



**Saskatchewan Rivers
School Division**

Excellence for Every Learner

EDUCATION CENTRE
545-11th Street East
Prince Albert, SK S6V 1B1
Dr. Bill Cooke, Director of Education

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

A REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE SASKATCHEWAN RIVERS SCHOOL DIVISION

VOL. 9, NO. 3

PREMIER BRAD WALL VISITS SASKATCHEWAN RIVERS SCHOOL DIVISION

On November 8th, students and staff from two Saskatchewan Rivers schools, Carlton Comprehensive High School and John Diefenbaker School, were honoured to have the opportunity to meet with Premier Brad Wall and MLA Darryl Hickie. Carlton's visit began with high school students gathering in the Lecture Theatre for a town hall meeting. Premier Wall greeted the students with an introduction of current issues in Saskatchewan and then opened the room for questions. The students came prepared with pertinent questions regarding Saskatchewan's potash resources, hospitals, seniors' housing, highways, and a new bridge for Prince Albert. The student's political knowledge and demeanor during the discussion were impressive.

The Premier then traveled to John Diefenbaker where he captured the full attention of the grade one students as he read the books, *The Very Cranky Bear* and *Boo Hoo Bird*. He then took the time to answer their very important questions. Though the experiences were very different, all students enjoyed the learning opportunity and were very fortunate to meet with the Premier.



Eager John Diefenbaker Grade 1 students question Premier Wall.



Premier Wall addresses Carlton High School students.

"OPENING DOORS TO TOMORROW"

The first annual "Opening Doors to Tomorrow" career and job fair was a huge success! Over 2,500 students and community members from Prince Albert and area attended the event, with 50 displayers from Saskatchewan and Western Canada in attendance.

This was the first time that seven local organizations partnered to create a fair of this size. Saskatchewan Rivers School Division, Prince Albert Parkland Health Region, the North Central Enterprise Region, SIAST, Prince Albert Roman Catholic Separate School Division, Prince Albert Grand Council, and the Prince Albert Exhibition Association worked together to plan a fair that would help to meet the career planning needs of middle level and high schools students, while also encouraging those who are finished school to look at the opportunities that await them within our community.

The attendees were provided with a variety of options as they toured the fair. Booths ranged from post-secondary institutions and part time employment opportunities to active displays from the Canadian Armed Forces, Corrections Canada and the Prince Albert Fire Department. Students were pleased with the chance to try on uniforms, participate in job simulation activities, ask questions about educational institutions and employment application forms, and explore paths for their futures.

Organizers and displayers were pleased with the positive response to the event and look forward to making the fair an annual fall event in the city.



Students interested in displays at Career Fair 2010.

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Taylor Chetty & Nicole Leudtke and Mont St. Joseph resident, Pearl.

CARLTON / MONT ST. JOSEPH INTERGENERATIONAL EXPERIENCE

When Mont St. Joseph opened its doors in 1998, Carlton staff saw this as a great opportunity to work together to benefit residents, students, and staff. Mont St. Joseph's "Eden Philosophy", which promotes involvement of all ages with their residents, opened the door for students to experience, first hand, some of the elements of the Psychology 20 and 30 curriculums.

Carlton teacher, **Ellen Grewcock**, said, "It is rewarding to see the bonds made and the caring nature that students have as part of their character but don't always get an opportunity to share and put to use. The big boys in their baggy jeans, walking down a hallway hand in hand with an elderly lady is quite warming, as is the boy in the salon helping take curlers out of an elderly lady's hair. The compassion is never-ending."

Ellen Grewcock, went on to tell the story of Mont St. Joseph resident Pearl and Carlton students, Taylor Chetty and Nicole Leudtke. "They have talked non-stop about the dress Pearl was teaching them to make, all sewn by hand and the pattern made from tracing a dress. Neither girl had ever sewn a stitch before, but in four Thursdays with Pearl, they created a dress for Taylor to wear. There were tears at the completion of the dress."

Learning, caring, and lasting friendships are only some of the many benefits jointly experienced by Carlton students and Mont St. Joseph residents.



Grade One student Nicholas Dutchak throwing a pie at Mrs. Abrey-Hare

RED WING SCHOOL – NEW FUNDRAISING RECORD

The generosity and support for the school in the Red Wing community is really impressive. Every year Red Wing School holds a walkathon as its primary fundraiser for the school. Last year's record of \$18,095., was surpassed this year, establishing an impressive new record of \$18,526. With a student population of 230 students, the average amount raised per student was over \$80.

A Walkathon Assembly was held to award prizes to students for their fundraising efforts. The top fundraisers were given the opportunity to throw a pie in the face of **Mrs. Abrey-Hare**, Vice-principal.

Mr. Clarke, Principal, had offered to be taped to the tetherball post on the playground if last year's record was broken and indeed it was.

The school would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated to the walkathon. The funds raised go toward many extras that the students enjoy including cross country skis, snow shoes, entertainment, ski trips, and more.





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DEBDEN SETS 5TH ANNUAL RECORD FOR TERRY FOX RUN

2010 marks 30 years since the first Terry Fox Run, the run that Terry called the "Marathon of Hope".

Since 1996, Debden School has been collecting money for the Terry Fox Run, raising a total to date of \$33,472.17. This amazing total earned them a personally signed letter from Terry Fox's parents, Betty and Rolly Fox. Not only have they raised a lot of money for cancer research but they have broken their own records in each of the past four years. Last year's record was a whopping \$3,750.28; a little over \$21 per student.

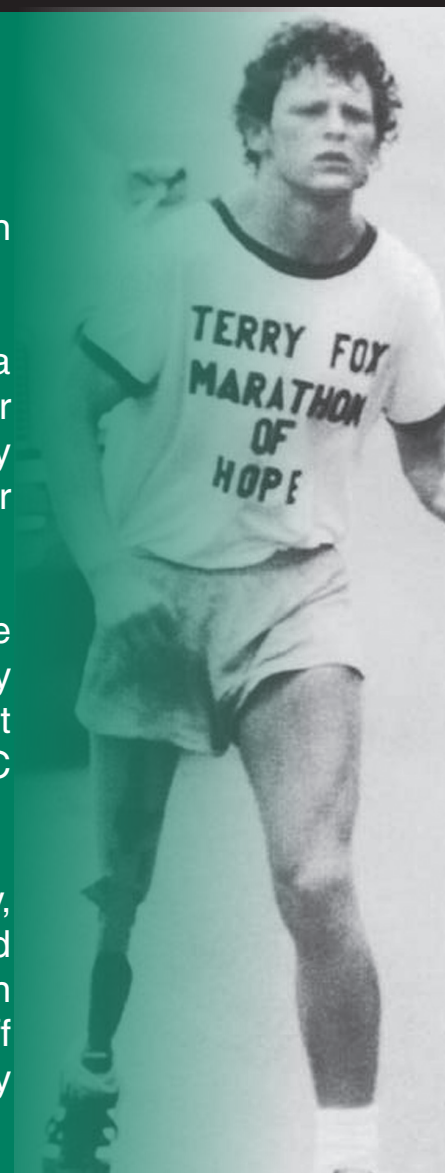
As good as last year's record was, this year Debden students were challenged to raise even more and establish yet another record. In an attempt to reach a new record, Terry Fox Run t-shirts were offered as prizes to four lucky pledge collectors, the SRC president agreed to color his hair, and the staff agreed to receive a pie in the face from a SRC member if last year's total was surpassed.

For two weeks the pledges rolled in, and each day the total grew higher. On Friday, October 1st, 2010, the day of the Run, the announcement was made that a new record was set once again, this time raising **\$4,027.27** (a little over \$23 per student)! An outstanding amount from a small school and community! SRC President and staff members readied themselves to hold up their end of the bargain at a special assembly on Friday, October 8th.

Congratulations to t-shirt winners: Jeremiah Isbister, Sonora Amundson, Cole Aarrestad, and Jamie Fiddler. Huge thanks go out to SRC president, Matt Jean, school staff members who helped students have some fun and get excited about a very worthy cause, and the communities of Debden, Shell Lake, and Big River for the fantastic support.



Pie-faced Debden School Staff





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PAY IT FORWARD



Reverend Sandy Scott speaks at Arthur Pechey School

At the annual Remembrance Day Assembly, held on November 10th, the staff and students of Arthur Pechey School had the chance to reconnect, this time in person, with guest speaker Reverend Sandy Scott. The school became connected with Reverend Scott, when representatives of his, approached the school in November of 2009 to see if they would be willing to contribute Christmas wishes to members of the Canadian Armed Forces who were serving in Afghanistan. Reverend Scott, a Canadian Armed Forces Reservist, was going to be going to Afghanistan to take on the role of Chaplain in Kandahar. Needless to say the staff and students embraced this opportunity to do a good deed for the men and women of the Forces, who in turn were doing a good deed for the people of Afghanistan, in other words paying it forward.

In a short period of time, students put together a potpourri of items representative of a Canadian Christmas. These included letters of thanks, photographs, drawings, and hand made Christmas decorations. Reverend Scott had arranged for the Canadian Armed Forces to deliver the numerous boxes to Afghanistan in time for Christmas and deliver they did. After a grueling day and a half journey, Reverend Scott arrived at Kandahar Air Field to find the boxes from Prince Albert piled high in the barracks waiting to be opened.



Major Woods in Afghanistan

Members of the Canadian Forces stationed at the base were extremely pleased and thankful for the gifts from Arthur Pechey School students, but none as much as Major Brent W. Woods. It was serendipitous that Major Woods was a former Arthur Pechey School student who also attended Queen Elizabeth, PACI and Carlton in the late 70's and early 80's. Major Woods was serving his second tour of service in Afghanistan, this time as the Senior Duty Officer, responsible for the management of 90 locally hired interpreters who assisted the Canadian Forces with communication with the Afghan National Army. The school received a wonderful letter of thanks from Major Woods which was truly appreciated.

Reverend Scott's presentation at the assembly was a true learning experience for all who attended. He spoke of the dire situation of the Afghan people, the uphill struggle to forge ahead with much needed reforms and the ongoing war itself. Of particular interest to both students and staff was the plight of the educational situation in Afghanistan. Prior to the involvement of the Canadian Forces in 2001 curriculum was being restricted, schools were being destroyed and females were banned from all educational life. Thanks to the good deeds done by our Canadian Forces in the last nine years thousands of schools have been built, record numbers of students are enrolled in school and the highest percentage of females ever are attending classes throughout Afghanistan. Major Woods, who was also a high school math and physics teacher in his career, should be very proud of the difference he and others have made to this small nation. He has truly paid it forward.

In a recent email from Major Woods he states the following, "for the several thousands of men and women of the Canadian Forces, other government departments, and civilians agencies who have served in Afghanistan and other operations abroad, it means a lot to receive ongoing support from individuals and organizations such as schools. We enjoy all the support we get from the home front and like to know that we are indeed making a difference and that our efforts are not in vain. As long as Canada serves in Afghanistan, we will continue to support the mission to the best of our ability to ensure the ongoing security of our country for years to come."

The students and staff of Arthur Pechey School would like to thank Reverend Scott for providing them with the opportunity to pay it forward, to Major Woods and other members of the Canadian Forces who are paying it forward, and to the Afghan people who may overcome adversity to pay it forward to the their children.

