

IN FOCUS

WITH GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION



May/June 2022

Message from Director of Education/CEO, Quintin Robertson

I want to express my heartfelt congratulations, to both students and staff, for your many accomplishments this year! As the restrictions set out by the Province lifted throughout the year, I could see and feel the excitement of returning to in-person events such as concerts, sports, and field trips. I can only hope that this will be able to continue in 2022-23.

To the students of GSSD, whether you are preparing to move on to a new grade in September or transitioning to a new school, please know that the challenges you have faced with courage, grace, and compassion have helped shape you for what is ahead. To the graduating class of 2022, good luck in your new chapter. Follow your passions, with an open heart and an open mind, and you will live full and rewarding lives. To the staff of GSSD, I am proud of the professionalism you displayed while persevering through another challenging year. Thank you for ensuring student's come first! To the staff who are embarking on retirement, thank you for your many years of service to GSSD students. I wish you the best of health, happiness, and success on your new journey of life!

It is now time to relax and recharge, do the things you love, and spend time with the people who bring you joy! Enjoy every minute of your summer break!



Summer Registration Information

When registering students over the summer, please contact the Division office:

☎ 306-786-5500

📍 5B Schrader Dr. Yorkton

✉ info@gssd.ca

HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

Long-term Goals

- By June 30, 2022, 27% more students will exit Kindergarten at appropriate development (green) than when entering Kindergarten
- By June 30, 2022, 90% of Grade 1 to 6 students will show one-years growth in their reading levels.
- By June 30, 2022, there will be 2% more students writing at or above grade level in Grades 4, 7, & 9 compared to the June 2019 data.
- By June 30, 2022, there will be 2% more Grades 2, 5, & 8 students at or above grade level in math compared to the June 2019 data.
- By June 30, 2022, the number of students in Grades 4 to 12 reporting high levels of anxiety will reduce by 2% from spring 2021 data.
- By June 30, 2022, the three and five-year graduation rate will increase by 2% from the June 2021 data.
- By June 30, 2022, students in Grades 4 to 12 will report a 2% increase in student intellectual engagement from spring 2021 data.
- By June 30, 2022, GSSD will demonstrate a commitment to provide professional development and training to its staff based on the four Aspirational Statements.

GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PD Event	Date	Topic / Outcome
Mental Health First Aid Training	May 10 & 11, 2022	<p>Mental Health First Aid Canada is a training course delivered in six modules. This was an interactive course that was provided in a supportive group learning environment. Participants learned how to provide initial help to people who are showing signs of a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis including information about depression, anxiety, psychosis, and addictions, deliberate self-harm, and eating disorders. Each participant who completed the training course received a certificate and training manual.</p> <p>This course is meant to increase awareness of mental health issues and to assist participants to learn appropriate intervention strategies. The training</p>

MENTAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

On May 5th and 6th, GSSD was able to send 12 division staff and community partners to Saskatoon for the Provincial Mental and Well-being Spring Symposium. Participants were provided with opportunities to hear keynote speakers,

Kevin Cameron (*North American Center for Threat Assessment & Trauma Response*) and Wade Repta (*Humanworks Consulting Group Inc.*) while also engaging in several breakout sessions with a focus on best practice and community partnerships which promote mental health and well-being. Those who attended the symposium will work collaboratively to support the mental health and well-being within GSSD in the upcoming school year.



Photo above: GSSD staff at the Mental Health and Well-being Spring Symposium.

From left to right: Val Ruf, Kelsey Shields, Mark Lucas, Michael Sweatman, Patti Zerr, Britton Houdek, Michelle Goulden, Clorice Delorme, Melissa Johanson, Kyla Christianson, Mick Parmar, and Lisa Wotherspoon.



Photo above: The theme for the 2022 Provincial Mental and Well-being Spring Symposium was "Working Together, What's Strong with us?"

CANORA COMPOSITE SCHOOL STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN SHAD PROGRAM

Callie Sznerch, a grade 10 Canora Composite School student, will be participating in SHAD, a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) program, for the month of July at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.



SHAD is a program for high school students interested in science and technology. During the month, she will participate in various activities including lectures, workshops, labs, group projects, recreational activities, and more. She will also participate in a real-world design project. In the project, students are presented with the current year's theme and propose a solution. The theme for 2021, for example, was "how might we help Canadians treat our fresh water with more respect?"

The mission of SHAD is to "ignite youth potential and create lasting impact". The program focuses on problem solving and developing connections for the future. Callie is going to be one of approximately 550 students at 19 campuses this summer. With over 3,000 applicants per year, Sznerch is very honored to have been chosen to attend.

BAND PROGRAM AWARDS

Two Good Spirit School Division staff members were honoured this spring with provincial awards, recognizing their contributions to music education and band programs in Saskatchewan.

Kerry Linsley, Yorkton area elementary band teacher, was recognized by the Saskatchewan Music Educators' Association with an Honorary Lifetime Award for her outstanding contributions to music education in Saskatchewan. Congratulations, Kerry! Read more about Kerry below:

Kerry completed degrees in Music Education (1988) and Arts (1995) at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1988 she began her first teaching position in Grenfell where she taught English and band at the elementary and high school levels. Two years later she moved to Yorkton to become an itinerant elementary band teacher in the city and surrounding communities. Throughout her career Kerry has been influenced by Marvin Eckroth's method of teaching, his ability to see the potential in every student, and Don Harris's passion for music education. Kerry was on the committee that developed Saskatchewan's first Grade 6 – 9 Band Curriculum Support Document. For many years she has been involved with the Yorkton Music Festival. Kerry has also been recognized by the Good Spirit School Division for her efforts to make band affordable and accessible for all beginner band students.



Photo above: Yorkton area band teacher, Kerry Linsley.

Kerry was a coordinator for the Yorkton Junior Band Camp, a guest conductor for the North Saskatchewan Junior Honor Band, the Regina Catholic Schools Band Days, and the Saskatoon Band Camp. She co-coordinates the Yorkton Beginner Clinic and provides opportunities for her students to spend time with many of Saskatchewan's talented music educators. Kerry is a substitute pianist at her church and a member of its choir. Throughout her career, Kerry's husband Tim and their children Andrew and Matthew have provided their love, support, and appreciation for the work of music educators.



Photo above: Mark Forsythe accepts his award from Lauren Hearn, Esterhazy band teacher.

Mark Forsythe, Superintendent of School Operations, was recognized by the Saskatchewan Band Association with an Award of Merit in appreciation for continued support for band in Saskatchewan. Mark was nominated for the award after his tireless support of and advocacy for GSSD band programs over the last number of years, and especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Mark states that the GSSD "Music Monday" event, one of the largest in Canada, remains a highlight of his career!

Congratulations, Mark!

BAND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Did you know that nearly 1,000 students are enrolled in the band program in Good Spirit School Division?
 - GSSD has eight band teachers who teach band to students all across the division.
- ✓ Students from Grades 5-12 have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, play in a band, and study with a specialized music teacher. GSSD also offers choir and jazz band programs in some schools.
- ✓ Students play instruments such as flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, or percussion.
- ✓ Students have the opportunity to perform in concerts, combine with other schools for “full band”, and participate in various excursions and trips to band festivals within Saskatchewan and beyond.
- ✓ Band is a curricular course that takes place within the school day. High school students earn course credits through participation in band.
- ✓ The following are examples of some of the spring concerts and events that took place this year:
 - Yorkton Regional and Community Band concert, May 4
 - Yorkton area elementary band concert, June 6
 - Melville Comprehensive outdoor band and choir concert, June 8
 - Churchbridge/Langenburg band concert, June 8
 - GSSD North band concert, June 8
 - Esterhazy band and choir concert, June 15
 - Kamsack band concert, June 20



Photo above: Esterhazy band and choir concert, June 15, 2022.

A colorful poster for the Summer Reading Contest. The background is a bright blue sky with a yellow sun and green trees. The text reads: "Students of Good Spirit School Division", "SUMMER READING CONTEST", "Read a book from your local library and be entered to win a PRIZE!", "Scan this QR Code to Enter!", "JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 1", "3 CHANCES TO WIN AN INDIGO GIFT CARD VALUED AT \$100 EACH", "Every book you borrow can be entered to win!". There are illustrations of children reading books in various settings: one on a tree branch, one sitting on a log, and one sitting on the grass. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner. Logos for "PINKLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY" and "Good Spirit SCHOOL DIVISION" are at the bottom.

MELVILLE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

French Immersion programming is currently offered at Melville Comprehensive School (MCS) beginning in Grade 10 to students who have participated in the French Immersion program up to Grade 9 prior to attending MCS.

Students in Grades 10-12 are currently offered the opportunity to fulfill the bilingual program graduation requirements and earn a “mention bilingue” (bilingual mention) on their high school diploma. Students receive a mention bilingue when they complete a minimum of 12 of their 24 required high school courses in French.

French Immersion is not a single course – it is a program where students acquire a second language literally through being “immersed”. When students enroll in French Immersion in Saskatchewan, 100% of their school day takes place in French from Kindergarten to Grade 12! As students progress through the grades, more English content is gradually added, but students continue to take subjects such as language arts, math, social studies, and others completely in French.



MCS currently has approximately 12 students enrolled in French Immersion in Grades 10-12. Their teacher is Monsieur Thomas.

The goal of the French Immersion program in Saskatchewan is to have students become functionally bilingual and able to pursue studies and training in either official language.

Students in the French Immersion program share their sentiments about why they enjoy being in the French Immersion program .

Photo above: M. Thomas, French Immersion teacher, and Grade 12 student Jocelyn Foley.

“One of my grandparents spoke French as a first language. As he grew up, he refused to speak the language and now he regrets his decision. He is happy I have the opportunity to learn and use the French language as he never could.”

– Jocelyn Foley, Grade 12 student

“I will have access to different career choices and different chances to work in other provinces or countries.”

– Jennifer Ames, Grade 12 student

“The French Immersion program opens the door to different opportunities in the future.”

– Rayah Dubreuil, Grade 12 student

“I really enjoy having the opportunity to help these students develop these skills and practicing it in a variety of scenarios. It gives you the ability to perceive a completely separate perspective on everything. Many students do not know what their future will hold, and having more tools when you leave school just makes it so you have a greater chance to be able to find what will make you happy for the rest of your life.”

– Lucas Thomas, Teacher

ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

Long Term Goals

- By June 30, 2022, all students will achieve a 2% increase in student attendance based on the June 2021 data.
- By June 30, 2022, GSSD will increase our organization’s cultural competencies through division-wide processes and professional learning that grow our collective understanding about Indigenous identity, histories, worldview, and systemic barriers.
- By June 30, 2022, GSSD will demonstrate a commitment to the establishment of new and reaffirmed partnerships.
- By June 30, 2022, GSSD will actualize an Early Years Engagement Network to enhance educational opportunities for early years students.
- By June 30, 2022, GSSD will establish a First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Advisory Council to enhance educational opportunities for Indigenous students.

PRIDE MONTH



Photo above: Staff and students from GSSD who walked in the Queen City Pride Parade.

The Government of Saskatchewan proclaimed June as Pride Month in Saskatchewan: “this month is a time to celebrate 2SLGBTQ+ communities, and recognize the hard work and sacrifices of queer activists who have fought – and are still fighting – for equal rights”.

An invitation from Regina Public Schools to join them walking in the parade, saw approximately 50 staff, students, and parents from GSSD attend the Queen City Pride Parade on Saturday, June 11.

GSSD provided a bus that carried 42 of these community members to Regina while others traveled with family and friends.

The excerpts below are from staff and students in GSSD who attended the Pride Parade:

“It was amazing to be surrounded by so many others who are like myself and people who support me. It made me extremely emotional to see just how many people were there and I am grateful to have been able to attend thanks to the invitation and transportation we were given. Many thanks!”

“Saturday for me meant that I could be who I am and not be afraid because we were all there for the same reason, and it made me feel closer to who I am and being part of the lgbtq community.”

“Going to Pride was an amazing experience. I have never seen the students that I was with show so much joy and openness. I saw this in the spectators, too. Through this experience, I was humbled in knowing that as far as we have come with supporting LGBTQIA+ in our schools, we are only at the beginning of this critical journey. This experience reaffirmed my commitment to my students, staff, friends, etc to actively show that I appreciate and honour them for the amazing people that they are. I am already looking forward to next year.”

“I was so excited to hear that we were invited to join Regina Public Schools in the parade, and that GSSD was helping us get there! Growing up queer in both urban and rural settings, I knew how important it is for our rainbow youth to see others like themselves celebrated instead of hated. Seeing the genuine smiles on their faces when we arrived at the parade was absolutely amazing.”



“Going to pride meant I could see so many other people just like me, and not have to feel alone. There is a whole community of people who will accept me for who I am.”

SUVIVOR'S FLAG CEREMONY



Photo above: Cree Delorme speaks at the Survivor's Flag Ceremony.

Cree Delorme, a grade 11 student and member of the Cowessess First Nation, hosted a Survivor's Flag Ceremony at the Yorkton Regional High School on Wednesday, June 1. Cree, along with her teacher mentors, Kendra Helfrich and Jana Martinuk, designed a display case in the Barry Sharpe Foyer to display the Residential School Survivor's flag. The event on June 1 included speakers, drummers, singers and the reveal of the display which houses original artwork created by Cree. The intention of the display is to honour the survivors of residential schools, remember those who did not come home and to "continue the conversation as we all move forward together as Treaty people".

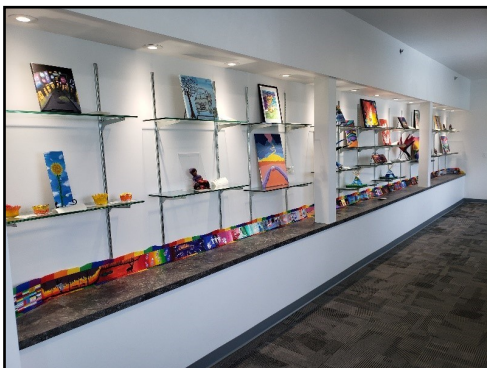


Photo above: The Residential School Survivor's flag in the Barry Sharpe Foyer at the YRHS.



Photo to the left: Drummers at the ceremony.

GOOD SPIRIT EDUCATION COMPLEX GRAND OPENING ART DISPLAY



On June 16, a grand opening celebration was held at the Good Spirit Education Complex (GSEC). Student artwork from Dr. Brass, Yorkton Regional, Davison, Miller, and Melville Comprehensive Schools was featured throughout the building. We look forward to featuring more student artwork at GSEC in the future!



P.J. GILLEN SCHOOL'S OUTDOOR CLASSROOM WELL SUPPORTED BY COMMUNITY



The Outdoor Classroom at P.J. Gillen School received a generous \$1,000 donation from Tim Horton's. The donation will go towards the outdoor classroom.

Staff would also like to thank the community of Esterhazy for supporting the schools Tim Horton's Smile Cookie day. P.J. Gillen School received \$1,548 from the campaign.

Photo to the left: The cheque presentation from Tim Hortons to P.J. Gillen Principal, Kelsey Shields and Vice-Principal, Wanita Lippai.

WALK AND ROLL 2022

It was perfect weather across the division for the 16th annual Walk and Roll.

The Yorkton Regional High School first initiated the Walk and Roll as a way to encourage physical activity in the community.

Walk and Roll, which is held the first Wednesday of every June, encourages students, staff and families across the division to walk, run, bike, or wheel to school or work.

All participants in the division had a chance to win a new bicycle.

Thank you to all participants of the 2022 Walk and Roll and a special thank you to the local Canadian Tire, and the General Manager Dale, for their generous discount on the bikes



Photo above: Anya Radison, Kindergarten student from Yorkdale Central School picked out the perfect bike for herself!

Photo below: GSSD staff bike recipient Alana Patzwald, teacher at Columbia School had some help picking out her bike!



Photo above: Trinton Bierwagen, Grade 7 student at Melville Comprehensive School poses with his new mountain bike!

CENTURY FIELD IS GETTING LIGHTS!

Century Field is getting lights thanks to a large donation from the Kinsmen Club of Yorkton as well as the following local businesses: RH Electric, Yorkton Concrete 2012 Ltd, Potzus Construction, and Triple A Drilling. The GSSD Facilities team is working through the planning stage with all involved and they anticipate lighting to be installed over the summer.



CELEBRATIONS IN GSSD SCHOOLS!



Celebrations were in store as Preeceville School turned 110 years old this year.



Ava Delainey from Melville Comprehensive School has qualified for the 2022 Summer Games. She will travel to Niagara in August to compete in the 100m and 400m wheelchair races!

We are all rooting for you!



Grade 3 students from Davison School recently helped the City of Melville prepare their summer flower planters.

The students and their families planted over 60 planters across the community!



On Monday May 30, 2022, the Dr. Brass Indigenous Drum Group student singers along with Drum Knowledge Keeper Mike Meeches & Cultural Knowledge Keeper Conrad Desjarlais welcomed the Dr. Brass staff to learn about the protocols and significance of the drum and smudging ceremony.



Yorkton Tribal Council (YTC) held a poster contest for students during National Indigenous Peoples Month. Students were asked to submit a poster on how they celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Two Columbia School students earned a placing: Maisie placed 2nd and won \$125, Cadence placed 3rd and won \$75.

Congratulations to you both!

SHOWCASE TRACK IS BACK 2022!

Good Spirit School Division was excited to bring back the Grade 4 & 5 Showcase Track & Field Meet! On Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 266 students from across GSSD participated in one or more of the following events:

- High jump
- Long jump
- Shot put
- 100 m
- 800 m
- Relays



The recipients of the gold, silver, and bronze medals are listed below:

Category	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Grade 4 Girls 100m	Courtlyn Heshka – CJES	Vaida Kuntz – YCS	Kenzee Kpelchuk - CJES
Grade 4 Girls 800m	Vaida Kuntz – YCS	Emma-Dee Marshall - MIL	Charlotte Pasloski - YCS
Grade 4 Girls High Jump	Kenzee Kpelchuk – CJES	Jade Sas – VIC	Dallas Liebrecht – SAL
Grade 4 Girls Long Jump	Courtlyn Heshka – CJES	Bryn Veroba – YCS	Vaida Kuntz – YCS
Grade 4 Girls Shot Put	Delanie Kobko – MAC	Courtlyn Heshka – CJES	Hillary Fayant-Stephens – MCK
Grade 4 Boys 100 M	Ryker Katzberg - DRB	Cason Nagy – MCK	Nash Wandy - DAV
Grade 4 Boys 800 M	Keaton Kreklewich – DAV	Quin Summers - VIC	Ryker Katzberg – DRB
Grade 4 Boys High Jump	Nash Wandy – DAV	Joren Schmieder – GRA	Cooper Toth – MAC
Grade 4 Boys Long Jump	Ryker Katzberg – DRB	Keltyn Konkel – SCS	Cason Nagy – MCK
Grade 4 Boys Shot Put	Ryker Katzberg – DRB	Sem Kuzminchuk – VIC	Nash Wandy – DAV
Grade 5 Girls 100m	Abigail Korolek – MAC	Hayden Mack – LCS	Neeva Roebuck – MCK
Grade 5 Girls 800m	Abigail Korolek – MAC	Keira Werner – MCK	Jorja Fraser – CPS
Grade 5 Girls High Jump	Hayden Mack – LCS	Jaylen Walker – PJG	Abigail Korolek – MAC
Grade 5 Girls Long Jump	Abigail Korolek – MAC	Tied: Hayden Mack – LCS Neeva Roebuck – MCK	Jorja Fraser – CPS
Grade 5 Girls Shot Put	Ryka Padar – DAV	Makayla Bone – MCK	Abigail Korolek – MAC
Grade 5 Boys 100m	Rowan Nagy – YCS	Cardell Noble – PJG	Kelson Hawreluik – YCS
Grade 5 Boys 800m	Kelson Hawreluik – YCS	Blaine Romanchook – PJG	Gavin Erickson – PRE
Grade 5 Boys High Jump	Dawsyn Serelo – DAV	Gavin Erickson – PRE	Kelson Hawreluik – YCS
Grade 5 Boys Long Jump	Cardell Noble – PJG	Kelson Hawreluik – YCS	Dawsyn Serelo – DAV
Grade 5 Boys Shot Put	Kelson Hawreluik – YCS	Myles Chopping – MAC	Chase Morrison – YCS
Relay	Davison School	MC Knoll School	Canora Junior Elementary School

Congratulations to all participants!!

PROVINCIAL TRACK 2022

The Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association (SHSAA) Provincial Track and Field championships were hosted by the Regina High School Athletics Association at the Canada Games Athletic Complex in Regina on Friday, June 3 and Saturday June 4, 2022.

Approximately 1,500 student athletes participated in the championship, which consisted of nine track events, seven field events, and two combined Quadathlon events. The meet includes Intermediate (Under 15), Junior (under 16) and Senior (16 and over) competitors.

Good Spirit School Division had athletes participating and medaling. Congratulations to all athletes!

Below are the GSSD 2022 provincial track and field medalist:

- **Ridwan Olatunji - Yorkton Regional High School**
 - Gold – Intermediate Boys 200m
 - Silver – Intermediate Boys 100m
- **Hadiza Kasim - Yorkton Regional High School**
 - Gold – Intermediate Girls 200m
- **Halima Kasim - Yorkton Regional High School**
 - Bronze – Junior Girls 200m
- **Intermediate Boys - 4x 100m Relay team**
 - Ridwan Olatunji – YRHS
 - Isaak Munro – YRHS
 - Levi Erhardt – KCI
 - Arvin Pasaporte - KCI
 - Silver – Intermediate Boys 4 x 100m
- **Aron Cudal - Invermay School**
 - Bronze – Junior Boys Long Jump
- **Summer Johnson - Norquay School**
 - Bronze – Intermediate Girls High Jump
- **Jerin Keough - Langenburg Central School**
 - Gold – Intermediate Boys 3000m
 - Bronze – Intermediate Boys 1500m



Photo above: The Intermediate Boys 100m Relay team proudly display their silver medals.



Photo to the left: Invermay School student, Aron Cudal, won a Bronze in Junior Boys Long Jump.



Photo above: Norquay School student, Summer Johnson, gained a Bronze medal in the Intermediate Girls High Jump.



Photo to the right: Langenburg Central School student, Jerin Keough, won Gold in the Intermediate Boys 300m and Bronze in the Intermediate Boys 1500m.

MELVILLE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL MONUMENT



Photo above: The old "Big M" that needed to be replaced.

Schools of a certain vintage carry deeply rooted traditions and symbols. The water feature at the entrance to Melville Comprehensive School (MCS) was no exception.

The "Big M"—the name affectionately given to the fountain and pool adorned by a large, concrete M—started to show its age and was deemed a safety hazard by the Occupational Health & Safety Committee. As it was beginning to crumble apart, it was requested that the Big M be decommissioned.

This led to an idea to replace the monument.

Many candid Grade 12 yearbook photos feature the Big M, and for most alumni, the original monument is iconic. Noting this, the original suggestion for replacement came from Building Manager Correen Kirshman. A committee consisting of current MCS administration, teachers, and caretaking staff designed a suitable replacement. The GSSD Facilities Team was very supportive and encouraging of the proposal. With the 50th Anniversary of MCS falling on the 2021-22 school year, the committee wanted to provide a new monument to the alumni and future students.

"It was obvious from the social media comments that people were really passionate about the Big M", said Mike Sweatman, Principal at MCS. "We knew we needed to deliver a memorable item that could reciprocate the pride we all feel for our school". The committee also wanted to ensure the monument was functional. The end result is a stout display with an incorporated bench. Bus students and future photo opportunities will benefit from the format of the structure.

The committee also understood that the monument and the build process needed to reflect the underpinnings of community engagement, partnership, and collective effort. The effort to construct the monument was largely done by staff and students, but included many community partners and their specialized skills.



Photo above: The new MCS monument has purple lights on in the evening, letting that Cobra pride shine!

MCS would like to thank the following partners:

- City of Melville
- GSSD Facilities
- N&R Concrete
- Terry Friesen, TF Concrete & Construction
- Jonathan Yanush, Yanush Enterprises, Inc. (powder coating of the letters)
- Kyle Kosedy, Kosedy Backhoe Service
- Barr Kosedy Stucco
- Scotty's Towing
- Thiedig Construction, demolition team
- Prairie Coop
- Dean Katzberg, GSSD Electrician
- Darren Tillman, DJT Design and Construction
- MCS teachers, caretakers, support staff, students, and administrators that donated their time.



Photo above: Many hands make light work. The monument was completed thanks to many MCS' partners!

On July 1, 2022, Melville Comprehensive School celebrates their 50th anniversary. The 50th Graduating class will be able to take their picture at the new monument, the beginning of a new yet continued legacy.

BUS GARAGE BBQS

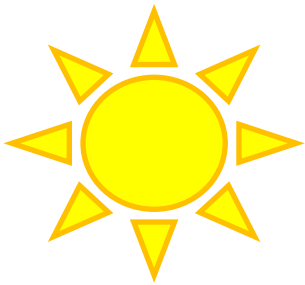


Photo above: Greg Donald from Warner Industries cooked delicious burgers and hot dogs for everyone.

To celebrate the 2021-22 school year, the bus drivers in the Yorkton area and division staff at the Good Spirit Education Complex were provided with a BBQ lunch on June 22, while the Melville-area bus drivers and garage staff had their lunch on June 23. The large BBQ, burgers, and buns were supplied by Warner Industries, with GSSD supplying other food and supplies. Warner Industries, who have recently supplied the buses purchased by the division, also supplied many door prizes. There was a great turnout at both events, with everybody enjoying the fantastic food and beautiful weather!



Photo to the right: GSSD Bus Drivers, (Left to right: Wayne McInnes, Peter Sikora, and Howard Howells) enjoy the company and food.



THOMAS BUILT BUSES AND WARNER INDUSTRIES TRIP



Photo above: Transportation Manager, Ryan Hall and Shop Foreperson, Kelly Becker enjoyed their tours.

From May 10-12, Thomas Built Buses and Warner Industries facilitated a trip for Ryan Hall, Transportation Manager, and Kelly Becker, Shop Foreperson, to tour the manufacturing and assembly facilities for Thomas Built Buses. On May 10th, the Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation factory, in Gaffney, South Carolina, was toured with a heavy focus on the school bus area of the plant. Two of the Thomas facilities were visited on May 11th, both near High Point, North Carolina. In the morning, the "old" plant was explored, which consisted of fabrication of many parts and the assembly of the flat-nose buses. The afternoon saw a tour of the C-2 facility, where the assembly occurs for the buses that GSSD uses. The parent company for Thomas Built Buses is Daimler and information was provided stating that the Thomas C-2 factory is the most technologically advanced facility in the Daimler organization,



Photo above: Tour of Thomas Built Buses.

with a lot of automation and robotics employed. The tour of the seat facility occurred on May 12th, before the travel back to Canada.

Join the Transportation team!
Call 306-786-5505 to get started today.

"BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS TO CREATE BRIGHT FUTURES"

IF YOU'VE GOT THE DRIVE... WE'VE GOT THE BUS!



**GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION IS SEEKING
BUS DRIVERS THROUGHOUT THE DIVISION!**

CALDER
CANORA
CHURCHBRIDGE
ESTERHAZY
GRAYSON
INVERMAY
KAMSACK
LANGENBURG
MELVILLE
NORQUAY
PREECEVILLE
SALTCOATS
SPRINGSIDE
STOCKHOLM
STURGIS
YORKTON

What you need:

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

What we offer:

- ✓ Training
- ✓ A dedicated team
- ✓ Summer & all school vacations off
- ✓ Flexibility



GET STARTED TODAY!

**CALL THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT: 306.786.5505 OR
APPLY ONLINE: WWW.GSSD.CA/EMPLOYMENT**

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

Long-term Goals

- By June 30, 2022, students will report feeling welcomed, included and feel a sense of belonging and caring at school.
- By June 30, 2022, staff will report feeling welcomed, included and feel a sense of belonging and caring at work.
- By June 30, 2022, students will develop mental fitness (state of well-being and having a positive sense of how we feel, think, and act) to identify emotions and access supports.
- By June 30, 2022, staff will develop mental fitness (state of well-being and having a positive sense of how we feel, think, and act) to identify emotions and access supports.
- By June 30, 2022, students will receive timely and responsive evidence-based prevention and intervention services at school.
- By June 30, 2022, students and families will report that they know where to turn for more intensive support when needed.
- By June 30, 2022, GSSD will enhance the physical facilities occupied by students and staff to ensure health and well-being.
- By June 30, 2022, all high schools will have established alliances for gender and sexual diversity.

MOSAIC SCHOOL NUTRITION CHALLENGE



Ten schools in Saskatchewan will each receive a \$10,000 grant to support student nutrition after being selected to win this year's Mosaic Extreme School Nutrition Challenge.

The grants will support winning projects that have goals including implementing or expanding nutrition programs, enhancing kitchen and garden facilities, increasing educational opportunities for students and families, and supporting reconciliation and cultural projects.

Melville Comprehensive School (MCS) is one of the schools receiving a \$10,000 grant!

The schools grant will go towards implementing breakfast/snack programs, enhancing existing lunch programs, and offering student/parent cooking classes.

View the 2022 Winners here: [MSNC Winners 2022](#)

Schools from across Saskatchewan submit applications that explain their current school environment and improvement plans for the upcoming school year. This program began in 2006, and works to encourage grassroots initiatives to help improve student nutrition.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING...FOR STUDENTS



Photo above: Grade 10 students completing their First Aid certification.

On Monday, May 2 and Tuesday, June 3, 2022, Grade 10 and 11 students at Esterhazy High School (EHS) learned important life skills and added certifications to their resumes. Grade 10 students returned to the EHS tradition of completing their First Aid certification through St. John's Ambulance, while Grade 11 students participated in something new. Students completed the Canadian Mental Health Association's First Aid training, facilitated by Britton Houdek and Cara Molnar from the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA). This 2-day professional training provides an understanding of various mental



Photo above: Grade 11 students participate in the Mental Health First Aid training.

health conditions and helps participants become more aware of their own mental health. It helps individuals learn how to support someone experiencing a mental health crisis, and how/when to refer them for help. Esterhazy High School staff and students would like to thank RBC for covering the cost of the student manuals through a wellness grant and to SHA for providing this valuable training for young adults before they transition out of high school. EHS hopes this is the first of many Grade 11 classes to receive this certification at EHS.

CHARLENE AND RADAR – GSSDS FIRST GUIDE DOG TEAM

Charlene Izuka and Radar are terrific ambassadors for the Lions Canada Dog Guide Service. Radar is successfully navigating his role as the first service dog in GSSD schools, and Charlene is discovering that her life is safer and richer with him by her side.

“Radar enhances my work life by providing me with safety and assistance throughout the day. I am less worried about falling and getting hurt because he is alerting for me. If my hands aren’t working, he picks up for me, opens doors for me, whatever it takes to help manage the day,” says Charlene.



Charlene, who is employed as an Educational Assistant (EA) at Springside School and as the Springside Before and After School Program instructor, was thrilled to hear that her request for a Lions Guide Dog was moving forward (it had been delayed because of Covid) in March of this year. Charlene is a valued and respected staff member known for the kindness, caring, and support she provides her students and colleagues.

Charlene lives with Multiple Sclerosis and besides offering valuable support, Radar is trained to bring help to her side in the event of a medical emergency. Charlene prepared for his arrival by completing online orientation with his trainer. When the time came, his trainer delivered Radar and spent a week helping Charlene and Radar integrate their lives together.

Radar, a three-year-old black Labrador Retriever, is a highly trained and quiet member of staff. He calmly and quickly learned to navigate Charlene’s life. In return, Charlene committed herself to the fact that he requires more upkeep than the average family pet: “I was terrified of him at first. It was that I forget

commands and what they told me to do with him. Now it’s like we are a fine-oiled machine. We know each other and he knows my movements, which is what he will alert to”.

Charlene feeds Radar a special omega-enriched diet to maintain his health and his weight at 62lbs. She tests his skills daily to keep him fine-tuned. Daily walks, grooming, and vitamins are part of his regimen. If Charlene fails to keep up these expectations, she risks losing Radar.

Radar gets to be a “regular” dog when his red guide dog jacket is off. That is if a highly specialized dog valued at \$3,500 can ever be considered as “regular”. In his off-time he plays with Bella, his canine roommate and enjoys interactions with Charlene and her husband John. Charlene notes that even in his off time, Radar follows her wherever she goes. Such is the love and devotion of a great dog.



Radar will retire from service at 10 years of age, at which time Charlene and John plan to adopt him. Charlene is very appreciative of the GSSD and Springside School response to her request to have a guide dog assist her at work. She gives shout-outs to the division and school staff at every opportunity as their response allowed for seamless education for students and for the successful integration of Radar into her working life.

It seems natural that Charlene is paying it forward; she is engaged in raising funds for the Lions to provide a guide dog for a person in need of one. To date, her Guide Dog Walk sponsored by Pet Valu, corporate and Lions donations have raised nearly \$4,000. Generous in spirit and in action; we thank Radar and Charlene for what they teach us all every day!

Photo above: Pet Values Walk for Dog Guides on May 30, 2022 organized by Charlene Izuka.

EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Long-term Goal

- 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.
- 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 processes.
- By June 30, 2022, 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.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM

A School Community Council Symposium was held virtually, on June 22, 2022, to review the 2022-23 budget and the SCC professional development modules. The GSSD Board of Education and Senior Administration were pleased to have 29 individuals join the session.

2022-23 Budget Presentation

Director Robertson shared that prior to developing the budget, the Board of Education establishes their budget framework which identifies how the Division is funded, what the Board priorities are, and GSSD's aspirational statements.

The Good Spirit School Division is committed to investing in well-being, reading, writing, math, Indigenous student achievement, early years, and graduation rate initiatives. Despite the current challenges facing the province and education sector, the GSSD Board of Education is committed to our motto of "Students Come First".

Director Robertson and Chief Financial Officer Gervais provided a synopsis of the 2022-23 budget:

- Projected Enrolments
 - 5,590.75 Prekindergarten to Grade 12 student full-time equivalents (FTEs) plus 97.50 FTE home-based students for 5,688.25 FTEs (a decrease of 14.25 students from September 20, 2021)
- Revenues
 - \$89.05M includes \$9.44M capital grant for YRHS major capital project

Full Time Equivalents

- Administration 19.68
- School-based instructional – 366.26
- School-based support – 241.45
- Facilities – 61.28
- Transportation – 112
- Complementary Services – 14.3
- External Services – 3.0

Students Come First

Board of Education Budget Framework – 2022/23

HOW ARE WE FUNDED?
The Government of Saskatchewan determines the funding available to school divisions each year. The primary driver for funding is projected enrolment levels established in January before upcoming academic year. Boards of Education are given the responsibility to allocate funding in an equitable and transparent manner that reflect the principles, priorities and commitments adopted by the Board of Education.

WHAT ARE OUR PRIORITIES?
Advocacy – The Board of Education and Administrative Council will conduct targeted advocacy sessions with the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Government seeking sustainable funding. GSSD will also explore innovative partnerships with a mission to expand funding sources allowing the division to meet the vision of building strong foundations and bright futures.
Principled Decision Making – The Board of Education and Administrative Council will strive to make budget decisions based on our Aspirational Statements.
Expenditure Review – The Board of Education and Administrative Council will support processes and practices that allow for the review of expenditures for cost efficiencies in operational, administrative, and instructional areas.
Equitable Staffing – The Board of Education and Administrative Council support equity and transparency of staff allocation. Staffing equity will be achieved by considering the Pupil/Teacher Ratio (PTR) with an eye on class size, grade configurations, the diversity of our students, schools, and communities. Consultation and collaboration will be a key feature of the staffing process.
Targeted Supports for Indigenous & Students in Vulnerable Circumstances – The Board of Education and Administrative Council are mindful of the significance and urgency of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. GSSD is committed to work with stakeholders to enhance educational outcomes for Indigenous students, now and into the future. GSSD will also provide targeted supports and interventions for students in vulnerable circumstances.
Maintaining the Impact of the Division's Strategic Plan – The Board of Education and Administrative Council is cognizant of the importance of the division Aspirational Statements – High Quality Teaching & Learning; Engagement of All Students, Families, and Communities; Effective Policy & Procedures; Healthy, Sustainable Physical & Social Environments. The division is committed to exploring new and innovative ways to enhance opportunities for students, staff, and communities.

WHAT ARE WE ABOUT? GSSD Aspirational Statements

High Quality Teaching and Learning

- Provincial curricula and related resources that are developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive.
- Employ play-based learning experiences that support a sense of personal competency, self-efficacy, and social responsibility; and,
- A wide range of opportunities to learn, practice, experience and demonstrate understanding, confidence, and motivation for a healthy and balanced life.

Engagement of All Students, Families, and Communities

- Efforts are aligned to promote student, family, staff and community health and well-being.
- School Community Councils and First Nations Education organizations are involved in School Level Plans.
- School Leadership values cooperation, effective interpersonal communication and shared decision making.
- Schools, families, and communities engage in ongoing discussions and shared efforts to promote and support the health and well-being of staff, students, and the community; and,
- Reciprocal relationships share resources and services within the school and community.

Effective Policy and Procedures

- Protocols for collaboration on policy development and related protocols practices for health and well-being.
- Ongoing evaluation and monitoring of needs and effectiveness of efforts to improve well-being.
- Promoting practices that enhance and well-being; and,
- Clear practices, procedures, protocols and regulations regarding health and safety in children and youth (e.g., nutrition, anti-bullying, physical activity, pandemic planning, air quality).

Healthy, Sustainable Physical and Social Environments

- Access to and support for healthier options.
- A welcoming, caring, and inclusive environment.
- Healthy relationships among and between students, staff, and the community.
- Responsive and inclusive leadership of students, staff, and community.
- Relationships that enhance and are influenced by families, cultural perspectives, and the community.
- Modern, responsible infrastructure to maintain and promote the highest levels of support for students, staff, families, and the community.
- Systems that ensure buildings, grounds, transportation, and technology are built and maintained not only to current standards, but that practices and procedures are in place to plan for a strong, vibrant future.
- Proactive, innovative approaches to sustain, support and grow Division facilities and systems.
- Efficiencies, both internally and externally, to ensure appropriate resources are targeted to our key areas including facilities, transportation, and technology.
- Strategies to use the school buildings and grounds, materials, equipment, and routes to and from the school to enhance well-being of staff, students, and the community; and,
- Informal role modeling, peer support, nurturing families, and safe communities.

Building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures

Learning Without Limits... Achievement For All

Good Spirit SCHOOL DIVISION

Continued on next page...

SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM CONTINUED...

Robertson and Gervais shared that school divisions are facing major inflationary challenges. Some of the largest areas to note include:

- Support Staff cost of living & grid step increases
- CPP, EI, WCB, health/dental benefits
- Software
- Fuel
- Food
- Buses, vehicles, technology
- Utilities & Carbon Tax

Gervais shared that the ability to avoid debt will become harder if inflation continues to trend higher.

There are significant transportation budget challenges moving into the new school year (see information below):

- Transportation Department Facts
 - GSSD has 103 scheduled routes
 - Education Regulations mandate ride time parameters
 - 2022-23 funding increases of \$77,894
 - Inflationary pressures experienced by GSSD:
 - Staffing cost increase of \$104,695 (2% cost of living increase)
 - Fleet insurance increase of approximately 50% in the last two years
- Bus Fleet Repair & Maintenance Pressures
 - Inflationary pressures on parts along with supply chain issues have cause expenses to increase
 - In order to maintain a healthy fleet, GSSD must replace 10 buses per year
 - In 2021, the average bus cost \$115,586
 - In 2022, the average price increased to \$123,932 (7%)
 - Transportation operating and capital expenditures have increased by \$606,492.
 - Grants increased \$77,894 for 2022-23.
- Diesel Fuel Cost Pressures
 - May 2020 - \$.92
 - May 2021 - 1.24 (increase of 35%)
 - May 2022 - \$2.02 (63% increase)
 - GSSD typically budgets \$1,050,000 for fuel. In 2022-23, GSSD will budget over \$1,400,000.

Gervais explained that 95% of GSSD's revenues come from grant. The majority of that funding would be from the Ministry's operating grant but some of the grant funds are from other sources such as Jordan's Principle, PMR and Major Capital from the Ministry.

The graphic features the Good Spirit School Division logo at the top. Below it, the title "DIGITAL LEARNING SCHOOL UPDATE" is displayed in large, bold, blue letters. The main content consists of three bullet points: 1) Prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year, GSSD formed a Kindergarten to Grade 12 Digital Learning School (DLS) to accommodate the needs of individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic. 2) During the 2021-22 school year, Kindergarten DLS programming was not offered due to limited interest. 3) Moving into the 2022-23 school year, DLS programming will be no longer be offered to Kindergarten to Grade 6 students. This third point includes two sub-bullets: "Families with students in Grades 7-9 wishing to enrol are asked to complete an application form." and "Students in Grades 10-12, will continue to have the option of registering in DLS for either part-time or full-time courses." At the bottom of the graphic, there is a call to action: "FOR MORE INFORMATION" followed by the URL "WWW.GSSD.CA/SCHOOL/DLS" in orange text. The graphic also includes illustrations of a smartphone, a tablet, and a computer monitor.

Focusing in on ...

GSSD GRADUATES AND RETIREES

June signifies the end...but it also signifies a beginning. As we look back on the past two years, we know the challenges staff and students have had to overcome. From virtual ceremonies to cancelled events... the road was full of bumps. Staff and students excelled at adapting with humility and hope. It was with renewed gratitude that this year face-to-face graduation and retirement ceremonies were able to return.

Schools across the division honoured their grads with parades, outdoor events and auditoriums filled with community members eager to celebrate the class of 2022.

The GSSD Board of Education celebrated 10 of 20 retirees at the Good Spirit Education Complex on June 16. It was a wonderful evening of sharing memories and laughs.

To all the staff and students, your graduation and retirement is an ending worth celebrating, but it is also a confident new beginning.

“In a world where you can be anything, be kind” - Unknown

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2022 and **happy retirement** to our 20 retirees!



Photo above: 2022 retirees from left to right (top row): Ed Kuntz, Claire Bishop, Laurel Welke, Tim Bomboir, Michele Haczkevicz (bottom row) Shaleen Kruzer, Donna Hozjan, Alison Teneycke, Deedee Walker and Linda Anderson.



Photo above: Esterhazy High School held their graduation ceremony on June 28, 2022.



Photo above: Invermay School celebrated their graduates on June 29 with a face to face ceremony.



Photo above: Melville Comprehensive School grad 12 graduation ceremony.



Photo above: Sturgis Composite grade 12 graduates have some pretty awesome photos thanks to Tyson Greene and April Kucharyshen.



Photo above: Kamsack Comprehensive Institute live streamed their grad for anyone who was unable to attend in person.

GSSD FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

Our Motto	Students Come First
Our Mission	Building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures
Our Values	Belonging, Respect, Responsibility, Learning, Nurturing, Perseverance, and Diversity
Our Vision	Learning Without Limits...Achievement For All