

# The DLC BUZZ



**Want to recover or pick up extra high school credits this summer?**

## **DLC SUMMER SCHOOL**

Running six weeks from July 4 to August 15th, DLC Summer School provides an opportunity to lighten your load in the fall or get back on track if you feel you are falling behind.

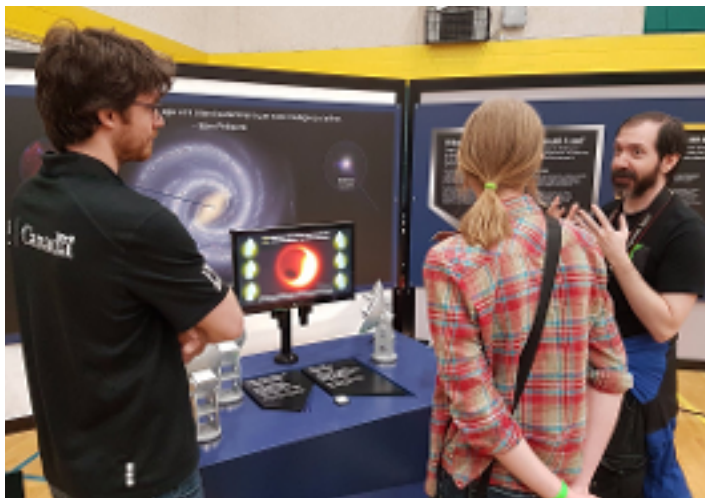
We offer a limited number of our regular classes but the course itself remains the same. Summer School courses may or may not be taught by the same instructor that delivers the course during the regular school year, but whoever is teaching it, is available each school day via email, phone and video conference to support you.

Like all other DLC courses, Summer School courses cost \$500 (unless registered as a full time student with Sun West School Division).

Refer to our website for a complete list of our summer school classes and their summer school instructor.

**REGISTER BY JUNE 26**

**[www.sunwestDLC.ca](http://www.sunwestDLC.ca)**



## WHO SAYS ONLINE LEARNING IS A SOLITARY EXPERIENCE?

DLC Learners Joined in a host of Field Trips, Conferences and an Expert Fair in 2017

Over the course of the year, DLC students of all ages met and interacted with their peers on a variety of educational field trips. A group of elementary learners attended a performance of *Baobab* at Persephone Theatre and another group participated in an all day arts workshop facilitated by the Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange.

High school learners toured the Saskatoon campus of Saskatchewan Polytechnic to learn more about that post-secondary experience and to check out their mechanics and welding training spaces.

In May, another team of high school science students headed to Regina for the World Science Fair. Over the course of that two day event, they visited booths and participated in activities that explored - among other things - the effects of sleep deprivation, the value of certain agricultural products, and the impact of certain kinds of study tips.

And most recently, DLC students created their own presentations which they showcased in Kenaston School's Expert Fair. Mom Jamie, who brought her three children to this event, said, "My kids were so excited to share their enthusiasm

about their topics in a group setting, and then be a listener in the audience as they were introduced to a number of really cool, and diverse topics. We came away with some new friends, and some newly introduced concepts!"

"And that is what we hope to do for all of our learners," says DLC VP Kurtis Heath. "We want to create opportunities for them to connect with their peers and explore concepts in a very hands-on way. Our learners love these experiences and so do our teachers."



## Farewell and good luck to two great leaders!

At the end of June, we say thank you and good luck to two members of the leadership team that have captained this ship in the past few years.

Jade Ballek will be taking her insight, experience and exceptional organizational skills to Dinsmore School where she will assume the principalship in September. Thanks, Jade, for bringing focus and energy to the team during a time of great transition.

Kim Johnson, who spent the last two years as DLC VP, is retiring. Kim spent three decades as a classroom teacher in Hawarden and Kenaston School, bringing warmth and kindness to the lives and learning of hundreds of students over that time. Kim's contributions were recently recognized by the students and staff at Kenaston School where they shared story after story of Kim's musical, organizational and community minded efforts. She has been an integral part of Sun West and will not be forgotten.

We wish them Kim and Jade a wonderful summer and every happiness in this new chapter of their lives.



Joining our current VPs - Aaron Biberdorf and Kurtis Heath - will be Craig Vanthuyne as the new principal. Craig comes from Eaton School in Eatonville where he has been the Principal for the past several years.

We welcome Craig, and look forward to sharing more about him and his vision for our school... right after he's able to get his head above water. These first few weeks he has been very busy getting his footing in this new space. Watch for more in the fall.

## Haven't been to see us yet? Come by for a tour!

Since moving into our new building in January 2016, we've had many students and their families drop by to check the place out. And after each visit, the comments we hear sound a little like this...

*"Wow! We had no idea that so much activity was happening here. It's so great to meet our teachers and learn more about what they do."*

Each day, 63 teachers and a host of support staff come together to plan and develop new courses, to explore new and innovative ways to teach existing courses and to share best practices that will make learning an amazing experience for all of our learners.

And you can see it action if you want.

Just let us know when you'd like to stop in. We like to tidy up our desks and straighten the chairs before you come... With a bit of notice, we can accomplish all of that.

Email [tanya.ringdal@sunwestsd.ca](mailto:tanya.ringdal@sunwestsd.ca) or give your instructor a heads up. Our doors are always open!

Join our growing community of learners on social media.



Using Facebook and Twitter,

- ▶ we share our ups and downs,
- ▶ we provide timely updates,
- ▶ we make jokes,
- ▶ we retweet and like the wisdom of others, and
- ▶ we showcase excellence.

**Become a part of the DLC conversation.**

## Explore AP at the DLC

What's AP? It's an international academic enrichment program that:

- offers high school students a chance to explore passion areas in greater depth than they would in a traditional high school course,
- creates the potential to earn high school and post secondary credits simultaneously and
- refines those critical skill sets that will propel learners to greater success in the post-secondary world.

At the DLC, we offer 6 AP classes:

**AP Calculus**

**AP Biology**

**AP Chemistry**

**AP Physics 1**

**AP English Lit & Composition**

**AP Psychology**

Visit our website for details.

[www.sunwestDLC.ca](http://www.sunwestDLC.ca)



## The Principal's Take

JADE BALLEK - MOTHER, WIFE, PRINCIPAL, EDUCATOR, & COACH

As I reflect on our first year in the new school in the Kenaston community, I am grateful for the commitment of our students, families, and staff. Together, we continue to showcase the ways in which online learning is opening doors to student learning in Saskatchewan. I would like to thank the families who met with us during our provincial tour and provided valuable feedback to help us make positive changes in the future. Education is a truly a joint effort between families and school.

Doing what is best for students is at the heart of what we believe at the DLC. With the addition of student support teachers, career counselling services, and tech support, we are better able to help families with their online learning needs. This year, we launched a Personalized Learning Pathway pilot project that offered families more opportunities for input into their child's learning and we are planning to expand this program in the fall. We continue to offer new high school elective and dual credit course options. There is an amazing team working to ensure that your online experience is positive! We are committed to continual improvement.

Personally, my time at the DLC is coming to a close. The past two years as principal, in addition to my time here as a consultant and learning coach, have been rewarding in so many ways. I am proud of the work that our team has done to help our students to grow and learn. Our teachers and support staff are experienced, professional, and caring and I have learned a great deal from them! It is very difficult to leave such a wonderful school community and I would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement.

However, I am also excited for the opportunities that lie ahead for students under the care of the DLC's new principal, Craig Vanthuyne. Craig currently serves as principal in Eatonia School where he has been involved in supporting online learning for a number of years. Craig's extensive experience in leadership will provide a fresh, new perspective as he helps the DLC continue to flourish and grow!

*Jade Ballek*