

CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER

January 2024

Important Dates

- January 4: School Resumes
- January 9: Board Meeting
- January 22-28: Family Literacy Week
- January 25-30: Exams
- January 27: Family Literacy Day
- January 31: Prep/LIT Day (No School for Students)

* Happy *
New Year *

Prairie South Teachers' Association
wishes you a year filled with inspiring moments, meaningful connections, and the joy of witnessing students' growth.

Happy New Year

President: Patty Mergel Vice-President: Kent Clegg
Secretary: Wadena Lasko Treasurer: Judy Samoleski
LINC Chair: Jeff Feeley

Councillors:
Patty Mergel, Kent Clegg, Shane Onraet, Nathan Hazell,
Gisele Perrault, Scott Wicker, Maxine Tallon, Tayler Woitas,
Colleen Hordichuk

Members at Large: Suzanne Vance, Charla Edwards

Season's Greetings

from the

**Prairie South
CUPE Local 5512
Executive**

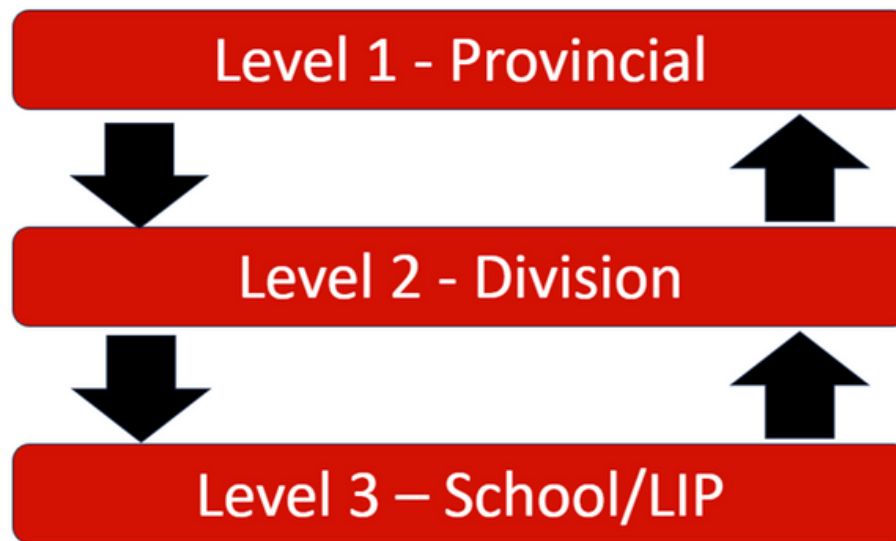
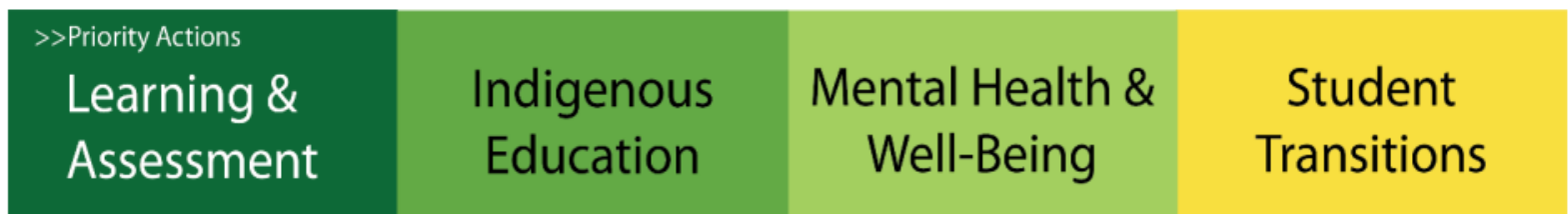
President: Bill Johnston
Vice-President (MJ): Don Chesney
Vice-President (MJ): Sheldon Denet
Vice-President (North): Kamron Gehlen
Vice-President (South): Jackie Dayman
Recording Secretary: Dianne Rasmussen
Secretary Treasurer: Kayla Van Den Bosch

SPOTLIGHT ON PEP (Provincial Education Plan 2030)

The long-term provincial education plan represents a commitment to Saskatchewan students and their families. The focus of the plan is to support students in learning what they need for their future, to ensure students feel safe and supported.

Priority Actions:

Four priority actions of equal importance will be undertaken in the plan. These actions will be assessed and updated over the course of the plan as the work progresses, and priorities continue to be responsive to the educational experiences and outcomes of Saskatchewan students.



Prairie South Schools' Division Education Plans (known as Level 2 plans) directly align with the province's Provincial Education Plans (known as Level 1 plans). Individual schools then align their Learning Improvement Plans (Level 3 plans) with the Division's Level 2 plans. The Level 1 plans drive the Level 2 plans which drive the Level 3 plans. The Provincial Education Plans and our Division Level Plans support and strengthen the great work that is already happening in the province and in Prairie South schools. Most of the milestones and deliverables within our plans are not new but will be strategically focused on and supported.

The Development of Prairie South's Level 2 Plans:

- In June 2023, School-Based Administrators, Learning Department staff and the Central Administrative Council drafted potential milestones and deliverables.
- In August 2023, all instructional staff came together to review these drafted milestones and deliverables and provided feedback.
- In September 2023, all feedback was collated and shared back with School-Based Administrators and the Central Administrative Council. School-Based Administrators identified key themes/big rocks for each milestone.
- In October 2023, the key themes/big rocks were used to revise the Level 2 Plans.
- In November 2023, the proposed changes were shared with the School-Based Administrators and changes were agreed upon or further refined.
- In December 2023, the milestones and deliverables were finalized.
- Next steps – Team Members will be identified for each action priority. The leaders will come together to discuss timelines, resources, and stakeholder involvement.

The Division Level Plan and Learning Improvement Plans in Action:



In December, Riverview, Peacock, and Central hosted Cadmus Delorme at the Peacock Auditorium. Cadmus spoke to students about his journey as a young boy who overcame racism. He has built a successful life including being elected as the Chief of Cowessess First Nation. During his time as Chief, he made international headlines with the discovery of unmarked graves near the former Marieval Indian Residential School.



First Nations and Métis languages and cultures are valued and supported is one milestone under the Indigenous Education/Inspiring Success action priority. Schools continue to host celebrations of Indigenous culture and ceremony. Often, many schools come together at one time to celebrate and learn together.

Student Attendance Matters in Prairie South

We are one week into the 2023-24 school year! We hope you had a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing all our students each day. We are continuing with our attendance awareness campaign as your presence matters!

The reasons #YourPresenceMatters are:

- improves learning
- strengthens relationships
- enhances connections
- improves well-being



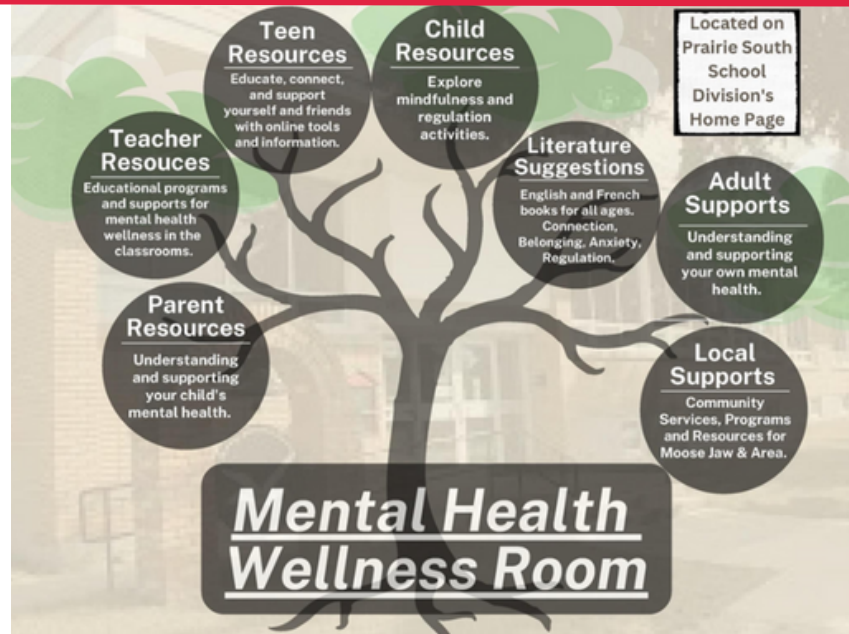
#YourPresenceMatters to Prairie South Schools because we care about the success of all our students.



#YourPresenceMatters

Regular student attendance is important. Prairie South is continuing the Your Presence Matters Attendance Campaign during the 2023-2024 school year. Messages like you see here are communicated through our social media platforms.

The Mental Health Wellness Room is full of resources for students, parents, teachers, and adults. This year, Prairie South added a section for adult supports. The Mental Health Wellness Room is accessible through the icon on your PSS desktop and is linked to our division website.



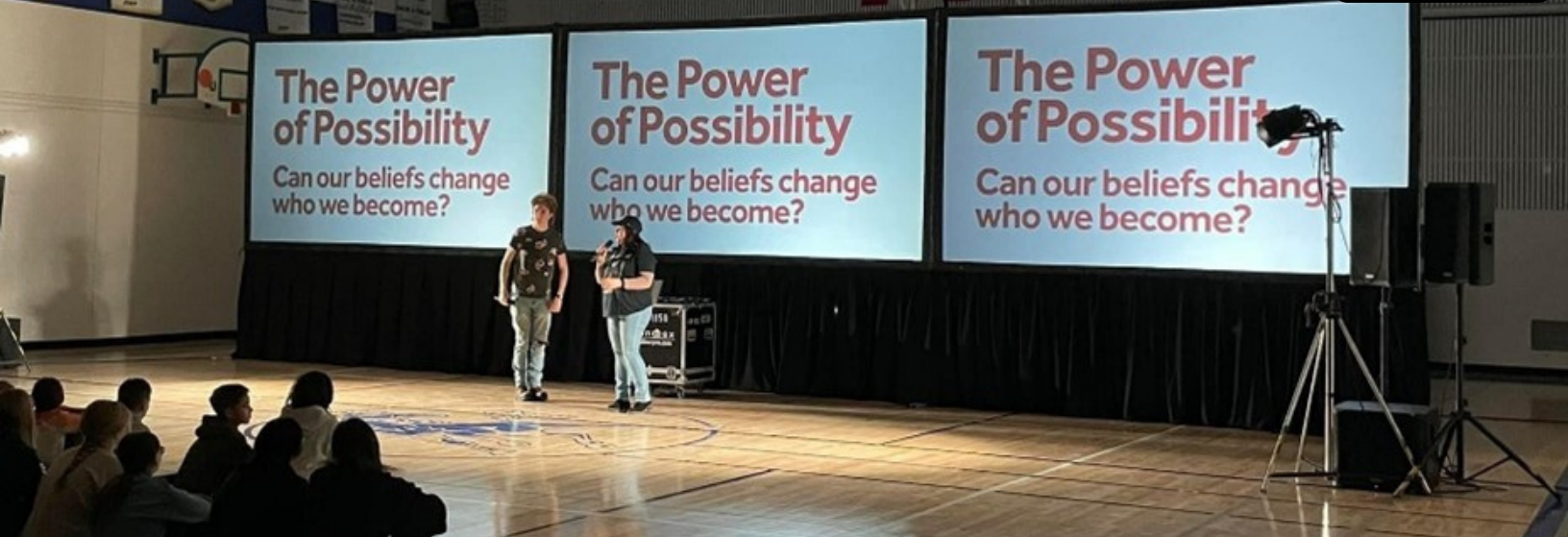
DID YOU KNOW?

Prairie South creates a monthly **CAREER NEWSLETTER** for high school students.

Students and caregivers, check it out!

www.prairiesouth.ca/students/student-career-news/

Did you know that our Career Development Consultants create a monthly Career Newsletter for students and families? This newsletter aligns with the Student Transition action priority.



The River Street Promotions Grant Match Initiative supports Mental Health Wellness related projects in schools. This year eight grants have already been approved. Pictured here is Coronach School. Coronach School hosted an assembly and workshop titled *The Power of Possibility*. This assembly and workshop equipped students with practical tools to develop a clearer understanding of how multidimensional they are. The goal was to have students walk away with a sense of hope and desire to create a better tomorrow for themselves and others.



In August 2023, Prairie South Pathways opened its doors. Prairie South Pathways is an alternate approach to learning for students in grades 10–12 who are struggling to progress towards transitioning beyond high school in a traditional school setting. Pathways currently has 31 students enrolled.

Aligned with the Provincial Education Plan, the following Professional Learning Opportunities have been provided so far this year:

- Mental Health First Aid
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
- Mental Health Wellness in PSS
- MathUP
- Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training
- Parlez-Vous Math
- Behaviour Learning Cycle Training
- PreK PD Days
- Early Learning Intensive Support PD Day



Check out future opportunities by visiting the Learning Opportunities Site.

The 3 Kokums are in classrooms across Prairie South sharing and celebrating Métis culture. You will see them working with students on:

- Beading
- Loom Beading
- Talking Sticks
- Medicine Bags
- Story Stones
- Métis Jigging
- Feasts
- Drums
- and more

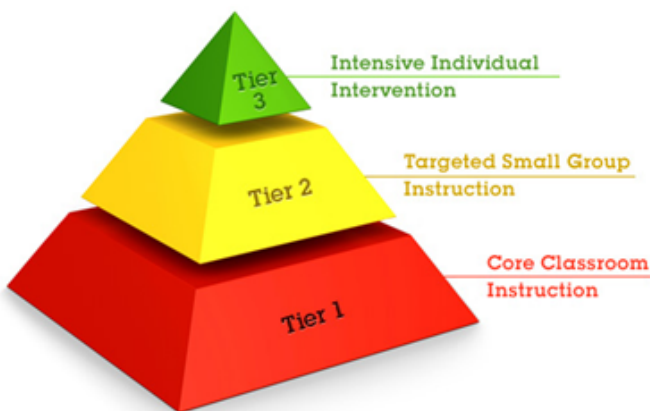


Many grade 9–12 students in Prairie South were treated to a performance called Music City in Moose Jaw. Music City in Moose Jaw was hosted by River Street Promotions and sponsored by the Co-op. Students listened to four Nashville artists perform and tell stories about their personal mental health wellness and journeys in life and the music business.

There were many takeaways from this incredible opportunity including:

- Resilience comes from hard times. If something is too hard, don't be afraid to ask someone for help.
- Live in the moment. Find peace in the moment. Love yourself now. Don't wait until later. Be happy right where you are and take that forward with you.

This performance aligns with the Mental Health and Well-being action priority.



Aligned with the Student Learning and Assessment action priority, the Central Administrative Council and School-Based Administrators continue to focus on Response To Intervention (RTI). An intervention is anything a school does above and beyond what all students receive to help certain students succeed (academically, behaviourally, and emotionally). The goal of RTI is to create a systematic process that ensures every child receives the time and support needed to be successful. Your school's Learning Improvement Plan outlines this systematic process within your individual school.

RTI (Response To Intervention)
3 Tiers of Support

Meet Our Staff

Karla Silbernagel, Principal at Mankota School

elinda mase photography



Karla grew up in Mankota, in the Billimun area on a mixed farm. Karla has been a Maverick most of her life. She attended Mankota School and is the Principal at Mankota School, where she has taught her entire career, and she has taught almost every subject in the K-12 school with the exception of grade 11/12 math and grade 12 sciences! She grew up with three older sisters, but there is a 9 year age gap between her and her closest sister and 17 years between her and her oldest sister. She claims she was an oops. 😊 She married her high school sweetheart, Kurt, and they have three girls – ages 24 (Kassidy), 22 (Kayla), and 18 (Kaitlyn). Karla attended the University of Saskatchewan for her education degree and did online courses at the University of Regina for her Masters in Educational Leadership. Karla loves to read (especially historical fiction), do cross-stitch, puzzles and she's learning to quilt. She enjoys playing cards and games with family and friends

as well as paddleboard, swim and Kayak at their lake. She loves spending family time at their cabin in Fairmont, BC. Karla's advice is to never stop learning and continue to be reflective throughout your teaching career. Her whole career journey has been about change which has kept her excited about teaching and learning, and challenged her to grow as an educator. She's still learning.

Karma Klassen, Bus Driver, Moose Jaw Rural



Karma was born in Quebec, but she grew up throughout Canada with her mother who was a bit of a gypsy. She's lived in Eastern Townships of Quebec, Whitehorse and Carcross (wilderness section, not in the cities) of the Yukon, and Moose Jaw to visit her Dad.

Karma currently lives northwest of Moose Jaw on 11 acres in the middle of nowhere! Karma lives common-law with the love of her life. Their older two boys are 16 and 14 and they spend half their time at their dad's in Moose Jaw. Their youngest two are 9 and 7 years old. Karma went to school to become a Registered Massage Therapist and worked successfully as such for 17 years and she currently drives a rural school bus on the route her kids live on, and during the day she does bookkeeping for her partner's L7 Carpentry Ltd. company, and Market



Operations Management for Prairie Bee Meadery. Karma spent most of her life taking correspondence schooling through the Okanagan Correspondence School. When she moved in with her Dad at 17 she attended Peacock Collegiate. She completed a diploma through the Wellington and Western College of Remedial Massage Therapies in Regina and recently completed certificates online to assist with the administrative roles she's filling now. Young Karma enjoyed knitting, crocheting, playing violin and doing traditional indigenous beadwork, but current Karma enjoys cooking, parenting, acting, and writing her first novel. Karma's two favourite trips are when she was the maid of honour for her sister's wedding in Santorini in 2010 and when she took her young family in the car with a tent trailer to Quebec from SK to see where she grew up. Karma is a physical person. She wrestled in tournaments in high school, took boxing before she had children, and currently kickboxes once a week. She worked as a logger with her family from the ages of 8 to 14, in the Yukon, and made maple syrup by tapping trees and hauling sap etc. in Quebec. Her advice is: You're smarter than you think. Trust yourself, you'll be okay. And when you're wrong, there's strength in admitting it.

Cheryl Sperling, Educational Assistant, Eyebrow

Cheryl Sperling currently lives in Craik and has been an Educational Assistant at Eyebrow School since 2009. Cheryl is married and has three children, including a set of twins. She enjoys camping, gardening, and growing weird and wonderful plants! She has grown a pineapple



at the school, and everyone had a taste! She was gifted a banana plant recently and hopes the students and staff can taste Saskatchewan grown bananas! Cheryl has travelled to China (it was a very interesting cultural visit), Ireland, Wales, Scotland, and England. Ireland and Scotland are her favourites! She has been to the Great Wall of China and the Great Wall of Saskatchewan – both were very impressive! The most interesting food Cheryl has eaten was Haggis in a restaurant in Edinburgh, Scotland. Her advice is to make good choices in life.



SUNNINGDALE Grizzlies

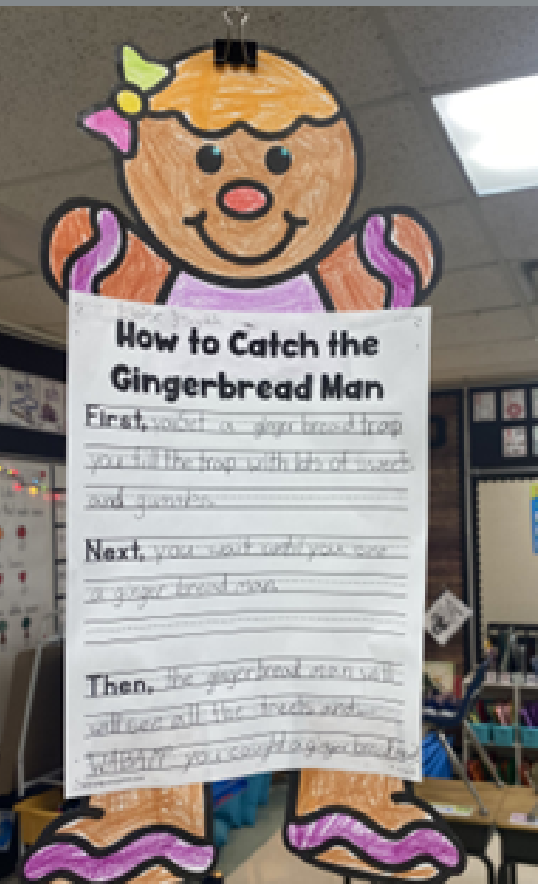
530 Woodlily Drive, Moose Jaw

We are delighted to share a little insight into our incredible school community. At Sunningdale School we take pride in fostering a learning culture that nurtures the minds of our students to become lifelong learners and compassionate global citizens.

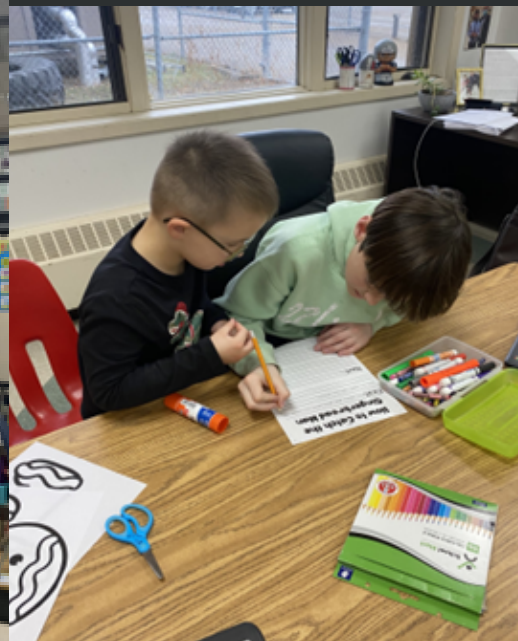


Our learning culture is a vibrant mix of innovation, curiosity, and a commitment to excellence. Within the walls of our classrooms and the hearts of our educators, a spirit of discovery thrives. Our motto is, "Believe it, Achieve it." We believe in empowering students to question, explore, and imagine, creating an environment where knowledge is gained and passionately pursued.

Below you will discover just a few of the diverse and enriching experiences that shape our learning community. We celebrate the achievements of our students, the dedication of our teachers, and the support of our parents, who collectively contribute to the vibrant mosaic that is Sunningdale School. Together, we foster a love for learning that extends beyond the confines of the classroom, creating a legacy that will inspire well into the future... We are the grizzlies!



Mrs. Gray's grade 1 class and Mr. Cameron's grade 6/7 class are working together to come up with ideas of how to catch the Gingerbread Man.





The grade one's beautiful partnership with West Park Retirement!

This grade 2 class is learning about holidays around the world as part of their social studies unit. They learnt that in Sweden, a gnome delivers presents and has goats instead of reindeer! They also made wreaths and candle headbands after learning about their traditions. They were so excited!

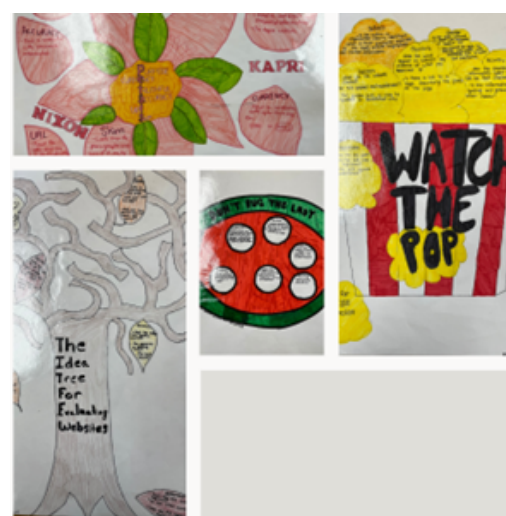
The grade ones enjoy going to West Park to play bingo, read, and write. Sometimes West Park loads the bus and comes to our school.



In Miss Bretkreuz's Grade 2 class, we have been investigating properties of air and learning how air moves. We constructed some wind instruments to measure whether it is windy outside. As we built, we tested the wind instruments over the vent in our classroom, and it was fun to see the air moving things around!



The grade 3s were hard at work learning about Metis Communities in Saskatchewan in Social Studies! During our unit, students were able to create floral beaded pins, jig, study various artists, learn Michif words and phrases, learn about Red River Carts, create their own river lots in Batoche, and learn how to weave sashes! Above, students are pictured weaving small scale sashes. Tawaw - Thank you for the great work Grade 3!



The grade 6/7 class spent time learning about how to evaluate websites. The attached image shows their illustrations of what criteria they should be considering when they are determining if a website is offering credible information.



In Mrs. Moerike's Grade 3 class each morning, we have a student that becomes the Future Teacher for the day. The student does grammar, weather, counting, and adding and subtracting with the help of the rest of the class. They also share something special to them.



The Gr4K class at Sunningdale School is an amazing group of students! Each student is also the proud owner of a Desk Pet that works alongside them each day to complete their learning. The Desk Pets fit in their desk so have made themselves at home in the desk habitats students have created. We have a full classroom and Gr4K students are always ready to engage in some great discussions with their teacher. Another highlight for Gr4K class is they are the big buddies to our PreK class... they sure do enjoy being the leaders.



Mr. Braun's grade 3 and 4 classroom is writing letters to the chefs of their favorite restaurants in Moose Jaw. We are letting the Chefs know how much we appreciate them, and we are letting the restaurants know why they are our favorites.

Collaborative minds at work!
Empowering the future generation with technology and research skills!





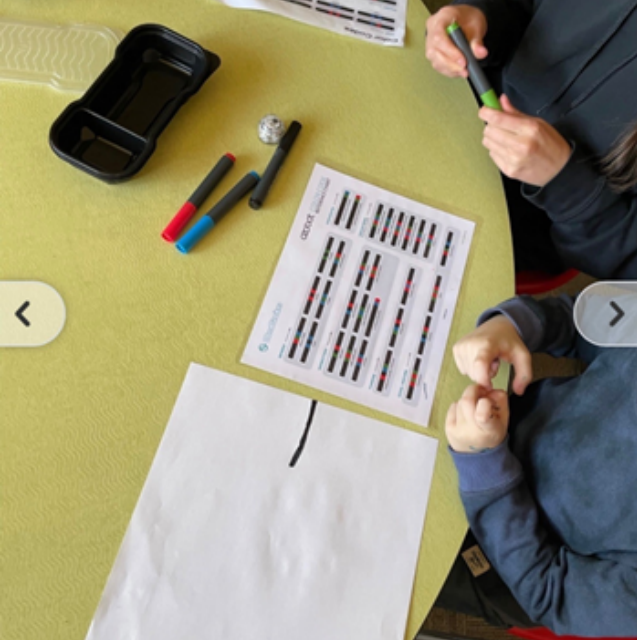
The Grade 5's attended Canadian Western Agribition in Regina at the end of November! They saw so many interesting things and learned all about agriculture. Some of the highlights from the day were seeing how a calf is born and sitting in the farm machinery! If you take a close look, you can see Lukas kissing the cow!



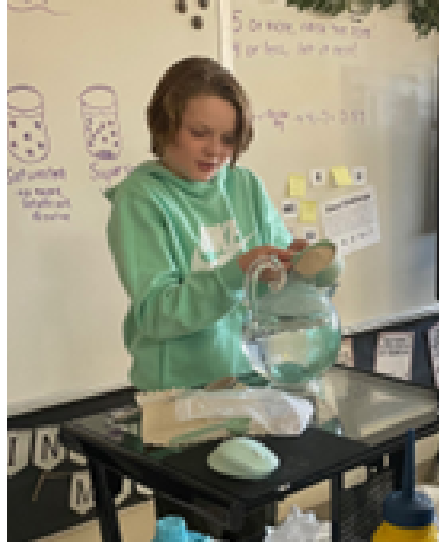
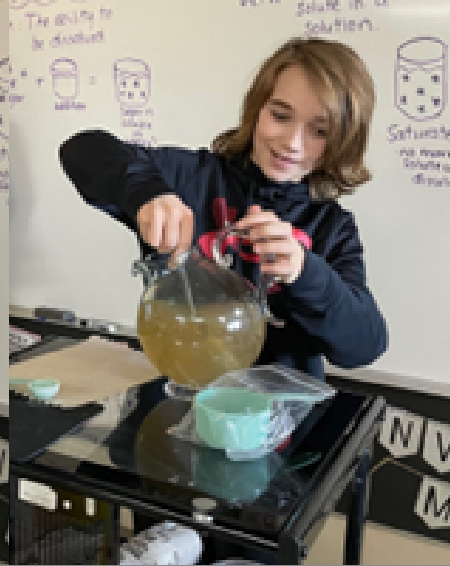
Our classroom has been enjoying our Drama unit so far! We have been practicing creating tableaux and participating audience members.



It's heartwarming to see our Sunningdale School Community come together to make a positive impact for those in need, especially during the holiday season. Your donations help bring joy and comfort to those in need. The Salvation Army is known for its charitable work, and Transition Houses play a crucial role in providing support to individuals and families in times of crisis. Thanks Sunningdale families for making this possible. Merry Christmas! 🍀❤️



Our grade 8 class taught our learning buddies how to code Ozobots using markers and specific patterns. Students continued their learning with digital coding, eventually programming the Ozobot to perform a dance. We learned how to successfully program robots!



In grade 7 Science, we've been learning about mixtures and solutions! Pictured here, a few of the grade 7s are experimenting with different concentrations of solute (iced-tea powder) to see how it affects the saturation level and taste of iced tea! We also experimented with the temperature of our solvent (water) to see how temperature impacts the speed at which the solute dissolves.



We are working on Podcasts to finish off our Fears and Phobias unit. Students are writing scripts with a Saskatchewan connection on mysterious events that are real or fictional. In the podcasts they are imbedding sound effects to add to the intrigue as they share their stories.



Study skills are timeless! Students are learning how to own their learning and the power of a Study Buddy. It's awesome to witness the students develop skills and strategies that work for them, and recognize that study skills are part of their learning process. It's great to see the confidence this process can bring! Our motto and theme song: "I've Got the Power!"



Kindergarten students have been busy learning through play and exploration. We have inquired about floating and sinking. We have been working on developing our fine motor skills, as well as creating different types of patterns using a variety of materials. We were lucky to visit the Western Development Museum to experience what the holidays were like 100 years ago; we also got to explore planes, trains and automobiles.



We have been busy in Prek practicing literacy and fine motor skills. We have been writing letters to Santa and building Play-Doh snowmen. We have been retelling the winter story "The Mitten" by Jan Brett and we represented ourselves as Santa's little helper .. If I Were An Elf.

