



PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA™

THE ADVOCATE



Welcome to the November 30, 2023 issue of *The Advocate*!

In this edition, you'll find Golden Hills School Division Board Chair message, current information on the PSBAA upcoming events and guest speakers, Special Recognition Award submission, programs, courses and bursaries, grant opportunities and our regular features. Enjoy!



The next edition of *The Advocate* will be published on December 15, 2023.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board Chair Message	2
Upcoming Events	3
Programs, Courses & Bursaries	4
Grants	5
Well Said!	6



INDIGENOUS CANADA ONLINE COURSE

Indigenous Canada is a 12-lesson Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta that explores the different histories and contemporary perspectives of

Indigenous Peoples living in Canada. From an Indigenous perspective, this course explores complex experiences Indigenous Peoples face today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations.

Topics for the 12 lessons include the fur trade and other exchange relationships, land claims and environmental impacts, legal systems and rights, political conflicts and alliances, Indigenous political activism, and contemporary Indigenous life, art and its expressions.

[Click here for more information!](#)

BOARD CHAIR MESSAGES



As a new school year starts off [Golden Hills School Division](#) Board of Trustees take immense pride in the remarkable efforts our teachers make within the division, dedicated to enhancing student learning. Golden Hills School Division (GHSD) offers unique Teacher Collaborative Days which are integrated into our school calendar. Four days every school year are designated for all GHSD teachers to meet in their grade or subject level teams to work on improving student learning.

These days are designed for teachers to work collaboratively together, share ideas, and build resources focused on three key drivers of our Powerful Learning Framework which are Strategic Instruction, Authentic Engagement and Connecting and Contributing. Collaborative Days create a sense of belonging and are a support structure for our teachers.

During Collaborative Days GHSD teachers work together and create year long plans with the focus of improving achievement and deep understanding. When thinking about deep understanding our teachers reflect on these five points from Michael Fullan's work that GHSD has adapted:

1. Learning that involves surface, deep and the transfer of ideas.
2. Learning that sticks
3. Learning that is built on innovation relative to key problems and issues
4. Learning that engages the world to change the world
5. Learning that creates citizens of tomorrow today

A few examples of this year's focused work are infusing critical thinking in the classroom, implementing visible thinking strategies, land-based learning, and powerful assessment. Golden Hills School Division looks forward to seeing the growth and improvement of our students this year because of the success of Teacher Collaborative Days.

Laurie Huntley
Board Chair



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2024 PSBC

- February 8-9, 2024

After a very successful November PSBC meeting filled with great discussions, we are looking forward to giving you a glimpse into what's to come for our February PSBC. We are pleased to welcome political journalist Graham Thomson as our dinner speaker who has over three decades of experience covering Alberta politics. Graham will provide insight into the current political climate Albertans are facing today. During the day we will get to hear from many passionate individuals who have education at the forefront, starting with Holli Smith and Cam McKeage from Prairie Land Public School Division. Clarice Anderson and Sheila Williams from the Edmonton Public school board will present on the topic 'Strengthening Relationships with Indigenous Communities' and Koji Nagahama, Jesse Sadlowski, and Allison Purcell from the Lethbridge School Division will focus on 'Integrating competitive esports into schools.'

PSBAA Consultants Pam Boytinck and Joni Avram will bring their expertise and knowledge to the table. It is going to be a very insightful professional development meeting and we look forward to having all our speakers join us in February.

[CLICK HERE for more information or to register!](#)

April 2024 PSBC

- April 11-12, 2024

[CLICK HERE for more information or to Register!](#)

2024 Spring General Assembly

- May 30 - June 1, 2024

[CLICK HERE for more information or to Register!](#)

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PRESENTATIONS

Check out the member portion of the PSBAA website to view guest speaker presentations from previous events!

[CLICK HERE to login!](#)



PSBAA SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Do you know someone who has made a special contribution to Public Education this year? Advanced business initiatives in your school division? Promoted or advanced Truth and Reconciliation? Or maybe has just been an all around great mentor or leader?

Then nominate your fellow colleague through the PSBAA website under [member resources](#) in the award nomination forms section.

The Deadline for nominations is Friday, March 31, 2024.

RETIREMENT NOTICE

Do you know anyone who will be retiring from your School Division? PSBAA would be happy to make an announcement and send our well wishes to the retirees. Please email information to:

communications@public-schools.ab.ca

PROGRAMS, COURSES AND BURSARIES

Artists and Education Funding

- **Application Deadline: May 1, 2024**

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts exists to encourage and support the arts as a significant contributor to quality of life in Alberta.

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts is a public agency and a provincial corporation of the Government of Alberta with a mandate to support and contribute to the development of the arts in Alberta. We provide grant funding to artists and art organizations to encourage the growth and development of the arts sector. We also promote the arts and manage an extensive provincial art collection featuring work from artists all over the province

This funding supports Alberta schools by subsidizing fees of professional Alberta artists of any artistic discipline that provide interactive arts residency projects for grades K-12.

To be eligible for this funding, applicants must be:

- an Alberta school or school jurisdiction recognized by Alberta Education
- operating on a full-time basis

- for students in kindergarten through Grade 12
- Two or more eligible schools may apply to collaborate on a project when school populations, locations or conditions warrant.

Eligible residency projects must meet the following criteria:

- engage either an Alberta-based individual artist, or a group of artists working together in any artistic discipline who has school residency experience to deliver a program
- provide students access to Alberta's professional artists and their work
- provide an opportunity for students to observe and actively participate in the creative process
- encourage students to discover and express their creative potential
- take place on school property during school hours
- be five hours to thirty days in duration
- be completed within three months of its commencement date

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)



The Impact of Social Media on Student Well-Being

Looking to understand how and why your students are using social media more than ever before? Want a better understanding of the impact on well-being that can be seen in the classroom? Then we have a course that might interest you.

Sonderly is offering a one and a half hour course from Dr. Alexandra Makos who provides a detailed history of social media, explains how the design of social media effects student well-being and gives concrete solutions to not

only manage the use of social media in the classroom but also to use it in ways that will improve the well-being of students.

The course will help you better understand the role of social media in the lives of students and provide strategies to improve the impact of social media on well-being.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)

GRANTS



Program bolsters Canadian school music programs

MusiCounts, a charity associated with The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and The JUNO Awards, aims to make music education inclusive, sustainable, and accessible for youth across Canada.

Through the Band Aid Program, MusiCounts provides under-resourced schools with grants of up to \$15,000 worth of musical instruments, equipment, and resources.

Funds may be used to support any approach to music education and purchase any kind of musical instruments.

Schools can apply for support for an existing music program, or schools with no music program may apply to start a new music program.

The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. EST, December 5, 2023.

Visit the MusiCounts website at [MusiCounts: Band Aid Program](#) to download the program guidelines and access the online application as well as other helpful resources.



Fueling Futures

Enbridge's Fueling Futures grant is a community investment program that is guided by a core set of criteria. Enbridge considers donation and sponsorship opportunities in communities where Enbridge operates that meet the following criteria:

- Located primarily within a 20-kilometer (10-mile) radius of their pipeline right-of-way or near their operations.
- The request is of prime importance to the community.
- Beneficial to the greatest possible number of people.
- Significant to the long-term interests of the community.
- Supportive of one of their three core areas that they view as integral for a sustainable community: Safe Communities, Vibrant Communities, Sustainable Communities.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)



Strengthening the Relationship Between Students and Nature

Since 1992, Tree Canada has greened more than 720 schoolyards across the country. With the support of our sponsors, we've turned barren schoolyards into living outdoor classrooms, created arboreturns for hands-on learning and helped reconnect students with the natural world.

Each year, Tree Canada helps schools, community groups, Indigenous communities and municipalities across Canada looking to plant trees or develop green infrastructure through creative projects.

This includes supporting planting projects as well as developing and implementing urban forest best management practices and innovative urban design solutions.

Our grants provide support for community greening, innovation and stewardship initiatives. Grant recipients receive funding and technical support to help start, upgrade, or achieve their greening goals.

Eligible projects receive \$3,500 in funding to cover the cost of purchasing and planting trees and shrubs, site preparation, tree maintenance, planting materials and developing education materials.

[CLICK HERE for more details!](#)

"WELL SAID!"

**"NOT EVERYONE HAS EQUAL ABILITIES,
BUT EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATION."**

~ JOHN F. KENNEDY



CONTACT US

Story idea? Feedback?

We welcome your story ideas and suggestions!
Please email communications@public-schools.ab.ca.

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