

## EVERY STUDENT IS

- Known
- Valued
- Believed In



Saskatoon  
Public Schools

March 17, 2021

# FROM THE BOARD TABLE

## Ribbon skirt learning highlighted for trustees

The ways in which schools connected Ribbon Skirt Day to curriculum and citizenship education was highlighted during the Saskatoon Board of Education meeting held March 16.

During February, many of the division's elementary and secondary schools celebrated cultural teachings as they relate to the creation and wearing of ribbon skirts. The brightly coloured skirts are a traditional clothing piece for many Indigenous women and girls and honour their heritage, spirit, and identity.

Three members of the Brevoort Park School community – the school's principal along with a Grade 2 student and the student's mother – shared the impact of the learning and experiences at their school, including a virtual assembly that families were invited to attend.


The meeting also provided trustees with an update on the division's strategic plan, focusing on equity. Saskatoon Public Schools is committed to enacting anti-racist and anti-oppressive practices that support anti-racism, reconciliation, solidarity with Indigenous peoples, and freedom of cultural expression for all.

Principals Chantelle Balicki of Brevoort Park and Tammy Girolami of Nutana Collegiate shared how schools are connecting traditional teachings, stories, and education to the philosophy of the curriculum and learning outcomes from kindergarten to Grade 12.

Reports and information presented at board meetings can be found at [saskatoonpublicschools.ca](https://saskatoonpublicschools.ca). The next meeting of the Board of Education is Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 5 p.m. Due to COVID-19 and physical distancing guidelines, members of the public may attend regular board meetings virtually. If you wish to attend please contact [Estelle Allington](#), Executive Assistant to the Board of Education, to request the link to the virtual meeting.

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 [saskatoonpublicschools.ca](https://saskatoonpublicschools.ca)



# KINDERGARTEN VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE



Our neighbourhood elementary schools are welcoming parents and caregivers to virtual open houses **April 12-29**.

For information and a schedule of events visit [www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca](http://www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca)

## IMPORTANT DATES

**APRIL 2-9** Spring Break—no school

**APRIL 20** Saskatoon Board of Education Meeting 5 p.m.



## SASKATOON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL BOARD

### Did you know ...

- ... the duties and powers of the school board are set out in *The Education Act*
- ... the main duty of the board is to provide educational and financial direction for the school division
- ... some of the ways the board provides direction are by setting priorities through the strategic plan, assessing risks and approving the annual budget.

**If you have questions about the work of the board, contact your trustee.**

## 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.



Saskatoon Public Schools  
Inspiring Learning

# EARLY LEARNING EQUAL START

Literacy has a profound impact over a lifetime and begins at an early age.

28%

Every year, **28% of students (500 students) in Saskatoon Public Schools have not achieved at or above grade level literacy in reading by Grade 3.**

Saskatoon Public Board of Education Annual Report, 2017-18

4X LESS

A child who can't read at grade level by Grade 3 is **4x less likely to graduate than a child who does read proficiently by that time.**

Annie Casey Foundation, Double Jeopardy: How Third Grade Reading Skills and Poverty Influence High School Graduation, 2012

\$1 INVESTED  
= \$7 GAINED

For every dollar put into preventative programming, society gains **\$7 back into the economy.**

Canadian Language and Literacy Research Network, National Strategy for Early Literacy, 2009

Saskatchewan students were ranked among the lowest in reading compared to other provinces.

(PISA 2018 Results)



## Investing in the Future

The Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation believes that equal learning opportunity is a fundamental right and has a track record of success delivering programs that have improved literacy skills and confidence in young children.

Early childhood literacy is the foundation for preventing poverty, improving health and building strong economies. Helping a child learn to read will change their future, the future of our communities and the future of Saskatchewan.



### SPSF Campaign Goals:

- Children aged 4 to 6 will be supported in their development to ensure that 80% of students are ready for learning in Grade 1.
- 80% of students will be at or above grade level literacy in Grade 3.

## \$20M Campaign Will:

- 1 help young learners achieve Grade 3 literacy by Grade 3
- 2 set children up for success
- 3 strengthen our schools, our community and our province



**“Together we can create a lasting impact and make Saskatchewan a leader in early learning. Help us give all children an equal start through early learning!”**

Zeba Ahmad, Executive Director  
Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation

Early Learning Equal Start Campaign  
[campaign@earlylearningequalstart.ca](mailto:campaign@earlylearningequalstart.ca)  
[www.earlylearningequalstart.ca](http://www.earlylearningequalstart.ca)

