



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

~ Mr. Zian Nowosad ~

This semester end newsletter marks the halfway point of the 2009-2010 school year. Our fall activities have all wrapped up and our winter/spring activities have started or will start in the near future. In our five early dismissals to date, we have

created ten professional learning community collaborative groups who have created a smart goal related to improving student learning. We will continue this endeavour for the final five early dismissals scheduled for this school year. Our staff would like to thank the Good Spirit School Division Board of Education for the time required to make meaningful improvement in student learning at the classroom level.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 1 First Day of Semester 2 Classes.
- February 4 G.S.S.D. SRC Retreat Y.R.H.S.
 - Pre-Registration Assemblies for Present Grade 9-11 Students
- February 5&6 E.C.D.A.A. Junior District Curling—Yorkton Curling Rink
- February 11 Final T.R.A.C. Session
 - Early Dismissal Day - Period 6, 5 & 4.

**February 15 - 19
MID WINTER BREAK**

- February 22 Classes Resume
- February 25 Grad Assembly #1 (Period 2)
- March 2 School Community Council Symposium
- March 11 Early Dismissal Day - Period 1, 2, & 3.
- March 16 Raider for a Day / Parent Open House and Registration Night
- March 19 No School in Lieu of Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- March 30 York City Senior Badminton Tournament 4:00 p.m.
- April 2 Good Friday - NO SCHOOL

**April 5 - 9
EASTER BREAK**

- April 12 Classes Resume
- April 14 York City Junior Badminton Tournament
- April 16 Term 3 Ends
- April 19 Term 4 Begins
- April 22 Mid Semester Report Cards and Newsletter #4 Mailed to Parents
- April 28 - 29 Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences 4:30 - 8:00 p.m.

BOY'S BASKETBALL

Mr. Payne

- January 29 & 30 44th Annual Raider Classic
- February 5 & 6 Senior Team to P.A. - St. Mary's
- February 26 & 27 Grade 9 Boys' Districts at Canora
- March 5 & 6 Y.R.H.S. Host 4A Boys' Conference.

ROBOTICS

Mr. K. Chiasson & Mr. J. Halushka

The YRHS started an extra-curricular Robotics club in December. We will be entering two competitions: a "Sumobot" competition in March and the "Skills Canada" competition in April. We will be meeting regularly on Mondays after school and on another day yet to be determined. Contact Mr. Chiasson or Mr. Halushka for more information.

HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

Mrs. T. Mitchell

Thanks to all staff and students for their efforts and cooperation in completing the term work and final exams to bring semester one to a successful conclusion. Special thanks to parents, Mrs. Turner and Mr. Blahut, who along with Ms. Pandit and Mrs. Mitchell accompanied the ELA 9 PreAP students to the Globe Theatre Production of "Peter Pan" on November 17. Students were treated to a fresh representation of a classic tale and were fine ambassadors for our school.

Semester two brings new initiatives with Mr. Miller implementing the ELA A10 PreAP course including plans to attend a Globe Theatre production of Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House" on April 28 in Regina. At home, on April 23 the entire school will have the opportunity to attend Persephone Theatre's production of "The Shape of a Girl" by Joan MacLeod dealing with the subject of teen bullying and violence. Based loosely on the tragic beating of Victoria BC teenager Reena Virk in 1997, the play gives us insight into how the pressures of adolescence can lead a person to perpetrate acts of physical and emotional violence when silence prevails.

Students are encouraged to see Mr. Nesseth or their ELA teachers for more information on submitting student compositions (prose and poetry) to the Sask. Teachers of English Language Arts student publication called "On the Horizon".

Congratulations to Mr. Variyan who will be chairing the annual conference of the Sask. Social Sciences Teachers to be held on March 4 and 5 in Moose Jaw. The theme of the conference will be World War I.

Good luck to all as we start the new semester—enjoy the upcoming February Break, and we hope to see you at Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews in April.

STUDENT SERVICES

Mr. D. Nesseth

The grad interview process is drawing to a close. Grade 12 students are busy applying to post-secondary schools, apprenticeship programs, or are preparing for the work force.

Be reminded that the Student Services area on our school homepage <http://yrhs.gssd.ca> has many resources to help students of all grades plan for their future.

Grads should also be receiving e-mails about scholarships, application deadlines, workshops, etc. If you are not receiving yours, get your e-mail address on the list at Student Services.

Grads applying to university should do so before the February break in order to be considered for awards (U of S and U of R in particular). If you need transcripts to send, see Mrs. Turner during the first week of Semester 2. Please don't leave it too late. If you need reference letters as you apply, get the process going early so that the person writing it has ample time to do you the favour.

There will be a workshop offered to students applying to the U of S here at the school on Thursday, February 4 during periods 3 and 4. Sign up in Student Services. This is a very helpful session that covers on-line application for admission and for awards. If you are planning to attend the U of S, you should be there.

Scholarship information is available on our website under the Student Services heading. Application forms are available at Student Services.

FINALLY, A REMINDER TO ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS: Be sure that a parent calls in or sends a signed note of explanation for any student absences. This should be done in advance if possible, but no later than 48 hours after the absence.

GUITAR CLUB

Mr. D. Ingham

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Christmas Concert on December 8. Check out the pictures on our website by clicking on **ACTIVITIES** → **GUITAR CLUB**. After school practices will start again on Tuesday, February 2 and Wednesday, February 3. Our next noon hour jam will be Friday, February 12.

DRAMA*Mrs. L. Yeadon*

Semester 1 Drama has come to a close. Highlights of the semester include each grade creating and performing a collective creation (a student created play), Grade 9 performing a puppet show at Columbia School, Grade 10 attending "Sugar and Spice" by Free My Muse and Grade 11 performing "Munschpalooza" at Columbia School and attending "The Alice Nocturne" at the Globe Theatre in Regina. Mrs. Yeadon would like to thank all the Drama students for another great semester.

Extracurricular Drama is busy in rehearsals of "Imaginary Harry" by Bradley Hayward (an off Broadway playwright originally from Oxbow, SKI). Tickets for the 18th Dinner Theatre will go on sale after the February break. You can buy tickets from any cast member or at the office.

"Imaginary Harry" Cast and Crew

Carter Maloney	Jason	Lights.....	Michael Procyshen
Taurena DeGroot	Mom	Sound	Chance Liebrecht
Zac Walters	Dad, Thog, Mick	Special Effects ..	Chris MacCannell
Brandon Smith	Sheldon, Ricker	Set Design	Kayla Bewcyc
Colby Kuzma	Muchacha	Stage Crew.....	Kaitlin Harasen
Jenna Boychuk.....	Jagger, Miss Layton		Brent Langley
Caleb Campbell	Harry		
Marissa Kruger.....	Sam, Mrs. Workman		
Brie Chiasson.....	Ellen, Audrey		
Justine Berlinic	Liz, Kay		

S.A.D.D.*Mrs. K. Anderson*

The S.A.D.D. chapter recently received the Evans Twins Memorial Grant. This is a provincial grant presented by S.A.D.D. Saskatchewan. We would like to thank GX94 and The Fox for assisting with our public service announcement in December, as well as the RCMP for planning a Check Stop. February 1st we kick off our K.I.S.S. campaign. March is shaping up to be a very busy month. We have many activities planned for Provincial Impaired Driving Awareness Week. The highlight will be "Impact 2010". This is a conference open to all students in the GSSD Grade 8 to 12. Watch for posters. If you have any questions about S.A.D.D. please call Mrs. Anderson. Arrive alive.

YEARBOOK*Ms. L Stanek-Sebastian*

New for this year is the opportunity to customize your yearbook and have your name stamped in foil on the cover of your yearbook. You can also include a second line of text with your grad year, team or club name, etc. We are offering a World Yearbook insert that details all of the news and entertainment events of the year. This is a cool reminder of the events that shaped your year that you will look back on fondly in years to come. All of these options are inexpensive and a great way to personalize your yearbook. Ask Mrs. Stanek-Sebastian or Ms. Smith for more information.

MATH/SCIENCE DEPARTMENT*Ms. T. Haugen*

Semester one has been a busy time for Math and Science students. Our Agriculture students, along with Mr. Ingham have been travelling the province. They attended a workshop at the University of Saskatchewan on Biotechnology in Agriculture early in semester. They then travelled to Regina for Agribition at the end of November.

Mr. Clark's Physics 20 classes have also been on the move. They travelled to MC Knoll and Columbia schools to show science demonstrations to elementary students. Semester two will also be busy for us.

Our top math students will again be participating in the Canadian Math Competition through the University of Waterloo late in February. Sixty students from grades 9, 10, and 11 will be chosen to compete in this annual competition.

Math teachers have started preparing for some major changes that will be taking place with math curricula starting next year for Grade 10 students. We are recommending that next year's Grade 10 students enrol in two math classes: Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-Calculus 10, as well as Workplace and Apprenticeship Mathematics 10. This will leave all options open for students as math curricula in the province continue to evolve.

Teachers in the Math/Science Department have been keeping track of how often students come in for help outside of class hours. During term 2 (November to semester end), math and science students have sought help on 161 occasions. Teachers have put in over 60 hours of their time. **ALL** of the teachers and Department would like students and parents to know that we are available for help outside of class hours. There are many students who struggle with their math and science courses and we would like to offer our assistance. Please be sure to ask your new semester 2 teachers when they are available.

Looking forward to a great semester 2!!!

CHEERLEADING*Ms. P. Pandit*

The YRHS cheerleaders have been practicing a two and a half minute routine full of dance and stunts that have been put to music, to prepare for a series of competitions. They will be competing in Saskatoon and Warman the weekend of February 27/28, in Moose Jaw and Regina the weekend of March 5/6, and at provincials in Saskatoon to end the season on March 27. The highlight of this year will be travelling to Edmonton to compete at the Alberta Pro Cheer competition at the West Edmonton Mall on the weekend of March 12-14. Good luck to the cheerleaders.

CELLPHONE LEGISLATION

INTRODUCTION: Legislation banning the use of hand-held cellphones while driving became law January 1, 2010. Distracted driving is a serious road safety issue and the passing of this law makes Saskatchewan roadways safer.

WHAT DOES THE NEW LAW SAY?

- The new legislation prohibits all drivers from using hand-held cellphones to talk, text, email, or surf the Internet.
- The law also prohibits new drivers, meaning drivers on Saskatchewan's Graduated Driver's Licensing (GDL) program, from using cellphones of any type while operating a motor vehicle.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY A NEW DRIVER? A new driver is a driver presently on Saskatchewan's GDL program, which is the stages new drivers go through after they get their driver's license.

WHY AREN'T NEW DRIVERS ALLOWED TO USE HANDS-FREE DEVICES?

- Restricting the use of cellphones will assist new drivers in gaining valuable driving experience under low-risk conditions. This is consistent with the principles behind graduated licensing.
- The combination of inexperience, tendency toward greater risk-taking and significantly higher than average use of distracting hand-held electronic devices, including cellphones, makes this group particularly vulnerable. A 2008 CWTA survey reported young cell-phone users send an average of three times as many text messages as adults do.
- About 75% of new drivers are between the ages of 15 & 18 and continue to be over-represented in collisions. These drivers make up 6% of Saskatchewan drivers but account for close to 20% of collisions where driver distraction was a contributing factor.

WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR USING YOUR HANDHELD CELLPHONE WHILE DRIVING? The penalty will be a \$280 fine, which includes the Victims of Crime Surcharge of \$60, and four (4) demerit points under SGI's Safe Driver Recognition and Driver Improvement programs.

ARE CELLPHONES THE ONLY FORM OF DRIVER DISTRACTION? Talking and texting on cellphones are only two of many behaviours that contribute to distracted driving. Other common distractions are eating, changing CDs and tending to children. Some people even groom themselves and some try to read while driving. Cellphone use, however, is a rapidly increasing source of driver distraction.

WHY NOT BAN OTHER THINGS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO DRIVER DISTRACTION? SGI will continue to educate drivers about all forms of driver distraction, and law enforcement still has the ability to charge distracted drivers with driving without due care and attention, which also attracts a fine \$280 and four (4) demerit points.

Life's full of fun stuff, a Wii, new shoes, concert tickets, new clothes, a night out with that special someone in your life, or a \$280 traffic ticket for using your cellphone while driving! It's your choice! Be smart and put your phone in the trunk, your girlfriend's purse, in your sock, anywhere, just put your cellphone away and don't use it while you are driving!! Always remember to take care out there!