



**Saskatchewan Rivers
School Division**

Excellence for Every Learner

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A REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE SASKATCHEWAN RIVERS SCHOOL DIVISION

VOL. 7, NO. 3

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

PROFICIENCY AWARD WINNERS

The Ministry of Education provides General Proficiency awards to graduating high school students in the amount of \$400.00 each annually. These awards are given to top academic students to celebrate their academic excellence and to encourage their pursuit of post-secondary education.

Saskatchewan Rivers was given 22 General Proficiency awards for 2008. The Division distributes one award to each of our 11 high schools automatically and the remaining 11 spots are filled from a list of students from the Division. Congratulations to the following recipients:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Carla Ardell | Ashley Lepine |
| Jordan Bolay | John Mansbridge |
| Nadine Dumais | Julian Miller |
| Janelle Gignac | Julie Penner |
| Stephanie Goertzen | Raisa Rybinski |
| Christina Harris | Haley Safnuk |
| Rebecca Hinz | Katelyn Sander |
| Curtis Kerr | Lindsay Sander |
| Kaylee Lam | Katherine Stark |
| Megan Leach | Lanah Teigrob |
| Kendra Lee | Lauren Ulyott |

MICROSOFT

INNOVATIVE TEACHERS REPRESENTING CANADA

In May 2008 **Jennifer Drysdale**, Grade one teacher at Kinistino School, and **Stacey Monette**, Integrated Learning Consultant for Saskatchewan Rivers School Division, joined together to apply to be one of Microsoft's Innovative Teachers of the Year. It has recently been announced that they will represent Canada, along with 3 other teachers from across the country, at the International Innovative Teachers conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Jennifer and Stacey began by focusing on the Grade one science unit, "animals", and created a cross-curricular project designed to deepen student understanding through the integration of technology. During instruction students were guided through many hands-on learning activities to help them construct understanding of the essential question "Are people and animals dependant on one another?"

While technology was used to enhance student learning and understanding of the key objectives, it did much more than that. A classroom SMARTBoard, document camera, student laptops, and a proscope exposed students to relevant information and experiences which extended far beyond their classroom walls. Students gathered information on pets from other Grade one classrooms in the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division, they conducted research by viewing webcams from zoos across Canada and the United States, and established pen pals with a classroom in New Zealand.

While making connections and communicating with a larger audience was important, connecting and communicating with the students' families was also a large part of the project. Jennifer and Stacey created a website to bring parents into the classroom and allow them to participate in their child's learning. Parents were invited to participate in on-line surveys and work through website activities with their children. On the website they were able to view videos of classroom activities and a photo gallery of the whole learning experience. One of the favourite parent activities was exploring their child's online learning portfolio.



JENNIFER DRYSDALE,
Grade One Teacher
at Kinistino School



STACEY MONETTE
Integrated Learning Consultant for
Saskatchewan Rivers School Division

While Jennifer and Stacey have been chosen to represent Canada in Kuala Lumpur, it is easy to see that the big winners in this whole project were the students who participated!



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CARDBOARD BOAT CHALLENGE

On Wednesday, November 5th, Carlton Comprehensive High School along with Skills Canada and the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship & Trade Certification Commission proudly hosted a regional Cardboard Boat Challenge. Armed with cardboard, duct tape and a few other odds and ends, Grade 8 students from the Prince Albert area transformed these materials into a vessel that not only floated but carried passengers as well. Parents, teachers, and fellow students came to cheer on their favourite teams.

The skills necessary to succeed in the Cardboard Boat Challenge are identified as outcomes in the new Grade 8 Practical and Applied Arts course. The Challenge allows students to have a great time learning these new skills as well as strengthening their leadership, teamwork, and problem solving ability.

The Cardboard Boat Challenge is a team event, with each team being made up of 4 students from a school. This year 20 teams from



I wonder what they are doing?



The race is on!

10 schools were involved in the competition. Each team that participated in the boat race had to design, construct, and race their cardboard boat across the Frank J. Dunn Swimming Pool. Additional points were allotted to teams that could keep their boats afloat with all crew members aboard.

As the waters stilled and the final points were tallied, it became apparent that first place went to the Zach Brockman, Tyler Olson, Craig Mamczasz, and Ty Balych team from Red Wing School. Second place went to the Westview Community School team of Nap McCallum, Justis Sewap, Devin Markowski, and Zach McPherson while third place went to the East Central School team made up of David Delosoy, Graham Nelson, Christopher Miller, and Sarah Soloducha. Honorable mentions for best sketch design went to Arthur Pechey. Their team consisted of Charitee Lehner-Donaldson, Paige Baranieski, Molly Johnson, Celia Harradence.

Congratulations go out to all the participants. Although not every boat stayed afloat for the competition, everyone seemed to have fun and learned a lot about designing, building, and working as a team.

Saskatchewan Rivers School Division has developed a survey on how our various publics obtain information about our division and its schools.

The survey will be located on our main page of our website:

www.srsd119.ca

and will take less than 5 minutes to complete.

The survey will be online as of November 14, 2008.





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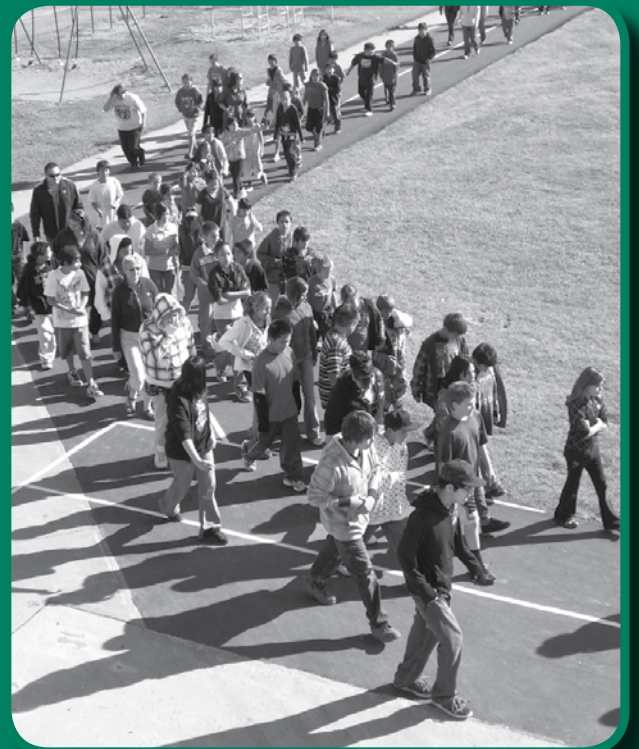
ON TRACK AT QUEEN MARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

In August 2007, Queen Mary Community School staff went to their School Community Council with an idea that would continue to improve fitness options for the whole Queen Mary community; they came with the idea of a paved walking track for their playground. The School Community Council agreed to take on the project and one short year later (2008) students and community members are walking on the track on a daily basis.

The 270 metre track, which circles the open field on the east side of the school, is the latest in a list of fitness initiatives at Queen Mary. Over the past few years the school canteen has gotten much healthier, the extra-curricular sports program has flourished, an annual health fair has been established, and they have qualified for the "Quality Daily Physical Education" award.

While this latest fitness initiative has everyone at the school feeling good, they are quick to recognize that a project of this magnitude was not something they could accomplish on their own. A total of \$35,000 was raised through fundraising events sponsored by the School Community Council and through donations from the Prince Albert Optimist Club, Northern Lights Development Corporation, Prince Albert and Area Community Foundation, the City of Prince Albert Community Initiative Fund and the Kinsmen Club of Prince Albert.

While the students benefit from the track in the day, many of those who live in the neighborhood take advantage of the new fitness opportunity outside school hours. The whole community is really "on track" at Queen Mary.



BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER: MAKING THE MOST OF PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

November is here and so are parent teacher interviews. This short 10 to 15 minute interview is your opportunity to meet the school staff that will have so much impact on your child in the months ahead. Are you nervous, worried that you won't know what to do or say? If you are, you are not alone. Here are a few tips to help you make the most of your critical time.



BEFORE YOU ATTEND YOUR INTERVIEW:

- Read your child's report card.
- Make notes about your questions and concerns.
- Talk to your child about the report and inquire if he or she has any questions they want you to ask the teacher. Make a list.
- Think of things you want information about: homework, attitude, behaviour, strengths, weaknesses, grades.
- Think of things the teacher may need to know; you know your child better than anyone else.

DURING THE INTERVIEW:

- Start the interview on a positive note as both you and the teacher want what is best for your child.
- Create an action plan with the teacher for success for your child.
- Don't forget to use the list of questions and comments you brought with you.
- Listen carefully and make notes as the teacher talks about your child.

AFTER THE INTERVIEW:

- Talk with your child about the conference.
- Stress the good things the teacher said and talk about what needs to be improved.
- Don't hesitate to contact the teacher again if you feel another meeting is necessary.
- Work together with the school administration to make school a positive and effective experience for your child.

REMEMBER:

- Being involved in your child's school life will go a long way toward easing your stress. It will also pave the way for a successful year for your child. Lastly, if you are worrying about an upcoming interview... prepare ahead of time!





SASKATCHEWAN RIVERS SCHOOL DIVISION

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PRINCESS MARGARET SCHOOL

Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8
Phone: 763-5217 Fax: 764-5141
351-13th Avenue East, PA S6V 2N3

220
STUDENTS

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Alan Ruder - Principal; Terry Jelinski - Vice-Principal

School Motto - "A great place to be" (a great place for learning, friendship and fun)

School SMART Goal:

Our school smart goal for Grades K-3 focuses on phonological awareness; identification of consonants and vowel sounds. Our goal is for all students in K-3 to successfully increase by at least one level as measured on the ELP assessment. In Grades 5-8 the focus is on reading comprehension. Our goal is to have every student increase their literal comprehension by one DRA level by May, 2009.

School Programs:

At Princess Margaret, we offer a full spectrum of extra-curricular opportunities. In the area of fine arts, we have a top notch band program and a choral singing program for students in Grades 4 to 8. Athletic opportunities include: P4A cross-country running, volleyball, basketball, badminton and track and field, plus an intramural program for students at lunch time. We have a Student Leadership Council, a Girls' Club, a Library Club and a Community Service Club.

Special Events:

We enjoy having parents and grandparents join us for special events. Early in the year the School Community Council hosts a barbeque for staff and community families. In October we have a Halloween Tea and Bake Sale. The biggest event is our annual Christmas Concert. In February we host a special Valentine Grandparents' Tea. At the end of the year we have parents and grandparents join us for a special Play Day, an Awards and Recognition Assembly and our Grade 8 Farewell Celebration.

School Community Council:

We have a very active and involved school community council. We meet the first Tuesday of every school month at 7:00 p.m. in the staff room. Child care is provided.

SPRUCE HOME SCHOOL

Kindergarten to Grade 8
Phone: 764-8377 Fax: 922-6281
Box 249, Spruce Home, SK S0J 2N0

120
STUDENTS

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Kevin Koroluk - Principal

School Motto - "Working Together, Striving Together, and Succeeding Together"

School SMART Goals:

For the 2008-09 school year, Spruce Home has a variety of goals such as developing student fitness, strengthening work habits, and increasing understanding of the writing process. Spruce Home School's SMART goal is focused on strengthening student abilities in the area of reading comprehension.

As well, each teacher has developed a SMART goal which is tailored to their students' needs in the area of reading comprehension. These SMART goals will be monitored through out the school year to determine student growth.

School Programs:

Within Spruce Home School, you will find a variety of programs. The school provides a successful band program for Grade 5 to 8 students. As well our senior students have the opportunity to participate in drama productions. Our sports program allows students to compete in a variety of sporting activities such as junior and senior volleyball and basketball, badminton, cross country running, and track. For extra curricular, students have the opportunity to be involved in house leagues, and in the winter months we offer cross country skiing, snow shoeing and skating.

Special Events:

Spruce Home School's Community Council, in partnership with the school, is very active in organizing special events for the students and families. Throughout the year the SCC sports group conducts a weekly sports activity night. As well the SCC coordinates potlucks, dances and monthly movie nights.

School Community Council:

Chairperson - Melinda Lavoie; Vice- chairperson - Tammy Shynkaruk
The Spruce Home School Community Council is very active within the Spruce Home School. The council has 3 standing and 9 elected members. As well the council is very active in attending the S.R.S.D. PAC meetings. The council encourages anyone interested to attend their meetings. Information on dates and times can be found on the monthly newsletter and the Spruce Home School web page.

RED WING SCHOOL

Kindergarten to Grade 8
Telephone: 763-5375 Fax: 763-6555
Rural Prince Albert

235
STUDENTS

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Robert Paul - Principal; Merv Letkeman - Vice-Principal

School SMART Goals:

Red Wing School is in the middle of a three year Smart Goal involving the implementation of the new provincial Mathematics curriculum. Our goal for 2008-2009 is as follows: 95% of the students in Grade K, 1, 4 and 7 will be grade in the yellow, blue or green zone on the school division assessment rubric. In addition 80% of the students in Grade 2, 5 and 8 will grade in the blue or green zone on the school division assessment rubric.

School Programs:

Red Wing School offers a full academic program for its K to Grade 8 students. In addition, students have the opportunity to take classes in Band, Practical and Applied Arts, and Resource Based Learning. All classes have access to computer technology and a fully equipped resource centre and gymnasium. Special support services are also available to students including, a Speech and Language Therapist and Educational Support Staff.

Special Events:

Red Wing School is an active school for the whole family. With the assistance of our School Community Council our school offers several family focused fun activities throughout the year. These include a family dance, our family fun winter ski and toboggan party, and barbeque and Christmas crafts activities just to name few.

School Community Council:

The Red Wing School Community Advisory Council is made up of an active group of interested and supportive parents in the Red Wing School community. Our Chairperson for this year is Carol Darbyshire. We hold six meetings over the year; our next meeting is on November 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the Red Wing School library. Babysitting and refreshments are available at all of our School Council events.

WESMOR COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Grade 9 to Grade 12
Phone: 764-5233 Fax: 922-6271
1819 - 14th Avenue West, PA, SK S6V 5P1

328
STUDENTS

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Shelley Storey - Principal; Iain MacDougall - Vice-Principal
Charlene Harasyn - Community School Coordinator

School Motto - "A Learning Community That Cares"

School SMART Goals:

Math: To increase the students' word problem solving skills so that 50% of them increase their skills by at least 1 level as measured by a teacher-made assessment rubric. This will be achieved by their course completion date or May 29, 2009.

ELA: To increase student literal, inferential and critical reading comprehension skills 10% as measured by a teacher-developed reading assessment. This will be achieved by June 2009.

School Programs:

Extra-curricular sports: cross-country, volleyball, basketball, badminton, weight lifting, wrestling, intramurals.

Clubs/Activities: SADD, multicultural, knitting/crocheting/sewing, piano, outdoor education, Grade 12 mentorship, car, book, photography, scrapbooking, walking, self-awareness, homework, school dances, student leadership council.

Community School Programming: firefighter mentorship, teens exposed to violence, School Plus partnerships, parent information night, community craft night, guitar lessons, New Beginnings, Come Read with Me, collective kitchens, GED

Special Course Offerings: Leadership 30, Guitar Making

Special Events:

Holiday dinner, winter festival, friends of Wesmor barbeque, graduation barbeque, leadership camp, leadership workshops, multicultural day, student mentorship, suppers at parent/teacher/student interviews, guest speakers throughout the school year to address the entire student population to promote healthy lifestyles and goal setting.

School Community Council:

Jacie Coburn - Chair
November 18, January 27, March 24, May 26 at 4:30 p.m. Childcare is available and supper is served following each meeting.