteers, staff, and the YRHS SCC put on an amazing Thanksgiving feast for their fellow students and teachers! *(left)*



## HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIROMENTS

By June 30, 2023:

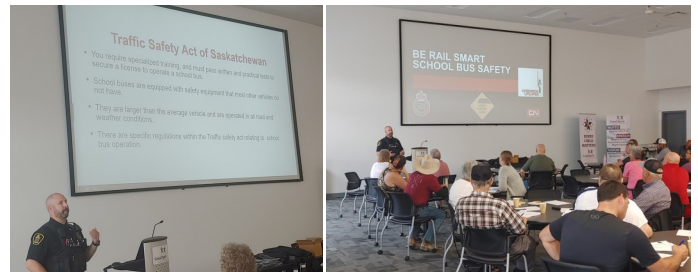
- students and staff will report feeling welcomed, safe, and included at school.
- students and staff will develop strategies for identifying emotions and accessing supports to enhance mental well-being.
- students will receive timely and responsive evidence-based prevention and intervention services at school.
- GSSD will enhance the physical facilities occupied by students and staff to ensure health and well-being.
- GSSD will establish a process for consistently responding to identity-based harassment involving students and staff.

### TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

During the months of July and August, all of the buses were taken to their respective bus garage, Yorkton or Melville. All GSSD vehicles received a thorough inspection, while our 15-passenger vans also went through an SGI safety inspection. All warranty and mechanical concerns were resolved, which ensured all vehicles were in good, safe condition and ready to start the school year.

In mid-August, a summer in-service meeting took place for the bus drivers. Paperwork and safety items were reviewed to have all drivers ready for the first day of school. A constable from the CN Police presented a wealth of information regarding rail safety, the appropriate procedures at rail crossings, and the correct contact information and procedure in the case of an incident.

The Transportation Department administrative team reviewed the routing and staffing, completing amendments to routes, due to transportation requests being received over the summer, and swapping drivers to adapt to staffing transitions.



*Above: Buses are lined up to be inspected and ready to start the 2022-23 school year.*

*Bottom two photos: Bus drivers receive training from the CN police.*

## Do you have the drive? We have the bus!

GSSD is seeking bus drivers throughout the Division. Call 306-786-5505 for more information

#### What we offer:

- training
- a dedicated team
- summer and all school holidays off
- flexibility

#### What you need:

- Criminal Record Check
- Drivers Abstract
- "S" Endorsement
- Resume



## HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIROMENTS

### FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

Throughout the summer, the GSSD Facilities team was very busy! Check out what they were up to in order to have schools ready for the fall!



#### Norquay School Home Economics Lab Renovation

The GSSD Facilities Staff renovated the existing Home Economic lab this summer. Renovations included new flooring, fresh paint, new cabinetry and appliances. With the new updates, students will be able to better learn in the kitchen and take full advantage of the beautiful facility.

#### Kamsack Comprehensive Institute Boiler Replacement

With upcoming and new technology, 16 existing conventional boilers were replaced with four near condensing modular vertical boilers. The new boilers are highly efficient and better for the environment.



#### Melville Comprehensive School Entrance

This project was designed and executed by school staff and community volunteers with support from the GSSD Facilities team. The original existing fountain was nonfunctional and needed a remodel. The fountain was replaced with custom fabricated metal letters that are attached to a bench and a concrete pad, with flags lining the background. A huge round of applause to the MCS Practical and Applied Arts staff and students that were extremely involved in this project.

#### Macdonald School Classroom Renovation

Last year, Phase 1 of this renovation was completed, which included a common space for early years learning. In Phase 2 the library and corresponding classroom was connected with newly installed doors for later years students. Both spaces received new flooring and millwork as well as lighting and a fresh coat of paint.



#### Canora Junior Elementary School, Barrier Free Changeroom and Entrance Way

At CJES, the main entrance doors were not wide enough to meet the requirements of "barrier free." The school was also in need of a barrier free change room. The entry way was fully rebuilt with new doors, windows, framing, and tin siding. Within the school a corner of former classrooms was transformed into a barrier free change room. This change room included full walls, a toilet, and sink. The sink install required jackhammering to the floor to install a sewer drain line. The room also received new paint, lighting, a new ceiling, and a change table.



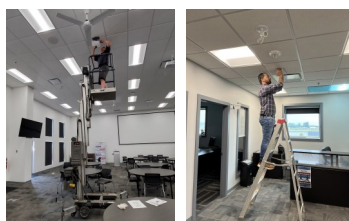
## HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIROMENTS

### TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Summers are always a busy time for the technology department as they prep for the new school year. Check out what they got up to in order to ensure the Division and schools were set for success.



Cory Stupak, GSSD's Systems Analyst, spent countless hours implementing new iPad management software. Every iPad was updated individually, making this a tedious task. *(left)*



Ravi Patel, GSSD's Network Technician, replaced the Wi-Fi access point in the Superintendent's suite. Randy Fluery, GSSD's Network Technician, replaced the access point in the Birch Room. *(Photos to the left: Randy on the left works on the access point in the Birch Room, Ravi on the right works away in the Superintendent's suite.)*

The Technology Team successfully replaced wireless access points and network switches at GSEC with an alternate option which provides the same features and functionality as the current system. All schools will receive this new equipment during the school year and in the 2023-24 year. This change will contribute approximately \$130,000 to \$150,000 to savings annually.



#### New Division and Schools' Websites:

A huge thank you to all the personnel that helped with website migration through the summer as well. With the unveiling of new sites for all schools within the Division, there was lots of hard work and hours that went on behind the scenes. We are continuing to work on the sites everyday in order to make them as user-friendly as possible!

### DR. BRASS ACADEMIES

#### Ballet Jörgen Presentation:

On September 23, 2022, Ballet Jörgen visited Dr. Brass school to present to the academies and the Kindergarten to Grade 4 students. The presentation was outstanding and received a lot of "oohs" and "ahhs." The presentation included the history of ballet, demonstrations of barre exercises, and student participation. Ballet Jorgen then performed to a sold out crowd that night at the Anne Portnuff theatre, where some GSSD students got to participate in the performance. *(right)*



#### Hockey Academy Cross-Training:

The Hockey Academy teamed up with the Dance Academy for a yoga session. It was a great way to work on flexibility and take an opportunity to block out distractions. The Hockey Academy appreciated being invited to the studio and took the opportunity to focus on themselves. A valuable lesson in sport. *(left)*



HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIROMENTS

EDUCATION WEEK 2022

“Reaching for tomorrow, celebrating today.”

Education Week provides an opportunity to recognize the work of educational professionals and celebrate the learning achievements of Saskatchewan’s students.

The province of Saskatchewan has celebrated Education Week since 1987. This year, Education Week was held October 16-22, 2022.

The theme was “Reaching for tomorrow, celebrating today,” which highlights the role of education in supporting students in reaching and building for their future and the shared future of our province. Students’ success would not be possible without the contributions from all members of the education team.



P.J. Gillen hosted a family fun night! Students and teachers worked the event and made sure the fish pond never ran dry! (left) Students fish at the pond in hopes of catching something good. (below)



Thank you!



Sturgis hosted an open house for families to attend (left). Their SRC provided an awesome dinner by putting on a BBQ for all that attended! (right).



Photos to the left: Preeceville organized Flashlight Buddy Reading in their gymnasium. All students from K-12 were paired up with buddies to read and learn together!

Thank you to teachers, parents and volunteers for working together to enhance student success in education.



Photo to the left: The Preeceville School Community Council provided a nutrition break for the students and staff, with the help of the SRC!



HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIROMENTS

**BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY: OCTOBER 17, 2022**

Education Week also housed Bus Driver Appreciation Day! GSSD bus drivers are amazing and we are thankful for the work they do to keep students safe every single day. From morning pick-ups to afternoon drop-offs and field trips, they are always looking out for the students. Check out how a few GSSD Schools celebrated below.



*Above: CJES practiced their bus evacuation drills and then treated their wonderful bus drivers to pizza!*



*Above: MCS provided breakfast sandwiches, assorted fruits and Tim Hortons coffee to their drivers. They also treated them to MCS travel mugs!*



*Above: Sturgis students created home made cards for their drivers to thank them for all they do!*



*Above: YRHS invited their Bus Drivers in to enjoy a breakfast sandwich and a coffee that morning for Bus Driver Appreciation Day.*



*Above: Drivers Laurie and Jezer were presented with a small gift of appreciation from Columbia School!*



*Above: Students from Victoria School celebrated and thanked their Bus Drivers!*

**Did you know that GSSD bus drivers transport over 2,900 students travelling more than 20,000 km each day!**

**Fast Fact: GSSD employs 130 bus drivers, including spare drivers!**



The Good Spirit School Division Transportation Department gifted all Bus Drivers these convertible blue bags, which they received on Bus Driver Appreciation Day!



## HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIROMENTS

### MEET A BUS DRIVER: WAYNE MCINNES

Bus Drivers play an important role within a school division as they are often the first and last person students come in contact with on school days, ensure the safety of students who ride the bus, and build connections with parents and administration at each school.

Throughout the 2022-23 school year, the transportation team will be highlighting drivers from across the Division.

Meet Wayne McInnes.

#### How long have you been a bus driver?

"I have been driving since September 2004, after I retired from the fire department."

#### What inspired you to be a bus driver?

"It was a reason to do something after retirement and a reason to get out of bed and do something."

#### What other interests do you have?

"I have an interest in Aviation. I have done 47 hours of flying. As a firefighter, I did fire and rescue for the Canadian Forces Snowbirds."

#### Do you have a pet?

"Yes, two German Shepherd Dogs, one Husky Shepherd cross, and two cats!"

#### What adventures over the course of your career have you found particularly satisfying?

"Interacting with the kids on my route, they keep me young."

#### If you could invite anyone to be a passenger on your bus, who would it be and why?

"I would invite Bobby Hill #9 Chicago Black Hawks. One of the best hockey players in the NHL."

#### What is your favourite travel destination?

"We love to go to Hawaii for winter vacations."

#### Would you recommend being a bus driver?

"It's an excellent job for a retired person. You have all the holidays off and time off during the routes everyday."





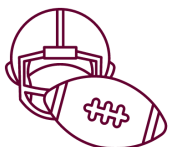
HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIROMENTS

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN GSSD

Extra curricular activities help students gain so much more than skills. They improve confidence and self esteem, they encourage personal growth and development, and they allow students to explore their interests and hobbies. At GSSD we are proud of the plethora of activities that our schools offer.

Senior Football Returns to Kamsack Comprehensive Institute:

On Friday, September 16, 2022, senior six-man football returned to KCI after an eight year hiatus. Coached by Kody Rock, Michael Woolard, and Ryan Lambert, the team is comprised of 19 students ranging from Grades 9-12. Playing in conference three, they had home games against Wynyard and Preeceville and road games in Lanigan and Viscount. There was a large crowd on hand for the first game of the season and many staff, volunteers, and community members pulled together to make the evening a memorable one. Although the Spartans fell to Wynyard 85 -58, it was great to see football back at KCI again.



Saltcoats Cross Country Summit:

On Thursday, September 29, 2022, schools from across Good Spirit School Division gathered in Saltcoats to partake in the 38th Annual Autumn Summit.

With over 750 runners registered, along with coaches and spectators, the event was a success!

To recognize Truth & Reconciliation at the event, students and staff were encouraged to wear orange, and the summit opened with speeches and a performance from a drumming group.

Students not only got to spend a day with their peers while engaging in physical activity, but they also learned about Truth and Reconciliation and honored the work we must continue to do in order to reconcile the intergenerational harm that residential schools have caused to Indigenous families and communities.



# EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

By June 30, 2022:

- GSSD will reduce barriers and enhance student success in each functional area by demonstrating improvement in services through the development, review, and revision of:
  - administrative procedures; and,
  - processes.
- GSSD will implement systemic and transparent approaches to find efficiencies and increase value for money allowing the Division to respond to the challenges of student and staff needs

## GSSD 2022-23 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Aspirational Statements & Goals specified in the Division’s 2022-23 Strategic Plan are organized within the four pillars of Comprehensive School Community Health (CSCH) and are in alignment with the Provincial Education Plan. CSCH is an internationally recognized framework for supporting improvements in students’ educational outcomes while addressing school health in a planned, integrated and holistic way.

For the Board to work towards these aspirational statements and commitments, the budget provides funding to carry out these necessary activities. The budget includes estimates for Revenue and Expenditures to support school division work in the following areas:

- High Quality Teaching and Learning;
- Engagement of All Students, Families, and Communities;
- Effective Policy and Procedures; and,
- Healthy, Sustainable Physical and Social Environments.

To view GSSD’s parent and public friendly plan: Visit [gssd.ca](http://gssd.ca) > Division > Strategic Plan

GSSD is **excited** and **proud** of the accomplishments made by students and staff. We look forward to showcasing a variety of the successes throughout the year!

**GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW 2022-2023**

**MOTTO:** Students Come First

**MISSION:** Building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures

**VISION:** Learning Without Limits... Achievement For All

**VALUES:** Belonging, Respect, Responsibility, Learning, Nurturing, Perseverance, and Diversity

**ASPIRATIONAL STATEMENTS:** High Quality Teaching and Learning; Engagement of All Students, Families, and Communities; Effective Policy and Procedures; Healthy, Sustainable Physical and Social Environments

**STRATEGIC FOCUS AND LONG-TERM GOALS**

**HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING**

By June 30, 2023:

- 25% more students will exit Kindergarten at appropriate development (green) than when entering Kindergarten.
- there will be 10% more Grade 1 to 3 students reading at or above grade level as compared to fall 2022 data.
- there will be 2% more Grade 4, 7, & 9 students writing at or above grade level compared to the June 2022 data.
- there will be 2% more Grade 2, 5, & 8 students at or above grade level in math compared to the June 2022 data.
- the number of students in Grades 4 to 12 reporting high levels of anxiety will reduce by 2% from spring 2022 data.
- the three-year graduation rate will increase by 2% from the June 2022 data.
- the three-year graduation rate for self-declared Indigenous students will increase by 5% from the June 2022 data.
- the five-year graduation rate will increase by 2% from the June 2022 data.
- the five-year graduation rate for self-declared Indigenous students will increase by 5% from the June 2022 data.
- students in Grades 7 to 12 will report a 2% increase in student intellectual engagement from spring 2022 data.

**ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES**

By June 30, 2023:

- there will be a 2% increase in student attendance based on the 2021-2022 data.
- GSSD will deepen relationships with families and communities by increasing our understanding of Indigenous identities, histories, and worldviews.
- GSSD will deepen relationships with families and communities by engaging in authentic opportunities to promote student intellectual, physical, social, emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being.
- GSSD will demonstrate a commitment to the establishment of new and reaffirmed partnerships such as Regina District Industry Education Council, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, Early Years Engagement Network, and Indigenous Advisory Council.

**HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS**

By June 30, 2023:

- students and staff will report feeling welcomed, safe, and included at school.
- students and staff will develop strategies for identifying emotions and accessing supports to enhance mental well-being.
- students will receive timely and responsive evidence-based prevention and intervention services at school.
- GSSD will enhance the physical facilities occupied by students and staff to ensure health and well-being.
- GSSD will establish a process for consistently responding to identity-based harassment involving students and staff.

**EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

By June 30, 2022:

- GSSD will reduce barriers and enhance student success in each functional area by demonstrating improvement in services through the development, review, and revision of:
  - administrative procedures; and,
  - processes.
- GSSD will implement systemic and transparent approaches to find efficiencies and increase value for money allowing the Division to respond to the challenges of student and staff needs

**BASELINES**

- In June 2022, 78% of students exiting Kindergarten were at appropriate development.
- In June 2022, 72% of students in Grades 1 to 4 were at or above grade level in reading.
- A Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) was formed in every GSSD high school.
- An Indigenous Advisory Council was formed consisting of representatives from First Nations Authorities within the Parkland area:
  - Trustees
  - Director of Education
  - Indigenous Student Success Consultants.
- The number of Administrative Procedures or Forms reviewed or updated in 2021-22 was 32.
- 47% of students attended school 95% or more of the time which is a 15% decrease compared to 2020-21.



## EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES



### GRADE RETENTION: STUDENT PROGRESS AND PLACEMENT

The Good Spirit School Division is committed to achieving its vision of Learning Without Limits...Achievement for All. The division embraces practices that positively impact student achievement. GSSD endorses the controlled and thoughtful use of grade retention in the early years (Kindergarten, Grade 1 & 2) as possible support to address learning gaps. However, GSSD is aware that research would suggest that grade retention is not the most effective intervention to improve student achievement. Over several decades, internationally renowned researcher John Hattie has studied practices that significantly impact student learning. Hattie's analysis of thousands of studies involving millions of students suggests grade retention is one of the few areas in education where it is difficult to find students with a positive effect resulting from being held back a grade. Overall, there are adverse effects for retained students, and there are more positive effects in the long term for promoted students than for retained students.

Grade retention at the elementary level has hurt academic achievement in language arts, reading, mathematics, work-study skills, social studies, and grade point average. This practice can also harm a student's self-esteem and increase the likelihood of dropping out of school by more than 50%. For this reason, GSSD decides to retain students only after serious consideration and consultation. An interdisciplinary team, including the family, is highly involved in the decision with the aim of a consensus before the decision is made to retain or promote a student.

At the high school level, a student must obtain a mark of 50% in all grades 10 to 12 courses to earn credit. Students who have achieved a final mark between 40% & 47% are eligible for credit recovery or credit extension, depending on the circumstances (see AP 359). If the requirements for Credit Recovery or Credit Extension are not met, the student will not receive credit for the incomplete assignments, which will be reflected in the final mark. As a result, the student must retake the entire course to receive the credit. In essence, the student has been retained in the course.

### ADMINISTRATOR MEETINGS

GSSD In-School Administrators, Administrative Council Members, Education Consultants, and Instructional Coaches have participated in two face-to-face Administrator Meetings this fall. The meetings always begin with acknowledgements from across the Division, such as the following: announcement of a [Yorkton Regional High School student, Isabelle Easton, becoming a member of the Ministry Youth Council](#); Melville Comprehensive School's 50th-anniversary celebration; new Daycare and Public Library in Grayson School; Saltcoats Autumn Summit; Residency of Dance Instructor at Saltcoats School; Terry Fox runs; Beginner Band clinics; and, food & security initiatives for students.

During the August meeting, Director/CEO Robertson gave a presentation on the 2022-23 objectives set out by the Board by reviewing the Director/CEO role expectations and the GSSD Strategic Plan. The Team was reminded that we all have one shared vision which leads to enhanced student growth and well-being. The Team also spent time reviewing the school division foundational statements consisting of the division motto, vision, mission, values, and aspirational statements. Updates were provided by both the education services and corporate services teams. The administrators were joined by an educational contractor GSSD has worked with over the last several years to develop and refine our professional development continuum for teachers and administrators. During the session, Terry Johanson unpacked the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Process.

In September, the administrators gathered once again to learn and collaborate. The focus of the meeting was on information sharing by the Education and Corporate Teams and learning provided by GSSD administrators facilitated by Terry Johanson. During the session, administrators enhanced their understanding of what it means to create a learning organization and how to communicate positively to all educational stakeholders. Lastly, the administrators had an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the direction the sector is taking related to the long-term provincial education plan.



## FOCUSING IN ON...



### MENTAL HEALTH CAPACITY BUILDING

The Mental Health Capacity Building Initiative (MHCB) is a pilot project in Saskatchewan taking place at Dr. Brass School in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. It is a partnership between Good Spirit School Division and the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

Dr. Brass School, located in Yorkton, has students in Prekindergarten to Grade 8. Dr. Brass School follows a community school model that has many community partners enhancing the daily education of students in the building. At Dr. Brass School the belief is "Every Day, Every Student, A Success!"

#### What is MHCB?

Mental Health Capacity Building is funded and led by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) with support from the Ministries of Health and Education.

The MCHB program works to provide programming and support to students, schools, families, and communities in building their mental health and wellness capacity. The initiative works to provide support, resources and education around mental health and wellness and reduce the stigma attached to mental health.



#### Who We Are:

##### Ami Dzuba

##### MHCB Promoter

The MHCB Promoter objectives will be met by delivering appropriate, evidence-based programming to children, youth and families.

##### Michelle Goulden

##### MHCB Coordinator

The MHCB Coordinator is responsible for providing leadership, direction, supervision and structure to support the overall objectives of the MHCB initiative and to build collaborative relationships with community partners to ensure students and their families receive the additional mental health supports they need.

*Photo: Michelle Goulden (left) and Ami Dzuba (right).*



#### **Our Motto**

Students Come First

#### **Our Mission**

Building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures

#### **Our Values**

Learning Without Limits, Achievement For All

#### **Our Vision**

Belonging, Respect, Responsibility, Learning, Nurturing, Perseverance, and Diversity