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A report on the work of The Saskatchewan Rivers School Division



**Saskatchewan Rivers
School Division No. 119**

Excellence for Every Learner

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On February 3rd, Shellbrook Elementary School students from Kindergarten to grade 5 were pleased to meet and work with Connie McGrath, author of “In Search of a Smile that Stays” as she visited with every classroom. What makes you smile? That is the recurring question in the children’s picture book written by Connie McGrath. It was also the catalyst for discussing with children what makes them happy, what they like to do, and who and what is important in their lives. Their inner-most feelings became evident in the artwork the children created to show what makes them smile. Through the illustration the students created, they were able to share the things that truly matter in their own lives. Several themes emerged such as friendship and family ties, as well as school and other social connections students have made within the community.

This process gave teachers an opportunity to connect what they are doing in the classroom



Connie McGrath and student Abby Ledding.

to promote literacy and comprehension to what authors do when creating stories and illustrations. Students had the chance to take their own ideas and feelings and use visual art to share this in a meaningful way. They also learned that ideas can

go far beyond the words on the page and the power visual art has in relaying emotions and ideas.

This was a wonderful experience for our students and allowed children to see that anything is possible when you follow your dreams!



Students enjoying the author, Connie McGrath.



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Everyone wants to be a “Mathelete”!

Do you like math and want to climb a mountain? If so, Osborne School is the place to be.

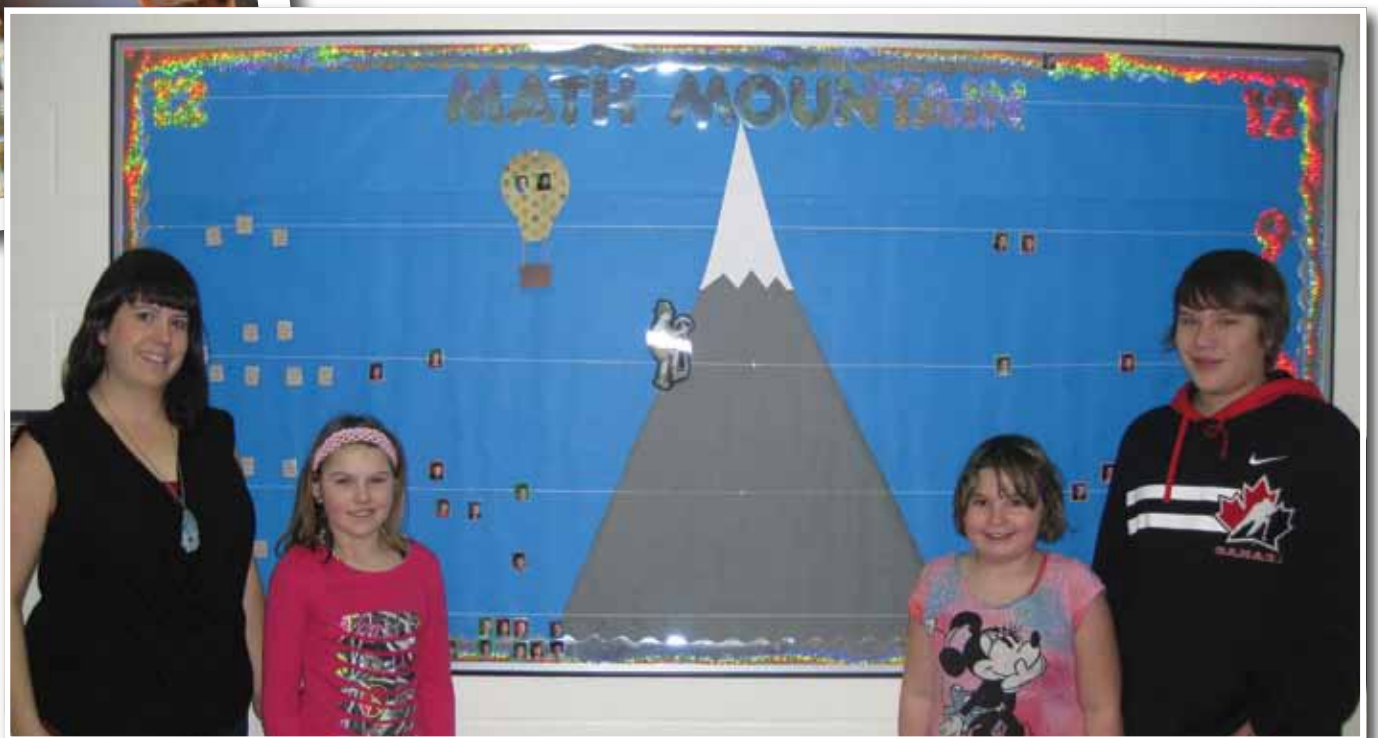
Once students have topped the mountain, they sign the bulletin board outside the office of Mrs. Holmen, the school principal, and as such are recognized in the “Mathelete Hall of Fame”.

students of all abilities are able to participate, compete, improve, and gain success within the program. Students are excited not only to be able to chart their success but often comment on how improving their basic computation is making other math skills easier.

Because students are working only on personal improvement,



Students at Osborne School have been challenged to climb higher and faster than ever before as they strive to become more proficient in their math computational skills and ultimately achieve the school’s math goal. Students are challenged to track their own growth. Each week students who have shown the most improvement are announced as “climber of the week”.



Picture: Left to right Dani VanSteelandt (Math teacher), Taylor Enequist (gr. 5), Cheyenne Hillsgr (gr. 3), Steven Matwishyn(gr. 7).

Wild Rose hosts Ski Loppet

On Thursday, February 16, the Grade 5 - 8 students of Wild Rose School played host to area schools for a cross-country ski loppet. The event was organized by Gr. 5/6 teacher, **Don Laing**.

There were 87 visiting students and 10 teachers along with our school skiers for a total of 115 skiers! Bill & Joan Jeffrey of the Sturgeon River Nordic Ski Club were on hand to help throughout the day.

The event was coordinated through the 5/6 & 7/8 classrooms, these students provided much of the labor that went into hosting this day. Way to go, we are proud of you!

The 5/6 classroom and their parents provided the lunch, a soup and sandwich canteen, which was a fundraiser for their year-end trip.

It was a fun-filled day with lots of great skiing, awesome weather, and a wonderful chance to spend some time skiing with other schools.



Students enjoying Ski Loppet.

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100 Communities Celebrating 100 Years

On February 7, 2012, Carlton was given the honour of hosting the kick off to the 100 Communities Celebrating 100 Years of Huskie Pride tour. The tour was planned to celebrate a century of excellence at the University of Saskatchewan, to showcase the university, and to build a sense of Huskie pride across the province.

The festivities began with an address from U of S President, Peter Mackinnon, to a group of 2012 Carlton graduates. The celebrations continued with a gathering of staff and students from Carlton, PACI, and John Diefenbaker schools, where over 80 former university students and Huskie athletes, from the three represented schools were honoured. A great sense of community pride came with having past Carlton students, Dalyce Emmerson, Erica Gavel and Teegan Heintz who are members of Huskie teams, in attendance.

The celebration culminated with over 2000 participants going for a two kilometre walk to promote healthy living in our community. The 100 Communities Celebrating 100 Years of Huskie Pride

tour will continue on to 99 more cities and towns across Saskatchewan. Thank you to the University of Saskatchewan centennial planning

committee for giving Saskatchewan Rivers School Division the pleasure of being a part of this monumental event.



Carlton students and others walking to promote healthy living.



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Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!

For the past two weeks, the Who's Who at Christopher Lake School have enjoyed celebrating the stories of Dr. Seuss. All students and staff were engaged in reading, sharing, and talking about Seuss stories, answering daily Seuss trivia questions, and having fun learning in Seussville!

Kindergarten to grade 8 students and teachers were amazed to learn that Dr. Seuss's wonderful children's stories are full of life lessons and big character ideas. The story *Green Eggs and Ham* shows how important it is to keep trying new things, because we may actually like something that we previously did not. In *I Can Read with my Eyes Shut*, the Who's Who learned that you see

amazing things when you open your mind! *The Lorax* encouraged a discussion about the environment and children learned the

importance of caring for what we have on the earth or it may be lost forever.

Yertle the Turtle inspired discussion around anti-bullying and political ideas of freedom. Children learned about standing up for their own beliefs and standing up for each other. *The Sneetches* reminded students of the yellow stars that the Jewish people had to wear during WWII and the importance of being true to oneself.

Happy March 2nd birthday to the famous author, Theodore Geisel! Thank you, Dr. Seuss, for reminding us to think and wonder, wonder and think (Dr. Seuss).



Principal David Lokinger and Christopher Lake students

Meath Park Students Have Spirit

If you were a student at Meath Park School in the month of February there was not a shortage of things to get involved in. Meath Park School's student leadership council (SLC) is a very active group in the school. They meet on a regular basis and provide numerous opportunities for all students from kindergarten to grade 12 to get involved.

To start off the month they had a "buy your Crush a Crush" campaign where you could buy a can of pop and valentine for that special someone in your life. The items were then delivered on Valentine's Day. The SLC also had a grade 7 to 12 "Matchmaker" program which involved students filling out surveys in hopes of finding their "perfect match" within the school. These results were given out the week of Valentine's Day. The SLC continued the Valentine theme with a "Red and Pink Day" on Valentine's Day with a special snack afternoon for kindergarten to grade 6 students. Valentine's Day also had kindergarten to grade

6 students being treated to a special noon hour of Valentine's Bingo while the grade 7 to 12 students had a special "steal someone's heart" competition in the morning.

The SLC is also very busy raising funds for Telemiracle this month. Each classroom has a "spare change" jug in their classroom where students are bringing change to donate. We can't wait to see how much each classroom raises. However, the most popular Telemiracle fundraiser is the "Principal and

Vice Principal" for a day raffle. Students from kindergarten to grade 12 have the opportunity to buy tickets and enter their name in the draw. One lucky student will have the opportunity to be "principal for a day" and another lucky student will have the opportunity to be "vice principal for a day".

Meath Park School's Student Leadership Council's goal is to promote school spirit from kindergarten to grade 12. The SLC is doing a great job in achieving their goal. **WE'VE GOT SPIRIT, HOW ABOUT YOU!!!**



Zachary Brassard has "school spirit"!

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