



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

April 11, 2018



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Calmar Secondary School

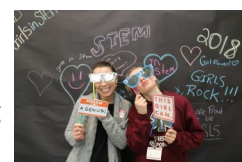
Grade 12 students, Rebecca Probst and Jarom Day, scored 100% on their Government of Alberta Math 30-1 Diploma Exam. Math 30-1 is the highest level of math course offered to Grade 12 students. They are both remarkably high achieving students in all of their courses, but it is truly an exceptional achievement and an extreme rarity to score 100% on a Government of Alberta Provincial Diploma Exam. Congratulations to Rebecca and Jarom for their hard work and extraordinary achievement, as well as, to their outstanding teacher, Mr. Darcy Skinner, for thoroughly preparing these students. Way to go!



BGRD Holds Its First "Girls in STEM" Workshop

Research shows that seven out of 10 girls are interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education but only two out of the seven will eventually enter a related career choice.

On March 23rd, 67 BGRD students from Grades 6 - 10 took part in the Division's first ever "Girls in STEM" Day. Students heard from world famous Alice Keeler, who connected via Google Hangouts from New York to talk about her experiences working for companies such as Google, Microsoft and YouTube. Female aerospace engineers from HATCH Engineering and Edmonton International Airport had participants constructing planes for different types of flight and scenarios. WISEST (Women in Scholarship Engineering, Science, and Technology), from the University of Alberta was also on hand to encourage young women to enter the science and technology fields. A Grade 9 student said, "It was so important to let young girls like me see what it was like for other women in the science field. I want all girls to know that there are opportunities for them no matter your ethnicity, age or looks. You can be whoever you dream and aspire to be."



2017 DRIVER OF THE YEAR

Lynn Ohlmann was chosen as the 2017 Driver of the Year. The provincial Driver of the Year award is selected by the STAA (Student Transportation Association of Alberta) Committee based on the full-time driver's daily duties, responsibilities and public interactions of transporting children to and from school on a regular basis. Consideration is given to the driver's years of service; student management skills and abilities, student interaction, etc; professionalism as a driver, including interactions with staff and parents, and driver attitude.



In all of her nominations to STAA for the award, Lynn Ohlmann was repeatedly referred to as a loving, caring, nurturing and fondly remembered by her past bus students. "With her positive can-do attitude, and her ability to build strong relationships, it is apparent why she should be selected as the provincial School Bus Driver of the Year".

Trustees thanked Mrs. Ohlmann for going above and beyond in transporting students. It was also commented that Mrs. Ohlmann was always there to help students on field trips. Congratulations to Lynn Ohlmann as the STAA's Driver of the Year!



FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

The Board gave final approval to the field trip request from École Bellevue and École Champs Vallée Schools. The field trip is to Ottawa, Québec City and Montréal from June 21 to 27, 2018 for 29 Grade 6 French Immersion students with two teacher supervisors and parent volunteers.

The Board gave final approval to the field trip request from École Beau Meadow School. The field trip is to Ottawa, Québec City and Montréal from May 28 to June 3, 2018 for 15 Grade 6 French Immersion students with two teacher supervisors and parent volunteers.

The Board gave final approval to the field trip request from École Dansereau Meadows and École Coloniale Estates Schools. The field trip is to Ottawa, Québec City and Montréal from June 21-27, 2018 for 51 Grades 7 - 8 students with five teacher supervisors.



INTERNATIONAL FIELD TRIPS REPORT



Superintendent Yanitski advised that a university research team had prepared a report on international field trips, and shared this information with the Board. Superintendent Yanitski stated that international travel has been suspended by the Board, and will be reviewed prior to the end of this school year.

The Executive Summary of the Report states that regular field trips, international and local, are designed to offer unique learning experiences for students. When examining the worth of field trips in education practice, especially international field trips, the pros and cons of such experiences must be considered.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PARENT SURVEY

In light of previous discussions on international field trips, the Board requested that Administration conduct a survey on International Travel.



MOMENT OF SILENCE

Trustees and Administration acknowledged a moment of silence for the Humboldt Broncos team, and for staff who have lost loved ones or have family/friends going through illness.



UNDERSTANDING THE SMART PHONE GENERATION

Trustees Klaassen, O'Gorman and Ofstie attended a lecture on 'Understanding the Smart Phone Generation'. The lecture was very informative, and highlighted how smart phones are impacting our younger students, and our lives. There was also information on the correlation of mental effects on students in leisure time, and the awareness of digital literacy and how to provide information to students.



Superintendent Yanitski stated that BGRD has been involved in this area for a number of years, and that he attended a workshop on 'Growing up Digital in Alberta'. Some of the research has concluded the following – no phones in bedrooms; shut down phones one hour before bedtime, reduce the blue light emitting from TV, iPads or phones.

The pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity;
the optimist, the opportunity in every difficulty.

L.P. Jacks

Great Truths That Little Children Have Learned. . .

- ☺ When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- ☺ Never ask your 3 year old brother to hold a tomato.
- ☺ You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- ☺ If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.

