



**SUN WEST
SCHOOL DIVISION**

Success for all

2008-09 ANNUAL REPORT



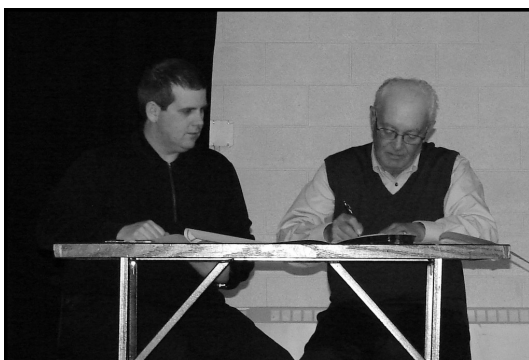
The Fourth Annual Meeting of the Ratepayers of the
Sun West School Division
7:00 pm, Tuesday, April 27, 2010
Rosetown Central High School Theatre

2008-09 HIGHLIGHTS

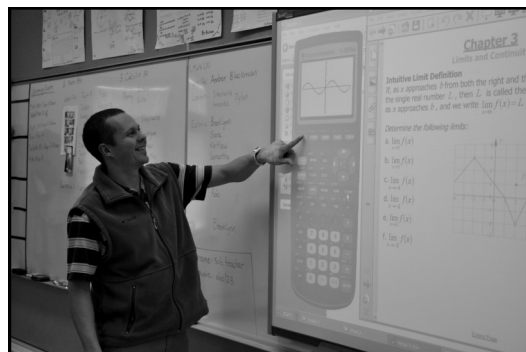
Results of Reading Initiative

Starting in January 2006, the Sun West School Division set a three-year goal that by June 2009, every student in the division would read at grade level or beyond, or at a level determined by their personal program plan or student support plan. To achieve this goal, over 100 teachers participated in committees that developed reading resources and strategies to help students, in every grade and in every subject area, improve their reading skills. DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) times were instituted in all Sun West schools, which encouraged students to read for pleasure.

Student reading assessments were on-going throughout the three years of the reading initiative. Assessments indicate that as of June 2009, 75.1% of Sun West students were reading at grade level or beyond or at the levels determined by their personal program plans or student support plans. Generally, student achievement in reading decreased as students progressed to higher grades. Sun West has now set a new three-year goal that permits schools to focus on one of three literacy areas; either reading, writing or mathematics. Schools select one area and work to improve achievement by one level in that area.



Great Plains College President Mark Frison (l) and Ross Derald (r), past Chair of the Sun West Board of Education, sign a memorandum of understanding between their two organizations.



Ryan Johnson, a teacher with the Distance Learning Centre in Kenaston, provides instruction using a SMART Board.

Distance Learning Centre Established at Kenaston School

Sun West's Distance Learning Centre at Kenaston School started operations in the fall of 2008. The Centre allows Sun West students access to classes that are not offered in their own schools. Some classes are provided through web-based technology such as SMART interactive whiteboards and Brigit conferencing software, while others are traditional print-based "correspondence" courses (which are no longer provided by the provincial government). Classes that have been offered by the Centre include: Physics, Chemistry, Calculus, Biology, Psychology, Math, Law and Information Processing.

Sun West and Great Plains Sign Memorandum of Understanding

In 2008, the Sun West School Division signed a memorandum of understanding with Great Plains College. The memorandum will provide Sun West and Great Plains opportunities to cooperate on projects of mutual interest. Sun West expects the partnership that develops from out of this memorandum will benefit Sun West students. Facilitating smooth transitions between high school graduation and post-secondary training and the work force is one of Sun West's priorities.

2008-09 HIGHLIGHTS

Sun West Graduation Rate Among the Best in Province

Final graduation statistics for 2008 from the Ministry of Education indicate that 93% of Sun West's grade 12 students obtained 24 or more credits and successfully completed their grade 12 year. The Sun West graduation rate was one of the highest in 2008 as well as one of the highest in the last five-year period. In addition, according to the Ministry of Education's provincial core indicators, Sun West had the lowest drop out rate in 2008 and provincial reading results place Sun West students second overall in reading among Saskatchewan school divisions.

New Elementary Report Card Piloted in 2008-09

A new Grades 1-5 report card was piloted in five Sun West schools during the 2008-09 school year. The new report card is consistent with the latest assessment research and provides parents and students with detailed information about student progress, including details of student learning behaviors. The report card was developed by a committee of teachers from the participating schools. Eventually report cards based on best assessment practices will be developed for all grades.



School Community Council (SCC) members make plans to deliver SCC workshops in the fall of 2008. (L-R) Shelley Barton, Marlene Gillanders, Kim Fick and Rebecca Farrell.



In the fall of 2008, American educational expert Lee Jenkins provided Sun West teachers with training on best assessment practices. Above Jenkins with some members of the Assessment Literacy Committee. (L-R) Vanessa Lewis, Kelly Christopherson, Michael Hoult, Jade Ballek, Lee Jenkins, Kim Hobbs, Jim Duerksen, Bev Ptolemy, Danielle Jamieson and Shirley Barclay.


Student Leadership Conference Doubles Attendance

The Second Annual Sun West Student Leadership Conference held in April 2009 doubled its attendance to 160 students and teachers compared to only 80 who attended the first conference in April 2008. As well, 17 out of 17 Sun West schools with a grades 10-12 component attended the 2009 conference, compared to only 11 in 2008. The Conference was initiated in 2008 as part of the Board of Education's Student Leadership Program, which seeks to provide leadership opportunities to Sun West students.

Division Audits Now Include School Generated Funds


Starting with the 2008-09 fiscal year, the Ministry of Education is requiring School Divisions to follow Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) practices. As a result, revenues and expenses from school-based activities such as student clubs and fundraising must be reported in the Division audit.

The 2008-09 school year was one of achievement for the Sun West School Division, and I would like to recognize the contributions and leadership of our school communities, who made these achievements possible.

 For three years our teachers, in every discipline and in every grade, have worked to improve students' reading abilities in accordance with our division reading imitative goal. Their efforts combined with the diligence and talents of our students made us one of the strongest school divisions represented in provincial reading assessments. The Ministry of Education's Continuous Improvement Framework, which includes the priority of higher literacy and achievement was encompassed in Sun West's reading initiative efforts.

As a school division, our efforts are focused to provide a positive learning environment that result in student success. The dedication of our school staff, the nurturing by School Community Councils and the character of rural Saskatchewan communities are all components that contribute to student success. As a result, our communities, teachers and students can be proud that Sun West consistently maintains one of the highest graduation rates in Saskatchewan.

Sun West's leaders, at both the school and the division levels, continue to support and seek ways for all students to experience success, and their efforts are to be commended. The commitment of our rural school communities has proven that "Success for all," is more than a mere slogan, it is the daily practice of learning together!


Janet Casswell-Beckmann
Director of Education

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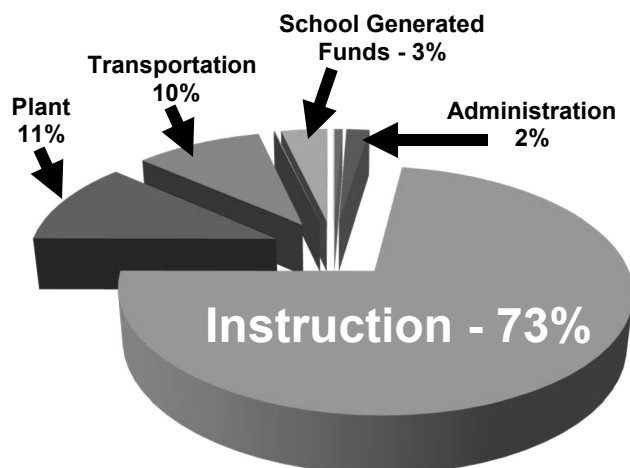
**For more information on Sun West, go to the following address on the internet:
www.sunwestsd.ca**

2008-09 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	Operating Fund	Capital Fund	Other Funds	Current Year Consolidated	Prior Year Consolidated
REVENUES					
Property Taxation	27,916,722	—	—	27,916,722	31,999,595
Grants	22,360,603	—	—	22,360,603	16,348,809
Tuition & Related Fees	35,372	—	—	35,372	31,447
School Generated Funds	1,738,502	—	—	1,738,502	—
Complementary Services	—	—	—	—	—
External Services	2,100	—	—	2,100	—
Other	520,324	32,275	—	552,599	573,790
Total Revenues	52,573,622	32,275	—	52,605,897	48,953,641
EXPENDITURES					
Governance	314,654	—	—	314,654	367,916
Administration	883,941	3,730	—	887,671	1,228,557
Instruction	36,023,955	—	—	36,023,955	34,564,991
Plant	5,678,035	114,827	—	5,792,862	5,178,826
Transportation	4,857,244	866,551	—	5,723,795	5,389,562
Tuition & Related Fees	53,738	—	—	53,738	49,996
School Generated Funds	1,770,595	—	—	—	—
Complementary Services	—	—	—	—	—
External Services	629	—	—	629	651
Interest & Bank Charges	5,863	55,878	—	61,741	184,226
Total Expenditures	49,588,653	1,040,986	—	50,629,639	46,964,725
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure	2,984,969	(1,008,711)	—	1,976,258	1,988,916
Interfund Transfers to (from) for Capital Expenditures	(952,833)	952,833	—	—	—
for Debt Repayment	(544,044)	554,044	—	—	—
for Reserves	3,573	—	(3,573)	—	—
Excess (Deficiency) after Interfund Transfers	1,481,666	498,165	(3,573)	1,976,258	1,988,916
Long Term Capital Debt Issued	—	—	—	—	—
Long Term Capital Debt Repaid	—	(498,165)	—	(498,165)	(665,365)
Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	1,481,666	—	(3,573)	1,478,093	1,323,551
Opening Fund Balances as Previously Reported	10,616,431	401,835	4,948,985	15,967,252	14,643,698
Closing Fund Balances	12,634,184	401,835	4,945,412	17,981,431	15,967,249

From 2008-09 Sun West School Division Audited Financial Statement

How Sun West Spends Education Dollars



Instruction (\$36,023,955): Textbooks, libraries, educational technology, extracurricular funding, salaries and benefits for teachers, educational assistants, superintendents and the Director of Education.

Plant (\$5,050,348): Heating, lighting, maintenance, repairs and improvements to division property, salaries and benefits for caretakers and maintenance personnel.

Transportation (\$4,828,584): Vehicle maintenance, fuel and new vehicle purchases, salaries and benefits for drivers and mechanics.

School Generated Funds (\$1,770,595): Expenses of school SRC/SLCs and other school-based activities.

Administration (\$883,941): Division Office expenses including building and staff costs.

Other (1%): Governance (\$314,654), Tuition and Related Fees (\$53,738), Interest and Bank Charges (\$5,863) and External Services (\$629).

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Members of the Sun West Board of Education elected or acclaimed in elections held in October 2009. Front (l-r): Chandra Archdekin (Subdivision 3), Barb Cowell (Vice-chair and Subdivision 8 - Town of Rosetown), Lorne Ulven (Chair and Subdivision 6), Bill Mescall (Subdivision 2). Back (l-r): Margaret Irwin (Subdivision 1), Kim Gerein (Town of Kindersley), Ruth Griffith (Town of Kindersley), Scott Sander (Subdivision 5), Connie Bailey (Subdivision 4) and Cathy Morrow (Subdivision 7 - Town of Outlook).

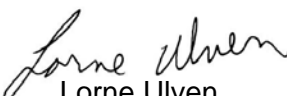


MESSAGE FROM LORNE ULVEN, THE CHAIR OF THE SUN WEST SCHOOL DIVISION BOARD OF EDUCATION

On behalf of the Sun West Board of Education, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding service provided to the students of Sun West by our employees. The young people of our Division are very well-served by our teachers, school-based administrators, educational assistants, school librarians, school secretaries, bus drivers, caretakers, mechanics, maintenance personnel, student services and Division Office staff. Every employee makes a valuable contribution. Thank you!

The Board would also like to recognize the work of the dedicated volunteers who serve on School Community Councils (SCCs). Although still very new, the contributions of SCCs to student learning are becoming increasingly important. Thank you!

These contributions will become even more important in the future as the 2008-09 school year was the last year that Boards of Education were responsible for setting their own mill rates. In March 2009, the provincial government announced the establishment of a provincial mill rate and that the funding of grades K-12 education was becoming the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, rather than of locally-elected Boards of Education. In coming years, Boards of Education, Division employees and SCCs must work together, as never before, to ensure the provincial government recognizes the value of grades K-12 education and funds it accordingly.


Lorne Ulven
Chair of the Board of Education