

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



*Pam Anderson Klassen*



*Sheri Gunville*



*Tracy Bloomquist*



*Linda Greyeyes*



*Carla Penner-Henry*



*Corrine Hoffman*



*Sheila Cunningham*



*Sandra Quayle*



*Elaine Beres*



*Leanne Tretiak*



*Darlana Harding*



*Stacey Monette*



*Brian Linn*



*Lisa Dryka*



*Maureen Taylor*

For Department Staff,  
please [click here](#).

For Calendar of Events, please  
[click here](#).



The Ministry of Education is continually adding new suggested resources as they renew curricula. Be sure to check the **SUPPORT MATERIALS** tab for new resources.

To access Ministry Web-based learning resources, visit the following:

<http://www.curriculum.gov.sk.ca>

or

<http://www.progetudes.gov.sk.ca>

These resources will be available through Blackboard until December 31, 2012.

Click on WBLRD under the Quick Links section at the middle bottom of the website and login using your legal first and last names (firstname.lastname) and password, the numeric month and day of your birthday day (eg. July 1st would be 0701).

### Teacher Resource Centre

The TRC is always on the search for new resources to support curricula. Follow the link to see the latest additions:

New Professional Resources

[November 2012](#)

If you discover a great resource that should be added to the TRC's collection, please forward the information to [kjasieniuk@srsd119.ca](mailto:kjasieniuk@srsd119.ca).

### Integrated Learning Library

New Resources

- *Readacide* by Kelly Gallagher
- *Math Expressions* by Dr. Cathy Marks Krpan
- *How to Plan Rigorous Instruction* by Robyn R. Jackson
- *Ban the Book Report* by Graham Foster

## Leader Within

The leader we most wish to recognize and thank this holiday season is YOU. You, the teacher, who inspires the children daily despite the many stresses that come with being a teacher. You, the administrator, who diligently looks at your data with the best in mind for the future. You, the one in the building assisting others with understanding assessment. You, the teacher, who has a differentiated classroom like you've never seen before. You, the one in your building helping kids and teachers from all classrooms as you engage in a new coaching role. You, the one cleaning up after everyone else mentioned. You, the one who gets our little ones to school safe and sound even on the snowiest days. YOU. Anyone who deserves a holiday as much as YOU is who we recognize this season. THANK YOU for all YOU do.

## Pam Anderson Klassen (extension 2055)

### TRC

TRC materials are signed out for six weeks (DVDs for 3 weeks) before they are to be returned. If you require the resources for a longer period of time, please contact the TRC to see if the resources are available to be renewed.

### DRA

In an effort to improve the collection, analysis, and use of the division DRA data, some changes have been made to the DRA database. In the past, teachers were able to choose if they entered their DRA results as Test 1 or Test 2. This caused some confusion in the collection of year-end data as some spring data was entered as Test 1 and others as Test 2. To remedy this, test dates have now been locked and will be recorded as follows:

Test 1 – any data entered between August to November 30  
Test 2 – any data entered between December 1 to March 30  
Test 3 – any data entered between April 1 to June 30

### Book Club

Thank you to all who attended our first division book club! January's book is *How to Create a Culture of Achievement in your School and Classroom*. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pam.

*"...the more we learn about learning, the more willing we may be to challenge the idea that homework has to be part of schooling." - Alfie Kohn*

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## Corrine Hoffman (extension 2065)

The website publishing of the SRPSD 2012-2013 Learning Improvement Plans for all schools has been moved to December. Information regarding the efforts of each School Community Council was added to the plans in mid-late November, therefore delaying the updating of the plans on the website. Thank you to the principals and vice principals who worked to identify the SCC strategy and actions linked to your school goal(s). The plans should be exported and on the site by December 20.

I am completing my second visit to every school before Christmas break. It continues to be interesting work examining various data related to student learning – DRA results, Math Common Assessment results, Report Card results, Aboriginal Analytics, Treaty Education information, and Attendance – just to name a few key components. A focus area of growth continues to be the gathering and examination of data for grades 9-12.

Administrators are welcome to contact me anytime for support with Skopus, SkoVision, &/or the school Learning Improvement Plan. I will be at each school two more times in 2012-2013. Happy Holidays!

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## Tracy Bloomquist (extension 2074)

### Social Studies

Saskatchewan Social Studies 6 and/or 7 student and/or teacher eText subscriptions were valid one year from the activation date. Teachers may have a reminder popping up to renew their subscription. An [eText renewal price-list/order form](#) is required when sending your school purchase order to Pearson.

[Trade!](#) (PLEA) Without international trade, most Saskatchewan people would never have tasted a banana, worn Nike shoes, or listened to Lady GaGa. Making the concepts of trade easy to understand, this online resource examines four areas: Why Countries Trade, Trade and Politics, Trade and Food, and Trade and the Environment.

### Treaty Education

**TEACHING TREATIES IN THE CLASSROOM** (January 23, 24, TBA) The goal of the three day workshop is to support teachers in their efforts to actualize FNM content and perspectives in the classroom. A deeper understanding of the Treaty Essential Learnings will allow teachers to strengthen their practice and support other teachers in their school. Check out the online learning calendar for a detailed description of the workshop.

[Treaties and the Law](#) (PLEA) supports teachers of all disciplines looking to implement treaty education in their classroom. This resource includes an Informational Backgrounder for all teachers, as well as a full-length Teacher Resource Guide with lesson plans, activities, and handouts.

### Health and Wellness

The [Eat Well and Be Active Educational Toolkit](#) (Health Canada) is designed to help those who teach about healthy eating and physical activity, and encourage individuals to take action to maintain and improve their health. [Mindcheck.ca](#) was developed to help teens identify and understand mental distress they may be experiencing and direct them to sources of help that enable them to learn skills and strategies to help manage these problems. Topics include: anxiety, depression, stress, substance abuse, and psychosis.

## Sheri Gunville (extension 2012)

Last chance for WBLRD resources.

If you have used in this in the past and would still like to access the Ministry's Web Based Learning Resources or WBLRD resources, you only have this month to download and save them. They come in .zip files and require extracting and logging in. However, I am guessing you folks are more into Christmas baking and vanilla extract (than this kind of extracting) and would rather watch a yule log than log in. I will be happy to download and save anything to the T drive upon request. I have already saved the Practical and Applied Arts courses to the PAA folder. Please send any requests prior to December 20, 2012, to [Sherig@srsd119.ca](mailto:Sherig@srsd119.ca).

Happy Holidays; if you happen to get a new device or computer for Christmas, check out the self learning videos on how to set up such devices and the new basic operating system videos at [atomiclearning.com](http://atomiclearning.com). Use the username srsd119 and the password 119srsd for yourself at home.



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## Sheila Cunningham (extension 2062)

### Science

The role of questions:

It is essential to develop questions that are evoked by student interests and have potential for rich and deep learning. These questions are used to initiate and guide the inquiry and give students direction for investigating topics, problems, ideas, challenges, or issues under study.

Students should recognize that science is often unable to answer "why" questions; in these instances, scientists rephrase their inquiries into "how" questions/(Saskatchewan Curriculum, 2009).

### Math

Please continue to send in any feedback regarding the common assessments. Necessary changes will be made later this month. The French translations of the common assessments are well under way and will be done by early January.

The database is also up and running properly. As you enter data make sure you choose the appropriate test to enter your data. If you happen to reassess outcomes throughout the year you can go in and override any data you originally entered.

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## Carla Penner-Henry (extension 2064)

With the holiday season in full swing, facts related to career education and Christmas are just a Google search away. Did you know...?

- If all the Hallmark Christmas cards sold in Canada were lined up end to end, they would stretch back and forth from Toronto to the North Pole six times.
- There are about 15,000 Christmas tree growers in North America, and over 100,000 people are employed full- or part-time in the industry. Canada is home to about 2900 Christmas tree farms.
- During the Christmas season, Visa cards are used an average of 5,340 times every minute in the United States.
- The Bank of Montreal's 2012 Holiday Spending Outlook has found that respondents plan to spend an average of \$1,610 this Christmas, up from \$1,397 in 2011. Shoppers surveyed say they plan to spend an average of \$674 for gifts this year, compared to an average of \$583 last year.
- During the holiday period, Canada Post expects to deliver up to one billion cards, letters and parcels in Canada. This will result in the hiring of close to 1,000 seasonal workers who will join the 69,000 people already employed at Canada Post. Even Mrs. Claus will be joining Santa this year to help him respond to over 1 million letters sent to him at Canada Post!
- In order for Santa to deliver all of his presents on Christmas Eve he would need to travel at 650 miles per second and visit 822 homes per second. He must be very efficient with his customer service!

Enjoy the last month of 2012 with your students, celebrating the successes they have made as they continue to explore what life holds for them. Have a happy Christmas and a fun New Year!