

September 6, 2018

Prairie Valley School Division is Kind Setting the Stage for the 2018-2019 School Year

Kindness is front and centre in the Prairie Valley School Division as staff and students head back to class this week to start the 2018-2019 school year.

“Be kind to one another, because being kind is something we all can do,” said Director of Education Ben Grebinski in his opening address to administrators this year, making this the school division’s statement of purpose for the 2018-2019 school year. “There is a lot of hurt out there and I think the world needs a gentler approach. It’s our job to be kind.”

Each year, Grebinski sets the stage with his statement of purpose. This year, his focus on kindness was formed through his work with the Division’s social workers, child and family support workers and other learning supports staff, who noted teaching kindness and empathy would be helpful in an inclusive school division like Prairie Valley.

The direction has picked up steam across the Division with teachers and administrators alike sharing their gratitude for the direction. “So proud to work in a division that places kindness in the centre of all we do,” said Kelliher School Principal Lindy Olafson.

The team at South Shore School in Regina Beach is already partnering with the community to create kindness rocks, which students hide around the community for others to find. “We had been thinking all summer about how we could bring more kindness to the classroom. So, when we found out that was the statement of purpose this year, we were elated,” said Nicole Young, the principal of South Shore School. “So we thought we would start the year off with a kindness initiative.”



Principal Sarah Geisler from Lipton School showcasing the statement of purpose on a bulletin board in the school.

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Students at that school spent time on their first day back painting kind messages on rocks that they later hid among the community for others to find and keep.

Others in the Division have created bulletin boards showcasing the statement of purpose, while the learning supports team made up of child and family services workers, social workers, speech-language pathologists, psychologists and teachers also have big plans. They are preparing kindness messages for each school, information and activity packages for International Random Acts of Kindness Week and kindness boards in schools, which help guide student learning around being kind and empathetic.

“We need to remind ourselves that we are here for others; no matter the role, everyone working in education impacts the lives of children and youth, from bus drivers and caretakers to teachers and administrators,” said Grebinski. “If we understood the hurt that exists in any given heart at any given time, we would never want to add to it.”

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Prairie Valley School Division serves over 8,500 students in 39 schools throughout southeast Saskatchewan. In support of the vision “Leadership in Learning and Life”, the Division offers a high-quality education that provides students with the tools to reach their potential.

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Leadership in Learning and Life

