

# IN FOCUS

WITH THE GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



MARCH & APRIL, 2025

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

As we head into the final months of the 2024-25 school year, it's exciting to reflect on the celebrations and achievements happening across GSSD. This edition of In Focus highlights just some of the incredible learning, leadership, and collaboration taking place.

Professional development remains key to GSSD's commitment to high-quality teaching and learning. With over 10 opportunities offered this spring, staff continue to grow their skills and support student success, aligning with the Inspiring Success Policy.

From bringing history to life, to celebrating achievements in music, athletics, and leadership, GSSD students and staff continue to show passion, creativity, and perseverance.

As we look ahead, we're excited for track and field events, graduation celebrations, powwows, and much more. Thank you to everyone for making 2024-25 an amazing year so far—let's make the last two months count!

**Quintin M. Robertson**  
Director of Education/CEO



Hoopla 2025



Band in GSSD



Hides & Heartbeats  
@ Yorkdale



Power & Pace  
Club @ MC Knoll

<b>Our Motto</b>	Students Come First
<b>Our Mission</b>	Building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures
<b>Our Values</b>	Learning Without Limits, Achievement For All
<b>Our Vision</b>	Belonging, Diversity, Learning, Perseverance & Responsibility

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## FOCUSING IN ON



### Dr. Brass Welcomes Terrence Littletent and Shanon Crook Residency



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# HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

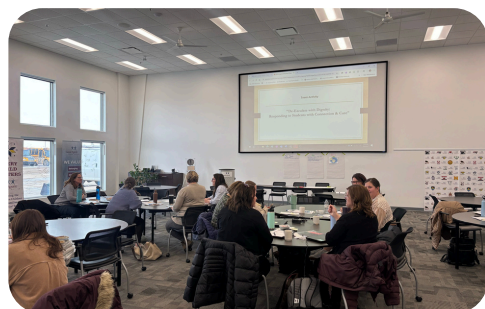


- Improving student outcomes
- Implementing the "Inspiring Success" Policy
- Developing GSSD leaders
- Ensuring consistent practices across GSSD schools
- Delivering high-quality teaching and learning resources
- Providing equal access to technology

## GSSD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Professional development (PD) is essential to GSSD's commitment to high-quality teaching and learning. It improves student outcomes, aligns with the "Inspiring Success" Policy, promotes leadership growth, ensures consistent practices, and provides valuable resources. Check out the highlights of the professional development activities from March and April, 2025!

PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
Social Emotional Learning (SEL): Integrated Practices Day 1 of 3	March 4, 2025	Participants explored the 5 SEL core competencies. The Circle of Courage philosophy and trauma-informed practices were integrated into the day.
Beginning Your Journey Toward Becoming an Anti-Racist Educator	March 5 & 6, 2025	The session supported participants in understanding the disparities present within the education system. It addressed the frustrations and questions educators may have about current practices and approaches in schools, as well as the assumptions and ideologies that contribute to ongoing inequities. The session was offered by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Professional Learning.
Grade 5-8 Math Assessment Refresher	March 10, 2025	This session brought together Grade 5–8 math teachers to review and refresh their assessment practices.



*Pictured above: Professionals participate in Social Emotional Learning Day 1, on March 4, 2025.*



*Pictured above: Building Thinking Classrooms Day 1 utilizes hands-on learning.*

## HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING



PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
Lexia Power Up Information Session with Jenny Graham	March 10, 2025	This session provided Interventionists and Student Support Teachers using the Lexia Power Up platform with an opportunity to learn from Jenny Graham.
Building Thinking Classrooms – Day 1	March 11, 2025	This session was a full day PD opportunity facilitated by Kyle Webb. This session was for all Kindergarten to Grade 12 math teachers interested in learning more about "Building Thinking Classrooms", who have not previously attended a Day 1 session.
Math Matters Discussion Group	March 12, 2025	The session focused on sharing success stories, discussing challenges, and engaging in collaborative problem-solving related to MathUP classroom use. It provided a valuable opportunity for educators to learn with and from one another.
Building Thinking Classrooms – Day 2	March 31, 2025	This full day PD opportunity facilitated by Kyle Webb provided teachers the opportunity to expand their knowledge of "Building Thinking Classrooms" and how to implement strategies and approaches into their classrooms, building on knowledge that was learnt during Day 1.



*Pictured above: Participants work on practical use of lessons learnt during Building Thinking Classrooms Day 2 with Kyle Webb.*



*Pictured below: Professionals build on their knowledge from SEL Day 1 by participating in the second day of a three-day professional development opportunity.*

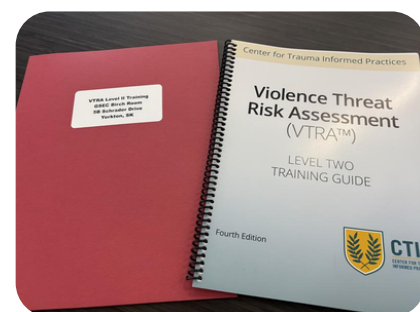




PD Event	Date	Topic/Outcome
VTRA Level II Training	April 1 & 2, 2025	Level 2 training was provided by trainer Patrick Rivard from the Center for Trauma Informed Practices. This training helped teams distinguish between Stage I VTRA (Threat Assessment) and Stage II VTRA (Risk Assessment) and identify case-specific risk enhancers and the proper interventions for them.
Student Support Teacher (SST) PLC	April 8, 2025	Participants had the chance to network and participate in sessions that build capacity in student services.
SEL: Integrated Practices Day 2	April 9, 2025	Participants explored the 5 SEL core competencies. The Circle of Courage philosophy and trauma-informed practices were integrated into the professional development day.
Math Matters Discussion Group	April 9, 2025	All teachers using MathUP were invited to attend regularly or drop in. Success stories and challenges were shared. This session allowed engagement in collaborative problem-solving.
NVCI Refresher	April 15, 2025	In this one-day session, participants reviewed strategies for safely defusing anxious, dysregulated, hostile, or violent behaviour at the earliest possible stage.



**CTIP**  
CENTER FOR TRAUMA  
INFORMED PRACTICES



*Pictured above: GSSD hosts Violence Threat Risk Assessment Level 2 Training on April 1 & 2.*



## LANGENBURG TEACHER ATTENDS SASKATCHEWAN TEACHERS' INSTITUTE ON PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

From April 5-9, 2025, Laura Sveinbjornson, a teacher at Langenburg Central School, was a participant in the Saskatchewan Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy in Regina. This professional development was phenomenal and renewed a passion in her regarding civics education and the importance of teaching critical thinking.

Throughout the week, participants heard an abundance of information from non-partisan employees and prominent members of governing bodies that will continue to help them teach democracy within their classrooms and communities. It was a privilege to be given an opportunity for a behind-the-scenes look at how government runs—from librarians to chiefs of staff and everything in between. Sveinbjornson noted that she learned there is a group of passionate individuals who work tirelessly for the communities they serve. Every person that met the group was gracious with their time and deeply passionate about their programs and agencies.



It was also an honour for the group to be the first to attend an official dinner with Saskatchewan's new Lieutenant Governor, Bernadette McIntyre, at Government House. Sveinbjornson had the pleasure of sitting at Her Honour's table and was struck by her commitment to community.

To wrap up the week, the group attended a banquet with the Minister of Education and several MLAs, where Sveinbjornson had the opportunity to deliver a speech sharing what the group had learned through the experience. To conclude the event, participants took part in a Model Parliament session, where they were able to sit within the Legislature and role-play the proceedings. Sveinbjornson described it as an incredible opportunity.

As a teacher, Laura is reminded daily that knowledge truly is power, and ensuring students can access accurate, reliable information is one of the most meaningful ways educators can help them grow into informed, engaged citizens. As a participant, she witnessed firsthand the amount of care and consideration public servants—regardless of party or position—have for democracy and the communities they serve every day.



## CANORA COMPOSITE STUDENTS BRING WWI TRENCHES TO LIFE

Over ten impressive Trench Warfare Dioramas were created this semester by Grade 11 students at Canora Composite School, marking the culmination of their First World War unit. With roughly five hours of class time and the option to work at home, students took on the challenge of recreating the harsh conditions of trench life in WWI.

Armed with materials like plastic army figures, popsicle sticks, cardboard, and glue guns—plus plenty of creativity—students went above and beyond. Some added lights, water, burn effects using lighters, and even gave viewers a first-person view of the trenches through small openings. The project wasn't just about history—it was about pride and connection. On March 18, students and staff were invited to view the dioramas and vote on their favourites using popsicle sticks. The winning project was revealed after a tally of the creative votes.



One especially heartwarming moment came when the Grade 11 class partnered with Mrs. Baillie's Grade 5 students. After a few visits and behind-the-scenes previews, one inspired Grade 5 student created his own diorama and presented it alongside the older students. It was a powerful reminder of the positive influence older students can have as role models.

Now in its second year, this project continues to be a hands-on, thought-provoking, and meaningful learning experience. In a world influenced by AI, this assignment encourages students to think critically, work independently, and understand the real human cost of war.



## YORKDALE STUDENTS EXPLORE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AT THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM

Students from Yorkdale Central School recently took part in a session called Smarter Science, Better Buildings at the Western Development Museum. This hands-on workshop allowed students to explore concepts of heat and temperature by learning how to make homes more energy efficient.

In addition to the workshop, students enjoyed a fun and engaging scavenger hunt that helped them explore the museum while deepening their understanding of the subject in an interactive way.





## GSSD STUDENTS SHOWCASE SKILLS AT PROVINCIAL COMPETITION

The 2025 Skills Canada Saskatchewan Provincial Competition was held March 27–28, 2025 at Saskatchewan Polytechnic in Saskatoon. Students from across the province came together to demonstrate their talents in more than 40 skilled trade and technology areas.

Congratulations to the many GSSD students who proudly represented their schools and brought home medals!

### Melville Comprehensive School (MCS)

- Gold - Welding – Marcus Belitski
- Silver - Game Development – Anakin Aymont, Andy Hu, Dominic Trollope
- Silver - Aesthetics – Emma Borys
- Bronze - Video Production – Rane Gusdal, Olivia Huber
- Bronze - Hairstyling: Braiding – Elsie Rogalski
- Bronze - Hairstyling: Bridal – Indianna Tank

### Esterhazy High School

- Bronze - Baking – Sophie Radbourne-Nichlauson

### Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS)

- Gold - Public Speaking – Ummi Umar
- Bronze - Mobile Robotics – Alexander Oryschak, Avery Waters, Danica Keyowski, Xander Thompson
- Silver - Autobody Repair – Madeline Tebay
- Silver - Automobile Technology – Adam Husulak
- Bronze - Automobile Technology – Hunter Nash
- Silver - Outdoor Power & Recreation Equipment – Anthony Dubiel
- Bronze - Outdoor Power & Recreation Equipment – Evan Revet

We are incredibly proud of these students for their hard work, talent, and dedication. Way to go, GSSD!



*Pictured above: Sophie won the Bronze medal in the Baking category!*

## GRAMMY-NOMINATED DRUMMER BRINGS EXPERTISE TO GSSD MUSIC ROOMS

From February 10–13, 2025, GSSD schools welcomed Los Angeles-based, Grammy-nominated musician (drummer) Sammy K. During his visit, Sammy worked with students from, Yorkton Regional High School, Melville Comprehensive School, Esterhazy High School, Churchbridge Public School, Langenburg Central School, Yorkdale Central School, MC Knoll School, Columbia School, as well as Sacred Heart High and St. Henry's Senior schools from Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools.

He led one-on-one and small group sessions with drum students and delivered workshops to full jazz bands.



*Pictured left: guest artist teacher Sammy K (in purple) instructs the Melville Comprehensive School jazz band.*

Both students and teachers appreciated his positive energy, expert feedback, and the valuable experience he brought to their music classes.

For more information about Sammy, visit [www.slammingsammyk.com](http://www.slammingsammyk.com). A special thank you to Remo, Zildjian, Yamaha, and Vic Firth for helping make Sammy's visit possible.



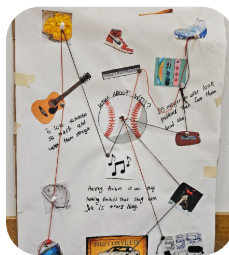
## CROSS-SCHOOL BOOK CLUB STUDENT SHOWCASE AT ESTERHAZY HIGH SCHOOL

- *How do we learn to embrace all parts of our identity?*
- *How can we find common ground with those we perceive as different from ourselves?*
- *How do our relationships influence how we learn to see ourselves?*
- *How are the challenges we face influenced by our mindset?*

These are the questions that some grade 7 students explored through GSSD's second cross-school book club. Students from Langenburg, Melville, Esterhazy and MC Knoll were given five novels to choose from. Once each student selected the novel they wanted to read, they were put into groups with students from other schools who also chose that novel.

Throughout March students engaged in online discussions and live virtual meetings with their book clubs through Google classroom.

The culminating project was for each student to create a visual essay to represent their understanding of one of the themes from their novel.



Students from the participating schools came together at EHS on April 10 for a showcase of their final projects. During the showcase, students had the opportunity to share their project and meet their book club members face-to-face for the first time.

There were definitely some nerves as students were arriving at EHS, but once the day got going, students really enjoyed the experience and many realized talking to new people wasn't as nerve wracking as they thought.

Thank-you to Laura Sveinbjornson, Kelly Walker, Darla Tomolak, Don Wihak and Amanda Laviolette for all your work in organizing this project for your students.



## POSTER WINNERS FROM GRADE 6B AT CANORA COMPOSITE SCHOOL

Back at the start of the school year, Mrs. Stefanyshyn and her Grade 6B's entered a poster contest put on by the Electronic Recycling Association (ERA).

The ERA holds a yearly poster contest where students from across Canada are asked to create a poster that best represents the ever-changing environment by combining the waste hierarchy known to many as "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle". By entering this contest, students are given a chance to win a free refurbished laptop. The competition is designed to not only educate students on the importance of sustainability and the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), but it helps bring their vision of an ever-changing environment to life through art.

The poster contest is vote-based by the public. Canora Composite School and Grade 6B had TWO students selected as recipients!



*Pictured: Maycee and Serena receive their refurbished laptops!*

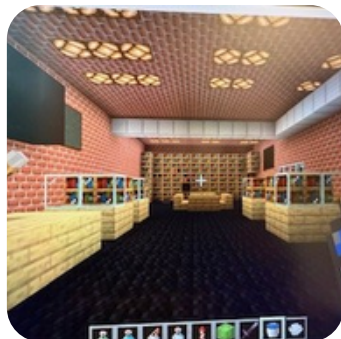
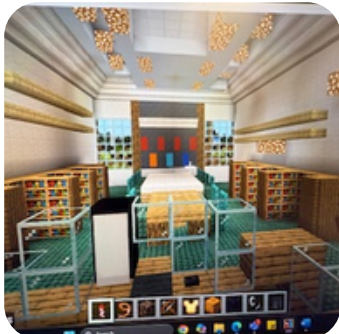
Congratulations to the two winners, Maycee Jucaban and Serena Llewellyn who received their refurbished laptops on March 24, 2025, from CCS Principal, Mr. Serdachny.



## MINECRAFT - MORE THAN A GAME

At Davison and PJ Gillen Schools, School Counsellor Kristen Lowe leads Minecraft Groups for grade 6 and 5 students, fostering creativity and collaboration.

These lunchtime activities offer fun and educational environments where students build dramatic creations, encounter unique elements, and use different blocks. The groups promote teamwork, allowing members to take on various roles and contribute to collective efforts. Even beginners integrate well, practicing skills and adapting to changes, showing that collaboration leads to faster project completion.



Participants enjoy connecting with peers, enhancing overall enjoyment and creating shared experiences. The groups provide platforms for self-expression and skill-building, fostering a sense of pride and accomplishment. They bridge social boundaries, enabling boys and girls to connect in new ways, emphasizing kind communication and collaborative problem-solving, and facilitating non-verbal communication for ESL students.

At Sturgis Composite and Preeceville Schools, School Counsellor Brigitte Herriges started Minecraft Groups to assist students with social and emotional learning (SEL). These groups help students work on self-awareness, social awareness, responsible decision-making, self-management, and relationship skills while enjoying Minecraft. The Sturgis group (grades 3-7) created a house, while the Preeceville group (grades 4-8) is building an apartment building. Initially, students struggled with collaborative building but soon learned to communicate ideas, manage emotions, and compromise to achieve goals. Each session has seen progress in managing emotions, making responsible decisions, handling stress, setting goals, and building healthy relationships.

# MINECRAFT

The results have been impressive, with students developing valuable teamwork skills, emphasizing kind communication and collaborative problem-solving, facilitating non-verbal communication for ESL students, and providing leadership opportunities. The goal is to further enhance students' social and emotional learning experiences.

*Pictured: Preeceville Apartments, Davison Library, Davison Students, PJ Gillen Students, PJ Gillen Library, Sturgis Students*



## ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

- Fostering connections and supporting transitions
- Valuing input from students, families, staff, and the community
- Communicating openly and clearly
- Forming partnerships to support GSSD's priority areas

### DR. BRASS DRUMMING GROUP PERFORMS WITH INUK JUNO WINNER SUSAN AGLUKARK

What a night to remember! On March 17, the Distant Thunder Juniors drumming group from Dr. Brass School had the incredible opportunity to join Inuk Juno winner Susan Aglukark on stage! The evening was filled with joy, powerful messages, and amazing performances alongside talented community members.

A huge thank you to Mr. Severight, Mr. Lypowich, and everyone who made this unforgettable night possible!

Thank you to the Yorkton Arts Council for bringing opportunity, art and culture to our community!



*Pictured: Susan Aglukark performs with the Distant Thunder Juniors drumming group and local choir members.*



**YAC**  
Yorkton Arts Council



### GROWING OPPORTUNITIES: MCS HOSTS 2ND ANNUAL MELVILLE & AREA JOB FAIR

On March 26, 2025, Melville Comprehensive School (MCS) hosted its second annual Melville & Area Job Fair. The event was open to students from 1:30–4:00 p.m. and later to the public from 6:00–9:00 p.m.

Attendance was strong, with noticeable growth compared to last year. Students from Melville and surrounding communities attended, taking the opportunity to interact with a variety of vendors and learn about future career paths.

GSSD's Transportation Manager, Ryan Hall, was also in attendance, helping to recruit new bus drivers for the Division.





## GSSD TEAMS SHINE AT PROVINCIAL CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to our talented GSSD athletes who brought home medals at the Provincial Curling Championships held on March 7 & 8, 2025!

### Open Mixed Division Medalists:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Yorkton Regional High School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Canora Composite School



### Boys Division Medalists:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Yorkton Regional High School (Team 1)

We're proud of the skill, sportsmanship, and dedication shown by all our student-athletes and coaches!



## CANORA COMPOSITE SCHOOL HITS THE MARK AT NASP PROVINCIALS

On April 12, students from Canora Composite School competed in the NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program) Provincial Championships in Shaunavon—and came home with major wins!



Both the Elementary and High School teams were crowned Provincial Champions, while the Middle School team earned an impressive silver medal finish.

Individual highlights include:

- Natalie Kosar (Grade 10) – Three-time Provincial Champion
- Kolton Unick (Grade 7) and Connor Pozniak (Grade 5) – Provincial Champions
- Levi Lowes and Jacob Prychak – Provincial Bronze Medalists

## MELVILLE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL STAFF PULL OFF A SURPRISE SPIRIT DAY



On April 1, staff at Melville Comprehensive School celebrated a fun and unexpected Underground Spirit Day by dressing up as none other than Mr. Thomas—without letting the students in on the plan.

The surprise brought smiles and laughs as students arrived to see their teachers channeling the well-known staff member. It was a lighthearted way to kick off the month.

## HOOPLA 2025

From March 20–22, 2025, student-athletes from across Saskatchewan came together for HOOPLA—the Provincial High School Basketball Championships hosted by the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association (SHSAA).

Good Spirit School Division was proud to see several of its teams achieve success on the provincial stage.

### HOOPLA 2025 Results for GSSD:

- 2A Girls – Norquay/Sturgis School finished with an impressive 3rd place finish
- 1A Boys – Preeceville School earned 2nd place, securing silver
- 1A Girls – Preeceville School captured the Provincial Championship, finishing 1st overall

Congratulations to all teams and coaches on their hard work, sportsmanship, and dedication throughout the season! GSSD is proud of your accomplishments.



*Pictured left: Norquay/Sturgis girls grab 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 2A Girls category.*



*Pictured left: Preeceville boys finish 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 1A Boys category.*



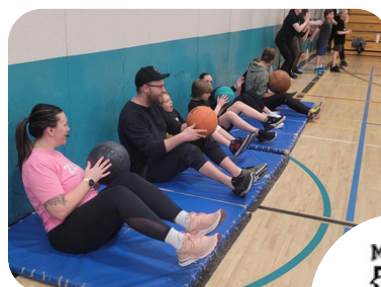
*Pictured left: Preeceville girls finish in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 1A Girls category.*

## YOUNG KNIGHTS POWER UP AT M.C. KNOLL'S PACE & POWER CLUB

At 7:30 a.m. twice a week, a group of eager Grade 2 to 4 students at M.C. Knoll School lace up for the Pace and Power Club—a before-school fitness program focused on agility, strength, and endurance.

Led by Principal Phil Adams, the club blends fun with fitness through high-energy stations and cardio challenges. It's all about starting the day strong, building healthy habits, and boosting focus in the classroom.

The program wrapped up in March with a community workout, celebrating the commitment of these young, active Knights.





## LANGENBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL WELCOMES BACK ALUMNI TANNER ZERR

Langenburg Central School (LCS) was proud to welcome back alumni Tanner Zerr, who returned to share his post-graduation journey in the world of theatre.

Tanner spent time with Grades 1 & 2, Grade 9, and Drama 10/20/30 students, offering insights into his experiences in acting and production since his days at LCS.

He also led students through engaging drama exercises, giving them a taste of the energy and creativity that comes with performing arts.

It was an inspiring visit filled with storytelling, laughter, and learning. Welcome back to the Nest, Tanner!



## NORQUAY/STURGIS SENIOR GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM MAKES A LASTING IMPACT



During their trip to Regina for Hoopla, the Norquay/Sturgis Senior Girls' basketball team took time to make a meaningful and heartfelt stop at the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital.

In recent months, the Norquay community has been *"painting the province pink"* in support of Cheyenne, a fellow student who bravely fought brain cancer.

Wanting to continue making a difference in her memory, the team made an incredible donation of \$3,000 to the hospital.

This special gesture is a true example of the team's spirit, compassion, and commitment to carrying Cheyenne's legacy forward. Their donation will help support the care and research that impacts so many young lives across the province.

We are so proud of our Senior Girls' basketball team for showing that leadership extends far beyond the court.





## PHILIPPINE FOLK DANCE WORKSHOPS AT P.J. GILLEN AND VICTORIA SCHOOL

Thanks to the support of Dance Saskatchewan Inc. (DSI) and their Recreating Community Together initiative, students at P.J. Gillen School and Victoria School had a unique opportunity to experience traditional Philippine folk dance.

Jhonnette Derkatch, a contracted dance artist through DSI, facilitated three-day workshops at each school between February 24–26 and March 17–19, 2025. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 5 learned about the Philippines and practiced Tinikling – a vibrant and culturally significant traditional dance.

As part of the program, Derkatch also mentored Mrs. Andrea Bogard and Ms. Brooke Schwartz to help ensure the learning continues beyond the workshops.

This initiative, offered in partnership with On Cue Performance Hub, aims to combat racism, marginalization, and oppression by celebrating and sharing cultural dance forms.

Good Spirit School Division extends sincere thanks to Dance Saskatchewan Inc. and to Jhonnette Derkatch for bringing this inspiring and meaningful experience to our students.



**DANCE**  
SASKATCHEWAN INC.



## GSSD STUDENTS SHINE AT FIGURE SKATING SKILLS CAMP

On March 23, 2025, many GSSD students, including those from Canora Junior Elementary School and Canora Composite School, attended a figure skating skills camp in Yorkton.

Members of the Canora Skating Club spent a full day learning about perseverance, commitment, and technical skills from world-renowned figure skater Elvis Stojko and his wife, Gladys Orozco.

It's wonderful to see GSSD students embracing opportunities to grow and learn beyond the classroom!





## HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

- Enhancing mental health and well-being for students and staff
- Offering safe and inviting facilities
- Promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion



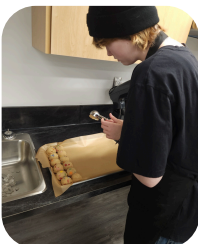
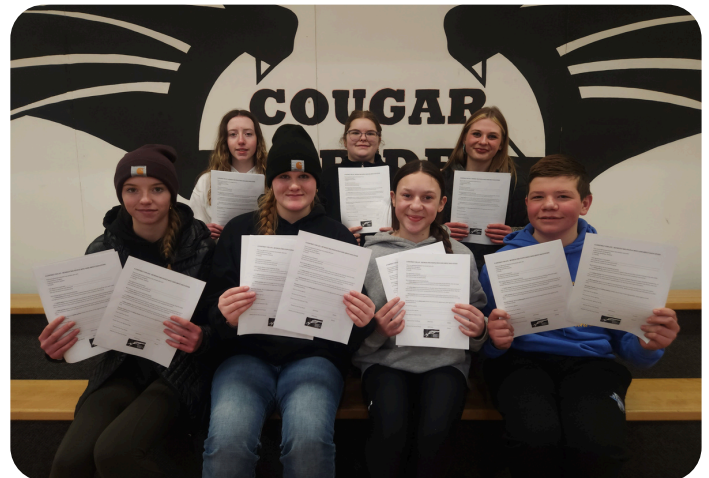
### CCS SADD CHAPTER RECEIVES 1ST PLACE IN PROVINCIAL IMPAIRED DRIVING AWARENESS WEEK ACTIVITIES

Provincial Impaired Driving Awareness Week was observed from March 10–14. To kick off the week, Canora Composite School (CCS) was selected to host Sandra LaRose, a road and rail safety speaker who advocates for safer choices and habits around distracted driving.

Throughout the week, staff and students at CCS were encouraged to review various statistics posted around the school, highlighting the dangers of impaired driving. The Commercial Cooking 10 class supported the initiative by helping the Students Against Drinking and Driving (SADD) Chapter bake Smartie Cookies, which were distributed on Friday with an important safety message. Corporal Taunya Kondratoff and members of the local RCMP also partnered with the school's SADD Chapter to hand out Life Saver Bags to students.

In addition, SADD Chapter members visited classrooms to explain and distribute the "Contract for Life," encouraging students to make safe choices.

CAA Saskatchewan sponsored the week and awarded honorariums to the top three SADD Chapters in the province that demonstrated outstanding awareness activities. **Canora Composite School's SADD Chapter was proud to be awarded first place in Saskatchewan!**





## GRANDMOTHER'S TEA AT KAMSACK COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

On Thursday, April 17, 2025, Kamsack Comprehensive Institute hosted a heartwarming Grandmother's Tea event from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the school. The celebration welcomed all to honour grandmothers and the rich cultural diversity that thrives within the KCI community.

Students served teas and sweets representing a variety of cultures, creating a beautiful space to enjoy delicious treats, share stories, and make lasting memories together. It was a wonderful afternoon filled with gratitude, connection, and celebration.



## HIDES AND HEARTBEATS AT YORKDALE CENTRAL SCHOOL



Students from Yorkdale Central School, along with peers from Columbia and Dr. Brass, recently took part in a unique two-day cultural learning experience called Hides and Heartbeats.

Guided by Knowledge Keeper Mike Keshane and Jesse Ketchemonia, students worked hands-on with elk and moose hides that will eventually be made into traditional round drums.



On the first day, students began the process of fleshing hides and learning about the cultural significance of the work. The second day deepened the experience as Mike Keshane shared teachings about smudging and the importance of being humble.

Students also continued work on a third elk hide and began scraping a moose hide—enjoying the warm weather and time outdoors.

Yorkdale Central School extends its gratitude to the Painted Hand Community Development Corporation for the grant that made this meaningful opportunity possible, as well as to Home Hardware and the Yorkton United Football Club for their generous support.



## EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

- Upholding clear, high-quality Board of Education Policies
- Maintaining transparent, high-quality administrative procedures aligned with Board policy
- Focusing on educational approaches that prioritize student success
- Allocating resources to improve experiences for students, staff, and the community



### BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS ATTEND SSBA SPRING ASSEMBLY

Trustees from the Good Spirit School Division attended the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) Spring Assembly, held April 3–4, 2025, at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel in Saskatoon.

In attendance were:

- Trustee Johnson
- Trustee Leson
- Trustee Balyski
- Trustee Pohl
- Trustee Smart-Sondergaard
- Trustee Morrison

The two-day event brought together trustees from across the province to collaborate, learn, and discuss key issues shaping the future of education in Saskatchewan.

Day one began with meetings for the Board Chair Council and separate Public and Catholic Section sessions. Attendees received a Provincial Education Plan update before gathering for evening addresses from SSBA President Shawn Davidson, Executive Director Darren McKee, and MLA Barret Kropf, the Education Legislative Secretary. The evening concluded with keynote speaker Nina Bamberg, who discussed "Crafting Policies That Support Student Thriving in an AI-Driven Future."

### BOARD ADVOCACY SESSION WITH SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL CHAIRS

School Community Council Chairs were invited to an advocacy session with the Board, offered both in-person and through Teams. The session included introductions and discussions on student supports, the new mandated washroom and changeroom administrative procedure, and GSSD's 2025-26 Budget Planning.



The second day featured a morning smudging ceremony, breakfast, and updates from the Public Section, Catholic Section, and Conseil des écoles francsaskoises (CEF). Trustees then participated in networking sessions and chose from several breakout sessions, including advancing school food programs, understanding human rights legislation in education, and learning from each other.

The Assembly wrapped up with a session on strengthening the Board and CEO relationship, led by Ben Grebinski, Executive Director of LEADS, followed by closing remarks.

The SSBA Spring Assembly provided an important opportunity for trustees to connect with peers, share insights, and continue building strong leadership to support students across Saskatchewan.

It was a great opportunity for collaboration, with meaningful discussions on improving schools and supporting students. The Board sincerely thanked all participants for their engagement and leadership.





# FOCUSING IN ON...



## DR. BRASS WELCOMES TERRENCE LITTLETENT AND SHANON CROOK RESIDENCY

This spring, Dr. Brass School proudly celebrated a five-week cultural arts residency featuring the talents of renowned hoop dancer Terrance Littletent and cultural educator Shanon Crook. Thanks to the leadership of Miss Tammy and Mrs. Fleury, and the financial support of SK Arts and the Ministry of Education, as well as SaskCulture Inc., made possible through funding provided by the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, students were given a meaningful opportunity to connect with Indigenous culture through traditional dance and regalia-making.

The residency focused on powwow protocols, with students from Grades 3 and up participating in a wide range of learning experiences. Terrance Littletent led sessions on the traditional grass dance, one of the oldest styles in the powwow circle. Originating with the Omaha people, the grass dance was traditionally used to mimic the movement of prairie grasses, allowing hunters to blend with nature. Throughout the program, K-8 students learned about the protocols of a powwow, while boys in Grades 3 and up learned the history, significance, and movement of the grass dance. Meanwhile, Shanon Crook and parent volunteers, led by Mrs. Fleury, worked with students to create regalia—vibrant outfits that express story through colour and design.



On Tuesday, April 15, 2025, Dr. Brass School hosted a vibrant showcase celebrating the students' cultural learning journey. The event was filled with powerful performances, all set to the live music of the Dr. Brass drumming group Distant Thunder Juniors led by Robert Severight. The Grade 3 and 4 students began the afternoon with a grand entry to bless the space.

Highlights of the event included a dynamic warrior dance and a grass dance performance by the Hockey Academy students, who choreographed original movements inspired by the motion of prairie grasses. Students Tia and Brice followed with an impressive hoop dance, doubling last year's routine from five hoops to ten to beautifully share the story of creation and life. The celebration ended with a high-energy dance-off and guest dancer Steven Obey performing the grass dance. Due to this experience, Dr. Brass has established a powwow group to continue the learnings and teachings past the residency.

