

EVERY STUDENT IS

- Known
- Valued
- Believed In



Saskatoon
Public Schools

September 22, 2021

FROM THE BOARD TABLE

Early years outdoor learning highlighted for Board of Education

The launch of prekindergarten and kindergarten programs at Buena Vista School with a focus on experiential, outdoor learning was highlighted during the Celebrating Excellence portion of the Board of Education's Sept. 21 meeting.

The programs support children's development holistically and strengthen their school and community relationships. The introduction of the early learning programs has sparked interest in outdoor learning throughout the school. Teachers in prekindergarten to Grade 8 have participated in professional development, collaboration, and planning for the integration of experiential learning. The level of interest in early years outdoor programming and current enrolment are an indication that the programs have been embraced by the Buena Vista community.


Other meeting highlights included:

- Trustees received results of Grade 1-3 reading assessments for the 2020-21 school year. Compared to 2018-19, the last year that data was available, reading levels in all three grades showed a slight decline in the percentage of students reading at or above grade level. Assessments were not completed during 2019-20 when learning was interrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the division, data drawn from the progress reports of Grade 1-8 students during 2020-21 shows a trend toward increased performance with increasing grade levels in both math and English language arts, with more pronounced growth reported in ELA.
- Trustees were updated on the division's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To help keep our communities safe, Saskatoon Public Schools supports the provincial COVID-19 vaccination program hosted in schools. In addition, all schools require masking while indoors, have enhanced sanitation and cleaning measures, and encourage students and staff to stay home when sick. These measures are supported by local medical health officers.

Reports and information presented at board meetings can be found at saskatoonpublicschools.ca. The next meeting of the Board of Education is Tuesday, October 12, 2021. Members of the public may attend regular board meetings virtually. Please contact [Estelle Allington](#), executive assistant to the Board of Education, to request a link to the virtual meeting.

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ORANGE SHIRT DAY

The Government of Canada has declared September 30 the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. On that day, students will not attend school in order to honour the day with their families and participate in reconciliation events in the community.

For several years, Saskatoon Public Schools has recognized Orange Shirt Day. It has been a day for learning and reflection on the tragedies experienced by Indigenous people due to Canada's residential school system, and to ensure the impact and legacy is not forgotten. Orange Shirt Day began in Williams Lake, B.C. in 2013. The orange shirt is a symbol of the many losses experienced by thousands of students and families due to residential schools. Learn more at www.orangeshirtday.org

Our school division will be recognizing Orange Shirt Day on September 29. Students are encouraged to wear orange that day. There will be activities and lessons in schools that will foster students' understanding of the impact of residential schools, ahead of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30.

Orange Shirt Day is one of many actions Saskatoon Public Schools undertakes as part of the division's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Saskatoon Public Schools
Inspiring Learning

How do you feel today?

Every morning before your child leaves for school, please check to see if they are experiencing any of these symptoms:



If your child is experiencing any of these symptoms, **do not send your child to school.** Contact Healthline 811 for assistance.



IS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE?

At this time, it's important that schools are able to contact families.

Please call or email your school with updates.



IMPORTANT DATES

SEPTEMBER 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
–Students DO NOT ATTEND

OCTOBER 11 Thanksgiving Holiday
–Staff and Students DO NOT ATTEND

OCTOBER 12 Saskatoon Board of Education Meeting