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Directions Newsletter Regular Meeting of the Board – February 2016

Delegation: Irwin School Grade 6 Students “Independent Reading”

Independent Reading is an area of focus for Grade 6 students in support of Chinook’s Balanced Literacy and provincial initiative “Saskatchewan Reads”. Each board member was asked to bring a favourite book of theirs to the meeting, where they were partnered with a student so they could share their respective book recommendations. Prompts and guiding questions were provided to assist with the process. Book recommendations have been a focus in Grade 6 for the students and teachers, and the literacy coaches have been supporting this aspect of Independent Reading. Photos are available on the Chinook School Division Facebook page.

Prairie Learning Centre Monitoring Report

Presented by Tim Wooldridge, Program Manager, Prairie Learning Centre

The Prairie Learning Centre promotes excellence in education for youth and teachers across Canada by engaging individuals and communities within the mixed grass prairie landscape. The Prairie Learning Centre provides innovative learning opportunities for youth through the combined efforts of educational partners (Grasslands National Park and Chinook School Division) and community partners (Village of Val Marie, SK).

As of January 29, 2016, the Prairie Learning Centre offered a total of 52 workshops to 869 Chinook students in the 2015-16 school year. 47 of these were school-based workshops, with the remaining 5 park-based.

Videos were presented of students taking part in outreach workshops and courses, and talking about what they have learned. Students from Maverick School who have been taking online courses towards their graduating credits spoke about the courses they took through the Prairie Learning Centre - including Environmental Science and Biology. The students spoke highly of these two credit opportunities with the Prairie Learning Centre as these credits are entirely face to face and are hands-on experiences in the field where they are able to use scientific measuring skills and work with experts on site at Grasslands National Park.

Celebrations:

- Offering a teacher’s information booth at the Chinook Teachers Association Welcome Back Day.
- The Maverick / Val Marie Environmental Science Module One and Two was a success, with a 100% retention rate for Module 3.
- The PLC presented at SHEA and has organized for a second year to reach all colonies for the 2015-2016 school year. Hutterian schools will be offered programs from October

to May. The Prairie Learning Centre has been invited to SHEA for the 2016-2017 school year to offer a half-day Science Session entitled making “Making Hands-On Science Accessible for all Teachers”

- The PLC has created Outreach workshops, learning resources and learning materials for Grades 3/4/5/6/7. There are learning tubs, learning booklets and resources for sustainable programming into the future.
- The PLC now has a strong relationship with many teachers who request repeat programming and act as strong ambassadors for the educational programming that the PLC offers.
- Programming numbers have increased from 573 at the same time last year.

Distance Education Status Report

Presented by Shelby Budd, Principal of the Chinook Cyber School

The goal of the Chinook Cyber School is to deliver courses to students, while developing personal responsibility for students as lifelong, independent learners. The Motto is “No Limits!”

Chinook sends out interest surveys every year for students to complete, and the Cyber School works with the schools to decide what classes to deliver, including new classes. The Cyber school works in partnership with Chinook schools to provide students with programming to meet high school requirements, elective courses to enhance learning opportunities, a collaborative online learning environment by providing the opportunity and the means for communication between the student and the online instructor, and dynamic courses that take advantage of the online environment through differentiated instruction and assessment.

In 2013-2014, the Chinook Cyber School offered a total of 58 courses, offered through a variety of methods:

- **Asynchronous** – online delivery of courses using the learning management system (LMS) Moodle. These courses are semesterized.
- **Synchronous** – video delivery of courses using video conferencing units. These classes are scheduled into the student’s timetable at a specific time each day. All synchronous classes are supported with a Moodle course as well. These courses are semesterized.
- **CSI (Continuous Student Intake)** – asynchronous delivery of courses using Moodle. Students may begin the course at any time during the school year and have up to one full calendar year to complete the course. Courses close over the summer. Students may apply for extension, though it is not recommended.

Highlights:

- A small enrolment increase pushed numbers just over 800 seats.
- 7.7 FTE – 4 full time; 13 part time staff; and increase of .1 from the previous year.
- 25 students will carry over to fall, as they did not complete this year.
- Course drops were up by 20 from last year.
- Drafting 10 offered as new course in semester 2.
- Development of Health and Physical Science continues for fall.

- Overall the average final mark for all courses was 83%.

Celebrations:

- 96% completion rate.
- Successful pilot of Adobe Connect for synchronous courses and new hardware for synchronous courses.
- Implementation of Teacher Assistance Teams (TAT)
- Co-hosts of Distance Education Bootcamp in Humboldt and representation at iNacol (online conference).
- Continued interest from outside our division, provincially, nationally and internationally to gain access to our courses for resources and development purposes.
- Strong partnership with Horizon, Northern Light and Good Spirit school divisions.
- Increased contact with schools at the beginning of each semester.
- Successful CCS retreat in Cypress Hills – focusing on teambuilding and hoshins.

Future goals include increased presence in schools, continued development and roll out of new science courses, enrolment options clarified, due dates added to courses, and development of common course format.

Kindergarten Registration for 2016-2017

Kindergarten Registration Week for all Chinook Schools is March 7-11, 2016. Please check chinooksd.ca or contact your local school for specific dates and to register your child.

- Kindergarten eligibility is age 5 by December 31, 2016.
- Parents must bring proof of child's birth date (Birth Certificate) AND Sask Health Card.

On Wednesday, March 9, registration will be held for Stewart Valley, Waldeck, Success, and Wymark schools. March 9 is also a common registration night at Irwin School for all Swift Current city schools (Irwin, École Centennial, Central and Fairview), starting at 7:00pm.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week: February 7-13, 2016

"Creating Learners for Life"

The Chinook School Division Board would like to acknowledge and thank Chinook teachers and staff for their caring service and dedication to our students, schools, families and communities. We appreciate that Chinook teachers and staff work hard to foster a positive learning environment for all students. It is essential that they have the ongoing support and involvement of the community and school board. Working with students directly and in support roles, they ensure that the school day is safe, engaging, and filled with great learning experiences.

In Southwest Saskatchewan, we have an extraordinary team committed to creating learners for life. Help us recognize them and celebrate Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, February 7th to 13th!

Administrative Policy No. 511 - Employee Code of Conduct

The Employee Code of Conduct has been amended. The revised policy, in addition to speaking to conflict of interest, positive ambassadorship, and confidentiality, now addresses the use of alcohol and other illegal substances as well as employee work attire. The entire policy 511 may be reviewed at chinooksd.ca/Board/boardpolicies in "Module 5 Human Resources".

Chinook School Division Annual Meeting: March 16, 2016

The Chinook School Division Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 7:00pm at the Chinook Education Centre in Swift Current, with a possible satellite location to be announced.