



**BLACK GOLD  
REGIONAL  
DIVISION NO. 18**

# Trustee Community Update

## Trustee Update

The Black Gold Regional Division No. 18 is made up of 9 communities, including Leduc County. These communities are: New Sarepta, Beaumont, Leduc, Devon, Calmar, New Humble, Thorsby, Warburg and the Hutterite Colony. We also operate programs in Home-Based Schooling and Distance Learning from our Storefront School.

Our bi-monthly Board meetings occur on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month beginning at 10:30 a.m., 5th floor at Central Office, County Centre in Nisku. If you have an item you wish to address, please contact Norman Yanitski, Superintendent of Schools at 780-955-6025.

This spring, trustees have attended and been involved in a variety of functions including:

- First steps in developing policy/guidelines for anaphylaxis and defibrillators.
- Attending graduation ceremonies. Approximately 886 students graduated this year.
- Spring planning session.
- Alberta School Boards Association and Public School Boards' Association spring general meetings.
- Alberta Teachers' Association retirement banquet.
- Developing strategic plan for the Division.
- Input into reopening the School Act.
- Challenging Bill 44 through letters to MLAs.
- Engaging with EPCOR regarding the EPCOR Genesee Generating Station.

Black Gold Regional Division Board of Education and communities have been involved in discussions with Alberta Education's engagement sessions:

- Setting the Direction - a discussion on Special Needs Children. The next session will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. [www.settingthedirection.alberta.ca](http://www.settingthedirection.alberta.ca)
- Inspiring Education - a Dialogue with Albertans. This community engagement forum will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup>. [www.inspiringeducation.alberta.ca](http://www.inspiringeducation.alberta.ca)

To access more information on Black Gold Regional Schools, please visit our website at [www.blackgold.ca](http://www.blackgold.ca).

## Board Contacts

As members of the Board of Education of Black Gold Regional Division No. 18, we commit ourselves to working with staff members and other relevant stakeholder groups to provide the highest possible standard of educational opportunities for our students. Our goal is to help students fulfill personal aspirations while they learn how to become life-long learners and contributing members of society.

Beaumont	Lorna Misselbrook	<a href="mailto:lorna.misselbrook@blackgold.ca">lorna.misselbrook@blackgold.ca</a>
County Central	Kirk Popik	<a href="mailto:kirk.popik@blackgold.ca">kirk.popik@blackgold.ca</a>
County East	Johnette Lemke, Vice Chairman	<a href="mailto:johnette.lemke@blackgold.ca">johnette.lemke@blackgold.ca</a>
County West	Sam Kobeluck	<a href="mailto:sam.kobeluck@blackgold.ca">sam.kobeluck@blackgold.ca</a>
Devon	Sandy Koroll	<a href="mailto:sandy.koroll@blackgold.ca">sandy.koroll@blackgold.ca</a>
Leduc	Barb Martinson, Chairman	<a href="mailto:barb.martinson@blackgold.ca">barb.martinson@blackgold.ca</a>
Leduc	Christine Robertson	<a href="mailto:christine.robertson@blackgold.ca">christine.robertson@blackgold.ca</a>



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## What are PATs

Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) are administered annually in English and Français/French Language Arts and Mathematics in Grade 3, and in English and Français/French Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies in Grades 6 and 9. In 2008-2009, Grade 9 achievement tests based on the Knowledge and Employability programs of study in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science will also be administered. French translations of all Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies achievement tests, except Knowledge and Employability Social Studies, are available for students in Francophone and French Immersion programs.

Writing accommodations are available for students with learning disabilities or physical disabilities to allow these students to do their best. Every effort is made to ensure that the achievement tests show respect for cultural diversity.

In scheduling the achievement tests, some flexibility is provided to allow students who are absent on the day of administration to write before they leave, or if they return prior to the dates scheduled for the return of the testing materials.

The government's goal is to provide a provincial overview of how well students in Grades 3, 6, and 9 are achieving in relation to provincial standards, regardless of where or how they receive instruction. Therefore, the achievement tests are designed and administered to ensure that the tests are accessible to most students in Grades 3, 6, and 9.

## ASBA News

### **Boards participate in provincial review of special education**

#### **Phase 2 of *Setting the Direction* consultation underway**

Phase 2 of the consultation regarding special education delivery in Alberta is underway. See the website: [www.settingthedirection.alberta.ca](http://www.settingthedirection.alberta.ca) for opportunities to participate and provide input for this second phase.

#### **President Heather Welwood on working group**

President **Heather Welwood** is representing the ASBA on the stakeholder working group supporting the government's review of Alberta's Special Education System.

### **Education partners line up against Bill 44**

The Alberta School Boards Association, Alberta Teachers' Association, Alberta School Councils Association and the College of Alberta School Councils issued a joint media release May 6 calling for changes to Bill 44.

## BGRS Spring Planning Session

Black Gold trustees and administration attended their annual spring planning session. Some topics of discussion were:

- Budget approval
- Leduc and Beaumont Grade Configuration
- Strategic planning
- Succession planning
- Three Year Education Plan

Yours in Education,

Board of Trustees  
Black Gold Regional Division No. 18  
June 2009