

CheckMark

A report on the work of The Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division Vol. 11, No.3



**Saskatchewan Rivers
Public School Division**

Excellence for Every Learner

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NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION



(Back Row – left to right) Grant Gustafson, George McHenry, Jeanette Wicinski-Dunn, Wayne Steen, John McIvor, Darlene Rowden, Arne Lindberg, Rodney Thomson
(Seated – left to right) Jaimie Smith-Windsor (Vice-Chair), Robert Bratvold (Director of Education), Barry Hollick (Board Chair)

The newly elected Board of Education for the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division officially took office on October 30, 2012. At its Organizational Meeting on this date, Barry Hollick was acclaimed as Board Chair and Jaimie Smith-Windsor

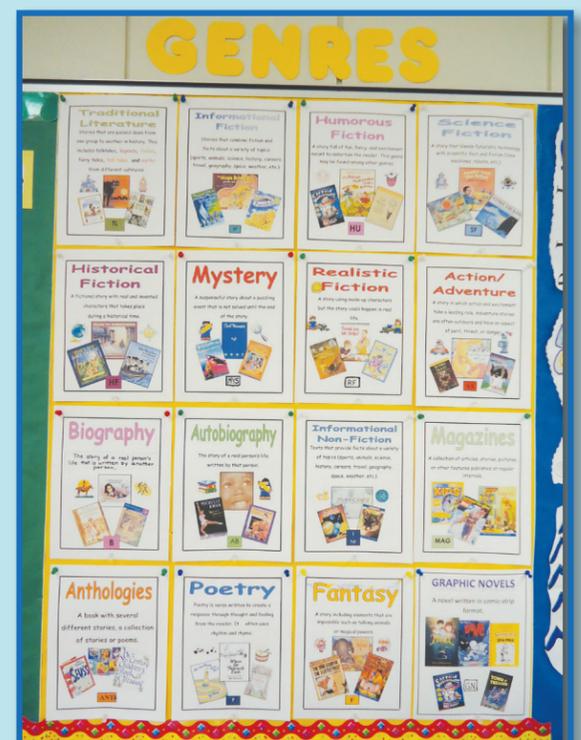
as Vice-Chair. For additional information on the Board Committee Structure for 2012-2013, refer to <http://www.srsd119.ca/boardofeducation.html>.

INCREASING VOCABULARY AT T.D. MICHEL

Julie Price, a grade 5 teacher at T.D. Michel Community Public School, is increasing her students' vocabulary and understanding about the variety of literary genres.

Students have a variety of interests and personal preferences for reading. By expanding students awareness and understanding of the various genres (types) of books, Ms. Price can tap into that student diversity and improve student literacy. Printable posters include familiar book examples for the students. She has created a poster of her own for graphic novels and will continue to design anchor charts for other genres.

Each student is given a reading log with an added genre column and chart for reference. This helps students to be reflective about what they read; it can also help them identify what types of books they like best and what other genres they have not yet experienced. This is an example of great things happening in SRPSD classrooms.



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OSBORNE STUDENTS ARE “BUMPING IT UP”!

The classrooms at Osborne Public School have one common theme this year - “Bump it Up”! Having writing as their school goal, students have been measuring their work against “Bump it Up” bulletin boards in each of their classrooms. The idea is based upon the work of Rick Stiggins and Damian Cooper. Stiggins suggests that most students can hit the target if they can clearly see it. Teachers have posted anchors and exemplars on the “Bump it Up Wall”, so that students can clearly see what type of work is expected to obtain a level 1-4 on the wall. Teachers provide students with rubrics to describe what is required at each level on the wall and checklists to help self-assess and monitor their work. Students are displaying considerable enthusiasm for their writing and are striving to achieve a number 4 on the wall!



Taylor & Brittney Osborne Students

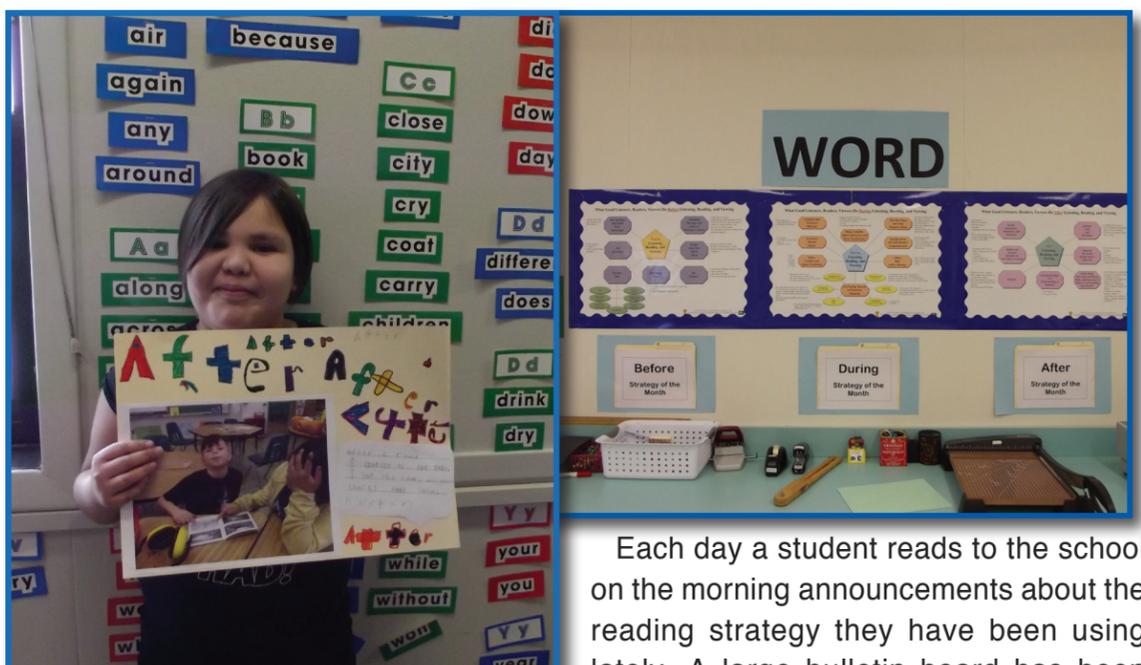
AT RIVERSIDE, “W.O.R.D.” STANDS FOR...???

Have you heard the “W.O.R.D.”? Riverside students sure have! W.O.R.D. is an acronym that has to do with our school goal of improving our students’ reading comprehension. But what does “W.O.R.D.” stand for? A contest was held for the students to guess. One student thought it stands for “What’s Octopus Reading, Dog?”.... another thought it stands for “World Official Reading Day”. There were plenty of great guesses, but no one figured out exactly what “W.O.R.D.” stands for. The secret will be revealed soon!

Is “W.O.R.D.” stuck in your head now? If so, good! That’s the aim of our “Sticky Team”. We want it stuck in the minds of our students, staff, and community that improving reading abilities is our most important goal!

So far, our Sticky Team has taken steps to help our ideas stick:

Posters with slogans about “W.O.R.D.”,



Kiersten Proudly displays her poster

contest to guess what “W.O.R.D.” stands for, staff room display before, during and after reading strategies that our staff may choose for their strategy of the month.

Each day a student reads to the school on the morning announcements about the reading strategy they have been using lately. A large bulletin board has been put up in the hallway on which all classes will be able to track their progress. Stay tuned, eventually the meaning of “W.O.R.D.” will be revealed!

THE POWER OF READING AT QUEEN MARY COMMUNITY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Queen Mary Community Public School staff from Kindergarten to Grade 5 are working on the Daily 5 program in classes.

The Daily 5 program is a student centered approach to help students improve literacy skills. The powerful program engages students so that they want to learn to read and to improve their skills at the same time.

How does the Daily Five Work?

Students work with their teacher to find qualities of good readers. Together an I chart is built, which lists the qualities of good readers. For example, in the Grade 5 classroom students thought that being quiet, not distracting others, not moving around, etc. were good qualities they should show. At the same time the teacher can read individually with a student or conference with a student giving feedback about the students' reading.

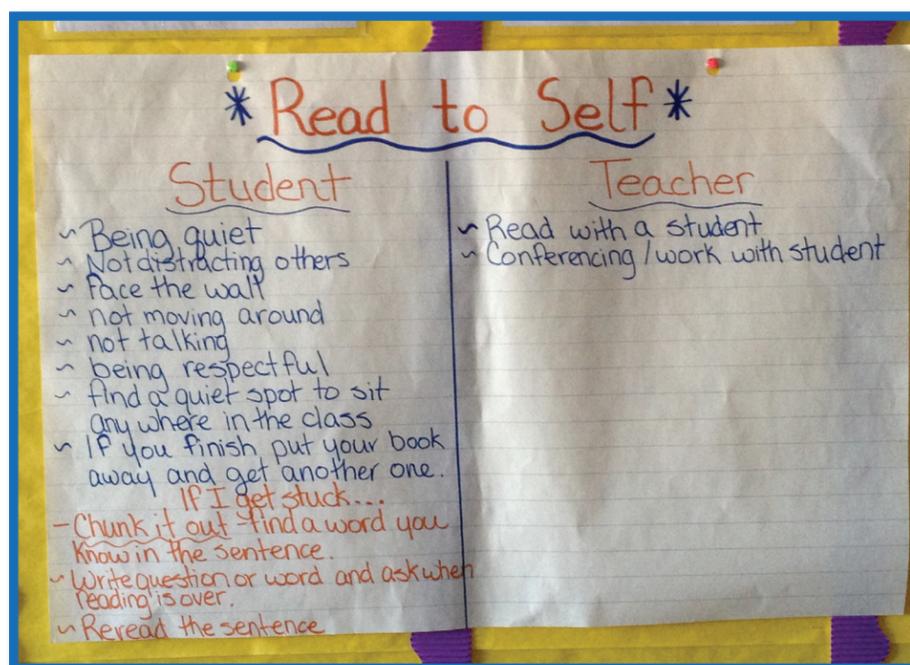
Students then practice the qualities they outlined and improve their skills on a daily basis. Students start with short intervals of skilled reading as they move to a long range goal of 30 minutes.

The program is chunked into 4 - 30 minute sections starting with a whole group lesson of 5 minutes which would be a skill on reading comprehension. Students go off to work independently where they have a choice of read to self, read to someone, work on writing, word work or listen to reading. Meanwhile the teacher monitors students and works at assisting student needs.

During the 4 sections, students work with peers, their teacher and

work on skills in reading, writing and strategies that engage them. Students know what level of reading material they are at and choose their own leveled reading books.

The Daily 5 along with the Saskatchewan curriculum enables our students to be engaged and to thoroughly enjoy reading and writing.



- The Daily 5 -

USING INNOVATIVE WAYS TO LEARN THE SIGHT WORDS

The Grade 1 class at King George Community Public School has been very busy these last two months. We have been working hard to reach our yearly goal to learn 100 Sight Words by year end. Each day the students engage in a variety of different teaching strategies to help them learn their Sight Words. Recently, the grade ones are exploring hands on activities that are both educational and fun. Students practiced writing their sight words on a plate covered with shaving cream. The physical sensation of feeling the word in the shaving cream helps to embed it in the students' memory. We were very proud of our class as this activity moved us closer to our yearly goal.



Students at King George Community Public School enjoying learning

HOOKED ON FISHING NOT ON DRUGS

The Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs® program is set to start its third year at the Canwood Community Public School in **Tyler Kuzma's** Grade 7/8 classroom. The Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs (HOFNOD) program has been adopted through the Future Fisherman Foundation in the United States, and was first brought to Saskatchewan via the Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers.

HOFNOD is delivered throughout many of the provincial parks in the province via the Ministry of Environment. The Canwood Community Public School is the first and only school in Canada to have the program running in a school setting. HOFNOD was initiated in Canwood through collaboration between the Canwood Community Public School, Prince Albert Parkland Health Region – Addiction Services, and Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment. The program's focus is to prevent drug use through sport fishing and aquatic resources education. One of its primary purposes, besides increasing

a youth's angling skills, is to enhance the development of life skills that divert children from using drugs. The program focuses on four key themes: angling skills, human dimensions, life skills, and fish biology. Due to the geographical location of the school, we thought that HOFNOD is a natural fit as there is an abundance of lakes and environmental opportunities in the area.

HOFNOD is facilitated by Gary Provencher, Conservation Officer, Chris Archibald, Outreach Addiction Counselor, Tyler Kuzma, Grade 7/8 classroom teacher, and a local member of the Shellbrook RCMP detachment. It consists of about 25 hours of classroom time, one ice-fishing trip, one spring-fishing trip, and a stewardship activity. The topics and areas covered in the program connect to the student's health and science curriculums while also providing the opportunity to promote positive lifestyle choices, communication skills, self-esteem, ethics, civic responsibility and a sense of environmental stewardship.

Over the past several years the students have had the opportunity to visit the shores of Fish Lake near Canwood, and Cowan Lake near Big River. Each fishing trip has proved to be successful, fish have been caught, and fun has been had! Each year the Grade 7/8 class picks garbage in 15-18 kilometres of ditches outside of Canwood. This activity promotes stewardship of the environment, and the opportunity to raise funds for a class field trip. Due to the environmental aspect of the program, this stewardship activity raised funds for the 2012 spring fishing trip to the Cowan Lake Dam where 23 students, and 4 adult chaperones went for an overnight camping trip to test their luck out on the water!

The program has been supported through grant opportunities via the Lakeland District for Sport, Culture and Recreation, and the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region. The students and facilitators cannot be more appreciative of their contributions to date. Happy Fishing!



Grade 7/8 Class at Canwood Community Public School