



The second annual Prairie Spirit Resonate Student Music Conference was held April 14 and 15 at Beaver Creek Camp. In total, over 200 students attended the conference, which also included a PD day for teachers on April 13.

Volume 6, Issue 4 | April 2016

School year calendar 2016/17

The 2016/17 Prairie Spirit school year calendar was approved by the Board of Education at its meeting on Monday, April 4.

“We believe the 2016/17 calendar will maintain our focus on student learning while also supporting students, staff members and families,” said Larry Pavloff, Board Chair.

Teachers will begin the school year on Monday, August 29, 2016. Students will start on Thursday, September 1, prior to Labour Day, as determined by the Ministry of Education.

Each year, the Prairie Spirit school year calendar is created through a collaborative process including input from the Board of Education, Division administration, teaching staff, out-of-scope support staff, unionized support staff and parents.

The Division’s Calendar Committee produced two calendar options and invited all staff to vote for their preferred calendar option. The results of this vote were shared with the Board.

The Ministry of Education requires that all school divisions publish their school calendars by May 1 each year. Prairie Spirit’s calendar is available on the school division website at www.spiritsd.ca.

Da Vinci Project

Jon Yellowlees, Coordinator of Schools and Learning, presented an update on the Da Vinci Project to Trustees on April 4. Yellowlees highlighted the ready to move (RTM) housing project at Walter W. Brown School in Langham, along with the renovation project underway in Duck Lake, both in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

Construction students in Langham completed construction on a fourplex which was moved onto a lot in Saskatoon last year. Students are now working on constructing a duplex.

In Duck Lake, students are renovating duplexes to be used as single family homes. Yellowlees said the partnerships with Habitat for Humanity have been very successful.

In addition to these larger projects, Yellowlees said the school division is also interested in supporting smaller Da Vinci projects that are designed at the local school level.



10 years of learning together in
Prairie Spirit School Division
2006 - 2016

Music Education

Dave Carter, Coordinator of Schools and Learning, provided an update for Trustees on music education in Prairie Spirit at the Board’s April 4 meeting. Carter referred to research that demonstrates the positive impact of learning music on other areas of study, including math and reading. “Music education is closely tied to *My Prairie Spirit Classroom*,” Carter explained. “The model for learning music is truly side-by-side learning.”

Carter provided data about band participation in schools in the east and west areas of the school division. There are 91 students in grades 5-12 enrolled in band in the west part of the school division, while there are 175 students enrolled in band in schools in the east. The senior bands from both Division band programs have been invited to the Rocky Mountain Music Festival at the end of April. This is a prestigious, invitation-only event.

The Division’s Music Mentors—a group of 20 classroom teachers—have been meeting throughout the year to share ideas and learn together about offering music education.

The second annual Resonate Student Music Conference was held April 14 and 15 at Beaver Creek Camp. This year, the event was expanded to also include a professional development day for teachers on April 13. In total, over 200 students attended the conference.

Carter provided an update on planning for band programs in schools in Martensville and Warman. Plans are underway to offer a band program in these communities, as possible and with existing staff.

Resignation of Trustee

Trustee Joanne Brochu submitted her resignation to the Board on April 4, effective the end of April, 2016. Brochu and her family are moving and she is not able to complete her term as Trustee with a residence outside the school division boundary.

“I will miss my work with Prairie Spirit,” she said. “I’m very proud to be part of this Board.”

Larry Pavloff, Board Chair, thanked Brochu for her term as a Trustee for Subdivision 8. “Joanne has consistently done what is best for students,” he said. “You have represented your subdivision very well.”

continued...

Because a general election for all Board members will be held in October 2016, the seat will remain vacant until the elections are held this fall.

Prairie Spirit receives CDA award

Prairie Spirit has been awarded a *Regional Outstanding Partnership Award* from the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA). The award was presented at a CDA event on April 9. Prairie Spirit was nominated by the LiveWell Pediatric Diabetes Team in the Saskatoon Health Region. The nomination is based on the support Prairie Spirit schools provide to students with diabetes.

The following is an edited version of the nomination:

This [school division] team consists of Itinerant Nurse, school based staff of teachers, educational assistants, resource room teachers, parents and division level supports. The Diabetes Support initiative began in 2011. Currently, the document, "[Practice procedure for the administration and care of a student with Type 1 Diabetes in the educational setting](#)" guides practice in the division.

The purpose of the policy is:

- To provide a consistent approach and supports in place throughout these schools for the medical care of students. This is done by completing a 'School Action Plan' with the family at the beginning of each school year. Both the parents and staff discuss the plan together.
- To develop and train school staff through the application of Medical Practice Procedure web based guidelines and standardized powerpoint tool, for the administration and care of children in the school setting.

The PSSD team contributes hugely to the success of Saskatoon area children, and families by:

- Providing a kind, steadfast and consistent approach in all of the above support relationships: child/family/school staff and pediatric diabetes team.
- Ensuring that children feel safe at school by knowing that as soon as they arrive back to school, the staff have been trained in their routines and speak their "diabetes language" in terms very much the way and manner the family has been taught.
- Ensuring that children and parents feel secure, knowing they have specific "go-to staff" to ensure their food, testing and insulin routines are being accomplished without it being a "big deal".
- Developing interventions that may work when diabetes care difficulties arise. Families have a process as does the school staff and Pediatric team, to develop interventions that can be trialed and evaluated.
- Participating in the child's diabetes appointment at the request of the family, to assist school staff and child again to know possible changes in interventions provided by the school staff!

There has been dedicated involvement of the PSSD team for several years, involving the support of the central Division office through to the classroom teacher, educational assistants, and resource room teachers supporting the children directly. The Itinerant Nurse liaison facilitates communication amongst all "players".

This team has made a huge difference in improving the lives of many children and is a unique model of collaboration of health care delivery hospital to home and ongoing. We hear the gratitude of families and school staff again and again!

Congratulations to all involved in this important work!



Prairie Spirit representatives at the Canadian Diabetes event, left to right:

Lesa Heath, Prairie View Vice-Principal; Janice Key, Prairie View Principal; Lori Wessel, WCMS SERT; Susan Protz, Coordinator of Schools and Learning; Pam Carpenter, WCMS EA; Trevor Belyk, Prairie Spirit nurse; Audrey Hill, Live Well/Saskatoon Health Region Dietician; Bonnie Hope, Prairie Spirit Trustee and Nola Kornder, Live Well/Saskatoon Health Region Nurse

Next Board of Education meeting:
Monday, May 2, Division Office, Warman

Prairie Spirit is on Twitter
[@prairiespiritsd](#) #pssdlearn

Prairie Spirit School Division Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 7 p.m.
Martensville High School

150 Mike Sands Boulevard, Martensville, SK

The meeting will include a report from the Board of Education,
the Director of Education and the Chief Financial Officer.

The meeting will focus on learning, with a report
from Martensville High School and other presentations.



Prairie Spirit Board of Education



Subdivision 1
Pam Wieler
*Blaine Lake
Laird
Leask
Waldheim
Green Leaf, Riverbend
and Leask Colonies*



Subdivision 2
Keith Wagner
*Duck Lake
Hague
Rosthern*



Subdivision 3
Ken Crush
*Borden
Langham*



Subdivision 4
George Janzen
*Dalmeny
Hepburn
Osler*



Subdivision 5
Larry Pavloff
Board Chair
*Asquith
Perdue
Eagle Creek Colony
Sunnydale Colony*



Subdivision 6
Bernie Howe
*Delisle
Pike Lake
Vanscoy
Willow Park Colony*



Subdivision 7
Dawne Badrock
*Clavet
Dundurn
Hanley
South Corman Park
Hillcrest Colony
Lost River Colony*



Subdivision 8
Joanne Brochu
*Aberdeen
Allan
Colonsay
Riverview Colony*



Subdivision 9
Bonnie Hope
Martensville



Subdivision 10
Sam Dyck
Board Vice-Chair
Warman



Subdivision 11
Deanna Greyeyes
*Muskeg Lake
Cree Nation*



Subdivision 12
Shantelle Watson
*Mistawasis
First Nation*