

OUR VISION
Our school division endeavours to provide each student with the opportunity to fulfill their potential and pursue their dreams.

OUR MISSION

We nurture each student's education and well-being within an inclusive rural learning community.



Key Messages: December 16, 2020

District Priority 1: Student Learning

- ✓ Superintendent Lewis shared the success of the Superintendent's Youth Council (SYC) meeting. 30 students and 6 teachers joined Superintendent Lewis in an exploration of hope in their lives; students spoke of friends, families, teachers, significant others and their pets as crucial to their sense of hope. Superintendent Lewis invite the students to consider **Hope** related projects they could implement in their schools and communities and bring those initiatives and ideas back to share at the spring SYC meeting.
- ✓ Director of Curriculum and Assessment, Carra Aschenmeier, spoke to the literacy initiatives within the Division, ensuring that all students are supported to develop strong literacy skills, applicable and needed in all subject areas:
 - Alberta Education defines literacy as "the ability, confidence and willingness to engage with language to acquire, construct and communicate meaning in all aspects of daily living" (2015).
 - GYPSD's focus on literacy supports improvements in student learning through research-based assessment, instruction and intervention processes.
 - Data from literacy assessments is used to shape the [Division's 3 Year Education Plan \(3YEP\)](#) strategies and identify each schools' instructional focus.

District Priority 2: Teaching and Leadership Excellence

- ✓ Director Technology, Kevin Bissoon, shared the Division's commitment to providing excellent technology services, supports and resources to staff, students, departments and families – particularly in the current situation which requires equity in access to devices and internet connectivity to support students [learning at home](#).
 - The Tech Team engages in professional development that focuses on excellent pedagogy and instructional choices – including [technology tools](#) – best suited to support students in achieving the learning outcomes.
 - Technology lead teachers across GYPSD are participating in a book study [Learning First, Technology Second](#).
- ✓ Key highlights from the Superintendent's Report include:
 - creation of a Division-wide Ad Hoc Committee to develop GYPSD's vision and future offerings for a range of Learn-at-Home options and Home Education programming.
 - meetings with the Registrar and [CASS](#)
 - Division and central office PD focused on mental health, wellness and the work of Brené Brown for all staff.
 - success of the TLCs to support high school completion rates in the communities
 - participation in the Trustees' *Community Coffee Conversations*

District Priority 3: Community Engagement

- ✓ [Board Chair Rosadiuk, Vice Chair Zaporosky, Trustees Fate, Karpluk, Aust, Caputo and Fowler](#) are committed to leading advocacy for strong public education, building collaborative relationships and developing solutions-focused partnerships to ensure success for our GYPSD students and community. Highlights include:
 - ✓ Board Chair Rosadiuk reflected on the Board's commitment to Community Engagement and the value of hearing from neighbours, local business owners and community organizations to address challenges and identify possible partnerships.
 - ✓ Approved motion to partner with the [Hinton Friendship Centre](#) to pilot Indigenous Language and Culture programming at Crescent Valley Elementary in Hinton.
 - ✓ Attendance and representation at the [Alberta School Boards Association \(ASBA\)](#) Zone 2/3 Meeting.
 - ✓ Trustees hosted the final three of their virtual *Community Coffee Conversations* in early December, covering each of the [five communities](#) that make up GYPSD. Attendees at the Hinton, Grande Cache and Edson meetings spoke to the work of the Division to innovate and support students and families during the pandemic and shared appreciation for the work of school staff to keep students safe and engaged in their learning.