

Many reasons for driving students

A young mother, a farmer and a former teacher all had different reasons for becoming bus drivers with Prairie Valley School Division.

For Rebecca Carruthers, a mother of three from the St. Joseph's area, the opportunity to earn some extra money while not having to worry about child care attracted her to the position.

For Phil Buczulak, a farmer from the Kelliher area, it was an opportunity to get a job right out of high school.

And for Dwight Larsen, a retired teacher from the Windthorst area, it allowed him to continue working after finishing his career in the classroom.

Carruthers, Buczulak and Larson are among more than 200 regular and spare bus drivers who transport 4,300 students to schools throughout Prairie Valley School Division on a daily basis. Collectively they log more than five million kilometers per year on Saskatchewan highways, secondary roads and grids in all kinds of weather and road conditions.

Prairie Valley School Division bus drivers, who were honoured on October 17, 2011 as part of Bus Driver Appreciation Day at events at Prairie Valley Schools, play an integral role in the operations of the School Division.

"We really appreciate their efforts and their dedication," says Prairie Valley's Supervisor of Transportation, Sharon Bender. "They drive a very special group each and every day and they do it well."

Bender adds that the drivers like the special attention they receive on Bus Driver Appreciation Day, saying, "the feedback from drivers is very positive."

Carruthers, who has two children attend-



Rebecca Carruthers behind the wheel of her bus

ing Balgonie Elementary School and a third still at home, has been driving for almost three years. She says she enjoys the job and has developed a good relationship with her young passengers.

"We have an understanding," she says. "There are rules and they are expected to follow them."

Carruthers became a driver when her route became open in 2009.

"Some of the local drivers said you should try it," says Carruthers, who has 36 students on her bus route which takes students from St. Joseph's Colony and area farms to both Balgonie Elementary School and Greenall High School. "I liked the idea because it allowed me to take my kids with me and I wouldn't need to get daycare."

As a farmer, Carruthers had some experience driving grain trucks but had not been

behind the wheel of a school bus before joining the School Division. She credits Prairie Valley's driver training program with making it a smooth transition.

Buczulak, who started driving a school bus in 1967 for what was then the Cupar School Division, recalls there was little training when he first began. Then, it was simply a matter of getting a licence and

getting behind the wheel. He adds that today's increased emphasis on safety and road and weather conditions is an improvement from his early days as a driver.

"The weather policy is a good one," he says, referring to Prairie Valley's guidelines concerning when buses are not allowed to operate in extreme cold conditions. "Back then, we went all the time. We were on our own. Now, a call comes out (if bus service is being cancelled.)"

One thing that hasn't changed much over the years is his relationship with the Kelliher area students on his bus.

"You show them respect and they show you respect," says Buczulak.

For Larson, dealing with students on the bus was a natural transition from the classroom, where he first taught physical education and then mathematics. In fact, Larson often drove bus as a spare while he was still teaching, and today, occasionally subs while also driving for Prairie Valley in the Kipling area.

"Most of the time, students listen pretty well," he says. "I get along with them well and I still enjoy it."

Bus Driver Appreciation Day was celebrated at a variety of events across Prairie Valley School Division. Activities included lunches and coffee breaks for drivers at schools, being recognized at assemblies and being acknowledged for their efforts in newsletters and posters.

Playing football at Mosaic Stadium

Prairie Valley flag football teams enjoy their time on Taylor Field

Prairie Valley School Division students from 16 schools had the opportunity on October 17, 2011 to play football on the same field as the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

The students participated in an elementary school flag football jamboree at Mosaic Stadium. Each team played four games during the jamboree. No scores were kept but everyone was a winner through the experience of playing on a professional football field.

An added highlight of the day was meeting with Roughriders coach Ken Miller. Miller spent time meeting with players, talking to them about football, and having his picture taken with them.



Tyson Zepick of Kipling gets ready to throw a pass (top photo) while teammate Sean Barath catches the football.



Saskatchewan Roughriders coach Ken Miller meets players from the Milestone Cougars.

EDUCATION WEEK

Poster Contest Winners



GRADE 1

Poster by Morgan Antoine of McLean School



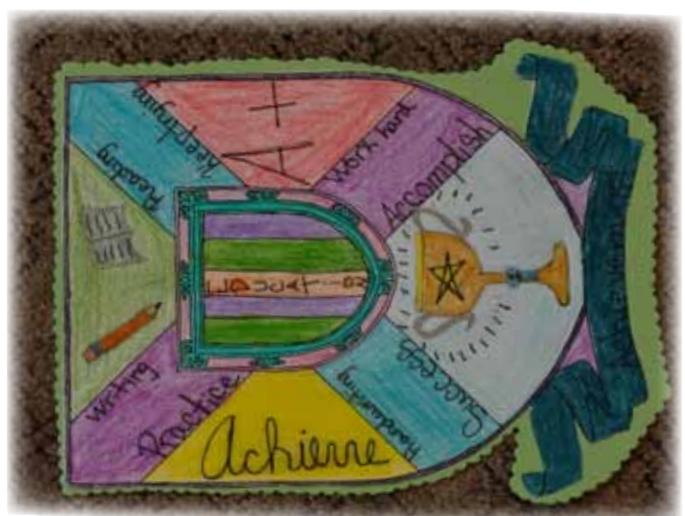
GRADE 2

Poster by Kia Bellerose of Kelliher



GRADE 3

Poster by Tyan Cherepuschak of Pilot Butte School



GRADE 5

Poster by Kira Pelkey of McLean.

EDUCATION WEEK



Josh Dolinski and Emily Klein of Vibank Regional School work on their speeches at the workshop.

Students learn oratory skills

Standing up in front of a group of people and delivering a speech can be an intimidating experience.

But after a day of learning about speech writing and presentation, a group of young Prairie Valley School Division students showed just how eager they were to show off their oratory skills. One after another, the Grade 5 to 9 students presented their speeches in the Wolseley School gymnasium as part of the School Division's oratory workshop held on October 13, 2011.

The oratory workshop, which was organized as part of Education Week, was attended by students from six schools.

Each of the students prepared a speech in advance of the workshop and then spent the day learning how to improve their written words and how to present them to an audience.

"We learned how to speak in front of people," said Emily Klein of Vibank Regional School, explaining they were taught things like how to position yourself and how to present yourself on stage. "I wanted to learn about how to speak to people because sometimes it's difficult. And I didn't really know how to write a speech."

Classmate Josh Dolinski also

found the workshop helpful, saying learning about techniques such as varying the speed of your words and using gestures to illustrate a point were very helpful.

The workshop included sessions entitled "Say it like you mean it" by Shirley Thibault of White City School and "Writing to grab hold and shake up your audience" by Charlene Kurtz of Grenfell High Community School.

Once these sessions were completed, students had the opportunity to practise their newly learned skills.

Many of them took advantage, delivering their speeches, which had a theme of "A Challenge to All... Achievement for All... You Can Make A Difference."

The presentations included some very thoughtful messages about how students can make a difference. "I was thinking about challenges and goals we set for ourselves," says Emily, explaining what she wanted to convey in her presentation. "I think we can make a difference by setting goals for ourselves and achieving those goals. When I achieve my goals, I feel a lot better about myself."

Students from Vibank, Dr. Isman, Montmartre, McLean, Grenfell and Edenwold attended the event.



Students learned about writing and delivering their speeches during the oratory workshop.

INDIAN HEAD HIGH SCHOOL

Football field named after former teacher

A ceremony was held on October 7, 2011 to re-name the football field at Indian Head High School.

The name change took place with the reintroduction of football at the high school. The field is now called "McCall Field", in honour of the late Dave McCall, a long-time educator and coach at Indian Head High School. A dedicated teacher and community resident, McCall also served as the town's mayor and on several boards in and around the community.

The Indian Head High School Community Council spearheaded the initiative by suggesting the dedication of the field in honour of Dave McCall.

SCC Chairperson Amy Redding wanted to recognize the degree of excellence that the



Broncs football program was known for in the past while celebrating the kickoff of the first Broncs season in 14 years. Coaching and player alumni joined the current Broncs players and coaches, students, staff, community members and the McCall family to celebrate the field dedication by joining in a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Director of Education Ben Grebinski congratulated In-

dian Head High School on the feat of reinstating the Broncs football program.

Principal Jason Weitzel remarked on the importance of extracurricular involvement by students and staff.

"From this day forward, McCall field will stand as a reminder of the importance of the dedication, sportsmanship, perseverance, and mutual respect that exists when coaches and athletes come together in

athletics," he said.

With the guidance of Head Coach Tim Klein, Assistant Coaches Daniel Vollman, Dave Miller and Greg Karpa, the Broncs football team has exceeded all reasonable expectations of a first year football program.

The Broncs achieved a winning record in regular season play and won their first play-off game in Provincial Nine Man Playoffs.

KELLIHER SCHOOL


Under the lights at Kelliher

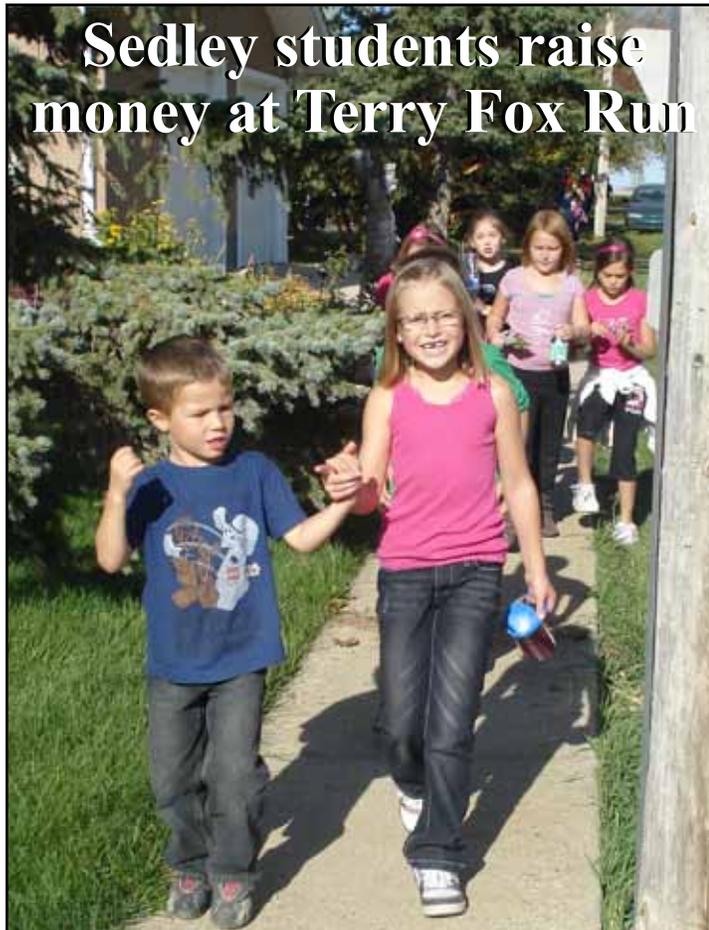
Kelliher School hosted Ituna "under the lights" on October 6, 2011, in a battle of Highway 15 6-Man football rivals.

Before a capacity crowd of about 200 people, the Cobras beat Ituna 35-8.

The lights were rented from Yorkton and the entire community has been buzzing about the event.

A huge thank you goes out to all the staff and students who helped out with the event.

The game was a highlight of the year.

SEDLEY SCHOOL

Sedley students raise money at Terry Fox Run

Sedley School has raised \$2,446.60 for the Terry Fox Run this year. We are extremely proud of our school community and the wonderful job they did in supporting our annual Terry Fox Run, which was held on September 29, 2011.

KIPLING SCHOOL

The Kipling School team of Brody Zepick, Tyson Zepick, Caron Harcourt and Rhett McCarthy are this year's Qu'Appelle Valley District Association junior golf champions. Carson also won the individual title.

LUMSDEN HIGH SCHOOL

Former student sets record with historic canoe trip

A graduate of Lumsden High School is among a group of canoeists who recently set a record for a cross-Canada canoe trip.

Ross Phillips, who now lives in Saskatoon and is the son of Lumsden teacher Rhonda Phillips, was part of a six-person team that participated in the 7,500-kilometre journey that began on the West Coast and took 172 days to reach their final destination of Saint John, N.B., on October 6, 2011. The previous record for a cross-Canada canoe trip was 183 days.

The journey was a difficult one and included a large number of portages through difficult terrain, the longest of which was 330 kilometres.



Ross Phillips

The team used trailers pulled by bicycles to complete some of the longer portages.

In an interview with the Regina Leader-Post, Ross described some of the challenges of the trip, including a too-close encounter with poison ivy.

"It blistered and then I lost all the skin from my knees down," said Phillips. "That was pretty painful."

Ross, who has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Engineering Degree from the University of Saskatchewan as well as a masters degree, recounted some of the other challenges faced by the group, which included three other Saskatchewan residents.

These included both challenges on the water and the land, such as high waves, deep snow and trekking through dense forest.

The group kept a detailed account of their journey, which can be found at <http://cancanoeodyssey.sportsite.com>.

According the website, Phillips has long dreamed of traversing Canada by canoe.

"Growing up immersed in outdoor activities, Ross took to paddling in an obsessive manner," the website says. "His skill in a canoe, understanding of water and athletic ability led him to compete in the Canadian Marathon Canoe Championships on several occasions, winning a total of 15 gold medals. He has also experimented with white water canoeing, sprint kayaking and canoe polo."



Kelsey Starblanket was part of the Red Dog Drum Group that took part in the event.

Treaty 4 flag-raising an historic event

An historic event took place in Regina on October 14, 2011 when the Treaty 4 flag was raised at Regina City Hall. The flag will now fly permanently at City Hall.

The ceremony was of special significance to Prairie Valley School Division because of its strong ties to Treaty 4 First Nations. Fifteen First Nations are located in, or within close proximity to, the School Division.

Among those in attendance at the ceremony

was Prairie Valley School Division's First Nations and Métis Catalyst, Maureen Johns, and consultant Kelsey Starblanket, who was part of the Red Dog Drum Group that took part in the celebration.

Also in attendance was the Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Acting-Chief Morley Watson and Regina Mayor Pat Fiacco.



KENNEDY LANGBANK SCHOOL



New basketball court a hit with students

By Emily Dubois

The long-awaited basketball court at Kennedy Langbank School has finally become a reality! Last year's wet fall and cold winter slowed down construction until the time of our late spring, when the final pieces fell into place.

By the time mid-September came around, the ground had been levelled out, the rebar was put into place, and finally the cement was poured, thereby completing our project.

The beautiful fall weather has allowed students to fully enjoy their new place to play.

On behalf of the entire student body and staff at Kennedy Langbank School, we'd like to thank John Hala-

moutis for doing a lot of the ground preparation work, Allan Batters from Gee Bee Construction for donating the crushed rock, Randy and Jerry from Swayze Concrete Ltd. in Wawota, for helping us with our project by giving us a deal on the cement, and to Ken Singleton, owner of Parkside Oilfield services Ltd., for donating the rebar, and for donating the labour for prep work, putting the basketball net into place, and the finishing work.

We thank you all for your generous support and efforts during our exciting project to improve our playground. Let's play some B-ball!

Emily Dubois is a Grade 7 student at Kennedy Langbank School.

NORTH VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Improvements made to playground area



Through a joint School Division-community effort, work has been completed on upgrading the North Valley Elementary School's play structure area.

The base under the play structure was removed as part of the joint community project and washed pea rock was supplied and installed.

With the help of parent and community volunteers, the pea gravel was placed beneath and around the play structure.

The work has made the playground area much safer and has made for softer landings.

The cost of the project was \$7,400.

NORTH VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP A GREAT SUCCESS



Students at North Valley High School participated in the second annual Community Give Back Day on September 22, 2011.

Students helped out by doing clean-up work and odd jobs for the communities of Neudorf, Lemberg and Abernethy (the three communities where our students come from). They cleaned windows, picked up garbage, pulled weeds, mowed lawns, and painted fire hydrants, along with other tasks.

The day was a great success.



LIPTON SCHOOL



Lipton celebrates Education Week



To kick off Education Week, Lipton School held its annual Open House and it was very well attended. Staff and students welcomed approximately 100 guests. The evening featured a soup-and-a-bun supper, a bake sale and demonstration from the newly formed Cheer Team, a singing performance by the grade 1, 2 and 3s, a grade 12 parent presentation by the guidance counsellor, as well as displays by the Prairie Valley Transportation Department, the community Wildlife Club, and many displays of students' work.

Thank you the School Community Council, which organized the supper, a special thank you to Lorraine Slywka for working along-side our Student Leadership Council students serving and cleaning up. Principal Patty Brady and staff thought it was a huge success. The support of our parents and community make endeavors like this worthwhile and rewarding. Additional Education Week activities included an author's visit from Marnie Duncan Carrie and an integrated art project with students from kindergarten to grade 9.