

Education Matters

As the board of trustees, we reflect on the many accomplishments of the 2023-24 school year to highlight the thriving communities our staff and students created in our schools. Our schools are rooted in the core values of Respect, Empathy, and Honesty that help guide us in creating a nurturing environment where students are encouraged to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. We would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the outstanding efforts and achievements across all our schools, and to express our heartfelt appreciation for the dedication and hard work of our staff who continue to be committed to our students.

In **academics**, our students have excelled in various areas, from consistent improvements in reading, writing and numeracy to innovative learning opportunities, such as the Computer-Aided Design classes and the SEAR project in our high schools. The SEAR project integrates crop inspection through drone technology. These initiatives demonstrate our commitment to providing diverse and enriching educational experiences that are ever evolving with the world around us. An additional milestone is the 100 percent graduation rate of our students this past June. We recognize this comes with years of parents, staff and students' hard work and support from across our system Kindergarten to Grade 12 with every employee group creating a system of success that remains focused on our students.

Community engagement and social responsibility contribute to positive culture across our schools and communities. Volunteer activities, such as supporting the Helping Hands soup kitchen in Brandon, partnering with senior homes, "We Scare Hunger" and Christmas Cheer Drives highlight a few examples of the spirit of giving and empathy across the schools. These initiatives teach our students the importance of contributing positively to their communities.

Sports and athletics continue to be a cornerstone of student life within the division. Our schools offer a wide range of sports, including intramurals, track and field days, traveling sports teams, house leagues and many other physical activities that take place each day. Our students have also showcased their athletic abilities at provincial levels with BPSD athletes accomplishing significant achievements across multiple sports. These activities not only promote physical health but also foster teamwork and school spirit.

Arts and cultural events provide ongoing highlights for all students and staff, with schools hosting numerous performances and creative endeavors. Whether it's a Spring Musical, band concerts, choir performances, along with the various musical performances, the artistic talents of our students are tremendous. Activities like the special cultural days, music festivals and Festival du Voyageur also enrich our students' cultural understanding and appreciation of the diversity around us.

Extracurricular activities play a vital role in creating memorable school experiences. From the camp trips to field trips, these experiences foster a sense of adventure and camaraderie. Clubs and groups, such as the peer mentors/tutors, student philanthropy, social justice, student council, and the BPSD Student Perspective Panel provide platforms for students to develop leadership skills and pursue their passions.

As we celebrate these achievements, we must acknowledge the many different staff groups whose dedication, flexibility and ongoing work makes all these successes possible. This commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment ensures that every student can thrive. We extend our deepest gratitude to our teachers, administrators, and all of the support staff across the division for the tireless efforts and the positive impact the hard work has on our students' lives.

The 2023-24 school year in the Beautiful Plains School Division has been marked by remarkable achievements, vibrant community engagement, and a steadfast commitment to our core values of Respect, Empathy, and Honesty. Together, we continue to build a bright future for our students, empowering them to succeed and make meaningful contributions to society. We look forward to another year of growth, learning, and celebration.

Thank you on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Senior Administration Team