



Highlights & Treasures

École Debden Public School

December 20, 2023

Principal's Message

As we approach the end of the year, I find myself reminded that – despite its busy-ness – December brings a spirit of warmth and reflection.

Our students have demonstrated resilience, kindness, enthusiasm, and curiosity. Along with the ongoing quality learning in classrooms every day, there have been countless enjoyable Christmas projects & experiences this month. As usual, December has been an uplifting time in the school with many wonderful Christmas activities and festivities taking place. Once again, our school elf-on-the-shelf, Earl, has been out-and-about with shenanigans all month. The SLC members have been busy leading a variety of activities including spirit days, Christmas tree decorating contests, and the delivery of Candy Cane Grams. Students have been curling. The much-anticipated Christmas dinner and Christmas concert are here again.

As we celebrate the festive season, let us all take a moment to appreciate the hard work and dedication of our staff. Their commitment to fostering a nurturing learning environment makes a lasting impact on our students' lives.

Looking ahead, let's take on the upcoming year with optimism and enthusiasm. I encourage you to cherish these precious moments with loved ones, recharge during the break, and return in January with renewed energy for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. When we return in January, there will be less than a month left before Progress Reports are shared and the semester comes to an end.

I wish you and your family all the best this holiday season – joy, laughter, peace, & love. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

-Mrs. Corrine Schwehr

Staffing Update

We will welcome Mr. Victor Corduban to our staff after Christmas. Victor is from Romania, but has been in Canada for about 10 years. He lives in Prince Albert with his wife and 2-year-old son. He also has a 14-year-old son in Romania. In his spare time, he likes to coach and spend time with his family.

Victor has a strong educational background in Economics, Marketing & Business Communication, and Physical Education & Sport. Victor's most recent teaching experience has been as a high school teacher (physical education, sciences, math)/ physical education (K-12) teacher at Senator Allan Bird Memorial School in Montreal Lake, SK.

Victor was also Coordinator of "Teach Resiliency" Program at Montreal Lake Child and Family Agency. He was an Educational Associate in Developmental Education in at Ecole Vickers Public School. He has extensive hockey coaching/training experience, both in Canada and Romania.

Welcome, Victor!





Senior Curling

École Debden Public School's Senior Curling team attended the St. Mary's Bonspiel in Prince Albert on Friday, December 14th and Saturday, December 15th. The team consists of lead Raef DeBruijn, second Rayna Vaadeland, third Dalton Sanders, skip, Alexis Beaulieu and coach Roland Svensen. The team played two games back to back on Friday night. They won both their games and landed in Pool A. Saturday, the team came back to curl three games in a row. They made it to the final game against LaRonge. Debden was ahead by 2 points by the 7th end. LaRonge made an incredible shot using their last rock, knocking out our rocks and scoring three points. Debden lost 9 to 10. It was an intense game. Out of 18 teams registered in this Bonspiel, École Debden School's Senior team placed 2nd overall. Way to go, team!

The senior team also has two spare players: Alex Poirier and Gauge Vaadeland. They were unable to play this weekend.

-Mrs. Poirier



Annual Debden School Curling Bonspiel

Just like that, another annual Debden School Curling Bonspiel came to a close with three nail-biting games. Congratulations to our 'A' side champions, Ben, Winston, Ryland, Londynn and Ford who defeated Mason, Carter, Zennon, Martin and Alyssa in the championship game.

A shout out to the students who participated this year and the community members and staff who came by to show their support to the students.

Once again, a big THANK-YOU to the curling club for hosting our group again this year, and for a delicious canteen.

-Mr. T





SLC News

The S.L.C has been busy this month. We kicked off the month with Candy Gram sales. We purchased just over 400 candy canes this year. The candy canes will be delivered on Thursday December 21st.

All classes have been busy decorating their Class Christmas Tree. This is in response to a fun competition set up by the S.L.C. Judging will take place on Thursday. The judges will choose one classroom to win from K to 6 and one classroom to win from 7-12.

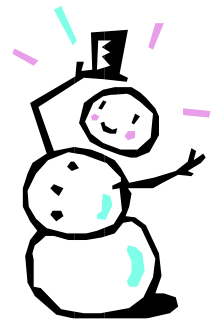
In addition, the S.L.C have organized 5 dress up days, one for every day of the last week of school. It's fun to see everyone get into the School & Christmas spirit.

Earl entered our building again, this year. He made his first appearance on December 1st. The students from K to 2 were pretty excited to learn about who he was and how he kept an eye out on all the students using his spy cameras in the hallways. Earl has been spotted in a variety of areas, getting into some pretty crazy trouble.

Thanks, to the entire S.L.C for selling candy cane grams, for participating in dress up days and for organizing all the fun activities during the month of December.

- Mrs. Poirier

Earl the Elf is Back!



Reminder: The Government of Saskatchewan has partnered with Shoppers Foundation for Women's Health to provide menstrual products to families. These free products, consisting of pads and tampons, are available at the school. In the month of December and January, you can contact the school office to pick them up. You will also be able to get them at a specified location in the school at the upcoming Christmas Concert.

Handbook Highlight

Each month in the Highlights and Treasures we highlight sections from our school handbook. This month we are focusing on three – Final Examinations and/or Projects & Departmental Examinations; School Cleanliness; Counselling Services Available to Students.

Final Examinations and/or Projects & Departmental Examinations

Final examinations and/or projects for grades 7-9, 10, 20 and some 30 level subjects are determined by the homeroom and individual subject teachers. Departmental examinations are given in some 30 level subjects, if teachers are not accredited. In situations where the teachers are accredited, they have received the extensive training and met all the necessary requirements to administer their own final examinations.

School Cleanliness

Our staff and students are responsible to maintain the beautiful condition of the school and grounds. Students are expected to do their part in keeping things clean and free of damage. Students are expected to take pride and ownership of all student areas in their school and grounds. Garbage cans and recycling containers are appropriately placed in hallways and outside. Sunflower seeds are not allowed in the school.

Counselling Services Available to Students

There is an itinerant school counsellor available on site one day per week. The counsellor provides a wide range of support services to students, teachers and parents. Individual counselling is confidential. When necessary, the counsellor may wish to consult with teachers, parents, administrators, other social services personnel or professional psychological services. Every attempt is made to protect the privacy of the individual student. Counselling services may be initiated by the student, parents/ guardians, or staff member(s). Students may see the counsellor without parental or guardian permission one time, but if students wish to see the counsellor more than once, they will require permission from their caregiver. If the student is 16 or older, parental consent is not required. The counsellors also do group work with students (ie dealing with issues such as peer pressure and bullying).

Information regarding other counselling services is available to students and families is available from the school.

High School credit attainment and post-secondary guidance are also provided by a designated staff member.

Ugly Christmas
Sweater Day

Cozy reading
on PJ day



Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to make attendance and punctuality a priority. We have seen improvements since we have reached out to students and parents/guardians to make improvements. Information regarding your child(ren)'s number of lates and absences was shared at our Progress Conferences on December 13th. If you did not receive this information, please contact your child(ren)'s teacher(s).


ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...

The infographic illustrates the path of a student from elementary school to a worker, highlighting the importance of attendance at each stage. It features five cartoon characters representing different levels of achievement, each with a corresponding box below them.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS	MIDDLE SCHOOLERS	HIGH SCHOOLERS	COLLEGE STUDENTS	WORKERS
read well by the end of third grade	pass important courses	stay on track for graduation	earn their degrees	succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.

 **Attendance Works**
Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence
www.attendanceworks.org

Thank You from Ruth and Allen Prosser

The Monday evening after Mr. Prosser's funeral, I received the most heartfelt phone call at home. It was from Ruth Prosser – Mr. Prosser's mom. For those of you who may not know this, I've known the Prosser family pretty much my whole life, having grown up in a nearby rural area to them. It was a genuinely sincere, and from-the-heart conversation. On behalf of both her and her son Allen, Ruth expressed her deepest gratitude for the overwhelming show of support after the passing of their beloved son and brother. The attendance at the funeral, the words spoken, the honour guard, and the numerous other expressions of sympathy have been greatly appreciated. The outpouring of support from the staff, students, and entire community have helped greatly during this sad and difficult time for their family. She really wanted to be able to share her gratitude, so I assured her that I would pass her message along.

-Mrs. Schwehr