

# Division NEWS



MAY 2020

## Celebration of Learning: Two Months in Review

Since the shift to Distance and Online Learning in mid-March, Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) has worked hard to keep students engaged. From outdoor challenges keeping students physically active, to virtual math classrooms via Google Meet, supporting student learning and keeping families connected to the schools has been at the forefront.

Staff regularly communicates home through automated voice messaging and technology that parents are familiar with, including apps that use smartphone connections. Mary Bergeron Elementary's administrators provide Breaking News daily video announcements that include student birthday wishes, and Summitview Elementary students take their turn providing school news from their homes.

The Board of Trustees and Superintendent Carolyn Lewis could not be more proud of their staff. "Our staff has really risen to the challenge of restructuring instruction and assessment plans to ensure we are

getting learning essentials moving forward for our students to be prepared for their next steps - whether that is returning to the classroom, post-secondary learning, or to the world of work after high school," noted Superintendent Lewis.

Although each GYPSD school has multiple innovative and creative ways they are teaching and supporting students, here are some highlights collected from across the Division. Please check out your local school's Facebook page as well as the Division's page to keep informed and see all the wonderful learning in action!

## ► LOBSTICK ZONE

### EVANSVIEW SCHOOL

Principal Randall has his hands full with daily posts on social media of his students learning hard at home. From big brothers to parents jumping in to help with lessons, lifelong learning is definitely in action in this east end community of the Division.

Missing their students, Evansview staff shared this [clip](#) on practicing social distancing and hand-washing skills to remind everyone to stay safe.

## GRAND TRUNK HIGH SCHOOL

Who says you cannot do Industrial Arts through online learning? Students from Grand Trunk High School's Construction and Fabrication classes led by teacher Matt Goddard have been working hard developing critical literacy and numeracy skills to help design, plan, and (proxy) build a new project - a waving wooden flag.



As the project progresses, the students are required to use cross-curricular skills to help problem-solve issues that arise during the construction process. The project began in the planning and design stage. The students determined the appropriate size of the project given its intended hanging location and the appropriate length: width ratio. They then calculated the amount of material required to construct the project. After that they began designing the overall shape of the flag, calculating the appropriate frequency and wavelength to make the project aesthetically pleasing. While the students are unable to physically participate in the construction process, it is still being constructed using the procedures they have created. From the ripping and cutting of lumber to the creation of a stencil to the lamination of the cut wood. For any issues that have arisen, the students used their problem-solving skills to address the issues to get the project back on track. While the students are unable to physically participate in the construction process, the flag is still being constructed using the procedures they have created. The eventual plan is to paint the GT logo on this flag to be displayed in their school.



GT students are very inspired to share their new learning experiences. One student created a [video](#) to share his adventures in building his own tree house. Along with physical work, this creative student has been patiently measuring and problem solving while also polishing up his motor skills!

## NITON CENTRAL SCHOOL

Along with online learning support, Niton teachers are using video to not only go live to teach their students and stay in touch with them, but they are also making extra videos for students to watch at any time. They have created a music video featuring a [song parody](#), a science experiment with elephant toothpaste and a puppet show with Forky and Buzz!



## WILDWOOD SCHOOL

Sharing is caring and this group of little ones wanted to find a way to thank their bus drivers on School Bus Driver Appreciation Day. Teacher Julie Douglas used [story time](#) to reach out to these important members of the GYPSD team on social media.



## FULHAM SCHOOL

Teachers connect with students through weekly Google Meets to give students a chance to chat about what they are working on, ask any questions they may have, and provide a way for everyone to stay connected with each other.



Recently, Mrs. Dennison assigned her Grade 1/2 students a scavenger hunt to search items they could find around the home such as something round, a fork, and a pair of socks. They all had a chance to show off their items to each other online at their next meet.



## MARY BERGERON ELEMENTARY (MBE)

Daily morning announcements posted on their school website and Facebook page and have received very positive parent response and student engagement. Many parents post messages from their children on the announcement on the Facebook page and send in photos of students tuning in each morning to find out the latest MBE news!

Many classroom teachers are also using weekly challenges and videos to engage their students.

Students are encouraged to share pictures or videos of each challenge to the teachers which are then shared on their Facebook page. Inspired by the Jeff Brown's book "Flat Stanley", each kindergarten student received a flat version of their teacher in the mail to help with school work.



## ÉCOLE WESTHAVEN SCHOOL

Westhaven posts daily learning activities and family-provided pictures on their Facebook page showcasing great student work from almost all grade levels. Madame Maude's Grade 1 French Immersion class shared pictures of each student holding rainbow drawings to brighten the day and send out words of encouragement. Ca va bien aller! Everything will be fine!



Literacy work and reading at home together was a focus during Education Week and next is their annual Talent Show with students encouraged to send in videos or pictures performing their talent to their teacher or to Principal McGowan.

## ÉCOLE PINE GROVE MIDDLE

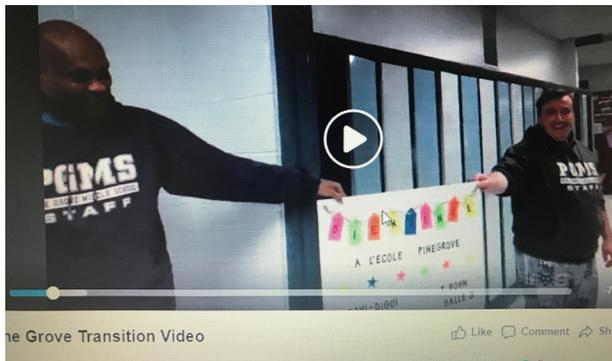


French Immersion students recorded videos as part of their Math 8 course. They were finding out units of time per repetition of an exercise. Mackenzie Kvatum's [video](#) stars her little brother, Dylan, who is in Grade 6.

Mrs. Kruse-Taylor's Science 7 class has been working on their Plant's for Food and Fiber unit. Mrs. K.T. provided seeds, pots and soil for all her students so they could do a plant experiment.

They did the initial planting during a Google Meet were all students planted their seeds while Mrs. K.T. taught them through it. Students also picked up their chia heads, which they started in March. Anna Peyton sent a picture of her Chia Head, saying, "The grass is like a little person, you can cut it's hair and you have to give it water and sun. My family decided to name the grass 'Grace'."

With in-person site visits unavailable, PGMS staff virtually invited their incoming Grade 6 students for a [tour](#) of their new school for the 2020/2021 school year.



## PARKLAND COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL (PCHS)

PCHS have produced a few [videos](#) including one from their veteran construction teacher, Mike Biehler, on expanding curricular outcomes without hands-on tools such as drafting tips. Some of their award winning performing arts students have also showcased their talents with cute offtake [videos](#) from popular music but with a COVID-19 twist.

## ► HINTON

### CRESCENT VALLEY SCHOOL (CVS)



CVS staff are reading their favorite books and then posting the [videos](#) on the school's Facebook page. Their school is also the drop off site in Hinton for GYPSD Nutrition Packages for families in need (check out your local community for the school site in your town).

Talented kindergarten teacher Kyle Darroch shared a graphic comic he put together about his students entitled "I love you because..." to keep his little ones feeling connected and loved.

### ÉCOLE MOUNTAIN VIEW SCHOOL

Mr.Young's Grade 6 French Immersion students connected with Mayor Marcel Michaels via Google Meet to discuss the electoral process and how local governments are structured in rural areas as part of their social studies curriculum objectives. During the meeting, the students were able to ask questions using the chat feature. The students were very inquisitive and had a lot of questions to ask such as "What made you want to become a mayor?" and "How do taxes work?". He completed the meeting with a virtual tour of his office and the chamber and invited the students to come and watch a town council meeting in the future.

Distance learning is not always easy but many families have taken on the challenge of learning together such as a science lesson about the tensile strength of materials.



## HARRY COLLINGE HIGH SCHOOL

From weekly posts using Google to schedule lessons for remote learners, using Instagram to post physical activity challenges all week, and posting various high visibility messages around the school to their students that are easily visible from the road and bus lane, Principal Glen Allen is proud of the way that his staff has come together in learning, teaching and supporting their students and colleagues in these tough times.



Keeping his community connected and engaged, Mr. Allen has continued his student feedback meetings and school council meetings virtually. During the student engagement meeting, students provided feedback and insight on how remote learning was working for them and what staff could do to further support them. The school's first-ever virtual school council meeting had a dozen parents signing in to attend and provide input to Mr. Allen with an overwhelmingly positive response from parents on its success.

## ► JASPER

### JASPER ELEMENTARY (JES)

Classes are really embracing remote learning and many have become experts in Google meetings. Whole

class, individual and small group Google Meetings work well for direct teaching, academic support, providing opportunities for students to visit with each other, and allowing students to show their latest homework or share something important that has happened to them.



A great example is from Mrs. Morgan's Grade One class who recently worked on pirate projects. They started with a directed-drawing activity at the beginning of the week and finished with a pirate-inspired creative writing project. The students gathered pirate vocabulary ideas over the month and added them to their alphabet books; they read pirate stories, solved pirate-themed math problems to spark ideas for writing, and tea-stained paper together to make pirate treasure maps.

### JASPER JUNIOR/ SENIOR HIGH

Art 20 teacher Susan Derwanz challenged her students to create an art project using the pandemic as a topic with a focus on thanking First Responders, all members of Alberta Health Services (AHS), or creating art that would cheer up and give hope to the seniors at the local manor. Their results were very creative and inspirational and ranged from detailed drawings, 3D displays, to a stained glass AHS cross.



## ► GRANDE CACHE

### SHELDON COATES SCHOOL

Staff has been busy holding virtual Star Assemblies to recognize students' achievements and arranging with their students to begin each morning leading O Canada from their homes.

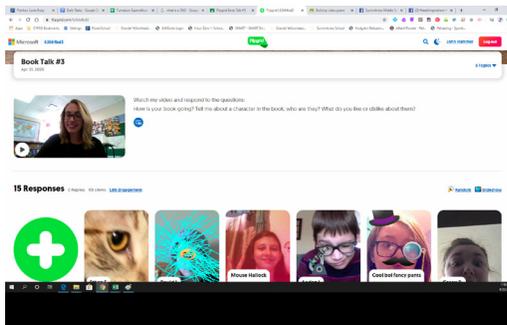


SC staff recently participated in their first-ever Sheldon Coates Staff Parade. Staff decorated their cars and then drove a 5 km parade route around Grande Cache and waved to the many families who waved to them from their yards or the sidewalk, many who also held encouraging signs.

### SUMMITVIEW SCHOOL

Student-planned and broadcasted morning announcements three times a week on the school's Facebook page have made these media stars shine in their local community as well as helped keep their students connected.

Students have embraced other technology tools to keep their learning at the forefront with Google Meet for classroom lessons and many are introducing a new website, Flipgrid, that allows teachers to create grids to facilitate video discussions. Each grid is like a message board where teachers can pose questions, called topics, and their students can post video responses that appear in a tiled grid display.



## GRANDE CACHE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL (GCCHS)/ SONRISE PROGRAM (SR)

GCCHS students are also completing construction tech projects at home. Talented Grade 12 student Morgan King was going to be a carpentry competitor at Skills Alberta this year but had to withdraw due to the pandemic. Her latest project is a gorgeous coffee table.



Teacher Stephen Bock took his Grade 4/5/6 class on a social studies adventure into the interior region of Canada. He put together 30 flashcards of content from the textbook and made them into Quizlet flashcards. Students received them at home and did several online activities including matching terms with definitions using Quizlet. After some practice trial runs, 17 students played Quizlet LIVE online in their new format of individual play rather than the team play that they would do at school. Students had a great time playing and reconnecting with everyone.

## THE LEARNING CONNECTION (TLC)

TLC students are well used to learning outside of the traditional classroom environment, but TLC teacher, Jenn Albrecht, put together *A Little Guidebook: Isolation Times and Trying 'To Do School' (and other stuff)* for her students. Tips include the best ways to stay connected, submitting school work, graduation news, post-secondary research and seeking scholarships, and planning for the new norms and what ifs. Perhaps the most important message is its conclusion:

***Your teachers will walk alongside you through this time. That is their promise to you.***

