

**CANORA COMPOSITE SCHOOL**

# NEWSLETTER

**Semester 1 /Semester 2**

**One down, one to go.**

**Way to go students, you're all doing an excellent job!**

**Keep it up!**

**Our school year is flying by fast.**



**February 2**  
**Groundhog Day**  
**Spring or Snow?**

**February is Indigenous Storytelling Month**



**We proudly celebrate February as Indigenous Storytelling Month. Time to honour traditions and share words of preserving the sacred heritage and cultural knowledge from generation to generation to keep the spirit of our ancestors alive in our communities.**

**This is a better way to connect with the Indigenous people by taking part in the storytelling by listening, and let the stories fill your heart.**



Picture on left:

Yullinda  
Ponicappo ICW  
& Sherry  
Whitehawk

Picture on right:

Sherry  
Whitehawk



## **Our Indigenous Storytelling Day Miss Sherry Whitehawk**

**is our storyteller on February 27, 2025.**

**Based out of Yorkton, she is previously from the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Manitoba, now registered with Cote First Nation. Her videos blend food and traditional knowledge all in her effort to spread some grandmotherly love and wisdom accross the globe using today's technologies. She has spent her career working as a mental health and addictions worker helping many people through trauma and addictions. She shares wisdom, culture and love throughout her stories that connect people with kindness and love. Thank you "Grandma Sherry" for sharing your wonderful soup pot story.**

# Indigenous National Anthem

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At Canora Composite School, we are committed to fostering an inclusive learning environment that embraces Indigenous culture and traditions. This year, we have taken meaningful steps toward incorporating Indigenous customs into our school community. Ms. Poncappo has led initiatives such as beading workshops and our school drum group, providing students with hands-on cultural experiences. These are just two of the many ways we are working towards reconciliation and a greater understanding of Indigenous culture at CCS.

As part of this ongoing journey, our staff and parent led School Community Council (SCC) believe the next step is to incorporate a song into our school day that honors the sacrifices of Indigenous people. We will be one of many schools in our division that are currently playing the Indigenous Nation Anthem. Moving forward, we will play the Anthem, Little Otter – Flag Song, once a week. The Indigenous National Anthem is an honor song, sung from nation to nation at the beginning of gatherings. This song, composed by Indigenous soldiers and warriors, serves as a tribute to those who fought in wars—both those who returned home and those who did not. Unlike traditional anthems, it has no written lyrics or sheet music; rather, it has been passed down through generations. Playing the song is one way we can show respect and acknowledge Indigenous people, their accomplishments, their nations, and their warriors.

We appreciate your support as we continue to take steps toward reconciliation and greater cultural awareness within our school community. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please feel free to reach out and set up a meeting.

Sincerely,

Derek Serdachny  
Principal, Canora Composite School

# Feb. 26 2025



Red Cross Pink Day is an initiative that provides students, staff and the community with the opportunity to discuss the impact of bullying behaviour and how we can all use our power to help create a safe and respectful school environment.



## NASP

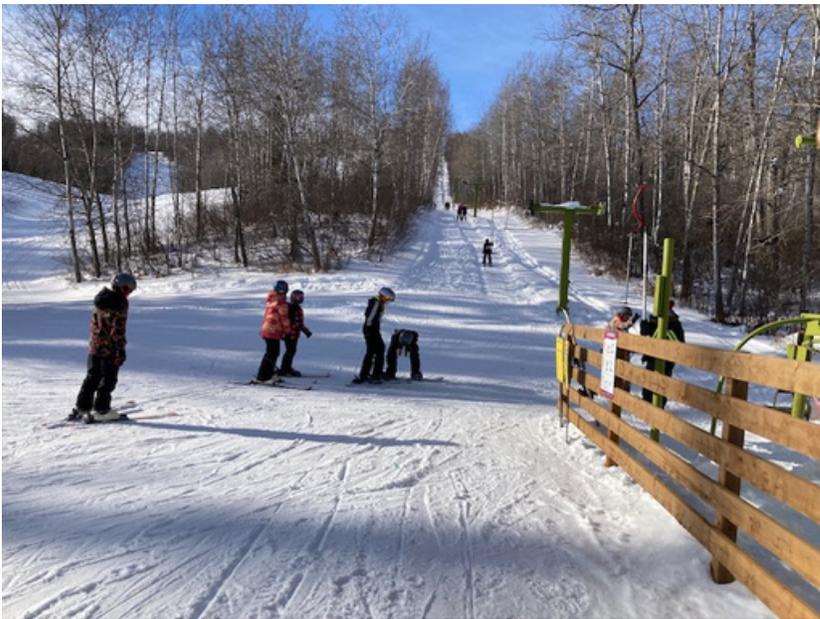
Coach: Mr. Lowes

Picture above from left to right, back row: Jackson Palagian, Chase Curtis, Ferlyn Brass, Teagan Jones, Jacob Lowes

Front row, left to right: Merrick Derkatch and Natalie Kosar

Received over \$4000 from River Ridge Fish & Game representatives Doug Lapitsky and Brad Thompson for Charter Bus Transportation to Provincial competition in Shaunavon, Sask in April. Good Luck Team!





**January 29, 2025  
 Grades 5 and Grade 6  
 students of CCS  
 enjoyed the outdoors at  
 the Duck Mountain  
 Provincial Park Ski Hill  
 skiing, tubing and snow  
 boarding.  
 Next ski day for Grade 5 &  
 6, Thursday, March 6**





Hockey Shoot off  
Winner!  
**Congratulations!**

**Halen  
Scharfenburg**



Hockey  
jersey of  
your  
choice.

Feb. **Happy Valentine's Day** 14

**BE MINE**

**XOXO**



## Health Science 20, Hands on !



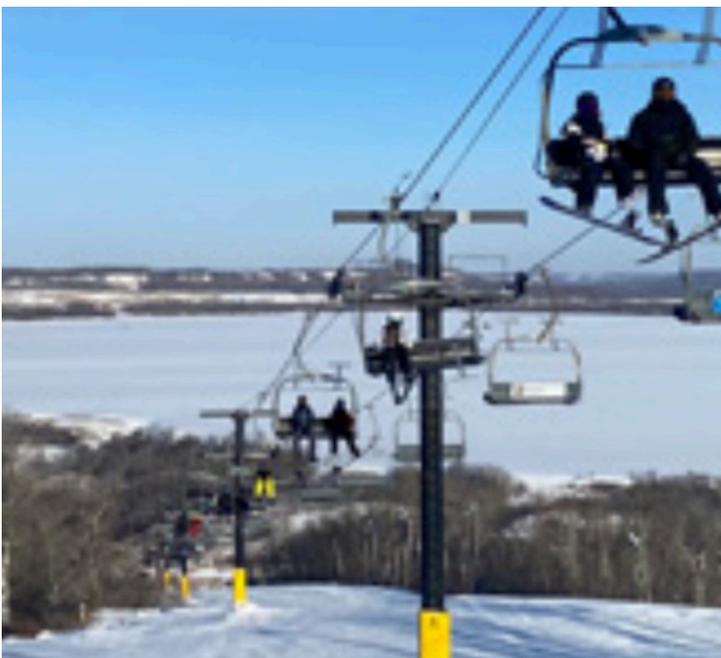
# Reminder for the Grade 7-12 Ski Day

## Asessippi Ski Trip

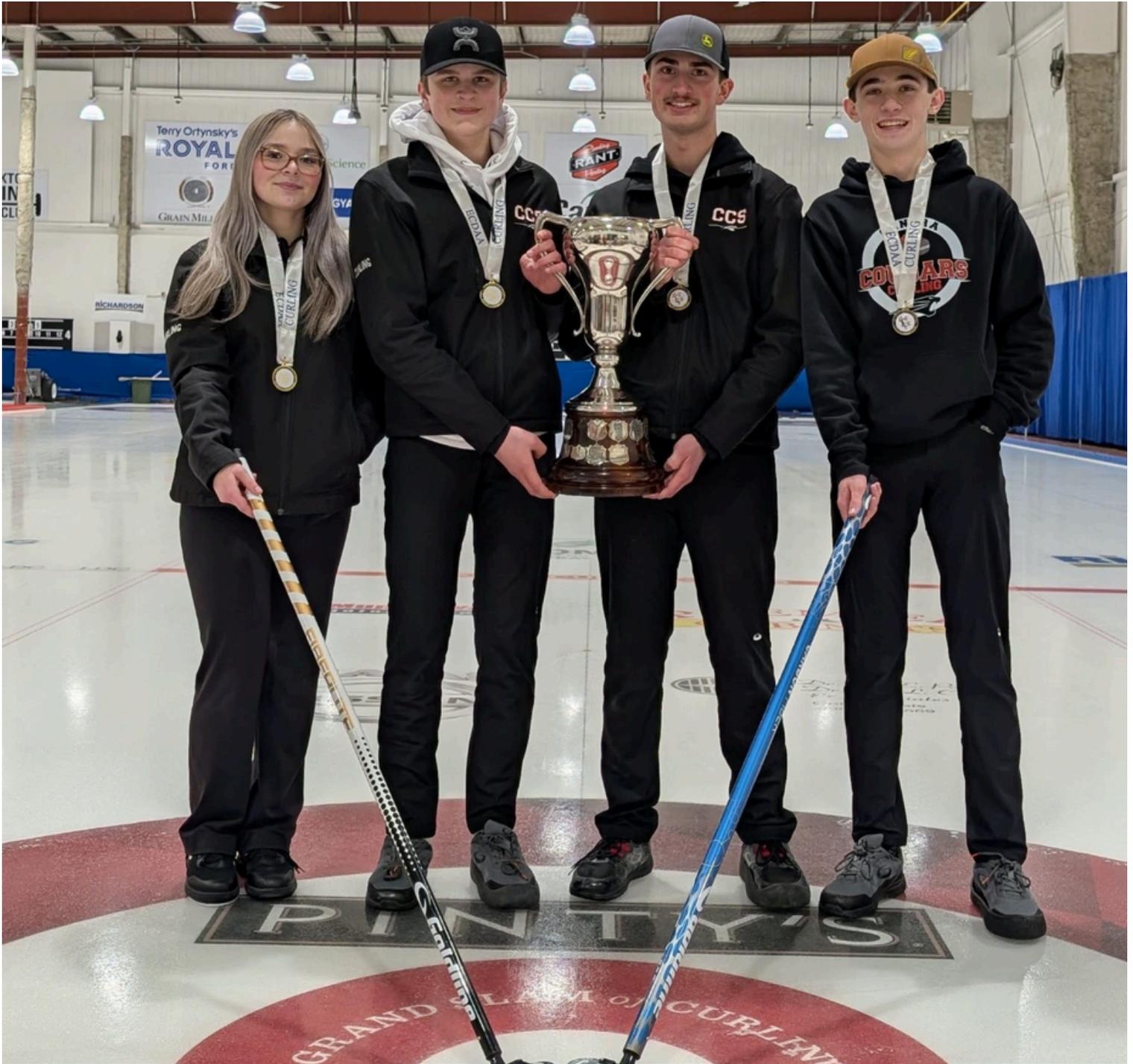
March 26, 2025

Hoping for great weather on the slopes for skiing,  
tubing or snowboarding.

Please return consent forms by: March 7th. 2025



# Congratulations, Good Luck at Regionals!



## Curling

East Central District Champs

From left to right, Lead: Merrick Derkatch, Second: Joshua Prychak, Third: Owen Ostafie, Skip: Jordan Zbitniff

# Staff Appreciation Week

Monday February 10 - Friday February 14

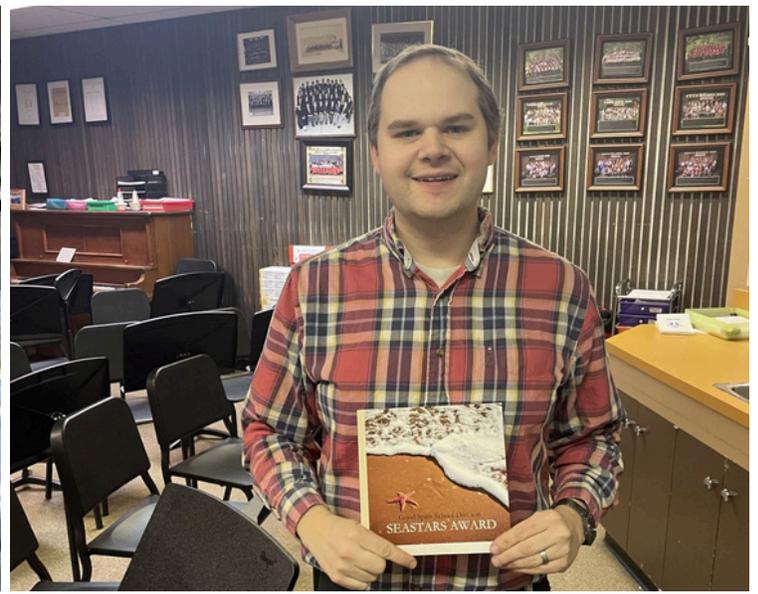


**CCS Welcomes new teachers  
Mrs. J. Wilgosh, and Mr. E. Pawliw**

## CCS Senior Girls Basketball

Coaches: Mrs. L Ostafie, Cpl. B. Espubozza, Mrs. L Mentanko





**Recognizing Dedication and Excellence**

**Picture #1 – From left to right:**

**Mr. Peter Sikora (10 years of service, Bus Driver) and Mr. Wayne McInnes (20 years of service, Bus Driver).**

**Picture #2 – Mr. Nathan Seghers (10 years of service, Band Teacher).**

**Mr. Seghers was honored with the Sea Star Award for his outstanding commitment to music education for students in Grades 5 through 12. His dedication extends beyond the classroom as he serves students across multiple communities, including Preeceville, Sturgis, Norquay, Kamsack, and Canora, while commuting from his home in Sturgis. His passion for music is evident in his teaching, and his enthusiasm is contagious—when his band plays, you can't help but tap along to the beat! Having earned numerous awards and accolades throughout his career, Mr. Seghers is truly deserving of this prestigious recognition.**

**Picture #3 – From left to right:**

**Mrs. Cindy Sznerch (15 years of service, Teacher), Mrs. Koren Baillie (10 years of service, Teacher), Mr. Dean Turchinetz (20 years of service, Teacher), and Mr. Kody Rock (Teacher, Vice Principal, and recipient of the Sea Star Award).**

**Mr. Rock received the Sea Star Award in recognition of his enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment to his roles as a teacher, vice principal, coach, athlete, and active community member. His impact extends beyond the classroom, making Canora both his home and a place where he continues to inspire others. A man of many talents, Mr. Rock has achieved significant success in sports, including pitching for Team Saskatchewan and earning a silver medal at the Canadian Nationals, where he was also named MVP. Additionally, he plays hockey for the Canora Cobras. His passion, leadership, and dedication to students make him a truly deserving recipient of this award.**

**Congratulations to all our honorees!**

# FEATURED STAFF

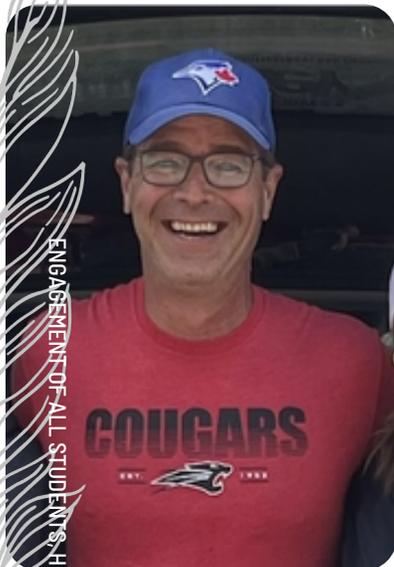
February 2025



## MR. CRAIG FOLK

### Acknowledgement of GSSD Service Commitments

CARING & FRIGIEH NÓDULAYL I-T YE XTCEEAECDHIINNG AENXDP LEECATRANTINOONS - EXPRESSING EMPATHY - SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT - THE POWER



Mr. Craig Folk, the School Counsellor at Canora Composite and Norquay Schools, is an exceptional professional dedicated to providing trauma support to students and families whenever needed. His commitment goes beyond the call of duty, as he often meets with families and students outside of work hours. Craig has worked tirelessly to build and maintain strong relationships with all the students and families he supports.

Mr. Folk frequently volunteers to support students and staff on field trips, understanding the value of land-based activities and their positive effects on students. For instance, he recently shared his ice fishing expertise and fishing shack at Crystal Lake to take a group of students fishing, fostering relationships and connections.

A master at leading school teams through traumatic events, Craig collaborates with our First Nation partners to develop consistent trauma support in times of need. He has been instrumental in providing guidance and support to students and staff, helping them learn regulation strategies. In Norquay, Craig works with students to utilize the sensory space as a tool for self-managing their emotions and behaviors.

*Mr. Folk's dedication is unwavering; he always has time to listen and support both staff and students. His sense of humor and positive attitude help reduce anxiety and create a positive environment that prioritizes empathy and compassion for all!*

## Congratulations Mr. Folk

### You truly deserve the recognition!



# Junior Boys Basketball

Coach: Matthew Makowsky



## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES AT CCS

**March 19, 2025: Student Led Conferences**

**April 18, 2025: No School, Good Friday**

**April 21-25, 2025: No School, April Break**

**May 19, 2025: No School, Victoria Day**

**May 20, 2025: No School, Professional Development Day for Staff**

**June 26, 2025: Graduation**

**June 27, 2025: No School, School Admin Day**