

## Literacy Engagement at Stewart Valley School



Stewart Valley School students and Principal Mr. Brad Robinson visited the Chinook Board Meeting and shared exciting activities they have been doing with their Literacy Engagement initiative.

Students have had a number of opportunities to get involved and become engaged in reading and writing. A couple of years ago, they were tasked to create reading nooks in their school and this led them on a journey to create something unique. They have also been engaged in using Writer's Notebooks to enhance and support the writing goals.

With writing, comes the desire to publish and share what has been accomplished. Stewart Valley students have been sharing their writing in a *Writer's Cafe* setting. This has been an engaging and safe way to share for students.

The Stewart Valley SCC has jumped on board and supported the school's writing initiative by creating a *Stewart Valley School Writing Anthology*. A bound book with student work was produced and one was shared with each family in the school. A great keepsake for years to come!

## Athletics Status Report

*Valerie Gordon, Athletic Coordinator*

The Chinook School Division area matches our SHSAA Southwest district. The South West Athletic Conference (SWAC) has been in existence since 1951, with the purpose to plan, supervise and administer inter-school athletic activities in the SWAC of Saskatchewan, including play-offs leading to section, district, conference, regional and provincial level championships.

The following are SHSAA sanctioned Senior (high school) sports: Golf, cross country, soccer, football, volleyball, basketball, curling, wrestling, badminton, and track and field. Junior programs offered within Chinook include volleyball, cross country, basketball, curling, badminton, and track and field, as well as some junior football. Chinook continues to have high participation rates, especially compared to urban centers.

The Current executive (2018-19) includes: President – Jann Walker (SCCHS), Vice President – Jennifer Foley (Shaunavon), Treasurer – Trish Carleton (Ponteix), Secretary – Talena Scott (Ponteix), and Officials Rep – Tyson Krause (Maple Creek). SWAC is divided into three geographical areas called "sections": Cypress Hills, Rolling Hills and Whitemud.

- There are more than 325 junior and senior coaches (grades 6-12) who are teachers. Some of them coach more than one sport.
- Chinook has approximately 50-60 community coaches, including non-teaching staff members.

- There are 50-75 registered officials (not including students who officiate) for volleyball, football, soccer and basketball.
- We continue to monitor and require proper coaching certification and criminal record/vulnerable sector checks for all our coaches to ensure the safety of student athletes. We have a number of steps in place at the local, division and SHSAA levels and these are absolutely essential.

In 2018-19, SWAC hosted provincial 1A volleyball (girls) at Fox Valley and provincial badminton at Swift Current; as well as regional boys/girls soccer. In 2018, SHSAA Sportsmanship Banners were awarded to SCCHS Ardens soccer, SCCHS Colts soccer and Herbert Laurel Boys soccer teams. SHSAA awards were presented at the end of 2017-19 to Gerry Dempsey (SCCHS) – Male Coach, Kendra Lehman (Fox Valley) – Female Coach, and Megan Jackson (Swift Current) – Official.



There is an athletics information section within the Chinook website with links to the SWAC website, where parents, students, community members and school staff can find a calendar and weekly updates. SWAC is very active on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) posting upcoming events, photos and results.

## Hutterian Status Report

*Mark Benesh, Superintendent of Schools*

Chinook has built a very respectful and positive relationship with the colonies. Brethren leaders, German teachers, colony administrators, teachers, and staff; as well as Chinook Education Centre staff work together to educate Hutterian youth, while supporting their way of life. Colony representatives meet with Chinook on several occasions and communication has been very effective, our positive relationship is continuing with the Brethren.

The Board supported all colony teachers and educational associates in attending the annual Saskatchewan Hutterite Educators Association (SHEA) conference. The Brethren is very appreciative of Chinook's support of the SHEA conference, where principals, teachers, educational assistants, German teachers and ministers can work together in supporting Hutterian schools and their students.

There was an expansion to 32 colony schools in the 2017- 2018 school year. The general sense is that the Hutterian population is on a decline and dropped to 483 students in 2018-2019. This results in a drop of 69 students over five years, and a drop of 176 students over the last 12 years.

Chinook has a continuing positive relationship with the Brethren. There has been a decrease in student absenteeism and the learning coach is supporting colony teachers and students with Math and Literacy. This has been very effective in helping our young and new teachers adapt to their new colony school settings.

## Transportation – Rural Contracted Bussing Tender

The Board passed a motion to accept the tender proposal for Shaunavon Route 723 as submitted by Frank and Jocelyn Hammond, and a motion that the Chinook School Division Transportation Department will assume responsibility for the operation of the remaining nine routes in Leader, Burstall and Cabri areas commencing with the start of the 2019-2020 school year. Faced with continued fiscal constraints and a current Transportation operating deficit of over \$800,000, the Chinook Board anticipates that this will result in significant annual cost savings. Currently Chinook transports 96% of students using our own forces. Assuming responsibility for the remaining 4% of students is a natural progression in reorganizing the transportation department to become as efficient as possible.