

“ Welcome to Our Family of Schools! ”

Thank you for taking the time to spend with us to learn more about how Grande Yellowhead Public School Division works hard to ensure our students, parents, families, staff and all affected stakeholders benefit from what our Division provides.

We are a proud family of 18 public schools and five Learning Connection Centres who offer a comprehensive educational experience to almost 5,000 students in the communities of Evansburg, Wildwood, Niton Junction, Fulham, Edson, Hinton, Grande Cache and Jasper.

As your Board of Trustees, we work together with all of our partners to purposefully employ the most competent and dedicated teachers, administrators and support staff that we can find so that our students have the best resources and supports for their educational success. Although we are a small rural school division, we strive big to offer excellent programs to meet the individual needs of our students and their learning goals. Our inclusive approach to special needs, our focus on academics, the arts, athletics and a 'no student left behind' educational framework is what makes each one of our schools a warm, safe, and caring learning environment for all of our students – no matter their background, abilities or passions.

ON THE NEXT FEW PAGES, WE SHOWCASE THREE STORIES FROM THE PAST YEAR THAT WE ARE PROUD TO HIGHLIGHT – WE HOPE YOU ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT THEM AS MUCH AS WE ENJOY SHARING THEM WITH YOU!

John Stitzenberger
Board Chair, Edson and Area Trustee

VISIT US AT GYPSD.CA &
FACEBOOK.COM/GYPSD



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To speak with your elected official please feel free to give them a call or email to the appropriate address below:

JOHN STITZENBERGER, Board Chair
Edson & Area (Sub Division #2)
780-723-7527
johnstit@gypsd.ca

CAROL DEMONG, Trustee
Hinton (Sub Division #1)
780-816-0230
carodemo@gypsd.ca

SHIRLEY CAPUTO, Vice-Chair
Hinton (Sub Division #1)
780-865-7835
shircapu@gypsd.ca

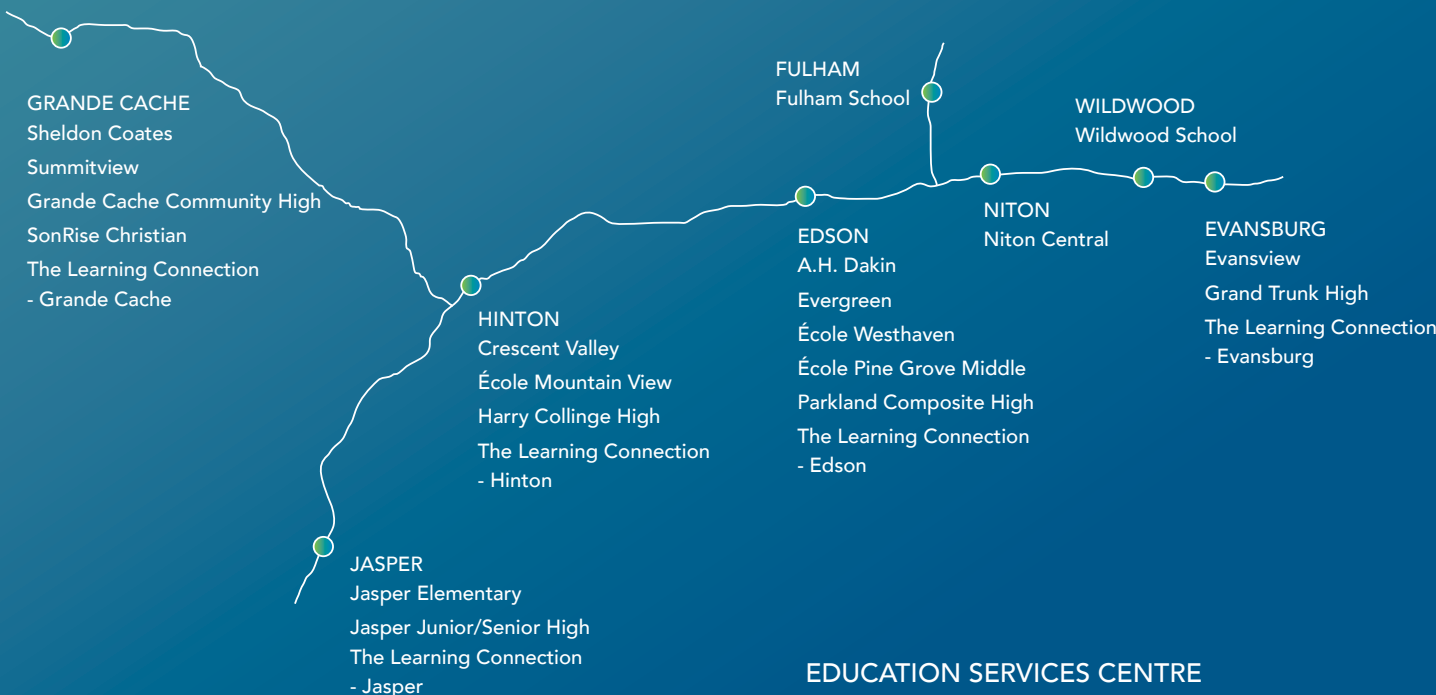
KEN FATE, Trustee
Grande Cache Ward
780-827-3120
kennfate@gypsd.ca

BETSY DECLERCQ, Trustee
Jasper Ward
780-852-4968
betsdecl@gypsd.ca

BRENDA ROSADIUK, Trustee
Lobstick (Sub Division #3)
780-727-4691
brenrosa@gypsd.ca

JOAN ZAPOROSKY, Trustee
Edson & Area (Sub Division #2)
780-723-1107
joanzapo@gypsd.ca

Serving our schools and a proud part of our communities.



EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRE
3656 - 1 Avenue, Edson, AB T7E 1S8
Phone 780-723-4471 Toll Free 1-800-723-2564
Email escgypsd@gypsd.ca

Create... Achieve... Succeed!



Grande Yellowhead
Public School Division

COMMUNITY REPORT

2015

VISIT US AT GYPSD.CA AND FACEBOOK.COM/GYPSD

CREATE



GYPSED and CSCN became the proud recipients of the 2015 Design Award for Outstanding Design of a New Construction for our new Jasper Shared School Facility at the Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI)'s Alberta Chapter Conference in Banff, Alberta. Established in 1921, CEFPI has chapters worldwide whose goal continues to be simply 'improving the places where children learn'. Way to go GYPSED!

JASPER JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

– JASPER

After a number of years in the division's Capital Plan, a replacement facility for Grande Yellowhead's aging high school in Jasper received the green light from Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure to be built, and was recently completed in time for the 2014-15 school year. What made the construction project even more unique than being built in a National Park was

The project was an exciting challenge to ensure that the design read as one building with two separate entrances, but it was also important that small details provided uniqueness to each of the two schools. The facility also includes shared spaces such as the gymnasium, shared library, gathering spaces and Career and Technology Studies' areas. Planned to meet LEED Silver certification, the division also designed the new Jasper Joint School Facility to incorporate a myriad of sustainable environmental elements to enhance students' learning environment such as a demonstration green roof, living wall and water features and an outdoor classroom. The division also ensured that an extensive use of wood, field stone and other natural construction materials were used to complement its location in the beautiful Jasper National Park.

It's truly a wonderful facility that will benefit both school divisions for years to come.

GYPSED's trustee from Jasper, Betsy DeClercq, spoke on behalf of all of us at the facility's official opening in September. "This is a very exciting time for Grande Yellowhead, and the entire community of Jasper. It's truly a wonderful facility that will benefit both school divisions for years to come. I am very proud that we were able to complete a building that will meet the learning needs of our students and community, both now and into the future."



that it is also one of the few facilities in the Province that hosts two schools from two separate divisions. The Jasper Joint School Facility is a 69,000 square foot building which incorporates Grande Yellowhead's Jasper Junior Senior High School and École Desrochers, a francophone school under Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord (CSCN). GYPSED's Jasper Junior/ Senior High School offers a public education curriculum in English and French Immersion programming for grades 7 to 12.

ROCK MUSIC PROGRAM GRAND TRUNK HIGH SCHOOL

– EVANSBURG

At GYPSED, we believe that offering arts options for our students are an essential piece in their overall learning experience, thus we provide a diverse range of programs for every student who wants to explore and learn new talents. We are proud to offer music programs such as the ROCK/POP music option located at Grand Trunk High School (GTHS) in the east end of our division, in the Hamlet of Evansburg. Over the last few years, thanks to the passion and dedication of two teachers and their principal, GTHS has exploded on to the music scene with their increasing expansion of their ROCK program which now includes students in grades 10-12 who learn to play instruments, strengthen vocal talents, increase

their literacy skills in song writing, as well as develop teamwork and leadership competencies when they take their music show on the road to other schools in Alberta. Principal Michael Podhaniuk explains how their music program went from video conferencing a single guitar option into the school for their students to the fully expanded locally developed courses the school now offers in all three grades.

The solid confidence and talents showcased by those grade 11 and 12 students in front of thousands of people were inspiring to watch.

"As a small school, we had the opportunity to expand our music program once we saw how it brought out many students' self-confidence and excitement in learning through music. Teachers Matt Kolotyluk and Brett Watt wanted to expand the program right from the beginning and their solid support is one of the main reasons that our students are so successful."

Along with performances in front of their school peers, GTHS ROCK students put together bands to showcase their talents around the Province; not only at other schools, but they have performed at an Annual General Meeting for the Alberta School Boards' Association in Edmonton and more recently, at Rexall Place during intermission breaks at the Annual Hockey Hookey event this past January in front of over 10,000 Edmonton Oil Kings hockey fans. "Our kids were amazing," proudly commented another GTHS devoted fan, local Trustee Brenda Rosadiuk, who watched her Lobstick students rock the house down. "The solid confidence and talents showcased by those grade 11 and 12 students in front of thousands of people were inspiring to watch."



ACHIEVE



SUCCEED

THE KINDER8 LITERACY PROJECT A.H.DAKIN SCHOOL & ÉCOLE PINE GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

– EDSON

Our family of schools often works in partnership with each other on a number of different initiatives to develop skills in our students from an early age, and sometimes the outcomes can expand even more than first imagined! Kindergarten teacher Patty Redman from A.H. Dakin School and Tina Kruse-Taylor, a Grade 8 Teacher from École Pine Grove Middle School, originally started their Kinder8 Literacy Project two years ago as an opportunity to engage their students in developing their literacy skills but the project has grown from a 'twice a year' get together to the current monthly hands-on event for the grade 8's and their 'kinder buddies'.

It is amazing to see the great interaction between the students as the older ones have really stepped into their mentorship role and my kindergarteners can barely contain their excitement when it is Kinder8 Day.

"It started off as a project-based learning idea for my grade 8's to work on their literacy skills by each designing a personalized book for a kindergarten student," enthusiastically explains Kruse-Taylor.

"Patty was totally on board with partnering her class with my older students. Each grade 8 student would ask their younger buddies what their favorite book was. My students then came back to their classroom and adapted each story by putting their buddy in as a main character in the book. They also put a dedication page in the front, and then I got each book printed and laminated at a reasonable cost through a local printer. They then handed out their books at an end of the year picnic. The kids loved them!"

The students quickly showed great enthusiasm in working with their kinder buddies. Both teachers were also thrilled to see the positive bonds and relationships that quickly developed between the younger and older students, as well as the creativity and literacy skills that were showcased from the middle school students who went above and beyond to make their buddy's book 'special'.

"Based on the feedback that both student groups gave us, we decided to expand the project to a monthly get-together which was manageable as our schools are within easy walking distance," noted Redman. "It is amazing to see the great interaction between the students as the older ones have really stepped into their mentorship role and my kindergarteners can barely contain their excitement when it is Kinder8 Day and they can share their recent projects or games with their 'buddies'. The end of the year books have become even more special to both groups as they have really gotten to know each other over the year."