



# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

April 10 & 24, 2019



## CELEBRATING SUCCESS

### Caledonia Park School

Teacher Lori Johnson and Educational Assistants, Debbie DeGruchy and Charlene Knaus, were recently chosen as recipients of a National Inclusive Education Award. The National Inclusive Education Award is an initiative organized by Inclusion Canada and its provincial and territorial member associations. The award for Alberta is provided jointly by Inclusion Canada and Inclusion Alberta to honour a teacher, school or school district whose commitment to inclusive education is exemplary and deserving of recognition.

These staff members were nominated for the award by a Caledonia Park School parent: "It is incredibly evident in all she does that Mrs. Lori Johnson believes in respectful inclusion deeply as she employs this belief system in all of her practices. As a result of building an excellent team, the educational assistants embrace the same belief system. They truly believe in [our child's] capabilities and set the bar high and support him in reaching it."



### École Bellevue School

Congratulations to Nikol Kirilova, a Grade 6 École Bellevue student who won first place for the best 'Girls in STEM Day' website. Part of this Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) day included creating a Google site to showcase unique perspectives on the learning experiences from the day. Nikol's website was uniquely inspired, insightful and clearly stood out as wise, well beyond the Grade 6 level. Nikol's teachers and school community are to be commended for their continual support and guidance.



### Warburg School



Congratulations to Warburg students who participated in 'Genius Hour' class. 'Genius Hour' projects give the students an opportunity to do extra research on subjects of particular interest to them, and certainly generated kind-hearted gestures from many students toward community foundations.

Mya Macpherson, Hannah Lange and Hayley Johnson baked an assortment of goodies to sell at the Warburg Christmas Bazaar to raise funds for lung cancer. They continued their fundraising efforts with bake sales at school, raising over \$550 which was donated to the Alberta Lung Association.



This 'Genius Hour' group of Ashley Kelto, Calleigh Swartz and Jenna Lawrence picked a research project that interested them and was close to their heart. The project was 'Animal Rescue and Veterinarian Work'. The girls raised \$511.60 by selling goodies and glow sticks at the Warburg Christmas Light Up, treat bags at school, shovelling snow for a couple of people in Warburg and collecting bottles to take in for recycling. The money was donated to WHARF (Whitecourt Homeless Animal Rescue Foundation) which is located in Edmonton. Calleigh actually had adopted her dog, Reese, from WHARF which is why they chose this particular rescue.

### BGRD School Bus Driver Training

The Government of Alberta is changing the licensing and training requirement for bus drivers. Effective July 31, 2019, new school bus drivers must take the Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) Program.

Black Gold Regional Division is very fortunate that we now have two professional licensed driver trainers for school bus drivers. Lorraine Spurrell of Graylo Transportation and Transportation Manager Sue Timmermans are fully certified licenced driver trainers for Class 2 drivers. The process to obtain this status is quite lengthy and both Lorraine and Sue successfully completed three knowledge tests and in-yard and on-road testing over the course of the last two months. We congratulate Lorraine and Sue on achieving this for the benefit of our school bus operations.



## APPOINTMENT - BGRD SUPERINTENDENT/CEO

Chairman Martinson stated that on April 3, 2019, the Board of Trustees announced that William Romanchuk had been appointed as the new Superintendent of Schools and Chief Executive Officer of BGRD effective July 1, 2019. The announcement is posted on the BGRD website: [BGRD Board of Trustees Names New Superintendent](#)



Mr. Romanchuk thanked the entire Board for the appointment. Mr. Romanchuk stated this is an honour, and he is extremely excited to move the Division forward, as he realizes he has inherited “the best darn school division in Alberta”. Mr. Romanchuk thanked Dr. Yanitski for his invaluable mentorship, and thanked his colleagues, Mr. Cal Monty, Mrs. Ruth Andres and Mr. Norm Dargis for their support.

## ANNEXATION LETTER FROM MINISTER



Superintendent Yanitski announced that BGRD received a letter from David Eggen, Minister of Education clarifying that the educational boundaries for BGRD, Edmonton Public School Board, Edmonton Catholic Separate School District and St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division will remain the same for the 2019-2020 school year. Over the course of the next year, BGRD will work with the Government of Alberta to look at the changes for the following year (2020-2021).

### A Moment of Reflection

Trustees and Administration observed a moment of reflection as staff, students and parents deal with difficult issues.

## SCHOOL VISITS



Superintendent Yanitski and Trustees recently visited the following schools: École Bellevue, École Beau Meadow, and École Coloniale Estates. Trustee O’Gorman commented that it was a fun day in Beaumont. Trustees commented that all of the schools put on their creative hats for the Trustee visits.

## SCHOOL BUS SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNER

Transportation Manager Sue Timmermans announced that there is one winner from BGRD in the Provincial Poster contest for School Bus Safety Week that was held in October 2018. The winner, along with his father, JD, and school staff representative, Mrs. Ann Oppermann attended the meeting to have the award presented. The winner was Grade 3 Linsford Park School student, Micah Hornbacher.



Micah will receive a \$25 Chapters/Indigo gift card and a plaque with his framed print. In addition to this, the winner also receives a \$100 cheque payable to his school for a class field trip.

Chairman Martinson thanked Micah and Mr. Hornbacher for attending the meeting, and commented that the Board is very proud of all of the Division students who participated in the contest.

## STUDENT YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

There were approximately 300 students that attended the Student Youth Leadership Conference at West Haven Public School on March 22nd. The students had lots of energy, and were excited to take the leadership information they learned back to their own schools. Staff members were inspired by the students during their activities. Vice-Chairman Klaassen commended Division Principal Norm Dargis and the Committee for their work in organizing the conference. It was great to see students from all of our schools working and having fun together.



[BGRD students discuss how to ‘ignite’ positive change in their schools](#)

## STUDENT EXCURSION REQUESTS

The Board gave final approval to the student excursion request from École Secondaire Beaumont Composite High School. The field trip is to Italy and Greece from July 2 to 11, 2019 for 33 Grades 10 to 12 students with five supervisors.



The Board gave approval in principle to the student excursion request from Thorsby Junior-Senior High School and Warburg School. The trip is to France and Italy from March 25 to April 5, 2021 for approximately 30 Grades 10 to 12 students with approximately 5 supervisors.



The Board gave final approval to the student excursion request from École J.E. Lapointe School. The field trip is to Quebec City and Ottawa from June 21 to 27, 2019 for 29 Grade 7 French Immersion students with six supervisors.



The Board gave final approval to the student excursion request from École Bellevue School. The trip is to Quebec and Ottawa from June 20 to 26, 2019 for 14 Grade 6 French Immersion students with one teacher supervisor and 13 parent volunteers.



The Board gave final approval to the student excursion request from École Champs Vallée School. The trip is to Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa from June 20 to 26, 2019 for 23 Grades 6 and 7 French Immersion students with two teacher supervisors and 14 parent volunteers.

## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING - APRIL 24, 2019 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT - CUPE 3484 SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF



The Board ratified the Memorandum of Agreement for CUPE #3484 School Support Staff effective September 1, 2019. The agreement includes:

- ◇ Improvement for vacation accrual changing from 10 years to 8 years, retroactive to September 1, 2018.
- ◇ .45 cent/hour increase for school secretaries at Step 6 for all three levels, retroactive to September 1, 2018.
- ◇ 0% increase for 2018/19
- ◇ 0.5% increase for 2019/20
- ◇ 1% increase for 2020/21
- ◇ One additional personal day changing from one (1) day to two (2) days per school year effective September 1, 2019.
- ◇ An employee shall be granted one (1) working day with pay per school year to attend the funeral of a person other than those referred to in previous agreement. The Employer may grant additional days with or without pay, and without loss of seniority.
- ◇ Health Spending Account – The unused balance will be carried forward to the extent permitted by the CRA (Canada Revenue Agency).

### 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.

