

# Checkmark

A report on the work of The Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division Vol. 14, No. 1



**Saskatchewan Rivers  
Public School Division**

*Excellence for Every Learner*

Robert Bratvold  
Director of Education  
Tel: 306-764-1571  
Fax: 306-763-4460  
Toll Free: 1-888-764-1571

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

## Message from the Board Chair

### SRPSD Board Celebrates a Year of Excellence!

The month of June marks the conclusion of another school year. This is a time to review our progress and celebrate our success. The trustees on the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Board believe that the mission of our school division is to strive for excellence in education and to seek to maximize each child's unique learning ability. This focus has enabled our school division to achieve consistent improvement year after year. It has also empowered our staff to provide the most effective programs for nearly 9000 pre-kindergarten to grade twelve students enrolled in our thirty-two schools. The students and families within our urban and rural school division are well-served by dedicated staff members whose focus is to ensure that all students are provided the opportunity to achieve high standards. In this issue of Checkmark, we are pleased to showcase the positive results achieved by our students, staff, and Board.

This Board takes great pride in our students who achieve academic excellence. At graduation ceremonies in each of our high schools, a trustee will present a medal and a \$1000 bursary to the student who meets the strict academic criteria for the Governor General's Award. On behalf of my fellow trustees, I would like to congratulate all of the winners of the Governor General's medals for their outstanding academic achievement. I would also like to congratulate all of our grade 12 students who are graduating and wish you every success in your future endeavors. Our Board takes great pride in noting that our graduation rates are on the rise and are annually among the highest in the province.

The trustees of this Board recognize the value of public engagement and take every opportunity to meet with various groups each year. We believe it is beneficial to provide an opportunity for our students to have a forum to share their concerns and ideas with the Board. We established a framework that led to the creation of a student group known as the Saskatchewan Rivers Students for Change (SRSC). Each of our 11 high schools has representation on this body and they meet with the Board on a regular basis. This year, the SRSC executive made a formal presentation to the Board, a student-led workshop was held, and the SRSC has two representatives who will be participating in a student forum at the annual conference of the Canadian School Boards' Association this summer. SRSC President Arynne Spencer from Kinistino and Evan Beaulieu from Shellbrook will attend. We are very impressed with the work this group has done this year and their enthusiasm is noteworthy.

To support our staff in our shared mission of excellence, the Board recently announced a special Program Enhancement Grant (PEG) that targets innovation and a commitment to enhancing the learning opportunities in our schools. We were pleased to see the overwhelming response we had from our staff for this new initiative. It showed us, once again, how Saskatchewan Rivers teachers go beyond the curriculum to make learning special for their students. Through a robust screening process, the successful applicant(s) were awarded a share of the PEG funds. The Board is excited to see the increased academic outcomes for students as this project grows!

Our Board meets with various municipal councils, teacher associations, and other groups on a regular basis but we also believe it is especially important to be responsive to our community voice. This year we implemented an ambitious project called Thoughtstream where thousands of community members were able to contribute their feedback on things we are doing well and to offer suggestions where there is room for improvement. On a similar theme, the Board recently met with our School Community Council representatives (SCCs) for their 4th annual learning seminar. At that meeting, trustees, parents and principals discussed various ideas or programs that successfully engaged the community in their schools. Each school has an SCC and I encourage you to get involved with the one in your children's school so we can continue to strive for ongoing success in education.

It is an honor to serve as the Board Chair for the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division. My fellow trustees are all committed to seeing that our students have the optimum conditions and programs to achieve success. Our school division is served by an administrative team and a staff that is second to none. We are also fortunate to have the support and involvement of so many parents in each school in our division. Excellence for Every Learner is the motto for our school division and if we all work together, it can be achieved.

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Rivers Board of Education we wish you a restful and enjoyable summer!



*Sincerely,*  
**Barry Hollick**  
*Board Chair*



**Front row:** Jaimie Smith-Windsor, Vice-Chair, Robert Bratvold, Director of Education, Barry Hollick, Board Chair

**Back row:** Grant Gustafson, Trustee, George McHenry, Trustee, Wayne Steen, Trustee, Jeanette Wicinski-Dunn, Trustee, Darlene Rowden, Trustee, John McIvor, Trustee, Arne Lindberg, Trustee, Rodney Thomson, Trustee



*Excellence for Every Learner*

## Saskatchewan Rivers Student for Change (SRSC)

**S**RPSD Board of Education leads the province in hearing from students. Trustees learned about student voice at a national convention. The Board then decided to bring the program to life in Saskatchewan Rivers. Grade 12 SRPSD student SRSC President Arynne Spencer of Kinistino had this to say about SRSC, "I think it is very important for students' voices to be heard at the Board level". SRSC has a long term goal of getting a rural and urban student representative to the Board table.

SRSC has had an action-packed year including running student elections, presenting to the Board of Education, representing SRPSD at the Canadian School Boards Association Annual Conference in Saskatoon, developing their constitution, creating awareness through their Facebook

page and developing Power Points. Trustees Barry Hollick, Jaimie Smith-Windsor and Rodney Thomson have been instrumental

in supporting the SRSC this year. They have a role of listening to the students, but allowing the autonomy for them to develop their own ideas.

It has been a busy and productive year for Saskatchewan Rivers Students for Change...the future looks bright!



**Back Row:** Rodney Thomson, Trustee, Barry Hollick, Board Chair, Jaimie Smith-Windsor, Vice Chair, **Front Row:** John Schultz, Superintendent of Schools, Shaye Amundson, Arynne Spencer, Joelle Hoeflicher – student representatives.

## Thoughtsteam

**T**he Board of Education works hard to have a robust relationship with the community in order to represent the best interests of students. To do this, the Board wanted to garner feedback from families, the public and community partners. It was a challenging task to engage the wide community that makes up

Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division. A large scale community consultation took place via online conversation about our schools and Division. The Board reviewed the community feedback and you can visit <http://srsd119.thoughtexchange.info/> to learn about the top priorities in each of our schools and the top priorities of the Division.

From the 1,835 stakeholders who contributed, we learned about our strengths and the areas that we can improve. We are using this information to renew our Strategic Plan and to refine the initiatives that we will focus on in the coming years. Each school will also have had a chance to compare this information with other sources of data and incorporate

that information into new school Learning Improvement Plans.

The Board was pleased to receive feedback from such a broad spectrum of our community and sincerely thanks everyone! Your participation in the process was invaluable; it contributes to the healthy improvement of our Division.



## Program Enhancement Grant

The Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division's Board of Education created the Program Enhancement Grant in the fall of 2014 and approved the allocation of \$50 000 for the PEG program. The purpose of the PEG was for staff within the division to be able to identify and create programs and opportunities for the Sask Rivers Public School Division students that would enhance their learning, engagement and experiences.

The deadline for applications was March 27th, 2015 and as the deadline approached the number of applicants increased. In summary there were 31 applications from 16 different schools and two from the Speech Language Pathologists. The total amount of requested funds was the staggering amount of \$274,725.43.

The ideas for enhancement at the school level in the first year of the program were extremely diverse. Almost every aspect of student life at school was addressed by the applications. Classroom resources, engagement events, extra-curricular opportunities, relationship building, fitness, after school programs, educational support services, Practical and Applied Arts equipment and various other types of enhancement ideas were suggested.

The Selection Committee from the SRPSD Board included trustees Grant Gustafson, Darlene Rowden and Jeanette Wicinski-Dunn along with

Superintendent of Schools Randy Emmerson. It was a difficult but rewarding task to weigh the virtues of each idea and determine the successful applications. The committee's selections were based on a framework of selection criteria. Each application was assessed using the following set of considerations:

The Program Enhancement Grant idea must...

- Align with the goals and strategies outlined in the SRPSD 2014-2017 Strategic Plan;
- Have the support of the school staff, administration and SCC;
- Enhance student achievement in literacy, numeracy, arts education, physical/health education or career education;
- Promote student engagement;
- Support the principles of equity

- and inclusion; and
- Be able to be replicated in other SRPSD schools.

The Saskatchewan Rivers School Division Board of Education and the PEG selection committee extend their appreciation to all of the applicants and congratulations to the Program Enhancement Grant recipients for the 2015-2016 school year.

School/Group	Teacher	Theme	Amount
1. Big River	Joey Kaufhold Rick Croshaw	PAA Enhancement – Welding	\$2500
2. Carlton and Arthur Pechey	Dave Zulkoskey Shelley Acorn	Building Character - A Mentorship Between Gr.8 and Gr. 11 Fine Arts Students for the Development of Personal Monologues	\$2080
3. East Central	Trina Sigrist Corinne Soluducha	Get Active with EC Skis!	\$3500
4. École Vickers	Tammy Leonard	Girls Speak Out	\$2000
5. École Vickers	Curtis Mugford Perry Acorn Marcy Klein Linda Mackie	Out to Learn: Community Based Outdoor Education	\$5000
6. PACI	Evonne Garnett Lori Gray Dawne Adams Leanne Tretiak	Literature and Cultural Studies as Reading Enrichment	\$2526.20
7. PACI	Dawne Adams Nola Bremner Leanne Tretiak Tara Switenky	PACI Cultural Connections	\$4000
8. Queen Mary	Kendra Campbell	Physical Literacy in the Classroom	\$2000
9. Queen Mary	Kendra Campbell Denae Bruce Nicole Parenteau	Reading Club	\$5400
10. Shellbrook Elementary	Sylvia Delisle Dwayne Tournier Diane Thorpe	Hooked on Reading	\$2500
11. Vincent Massey	Chelsie Yakubchuk	Kindergarten Dramatic Day	\$4000
12. Wesmor	Jennifer Fines Tricia Lucyshyn	Art Therapy	\$2500
13. Wild Rose	Karissa Klaassen Danielle Young Graham McGregor Tracy Beaven	It's In the Bag	\$1080
14. WP Sandin	Wade Reddekopp Dennis Sommerfeld	Chess Program	\$1500
15. WJ Berezowsky	Celeste Boran-Fetch Carla Penner-Henry Shannon Schlamp Lynn Lundell	In the Zone – Sensory Regulation	\$7000
16. WP Sandin	Dennis Sommerfeld	Models for Learning	\$2000

*Excellence for Every Learner*

## LONG SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS & RETIREES

*SRPSD Board of Education recognizes that staff make Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division a place of excellence and are proud of their dedication to student achievement.*

*The following employees were honoured at the annual Recognition Event on June 9, 2015.*

### 10 YEARS

Hazel Arcand	Doreen Couture	Joan Kidd	Adrienne Schenk	
Darcy Arpin	Holly Dmyterko	Dawn Kowalski	Rhonda Scriven	
Peter Bain	Kim Doetzel	Sheryl Lepine	Kimberly Semenchuk	Theresa Thorsen
Carolyn Bennington	Veronique Dube	Brian Linn	Smith Byrne	Leanne Tretiak
Carla Blampin	Tammy Folmer	Nadine Loucks	Shauna St. Amand	Garth Ulrich
Pamela Boettcher	Donna Gareau	Tannis Meyers-Blanchard	Christy Stark	Paula West-Bates
Benita Borrowman	Norine Gaudet	Paul Mikalchuk	Heather Summers	Carol Whitter
Chrystal Borrowman	Barbara Guerequeta	Kathryn Nagy	Bev Swaby	Shirley Williams
Joan Carriere	Shelley Hanson	Rita Palawaga	Brenda Thiessen	Barb Wirsta
Brian Connolly	Jennifer Hulak	Heather Robin	Lexi Thompson	
Jeff Court	Marliese Kasner	Debby Ross	Carol Thorpe	

### 15 YEARS

Kent Arpin	Corinne Cey	Lana Lorensen	Connie Schill	Rona Tolley
Sharon Ashby	Anna Cholodnuik	Gwen Marsh	Dale Sharp	Harriet Tomporowski
Clay Bergen	Art Feher	Cheryl Mullner	Kim Simpson	Bonnie Vandale
Denise Boutin	Wanda Halcro	Kelly Njaa	Jennifer Sinclair	Dawn Vickers
Kelly Brown	Kathryn Hughes	Bonnie Olexsyn	Jodie Tait	Melanie Willie
Juanita Buyaki	Jennifer Kulchar	Jean Reid	Ken Taylor	Marilyn Young
Megan Campbell	Jodi Letendre	Colette Robertson	Julie Thorpe	Lorie Zbaraschuk

### 20 YEARS

Perry Acorn	Jocelyne Cumming	Bonny Johnson	Corinne Olson	Angela Thiessen
Eric Bolay	Twyla Gange	Mona Markwart	Penny Slater	Shannon Vey
Arnie Brown	Trishia Hastings	Melissa Neubuhr	Wayne Smith	Bruce Wait
Linda Calder-Aydt	Tom Hazzard	Gwen Neudorf	Carrie Stene	Carol Zultok

### 25 YEARS

Holly Abrey-Hare	Shirley Byrne	Judy Mason	Tammy Reid	
Gail Black	Randy Emmerson	Janelle Matice	Linda Sass	Norma Walso
Lori Bolay	Louise Hall	Peggy Patzer	Michelle Smith	David Zultok
Shelly Bourlon	Kim Jones	Cynthia Petit	Dean Toutant	

### 30 YEARS

Brenda Anderson	Roxanne Dunn-Smith	Charlene Hickie	Ron Poetker	
Rob Clarke	Sandy Gessner	Leah Mesenchuk	Shelley Smith	Janet Toles
Pamela Cochet	Sharon Gosselin	Ken Norris	Corinne Soloducha	

### RETIREES

Mary Adrian	Shelby Currie	Terry MacLeod	Bob Pannell	
Brenda Anderson	Heather Edwards	Margaret Marsollier	Ron Poetker	
Cathy Anderson	Mary Giles-Sander	Patricia Martens	Tanya Price-Wright	Janet Toles
Janice April	Louise Hall	Leah Mesenchuk	Louise Pronych	Wendy Verge
Colleen Berge	Kathleen Herzog	Fay Morar-Kaufenberg	Corinne Soloducha	Doug Wallace
Randy Boscher	Rhea Lavoie	Ken Norris	Brenda Swain	
Shelly Bourlon	Karen Lyster	Lila Olson	Julie Thorpe	