



Finally Outside Recess

The extreme cold weather broke long enough for the Grade 1 and 2 class at Stewart Nicks School to go outside and play in the snow for their physical education class. Building forts is “snow much” fun!



JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

James Hamblin School held its annual Jump Rope for Heart event raising \$2297.50 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. A special shout-out goes to top fundraisers, Braxtyn and Tenley Balbar, who raised \$1006.50. What an incredible accomplishment! To celebrate, the Balbars got to pie custodian Mr. Ciortan. Thanks for being such an awesome sport, Mr. C.!



HOCKEY DAY IN CANADA

The staff and students of Stewart Nicks School worked together to plan a wonderful school-wide event to commemorate Hockey Day in Canada. While the weather did not cooperate for the outdoor skating party, organizers stepped up and planned a series of indoor, hockey-themed activities to ensure a great day! Students and staff wore team jerseys, played hard at the various stations, competed in a hockey trivia game, completed hockey-themed puzzles and pictures, and enjoyed a cup of hot chocolate as part of the day.



ROYAL WOOD AT ELES

École Lumsden Elementary Grades 6 to 8 students had the opportunity to listen to Royal Wood as part of the Folk Fest Winterruption series. Royal Wood is a Canadian singer-songwriter, record producer and arranger based in Toronto, Ontario. He combined speaking, performing, and questions and answers in a musical performance. He also spoke about the importance of being your unique self and listening to your own voice, and how doing both applies not only to the arts, but also to having a meaningful life.

Embracing Diversity

Prairie Valley has policies on accepting and respecting human diversity—the differences in people and their unique circumstances. This section includes stories to increase awareness and celebrate all aspects of our human diversity, including gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ethnic origin, ancestry, culture, socioeconomic status, religion, family status, and mental and physical disability.

GLOBE THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Members of the Lipton School Gay Straight Alliance attended the Globe Theatre performance of *Bed and Breakfast*. This comedy focuses on the trials and celebrations of a couple “coming out” in a small town. The students are looking forward to bringing lessons learned from the comedy back to the school community.



Celebrating School Community Councils

School Community Councils (SCC) are advisory bodies that contribute to the learning success and well-being of all students within their school and community. They also encourage and facilitate parent and community engagement. This section features examples of the great work SCCs are doing.



NORTH VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL SCC

SCC Members Jodi Allen, Susan Smith and Becky Englot work alongside our North Valley High School students to prepare and serve a pancake breakfast to kick off the breakfast program at North Valley High School.

We are grateful to our SCC, for their continued help in supporting North Valley High School's staff and students.

Broadview Schools Take the Lead

Broadview School's youth leaders hit the playground recently after receiving 350 minutes of Take the Lead training. Take the Lead is a recess program focused on making leaders out of youth aged 11 to 14 who never thought of themselves as leaders. The program teaches students how to be a positive role model, how to communicate on the playground, and how to lead safe, inclusive, fun and fair games during recess.

Broadview School's Community School Coordinator applied for a \$500 grant from Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association to run the program. Three school staff members trained as leadership coaches then they trained, and will continue supporting, five youth leaders. The program's purpose is to ensure that all children have at least 30 minutes of active play daily, that they play in safe areas and that every interested student is included in the games and activities.

The youth leaders for Broadview School are Don Traveras, Kamden Stevenson, Landon Delorme, Carson Outhwaite and Rudy Quibell. Leadership coaches are Mrs. Somefun, Mrs. Zuiker and Mr. Clark.



ELES Family Literacy Day

To celebrate Family Literacy Day, École Lumsden Elementary School hosted a Make It with Literacy morning. Families were invited to the school from 7:30 am to 8:30 am to read books on drawing, clay play, origami and fingerprint/footprint arts. They used the instructions from the book to complete a creation. The goal is for families to enjoy their time together and realize the importance of literacy in day-to-day life as they make creations from reading and decoding directions.

A big thanks to the École Lumsden Elementary School School Community Council for supplying muffins and juice for everyone.



Art Central

Each month, the Education Centre features artwork from schools around the division. Visit the building to see the monthly rotation of student work. This month the Education Centre is featuring artwork from Vibank School.



■ PAINTING BY PAYTON



■ PAINTING BY CATLIN



■ PAINTING BY VIBANK STUDENT

LHS Random Act of Kindness

Lumsden High School recently used one random act of kindness to grow its Random Act of Kindness Week. The idea came about after students were asked to write an act of kindness on a sticky note, which was then put on a display wall with the hashtag #LHSisKind.

In reading the sticky notes the students created, staff were inspired to take the idea one-step further for Random Act of Kindness Week! Together, they created an initiative called "Caught Being Kind" where students who were caught doing nice things for others received a card to turn into the office to receive a treat.



Making a Difference

Prairie Valley School Division's dedicated employees impact the lives of students every single day. Their contributions and hard work truly make a difference! This month, Meghan Gardiner-Hoehn, a Career Counsellor at Greenall High School, nominated her Colleague Amy McFarlen.

"I would like to nominate Amy McFarlen as an employee who is making a difference. She has built a strong Business Education program at Greenall High School. Her Accounting classes are bursting at the seams, her Entrepreneurship class won Junior Achievement Canadian Company of the Year last year, and she is doing a great job of teaching Personal Finance 30L. She often links the business community to her classes, organizing frequent presentations for her students. She offers Business Education support to other teachers in our building and in Prairie Valley School Division, as well.

As a career counsellor, Amy does more than is required. She is very resourceful and has great relationships with students.

As a colleague, Amy always has your back. Over the course of her career at Greenall, she has stepped up to cover the entire commercial cooking program (with no experience or training in home economics) and also managed the old Bridges program, because it is what the building needed. She trains and takes students to Business Case Competitions and Junior Achievement conferences and works with Nicole Strandlund to manage Greenall's social media presence.

She is quick to jump on committees and offer support anywhere it is needed, whether for award ceremonies or graduation (even though grad falls on her birthday nearly every year). She is a big picture thinker who recognizes a strong school is the sum of all of its parts. Amy puts many hours into coaching soccer and basketball and offers Education First trips to families in our communities – and she does all of this while obtaining higher education – her Inclusive Education certificate first, and now her Masters in Educational Psychology. She is a valuable part of Greenall's staff," Meghan said.

WHAT DOES A REGULAR DAY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

My mornings are spent teaching Accounting, Entrepreneurship and Personal Finance 30L. Each day with these classes is a little different but overall my mornings have a very business education focused, which I love! Although teaching is different every day, career counselling is extremely different every day! Depending on the time of year I will be helping with class changes, course registrations, academic awards, Saskatchewan Youth Apprenticeship, apprenticeship credits, career spotlights, post-graduation planning, job fair planning, creating newsletters, preparing for grad, and a variety of other exciting tasks. Most days also involve collaborating with Nicole Strandlund to update the Greenall social media accounts with new content from our awesome co-workers. After school from November to March I'll be found helping coach the junior and senior girls basketball practices or games and in April and May I coach a business case competition team.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED WITH PRAIRIE VALLEY?

This is my seventh year teaching for Prairie Valley. I interned at Greenall in fall 2011, was hired the following year and have been here ever since.

CAN YOU SHARE ONE MOMENT THAT STANDS OUT FOR YOU IN YOUR TIME WITH PRAIRIE VALLEY?

Last year was a very successful year for my students and me. The junior girls' basketball team that I coached won the Regina High School Athletic Association city championship, one of my Entrepreneurship 30 companies won both the Junior Achievement of Saskatchewan President of the Year and Company of the Year awards, and I helped to run my first graduation ceremony for over 160 Grade 12 graduates.



AMY MCFARLEN - TEACHER,
GREENALL HIGH SCHOOL

Inclusion Classroom of the Month

Carla Miller, Teacher, Emerald Ridge Elementary School

In Prairie Valley School Division inclusion means belonging. We know that many teachers and school staff are working hard to facilitate inclusion in their school and classroom and we want to showcase the great work being done in Prairie Valley School Division. We feature one classroom each month in Celebrate! Read more on how we bring inclusion into the classroom.



WHAT DOES INCLUSION LOOK LIKE IN YOUR CLASSROOM?

It looks like a regular bunch of Grade 1 students, learning, interacting and laughing together. It is what we do and who we are at Emerald Ridge Elementary School.

WHAT BENEFITS DO YOU SEE FOR EVERYONE?

We are raising a community of people that are accepting of all others. We work collaboratively as a team with the classroom teacher, learning support teacher, family

and our school-based team. Students are not aware of there being any other way. At Emerald Ridge Elementary School, our administration has allotted Student Intervention Time (SITS) where the classroom teacher and learning support teacher can come together to discuss and plan programming to align with student needs. Our teaching philosophies are aligned and allow for open and flexible opportunities.

WHAT ARE SOME CHALLENGES THAT YOU HAVE OVERCOME?

As a classroom teacher, finding the time to develop appropriate adapted programming for the many diverse needs within one classroom. As a learning support teacher, prioritizing needs within the different grade levels I support.

WHAT WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT DO YOU HAVE FOR OTHERS?

Embrace it. Hit the ground running. Do not get discouraged.

Let's Celebrate Together

Send us your celebration items. Stories should be 80-100 words (about four sentences) and answer who, what, when, where and why.

For each story, please send your best photo and include for each person:

1. First and last name
2. Position/title or grade/class
3. School or organization

Send your stories to communications@pvsd.ca by March 22 for inclusion in the April edition.



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