



Saskatchewan Rivers

School Division No. 119

Excellence for Every Learner

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Robert Bratvold Named Director of Education

The Board of Education of the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Robert Bratvold as Director of Education. Robert comes to us from the Creighton School Division where he was Director of Education for the

past five years.

He assumed the duties of Director of Education of SRSD as of August 1, 2011.

Robert's experience will be an asset to the school division as we continue our work toward providing excellence for every learner.



Robert Bratvold

"Literacy for Life" at Spruce Home School

Education Week is a time of celebration. This year at Spruce Home School, we celebrated Literacy for Life in a variety of ways with a special event happening every day.

On Monday, magician Roger Boucher amazed the students while delivering the important message of always striving to achieve at the highest level. On Tuesday, the Grade 5 to 8 students spent an afternoon at the Herb Bassett Home building strong bonds with their senior citizen partners. Stories came to life on Wednesday when Mrs. Krip and Mrs. Somers from P.A. Literacy Network spent the day with the students reading and acting out favourite stories with their famous Story Sacks. On Thursday, students thoroughly enjoyed the soup and bannock lunch followed by performances by the Iron Swing Drummers from Sturgeon Lake and the fancy dancers from Spruce Home and Sturgeon Lake Schools. Later that afternoon, the Grade 1 to 4 students were involved in making a craft with SUNTEP students while the Grade 5 to 8 students learned about valuable traditional life lessons from Fred Felix. The week's activities culminated on Friday with a Science Olympics

organized and run by the Grade 7 and 8 students. Altogether, it was a busy and productive week.

Spruce Home students continue working toward achieving at their highest level academically as well as in all other aspects of their development. Students continue to

impress the staff through their dedication to work and with their respectful, compassionate attitudes.

This commitment to academic achievement and positive character is definitively a tribute to the parents and families of the Spruce Home School area.



Ethan, Hunter and Summer - Fancy Dancers

Students Inspire Future Generations

When you walk down the centre wing of St. Louis Community School, you will see a number of artistic pieces adorning the walls. Upon closer inspection, you will see that these pieces are actually the “footprints” of past graduates. It is a tradition in the school for the Grade 12 class to make their own “creation” and gift it to future students and staff.

The idea of the creations began with Sr. Anne Marie Rohel in 1970. Since the youth had been given the gift of education, the creations would be the students’ opportunity to give a gift back and the graduates would have a way to be a part of the future of the school. Many of the themes came from the poetry students studied in their English

classes; some came from lyrics and popular culture; and some were inspired by words students found meaningful.

The students were and continue to be encouraged to build the creation themselves. They decide on the message that they want to leave behind and they include their names and pictures. The finished product remains a secret until graduation when it is unveiled to the principal at the graduation ceremony.

These pieces give each student the feeling of belonging. When people attend the school for an event, they look for their class creation or look for their relatives and friends’ pictures. The students’ creations reflect the uniqueness of the school. These



creations have built a strong tradition. The dreams and aspirations of each class are truly a part of this school’s great legacy.

Wild Rose School Treks into Learning

On October 19, 35 students from Grade 5 to 8 joined three staff members and three parents on a hike led by Mr. Don Laing.

They adventured into another world of wildlife, trees, and lakes. Students looked for signs of animal activity and surprised themselves with their physical ability to accomplish a hike of 12.5 kilometres.

Highlights consisted of reaching the fire tower overlooking Anglin Lake, reaching the observation tower of the Spruce River Valley and seeing the effects of glaciation in the southern end of the Prince Albert National Park.

The other staff members, Mr. Adam Kulrich and Mrs. Joanne Eikland, were instrumental in making sure all students came back safely. The only people we had to wait for at the end were two parents who “wanted” to do an extra 3 kilometres!

The school would like to thank the supporters of their walkathon which enabled them to pay for transportation, park entrance fees, and a Carlton Bakery “nutritional” snack at the end. Happy trails!



Wild Rose Grade 5 to 8 Students

Funny Money in Saskatchewan Rivers Schools

Finding the humour in budgeting, investing, and money management is not an easy task.

Thankfully, Denis Grignon and the Funny Money program are on a mission to educate students about financial management in a comedic way.

On October 21st, students from Carlton Comprehensive High School, Prince Albert Collegiate Institute, St. Louis Community School, W. P. Sandin School, Meath Park School, and Kinistino School experienced the humour and money management tips from this

nationally recognized comedian. Mr. Grignon, who has appeared on CBC-TV's COMICS and the Comedy Network's COMEDY AT CLUB FIFTY-FOUR, engaged the students in his talk while providing them with valuable financial information. He encouraged students to become responsible and independent money managers by focusing on their financial futures. Mr. Grignon stressed the importance of student/parent discussions concerning basic money matters with topics ranging from the cost to run a car for a year to the interest charges accumulated on a credit card. Wise money managing can help students

stay out of debt and begin investing and saving at an early age.

Additional information about student financial planning, teacher tool kits and short videos can be accessed at <http://www.getsmarter-aboutmoney.ca/FunnyMoney/index.html>.



Wesmor Community High School Learning Through Leadership

The goal of the Leadership class offered at Wesmor Community High School is to create a sense of empowerment within each student, a feeling that they have the power within themselves to make a difference not only in their own lives but in the lives of others. Carol Lemire, the

Leadership teacher, provides students with many opportunities to make an impact in the classroom, the school, and the community. She believes that by doing this she is helping them discover how important they are to their friends, school, families, and community. Her students are "...

challenged to have enough self confidence that nobody will be able to make [them] feel unimportant." (Brendtro, 1990, p. 113). All of our students are important, and at Wesmor; they know it!

Wesmor students have a keen sense of community and understand what it takes to make a community strong. The students who take our Leadership class exemplify what we hope to find in all young people: hope, contribution, caring, and a great sense of fun. These students demonstrate those characteristics by doing. They mentor younger students from neighboring schools, partner with Lakeland Sports and Culture to assist in after school programming, coach, officiate, and organize school and local events. All leadership students earn volunteer hours by volunteering at community clubs, with community organizations, shoveling snow for seniors, and helping at winter carnivals.

They also contribute to our community by being positive role models to children and peers alike. They choose healthy lifestyles and model that choice in everything that they do. As a group, they remind us that our future is in good hands.



Wesmor Students

Problem Based Learning Connects Kids

The Grade 12 Biology students in Kinistino School have taken a different approach to learning this fall with the implementation of problem based learning case studies in their Biology 30 course. Students were introduced to some alarming childhood obesity statistics in Saskatchewan and Canada in a case study entitled “You are What You Eat”, which was developed by their Biology 30 teacher, Mrs. Laura Scheidl. The case study was aligned with curricula objectives from the Unit 1 Biology 30 course and provided an opportunity for the students to make connections, think critically and attempt to solve a real world problem by following an inquiry based learning model and problem solving approach to develop a Healthy Choices for Children Program. The intent was to be able to implement the program in their school and community to help promote awareness of healthy lifestyles in younger children to help fight the current childhood obesity epidemic.

After initially developing their problem statement from their first case study disclosure, the students plotted their own course through the study by developing key questions from each disclosure which guided their research. The students were also given the opportunity to meet with the nutritionist, Heather Carnegie, who was brought into the classroom as an expert in the field of nutrition.

The final product involved the groups presenting their action plans for implementing a Healthy Choices for Children Program. Each presentation was diverse and unique, with action plans ranging from providing healthier choices in the school canteen and food fundraisers, to organizing an after-school fitness camp for kids, to inviting parents and the community to take part in regular Family Fitness Fun evenings! The consensus from the majority of the groups was that early intervention and awareness would be the key to prevention of childhood obesity.

Several of the case study groups chose to go one step further and put their plans into action in Kinistino School. Groups were responsible for communicating with



“Baby Steps For Healthy Living” Project

students, teachers and parents in the organization and implementation of their action plans. A Fitness Kinect Camp for Kids was ran as an afterschool program in October for Grades 1-6 students that focused on providing one hour of fun, physical activity for kids incorporating interactive video games and group games. The kids that attended the camp were treated to a healthy snack and took part in a discussion on how to live a healthy lifestyle. A second group introduced their action plan, “Baby Steps for Healthy Living” with the Grade 3 and Grade 4 students in the school which included a point reward system. Students were asked to track their snacks and lunches at school as well as their after school activity to earn Healthy Choices Points towards an extra gym class or fitness activity. A third group chose to work towards implementing some healthier food choices to make available to students through the school canteen.

The opportunity to work with younger students in the school, and seeing the “fruits of their labour” was both rewarding and educating for the Grade 12 students. Instead of being

passive learners, they were able to take on more active roles and direct the path of their learning as they researched, planned, organized, educated and collaborated with others. Although challenging, the opportunity to be involved in a problem based case study promotes life-long skills for all levels of academic learners and encourages critical thinking and application of knowledge learned in class to real world issues. Positive student feedback and reflective class

discussions indicate that this particular Gr. 12 class is looking forward to the next case study challenge!

