



Local Education Update

Presented by the
**Board of Education of the
Creighton School Division No. 111**

Special Articles:

Strategic Plan: Progress in PAA

Details on page 3.

CCS Chorus Delivers Sweet Performance

Details on back page.

Highlights:

Graduation	2
Canadian Heroes	2
SCC Opportunity	3
Wrestling Results	3
Connections	4
Chorus performs	4

April 2008 Edition

The Education Update is published several times per year to highlight School Division initiatives and other Educational topics.

CCS Hosts Wrestling Championships

Wrestlers from across the province experienced Creighton Community School's excellent hospitality on March 1st, 2008. Coaches and wrestlers bestowed many compliments on the organizers, volunteers and fans who came out to watch the Regional Championships.

It was a long way for the 119 wrestlers to travel, but as one coach said, "It was the most successful and well-run regional championship ever."

Mr. McKenzie, Kodiak Wrestling coach, organized a multitude of volunteers into an effective team of timers, runners, hosts and helpers who cared for all the wrestlers needs. The gym was decorated in banners and posters welcomed each team by name. After a brief opening ceremony and Jillian Story's rendition of O Canada, the three wrestling mats were the center of action.

As is often the case, local

educational partners contributed to the event. Frontier Collegiate and Many Faces Education Center each added their wrestling mat to the Kodiak mat purchased recently. A pledge from the Northern Neighbors helped to make that purchase possible and other provincial and local sponsors also played a part in the day's success.

It was a great day of wrestling with several local wrestlers moving on to provincials. See **Kodiak Wrestlers on p.3.**

Community Connection: Planning for Success

A small and supportive group of people attended the school board's a community connection meeting at the Denareplex on March 19th.

The meal and informal conversation was followed by brief presentations that outlined some of the school division's activities over the past year or so. The evening concluded with a time for questions.

The board is committed to ensuring that the students in our community get an

excellent education in a caring environment. Connecting with the community is an important part of that commitment.

These community connection events are a way for trustees to provide information about board plans, goals and progress to parents and other community members. More importantly perhaps, these meetings provide community members an opportunity to ask questions and to provide input into the board's

plans for future success.

The **next Community Connection Event is on April 16th in the CCS gym.** Meal starts at 5:30 and the meeting follows. **All community members are welcome – parents and any residents who do not have a child in school.**

Please call 688-7409 by April 10th to let us know if you will attend so we can plan for the meal and childcare.

Strategic Plan Update: Practical & Applied Arts Program

In the fall of 2006, the Creighton School Board began a new chapter in its governance, leadership and stewardship of the School Division as it developed its strategic plan. In its discussions, the board renewed the vision, mission, and core values for the School Division and then established **five key goals**:

1. **Build partnerships to strengthen school division capacity.**
2. **Develop targets and processes to monitor key results.**
3. **Establish an effective communication and public relations plan.**
4. **Enhance the current character education program in CCS.**
5. **Enhance the current Practical and Applied Arts program in CCS.**

Since then, the school division has made progress in achieving all these goals. Partnerships were highlighted in the last issue of this publication, so this edition highlights progress in other areas: Practical Applied Arts

Practical and Applied Arts (PAA) are the courses formerly known as “shop” and “home ec.” plus courses like accounting, interior design and media production. The process to achieve the board’s goal to expand our PAA program included a review of the current offerings, a consultation with parents and students and a discussion with various post-secondary institutions and organizations.

We saw the need for expanded cosmetology, mechanics, construction courses and an additional facility to accommodate the courses.

Several options were explored but it seemed that the vacant curling rink side of the Sportex

might be a good possibility.

The **Town of Creighton** has always been a valuable partner, and they have contributed to our ability to expand our PAA program. Through a series of discussions, we were able to arrange to lease a portion of the Sportex curling rink side for our programs and leave a portion available to the Town and Creighton Recreation for their use. The town benefits from some added revenue from their facility and the school division can offer additional programming without the costs of new construction. We feel fortunate to have good partners in Education!

Students are currently benefiting from the expanded facility as we continue to make a series of renovations. Our expanded PAA program is one of the ways we provide educational excellence and continue to care for our students needs.

The Future is Bright for 2008 Grads

Graduation is not far off and plans are well underway to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2008. The big event has been scheduled for **Saturday June 7th, 2008** and the tentative schedule looks like this:

2:00	Ceremony in CCS Gym
5:00	Supper in the Sportex
7:30	Grad March

This is going to be another amazing celebration of the students successes so please be sure to join us for the celebration – the whole community is invited!

The class has selected **Walter Olsen as Valedictorian**. Congratulations Walter! We look forward to the thoughts you will share at the graduation exercises. Plans for the rest of the celebration are in progress and parents of graduates are reminded to attend the next **grad-parent meeting at 7:00 on April 23** in the CCS LAP room.

Who is Your Hero?

Creighton Community School has a strong tradition of excellence in education and one of the ways that excellence is celebrated is with the **Festival of Learning**. This is a school-wide event where students and staff demonstrate an aspect of students’ learning related to a common theme. This year’s theme is **Canadian Heroes** and all the activities will take place on **April 17th, 2008**.

Classrooms are working individually or in conjunction with other classrooms to present their learning in a number of ways. If you have missed out on this amazing event in the past, now is the time to find out what you have been missing. Look for details in a school newsletter and mark the date on your calendar!

**School
Community
Council**

**Meets on the 3rd
Tuesday of each
month
7:00PM
at the school.**

**Call 688-7409 for
details**

*Joining the School
Community Council is an
opportunity to work with
a great team of people
who are interested in
creating the best school
possible for our
students.*

School Community Council Offers Opportunity

Creighton Community School has always had an active and valuable advisory council that provided opportunities for parents to become involved in school programs, but now **that opportunity has expanded.** Members of the School Community Council (SCC) include any members of the community (parents and others) as well as members of any First Nation whose children attend the school.

Last year, the province changed legislation related to school governance. School Divisions are now required to establish a School Community Council (SCC) for each of its schools. The *Education Act* outlines the composition and expanded duties of SCCs. The Board has also developed a policy related to the operation of SCCs.

While it is interesting to note the value that the province and the Board places on SCCs by putting their establishment into law and policy, it is far more exciting to **consider the opportunities provided by SCCs.**

School Community Councils have the opportunity to play an active role in the operation of the school by:

- Participating in the development of the school's Learning Plan;
- Providing advice directly to the Board on policy, programs and educational services;
- Advising the principal and staff on programs, fees, fundraising, code of conduct and other matters
- Being an advocate for

student learning in the school system and the community.

There are many other possibilities for an active SCC. Imagine the power of SCC members across the province using their 10,000 voices to promote learning. The possibilities are endless.

Not sure if you are suited for the SCC? Funds are available for SCC members to travel to training, development and networking sessions. All that is needed is your dedication to student learning and an interest in promoting an environment of excellence and caring in Creighton Community School. **Call or come to a meeting and see what it's all about!**

Kodiak Wrestlers Proceed to Provincials

March 1st was the Saskatchewan Regional Wrestling Championships for all wrestlers residing outside of Saskatoon and Regina. They made the trip to Creighton for a day of wrestling and local volunteers made the trip well worth the effort.

It was an intense day of competition in an excellent environment. Community school staff members Jane Robillard, Darla

Flynn and Robertine Elliott provided nutritious food throughout the day to refuel the competitors. Also, Mr. Straile, CCS athletic coordinator organized "down time" rooms for the wrestlers to relax with movies, ping-pong and other games between their matches.

The Kodiak team performed well in the competitive field and after the final bell, three

Kodiaks earned a place in provincials.

**Ryan Anderson
Brittany Holland
Mike Sutherland**

These three wrestlers placed in the top 4 of their class at regionals, and Mike won gold in his category.

Congratulations to all competitors, coaches, organizers and volunteers!



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Community Connections: Part Two

The recent community connection meeting at the Denareplex was a good starting point to build upon for future success.

Robert Bratvold, Director of Education, outlined the process and results of the board's strategic planning and Shirley Owen, Secretary-Treasurer outlined the basic financial position of the school division. However, the focus of the meeting was to highlight the extensive character education

programs and activities at Creighton Community School.

Trustees Janet Clark, Terry Brown, Tracy Andrusiak, Heather Jacobson and Bernadette Hillier highlighted specific programs, described how families can support character education, and explained how character education is integrated into various programs in the school.

An important part of the

evening included the school administrators Guy Row, Jane Dupre and Sharon Trubiak. They outlined some key programs happening in the school and shared ways the school supports academic excellence and character education.

If you missed the Denareplex meeting, plan to be part of the next connection event. All residents of the school division are welcome.
See page one for details.

A Sweet Performance by the CCS Chorus

On February 12, 2008, Creighton School Chorus performed to an audience of 200 people at the "Tunes & Trifle" concert.

This annual tradition is much anticipated by the community and this year was no exception. Trifle and cheesecake was on the menu and a chocolate fountain was there for all to indulge in while listening to the music.

Creighton School Chorus performed Leonard Cohen's "Alleluia" and the

"RENT Medley" composed by Jonathon Larson.

There was also a hint of what the future might hold as the CCS Chorus was joined by Grade 4 students and sang "When I Close my Eyes".

Several individuals also performed solos and duets. **Shanine Slugoski** and **Juliane Boulet** sang "Leave the Pieces", **Katie Buettner** and **Lexi Blouin** sang "Cold as You", **Jillian Storey** sang "Ordinary Miracle" and

Lindsay Brittain sang "Waiting for the World to Change".

There is no doubt that we have talented students in our community. Under the caring direction of Miss Becker, choir director, students are enabled to develop their talent and share it with others.

All concert proceeds go towards the choir's trip to Moose Jaw for the Kinsmen International Music Festival later this spring.

Why Read This Newsletter?

Most people in the area know that **Creighton Community School has a strong reputation for caring and excellence.** The students, parents, staff and administration make it an outstanding school.

The School Board is the group of

individuals elected to make decisions about education in the Creighton School Division No. 111. We are a small, friendly, public School Division whose boundaries enclose 1600 km².

We operate one school and we wanted to reach all members of

the community to ensure they know about some of the great things happening in Creighton Community School and about some of the things the Board is working on to ensure we have the best education system possible in our community.

We invite your suggestions, comments or questions about the contents of this newsletter or about any aspect of the School Division. Direct your school-related items to Mr. Row, principal of Creighton Community School and for all other questions, suggestions and comments, please contact Robert Bratvold, Director of Education. Stop at the Board Office in Creighton Community School or contact him by phone at 688-5825. We look forward to your feedback!