



**Saskatchewan Rivers  
School Division**

**EDUCATION CENTRE**  
545-11th Street East  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 1B1

Tel: 306-764-1571  
Fax: 306-763-4460  
Toll Free: 1-888-764-1571  
website: www.srsd119.ca

*Excellence for Every Learner*

**A REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE SASKATCHEWAN RIVERS SCHOOL DIVISION**

**VOL. 7, NO. 1**

*Street Hockey  
2008*



**2nd Annual  
Tournament**

**Saturday, April 12-08**

**EDUCATION CENTRE  
PARKING LOT**

Street Hockey, that Saskatchewan game that is near and dear to the hearts of many regardless of age, will once again take place in the Education Centre parking lot. The idea began as a way to bring staff from across the division together for some fun and exercise. The event turned out to be a huge attraction for young and old alike. Teams from across the division have been honing their game plan and doing a lot of stretching in preparation for the big day. Entry fees are given to the winning team to donate to a charity of their choice. Last year the team from W. J. Berezowsky won the tournament. When was the last time you enjoyed an outdoor hockey game? Come out to the Education Centre on Saturday, April 12, 2008 and check out the action. There will be a canteen operating throughout the day. Proceeds from the sales of the day go to Relay for Life. Hope to see you there.

**SASK TEACHERS  
TOURNAMENT CHAMPS**

The Kood-a-bins hockey team recently won the Green Division Championship at the Saskatchewan Teachers Hockey Tournament held on January 19 to 21, 2008 in Saskatoon.



Back Row L to R: Jaret Nelson (Carlton), Graham McGregor(PACI), Arti Feher(WJ Berezowsky), Iain MacDougall(Wesmor), Jody Glines(Saskatoon), Randy Emmerson (PACI), Chad Bassaraba(Arthur Pechy)  
Front Row L to R: Brandon Leatherdale(Mount Royal), Troy Semenchuck(Carlton), Lindsay Strachan(Carlton), Mel Kelley(John Diefenbaker), Jeff Court(Carlton) Missing: Cory Trann(PACI), Bill Ruetz(Foam Lake)

## Wesmor Community High School Teen Facility Centre



Allyson Corrigan (left) and Eileen Burns (right), facility centre staff, assemble furniture for the newest members of the school community.

Anticipation is in the air at Wesmor Community High School as students, staff and community members prepare to welcome the newest members of our school community. The Wesmor Community High School Teen Facility Centre opened its doors for the first time on March 3, 2008 to five infants and nine toddlers. How well do infants and toddlers fit within a high school setting? The answer is very well when the children belong to parents trying to complete their high school education. This Centre removes a significant barrier to student-parents graduating from high school because while the parents attend classes, their children will be receiving quality care in the same facility.

Congratulations and thank you to all those who saw the need for such a facility and came together in the community to present a successful application to the provincial Early Learning and Childcare Branch. The committee consisting of **Dr. Shelley Storey**, Principal, **Ms. Charlene Harasyn**, Community School Coordinator and Mrs. Darlene McKay, Prince Albert Métis Women's Association presented a strong case identifying the need for such a centre in Wesmor High School. The original proposal submitted in 2006 was supported with letters from student-parents and community agencies and organizations. Saskatchewan Rivers School Division and the Northern Lights Casino Development Corporation also played a major role in supporting this project which will benefit this generation and generations to come.

Saskatchewan Rivers School Division believes in supporting the dreams and aspirations of all our students. Bright walls, new furnishings, and plenty of enthusiasm support this combined community effort and provide a welcoming place for young children and young parents alike. Come and see the full effects at the grand opening of the Centre on **Monday, March 17, 2008 at 6:15 p.m.** Please join us as we celebrate.





# Saskatchewan Rivers School Division

## Excellence for Every Learner

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### WHAT DID YOU LEARN IN SCHOOL TODAY?

For years parents have asked their children what they learned in school today. All too often that question is answered with the response "nothing" and then unless the parent is skilled in probing or has some additional information, the conversation usually stops there.

School divisions across Saskatchewan are being asked that same question by the government on behalf of the taxpayer. What are children learning in school today and how well will our students compete in the job market?

For that reason, the Department of Learning introduced the Continuous Improvement Framework (CIF) in 2006 for the purpose of providing a consistent context in which to have conversations with school divisions across the province with respect to student learning. The CIF places an emphasis on the education of children and youth with the ultimate goal of strengthening teaching and learning in order to increase opportunities for improved student learning. With the introduction of the CIF, school divisions around the province are talking with each other and provincial officials to document student learning.

One of the expectations is that the school division will participate in the provincial Assessment for Learning program. Using assessment information to improve student learning is the goal of the provincial program. It is hoped that the results of the provincial assessment coupled with school division and classroom assessments will become key tools for teachers to use in strengthening the teaching and learning process.

In the spring of 2007 students in this school division participated in the Provincial Assessment for Learning in Reading and Mathematics. The results of these assessments are presented in the accompanying School Division Report Cards for each grade.

As a parent or ratepayer reading this article it is easy to picture students doing exams in a setting that resembles our past experiences with tests. It is important to note that studying is not a component for these assessment tools. Students are asked questions to demonstrate their understanding of a variety of processes in reading and math rather than specific content knowledge. The types of questions posed in the assessment reflect the changes to the Saskatchewan curriculum.

#### READING

Students in Grades 4, 7 and 10 participated in the Provincial Reading Assessment. Students were asked to demonstrate their skills in five broad areas:

##### Reading Comprehension Skills

Students were asked to answer questions which required them to apply six reading strategies:

- ✓ Using Cueing Systems;
- ✓ Connecting to Prior Knowledge;
- ✓ Making Differences/Predictions/Drawing Conclusions;
- ✓ Noting Key Ideas and Finding Support;
- ✓ Summarizing/Recalling/Synthesizing/Organizing Information; and,
- ✓ Recognizing Author's Message and Craft.

##### Explicit Comprehension

Students were asked to provide responses to ideas and/or information that were stated directly in the text.

##### Implicit Comprehension

Students used background knowledge to interpret or infer ideas from information presented in the text.

##### Critical Comprehension

Students responded to ideas and/or information that required them to make references and critically analyze text.

##### Reader Response

Students were asked to make meaning from text by making connections to personal knowledge or experience.

#### MATHEMATICS

Students in Grades 5 and 8 and secondary students taking Mathematics 20 participated in the Provincial Mathematics Assessment. Five broad performance areas were measured.

##### Math Content Skills

Students answered questions from a variety of mathematical strands that varied from grade to grade.

##### Integrated Applications

Students were presented with open-ended mathematics problems that required students to use a variety of math operations to solve.

##### Estimation Skills

Students were asked to estimate answers to a variety of questions.

##### Calculator Skills

Students were presented with problems and were assessed on how well they used a calculator to solve the question.

##### Computation Skills

Students answered a variety of questions involving a number of operations. Students received credit for their work as well as the correct answer.

In addition to the performance outcomes, students completed a survey about their learning opportunities in reading and math. These results give ideas as to how prepared students are for the reading and math tasks presented to them, how well they use strategies to solve problems in both math and reading, and how well they feel they are supported in their school work at home.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN**

## SASKATCHEWAN RIVERS SCHOOL DIVISION RESPONSE INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The student assessment data show that students in the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division perform at or near the provincial average. This level of student achievement, even though it is as good as or better than provincial assessment results, is simply not good enough. To increase student achievement the division has developed an improvement plan.

The school division expects that schools will organize Professional Learning Communities to facilitate planning to improve student learning. The school division provides planning time in the school year calendar and facilitators to help schools implement and maintain Professional Learning Communities. When your son or daughter has time off from school, it is likely that teachers are working together to find better ways of reaching all students.

Teachers, consultants, and superintendents have also become involved in a number of ongoing initiatives in the school division. Each initiative is designed to assist teachers to improve student achievement.

### Revised Curricula

The Ministry of Education is reviewing all curricula over the next few years. To support the implementation of new curricula the school division will identify teams of teachers to work with Ministry personnel and then in turn share their new understanding with teachers at their school and across the division. The Board will support curricula implementation through providing suggested resources and training school-based coaches to support their colleagues.

### The Technology Plan

We want teachers and students to use technology every day as a tool to improve student learning. To support this goal, laptop computers will be put in the hands of teachers so that technology can be integrated into the classroom. For this school year teachers involved in the following school division initiatives will be provided a laptop computer:

- Math Implementation
- SMART board
- Intel: Teach to the Future
- Split Grade Instruction
- Literacy in Action

### The Early Literacy Project

It is vital that children have a strong start in literacy. In order to bring more unity to expectations for beginning readers, the Early Literacy Project was born. Currently seventy-two teachers are involved in the project and are supported by two literacy coaches and an Integrated Learning Consultant.

### Literacy in Action Project

This reading project is geared for students in Grades 4 and 5. Teachers focus on building critical literacy skills with students so that students are able to question, analyze, and critically examine text. Teachers also learn how to differentiate instruction to meet the variety of student learning needs within the classroom. Teachers receive support from the Integrated Learning Consultant and the technology coach.





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#### Mathematics

The new mathematics curriculum is based upon the Western and Northern Canadian Protocol (WNCP) in Mathematics. Teachers are supported in the implementation of this new curriculum by an Integrated Learning Consultant and a mathematics coach. New resources have been purchased which integrate technology and print to support student and teacher learning.

#### First Steps in Mathematics

This diagnostic tool will assist teachers to answer three questions:  
 What is the path students travel as they learn mathematics?  
 How can teachers accurately diagnose student learning?  
 How can teachers improve student learning?

Over 100 teachers in the school division have been trained to use First Steps in Math. They are supported in their efforts by the Integrated Learning Consultant and the division math coach.

What is your child learning in school these days? They are learning how to actively participate in a global community through communicating and collaborating with each other. Effective communication and collaboration requires that students develop a variety of skills and strategies in order to adapt to ever-changing demands. Saskatchewan students are up for the challenge and Saskatchewan Rivers School Division is actively working to support students as they take on these new demands.



#### School Division Report Card Grade 4 Reading Provincial Assessment for Learning

##### Areas of Relative Strength

Reader Response and within the Reading Comprehension Skills: Connecting to Prior Knowledge and Making Inferences/Predictions Drawing Conclusions.

##### Possible Areas for Improvement

Implicit and Critical Comprehension and within the Reading Comprehension Skills: Noting key ideas and finding support.

##### Opportunity-to-Learn

83% of students indicate they are prepared and committed to learn;  
 79% of students have sufficient knowledge and use of reading strategies; and,  
 78% of students indicate they receive sufficient support from home for developing or practicing reading skills.

#### School Division Report Card Grade 7 Reading Provincial Assessment for Learning

##### Areas of Relative Strength

Explicit and Implicit Comprehension and within the Reading Comprehension Skills: Connection to Prior Knowledge, Using Cueing Systems, and Recognizing Author's Message and Craft.

##### Possible Areas for Improvement

Reader Response, Critical Comprehension and within the Reading Comprehension Skills: Summarizing/Recalling/Synthesizing/Organizing Information.

##### Opportunity-to-Learn

85% of students indicate they are prepared and committed to learn;  
 58% of students have sufficient knowledge and use of reading strategies; and,  
 81% of students indicate they receive sufficient support from home for developing or practicing reading skills.

#### School Division Report Card Grade 10 Reading Provincial Assessment for Learning

##### Areas of Relative Strength

Critical Comprehension, Reading Comprehension and within the Reading Comprehension Skills: Connection to Prior Knowledge, Noting Key Ideas and Finding Support, and Summarizing/Recalling/Synthesizing/Organizing Information.

##### Possible Areas for Improvement

Reader Response and within the Reading Comprehension Skills: Making Inferences/Predictions/ Drawing Conclusions.

##### Opportunity-to-Learn

56% of students indicate they are prepared and committed to learn;  
 53% of students have sufficient knowledge and use of reading strategies; and,  
 57% of students in the division indicate they receive sufficient support from home for developing or practicing reading skills.

#### School Division Report Card Grade 5 Mathematics Provincial Assessment for Learning

##### Areas of Relative Strength

Calculator Skills and within the Math Content Skills: Measurement, Geometry, and Data Management.

##### Possible Areas for Improvement

Computation and Estimation Skills, Integrated Applications and within the Math Content Skills: Fractions.

##### Opportunity-to-Learn

72% of students indicate they are prepared and committed to learn;  
 74% of students sufficiently persist when experiencing difficulty solving math problems;  
 84% of students have at least sufficient home support for their learning, in general; and,  
 86% indicate they receive sufficient support for learning math at home.

#### School Division Report Card Grade 8 Mathematics Provincial Assessment for Learning

##### Areas of Relative Strength

Estimation and Computation Skills and within the Math Content Skills: Data Management.

##### Possible Areas for Improvement

Integrated Applications and within the Math Content Skills: Geometry and Measurement.

##### Opportunity-to-Learn

55% of students indicate they are prepared and committed to learn;  
 72% of students sufficiently persist when experiencing difficulty solving math problems;  
 72% of students have at least sufficient home support for their learning, in general; and  
 68% indicate they receive sufficient support for learning math at home.

#### School Division Report Card Mathematics 20 Provincial Assessment for Learning

##### Areas of Relative Strength

Integrated Applications, Computational Skills and within the Math Content Skills: Polynomials and Rational Functions, and Quadratic Fractions and Equations.

##### Possible Areas for Improvement

Calculator Skills, Estimation Skills, and within the Math Content Skills: Polynomials and Rational Expressions.

##### Opportunity-to-Learn

63% of students indicate they are prepared and committed to learn;  
 72% of students sufficiently persist when experiencing difficulty solving math problems;  
 73% of students have at least sufficient home support for their learning, in general; and,  
 53% indicate they receive sufficient support for learning math at home.





# SCHOOL PROFILES

Saskatchewan Rivers School Division is proud of the schools serving our students. During the next few issues we will feature our schools, introducing you to the people and programs that reflect the local community and make each school unique.

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## MEATH PARK SCHOOL

Kindergarten to Grade 12  
Phone: 929-2133 Fax: 929-2401  
Box 31, Meath Park, S0J 1T0

**319**  
STUDENTS

### ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

**Donna Baergen** - Principal; **Holly Abrey-Hare** - Vice-Principal

#### School SMART Goals:

In alignment with Saskatchewan Rivers School Division's learning goals, Meath Park School is focusing on increasing reading and math literacy. Specifically, students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are increasing their understanding and application of implicit or critical reading comprehension strategies. Additionally, high school students are acquiring skills and strategies for solving mathematical equations. To support continuous learning, professional learning communities engage in analyzing assessment data, implementing effective learning strategies, and developing common assessments.

#### School Programs:

The school's learning community promotes a safe and caring environment through a school-wide focus on respect and character education. Strong academic, fine arts, and physical education programs are designed to meet the needs of all students. Additionally, high school students may choose from a variety of Practical and Applied Arts courses. Extra-curricular opportunities include athletic programs, Student Leadership Council, and Students Against Drinking and Driving.

#### Special Events:

Student learning is celebrated through a variety of special events including ongoing athletic events, Meet the Staff Night, Remembrance Day Service, Christmas Concert, Spring Band Concert, Awards Celebrations, and Graduation. Seasonal activities and annual class outings serve to enhance student learning and well-being. Unity and school spirit are supported through student-led events including Variety Night and Winter Carnival.

#### School Community Council:

The Meath Park School Community Council has 9 parent and community members, two secondary students, a teacher, and both school administrators. The Council meets five times a year and holds its annual meeting in June. This year, the SCC raised funds through a community calendar that featured student artwork and incorporated the school's focus on respect. Presently, the SCC is supporting the school's reading SMART goal through sponsoring a read-a-thon and purchasing encyclopedias. All parents are welcome to attend meetings as communicated through the school newsletter.

## W.J. BEREZOWSKY SCHOOL

Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8  
Phone: 763-7404 Fax: 763-4434  
566 McIntosh Drive, Prince Albert S6V 6T2

**229**  
STUDENTS

### ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

**Valerie Horner** - Principal; **Art Feher** - Vice-Principal

School Motto - "Every Child Matters"

#### School SMART Goals:

WJB's two SMART goals align with provincial annual assessments as well as the school division's stretch goals. In language arts teachers are working to increase students' critical comprehension skills. In mathematics, students are working on outcomes in the numbers and operations strand.

#### School Programs:

WJB offers a strong integrated Arts Ed. program as well as band instruction for Grades 5 -8 and membership into the East Flat Band. Three SMART boards and a class set of student laptop computers allow for innovative state-of-the-art interactive programming. Classroom-organized swimming and skating activities complement our Phys. Ed program along with extra-curricular sports such as volleyball, basketball, badminton, and track. "Come Read with Me" programming encourages parents to join students and staff to share stories and activities with their children. A daily nutritious snack is served to students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 and a canteen is available during the lunch break as well as monthly pizza sales.

#### Special Events:

Students and staff recognize and celebrate achievements and successes at monthly assemblies. School spirit events such as Beach Day and Twin Day usually coincide with assemblies. WJB also holds family dances, band and Christmas concerts, an annual school community barbecue, and a spring picnic. "Love of Learning" days feature workshops and guest speakers for all students. Upper elementary students enjoy an annual downhill ski trip. Our annual fundraiser is a community walkathon in the fall.

#### School Community Council:

Meetings are generally held the second month at 6:30 p.m. in the school staff room. Everyone is invited to attend. President - Sandra Klarenbach.

## PRINCE ALBERT COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

Grade 9 to 12  
Phone: 763-6485 Fax: 922-5636  
45 - 20th Street West, Prince Albert S6V 4E9

**210**  
STUDENTS

### ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

**Randy Emmerson** - Principal; **Sterling Swain** - Vice-Principal

School Motto - "Pride Achievement Courage and Integrity"

#### School SMART Goals:

PACI has focused our Professional Learning Community efforts on improving reading. We believe that for 2007-2008 attending to interpretation strategies will result in improvement in all of our students' academic subject areas. We aim to have all our students interpreting text at the independent level as measured by the Diagnostic Reading Assessment by June of 2008.

#### School Programs:

PACI is a vibrant school with an extremely active extra-curricular program. Our 210 students thrive in a welcoming environment where each individual is valued and expected to participate. Unique to PACI are the Canadian Studies Travel Class, the guitar based Music 10, 20 and 30 credits and the three dimensions of Fine Arts for Grade 9 students.

#### Special Events:

PACI's traditional celebrations are numerous and are continuing to emerge with fresh student and staff initiatives. Currently we have the following special events:  
September Open House, November Coffee House, Christmas Dinner, February Winter Day, March Honor Roll Celebration and Variety Night Silent Auction, May Family BBQ and Sports Banquet, June Awards Night, Golden Bear Breakfast and Graduation

#### School Community Council:

Our School Community Council meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. The chair is Doug Woodcock. All parents and community members are encouraged to attend.

## VINCENT MASSEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8  
Phone: 763-7494 Fax: 763-7010  
2999 - 3rd Ave East, Prince Albert S6V 8G2

**335**  
STUDENTS

### ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

**Darcy Sander** - Principal; **Dovona West** - Vice-Principal  
**Tanya Price-Wright** - Community School Coordinator

School Motto - "Together We Succeed"

#### School SMART Goals:

Focus on increasing students' reading rates and fluency school wide. Further, we will continue with interim reporting.

#### School Programs:

**Athletics** - volleyball, basketball, track, cross-country running, badminton, karate, Grade1-8 intramurals  
**Fine Arts** - Choir, musical club, band, Vincent Massey Idol  
**Environmental** -Eco-Adventure Club  
**Community School Programming**  
- Partnership with the City of PA providing Grades 1-4 and Grades 5-8 gym activities and a Learn to Skate program.  
- Partnership with the Zone 8 Sports council providing after school soccer, floor hockey, and softball.  
- Partnership with the RCMP providing the 6 session Kids and Drugs Prevention program for parents.  
Student programs are offered from 3:30 to 5:00 pm, Monday to Thursday: craft programs twice per week, cooking programs, babysitter course.  
Adult Programs include: crafts (cake decorating, scrapbooking, cards, stepping stones, etc)  
Family programs include Come Read with Me, Backpack Program and parenting/nutrition/speech information sessions.

#### Special Events:

Santa Sale, Christmas Family Fun Night, Games Night, pancake breakfast, Green Eggs and Ham breakfast, family dance, family movie night, Christmas dinner

#### School Community Council:

Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Childcare is provided. President - Dawn McVey