

CELEBRATION ITEMS

Prairie Valley School Division



Septembers 2011

PREMIER AT PRACTICE



Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall dropped in to watch the Kelliher Cobras football practice on August 23, 2011.

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall took some time out from his busy summer tour schedule to take in a football practice at Kelliher School on August 23, 2011.

As shown here, Premier Wall watches the Kelliher Cobras football team practicing in preparation for the football season. The Premier watched practice and then talked football with the play-

ers before continuing on his tour.

Premier Wall was in Kelliher during his visit to the Last Mountain Touchwood constituency with MLA Glen Hart.

The Premier also visited with municipal councils, business owners and the public in the communities of Cupar, Lestock and Ituna during his trip to the area.

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TEAM WELCOMES NEW TEACHERS

Since a young age, Michael Racette and Tia McLean knew they wanted to teach.

"I've wanted to become a teacher ever since I was in Grade 5," said Racette, who was one of about 40 new teachers who attended the Prairie Valley School Division's Teacher Enhancement and Mentorship Program (TEAM) meeting held in McLean on Thursday, August 25, 2011.

Racette, a SUNTEP graduate who will be teaching this fall at Broadview School, says his love of teaching is strongly connected to his experiences as a struggling student and the support he received from his teachers in Regina.

"They helped me out and they never gave up on me even when there were times when it was a struggle at school," explains Racette, who interned at Balgonie Elementary School and has been a substitute teacher for Prairie Valley School Division.

"I want to give back to the community and show to students that they are worthy of attention even if it is above and beyond the classroom. I want to help them pursue their goals and dreams like my teachers were there for me."



Racette

McLean's goal of becoming a teacher also started at an early age and has strong family connections.

"I've grown up with teachers and around teachers and it is always the thing I knew I wanted to do. I haven't known anything else," says McLean, whose mother, Shelley, is a teacher at Fort Qu'Appelle. "I love working with kids and helping kids."

A graduate of the University of Regina, McLean will be a senior ELA teacher at Whitewood School this fall and interned at Bert Fox, her old high school.

Both say they are looking forward to being in classrooms this fall and events such as TEAM are very beneficial in preparing them as they start the school year.

"It will make me feel more comfortable knowing that there are supports for me in the division. Lots of people in the



Teacher Tia McLean talks with Prairie Valley Superintendent Gloria Antifaiff

room are in the same boat as me," says McLean.

Racette adds that one of the added benefits of the TEAM gathering is meeting other new teachers, making new friends and exchanging ideas.

"We can rely on each other and I see this as a really good support throughout the year," he says. "We can share what is going on (and) use our strengths to help each other out."

TEAM opened with an address by Director of Education Ben Grebinski, who said that one of the things that makes Prairie Valley special is its teachers.

"I have yet to see a school division that has teachers that are more committed to children than in Prairie Valley School Division," he said.

Other activities during the workshop included a presentation on planning your first day, resources at your fingertips and

teacher supervision.

"The importance of TEAM cannot be underestimated," says Superintendent of Human Resources Sherri Stephanson. "We want our teachers to have the information they need to begin their careers with Prairie Valley."

"As well, we want them to have a good understanding of our culture and what we are all about. Induction for teachers is also important as research has shown that even a small induction program increases the chances of teachers remaining in the profession."

Stephanson added the session was well-received and "our hope is that all participants left with a little more knowledge about Prairie Valley."

Those teachers on replacement or continuing contracts will participate in another two days of TEAM as part of the supervision and evaluation process.



Director of Education Ben Grebinski address teachers at TEAM

Having fun while learning about literacy



Participants attending the Summer Literacy Camp at Grenfell take part in a nature bingo game (top left and bottom right), beach volleyball and frisbee literacy games (bottom left and middle) while also taking time to have fun at the playground.

Students from the Fort Qu'Appelle and Grenfell areas participated in summer literacy camps, through a grant from the Ministry of Education and a partnership with Frontier College, a national literacy organization.

Prairie Valley School Division received a \$40,000 grant from the Ministry of Education to hold the summer literacy camps.

The camps were held July 11 to 22, 2011 in Grenfell and July 25 to August 5, 2011 in Fort Qu'Appelle.

Students from those communities, as well as from surrounding communities and First Nations attended the camps.

The camps provide programming for more than 40 children, ages five to 12 years old. They are designed to increase the participants' love of reading and books through storytelling, group reading, board games, arts and crafts, music, writing, field trips, and drama. The camps also have a positive impact on student reading readiness, retention and achievement when students return to school in the fall.





Vibank Regional School Grade 10 Alton Gerein gets Phase 1 of the Vibank Modernization Project going.

Capital projects in full swing

With the swing of a hammer at Vibank Regional School on June 17, 2011, the construction season got off a great start at Prairie Valley School Division.

Board members, senior Prairie Valley staff members, Vibank staff and students, and representatives of Stantec Architecture were on hand for the ceremonial start of the project, with many trying their hand at change room wall demolition.

This summer dozens of projects -- big and small -- got underway throughout Prairie Valley School Division.

Among them was the start of the \$7.3M Vibank Modernization Project.

Stage 1 of the project is now underway and consists of a new, single storey elementary wing addition and change room renovation, plus various life safety systems improvements.

Also getting started this year is the \$7M Kipling School Consolidation and Modernization. Phase 1 consists of an elementary wing addition and renovation and closure of the old primary building across the street from the main building.

In total, nine major capital projects are now underway or in the planning stages at Prairie Valley School Division. Plus, a variety of smaller capital projects such as room renovations and playgrounds and athletic field upgrades, along with energy performance upgrades, were completed during the summer months.



The PVSD team of Sherri Stephanson, Heather Seitz, Corey Terry and Ron Holtby compete in pancake flipping contests.

Team work at its best

PRAIRIE VALLEY STAFF PARTICIPATE IN BREAKFAST FOR LEARNING FUND-RAISER

The Prairie Valley School Division team participated in the Flipping Pancakes for Kids Challenge held on August 27, 2011 in Regina.

The PVSD team of Ron Holtby, Sherri Stephanson, Heather Seitz and Corey Terry did very well in the four events held during the team challenge, finishing second in the pancake relay event and fourth in the pancake flipping event. Most notably, the Prairie Valley team also raised the most money among the non-profit organizations participating in the event held at the Rochdale Super Store parking lot.

Breakfast for Learning Saskatchewan helps to start and sustain child nutrition programs in schools throughout the province.



PVSD team meets Gainer the Gopher

Kelliher students make animated films

The premiere screening of ArtsSmarts films produced by Kelliher School students was held on June 28, 2011, in the school gym.

Those in attendance had the pleasure of watching a series of student stop motion photography animation films. Among the films shown were *Zombie Movie*, *Battle of the Genderz*, *Slumberland* and *Chocolate Bunnie*.

The event was a celebration of student work created during an ArtsSmarts project, with funding from the Saskatchewan Arts Board. Awards were presented for Best Audio, Best Photography, Best Editing and Judges' Favorite.

The ArtsSmarts Saskatchewan program provides grants of up to \$7,500 for teachers and students to engage in special projects with professional artists in any arts discipline. In Kelliher, students and teachers worked with video artist Tracy Kovalench, a professional filmmaker who has worked on several film projects in Saskatchewan and elsewhere.

ArtsSmarts Saskatchewan is managed by the Saskatchewan Arts Board in partnership with SaskCulture Inc., Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, and the Ministry of Education.



Students eat their words

To celebrate a year filled with learning to read and the love of reading at Kelliher School, Marlene Tymiak (library associate) and Marianne Aamodt (teacher librarian) hosted a "Literacy Event" on Wednesday, June 15, 2011.

All the students from Kindergarten to

Grade 5 choral read a poem about the love of reading. Then everyone was given a partner and did some "buddy reading".

This was followed by Mr. Todd handing out "voracious reader" medals to each student.

Next, the plan was for each student to

have a piece of a Rice Krispie treat - which formed the letters "READ".

These letters were previously made by some of the elementary students with the help of Mrs. Tymiak. However, we ran out of time so the treats were eaten the next day.

Our students and staff enjoyed the event.



Community members, school staff and students participated in the tree planting event at Sedley School.

SEDLEY SCHOOL GOES GREEN

Sedley School and the Sedley School Community Council have teamed up with Tree Canada and FedEx Express Canada to promote environmental sustainability.

On Monday, June 13, 2011, Sedley students and staff, along with FedEx Express Canada volunteers, planted trees and shrubs on the school grounds.

This greening project at Sedley School was one of 16 that FedEx Express Canada is supporting in communities across the country in 2011.

Sedley School was selected to revitalize its school grounds because there was

demonstrated interest from students, parents, teachers and members of the community.

Schools interested in applying for funding submitted comprehensive plans to Tree Canada to convert their schoolyards “from mean to green”.

In an effort to educate the students, Tree Canada will be teaching students the value of trees, including energy savings, carbon sequestration and beautification, as well as explaining the mechanics of tree planting and maintenance.

Sedley School Community Council received a \$3,000 grant from Tree Canada

and sponsor FedEx Express Canada for the greening activity.

Tree Canada is a not-for-profit charitable organization established to encourage Canadians to plant and care for trees in urban and rural environments.

Tree Canada engages Canadian companies, government agencies and individuals to support the planting of trees, the greening of schoolyards, and other efforts to sensitize Canadians to the benefits of planting and maintaining trees.

To date, more than 77 million trees have been planted and more than 450 schoolyards have been greened.

Football back at three Prairie Valley schools

Students at three Prairie Valley School Division schools have new teams to cheer for this fall.

Football programs have been revived at Indian Head High School, Milestone School and Broadview School and all have begun playing games.

The Milestone Cougars are playing at the 1A six-man level, Broadview Bandits are in 2A six-man and the Indian Head Broncos play nine-man football.

All teams are members of the Qu'Appelle Valley Athletic Association.



The Broadview Bandits are one of three Prairie Valley schools with new football teams this fall.

New sign unveiled at Colony School



A brightly coloured, culturally representative school sign was unveiled June 15, 2011 at the Arm River Colony School.

The sign, which was produced with funding from an ArtsSmarts Program grant, is composed of a mosaic of ceramic tiles created by students at the school, with help from artists Wendy Parsons and Zach Dietrich.

The project's goals were to have students learn about the history of pottery making in the Hutterite culture and to create a sign that identified the Arm River Colony school and represented the community's identity.

Many lessons were taught surrounding identity, symbolism, and the Hutterite Culture. The students then drew out their sign using symbols to represent their culture, their community, their school and the world around them.

The students and artists created 128 six-inch ceramic tiles and used them to create the mosaic design for the sign.

Members of the Arm River Colony also contributed to the project by constructing a metal frame for the sign.

The ArtsSmarts grant program offers schools and their communities a chance to enhance arts related activities that are linked to educational outcomes through partnerships with professional artists.

The goals of the program are to increase access to meaningful artistic activities, nurture creative thinkers and foster a lifelong interest in the arts.

THE CLASS OF 2011

A SALUTE TO PRAIRIE VALLEY GRADUATES



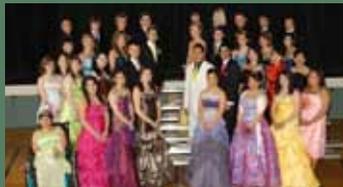
Balcarres Community School



Indian Head High School



Montmartre School



Bert Fox High School



Kelliher School



North Valley High School



Broadview School



Kipling School



Robert Southey School



Cupar School



Lipton School



Vibank Regional School



Greenall High School



Milestone School



Whitewood School



Grenfell High Community School

THE CLASS OF 2011

High School graduation ceremonies were held at schools across Prairie Valley School Division in May and June. Included here are pictures of the graduating classes. A photograph of the Lumsden High School class of 2011 was not available.



Wolseley High School