

The DLC Scoop

FIRST EVER DLC GRADUATION CEREMONY

A GIFT TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ALIKE



The sentiment in the room was overwhelming and contagious; families, friends and staff from the DLC watched with admiration as six hard-working, accomplished graduates crossed the stage at the first ever DLC Graduation ceremony.

"The entire auditorium was filled with excitement and I honestly

cannot say who was more excited... the graduates, their families or us, their teachers," said Haddie Korolis, a teacher who had worked with all of our guests of honour. "We get to know our students via email and phone calls, and through their work, but along with the flexibility of being online, comes fewer opportunities - than in a bricks and mortar school - to see these

amazing individuals face-to-face. It was a real pleasure to celebrate with them in person for this event and to collectively share in the joy of a job well done."

The 1 o'clock ceremony, held on Friday, June 9 at Kenaston School, was a fully decorated, formal affair with the girls' colorful dresses the icing on the proverbial cake.

(DLC Graduation, con't)

Our lone male grad looked stoic and handsome next to the five ladies.

A past DLC grad, and today an accomplished musician who has played in Carnegie Hall, Cole Knutson provided the pre-recorded congratulatory address. As a learner who struggled to find his way in a traditional school setting, he found that online learning allowed him to thrive and was glad that he made the courageous – and atypical – choice to go that route. "I am so privileged to have come across the DLC. <Because of my online learning experience> when I started university, I was independent, focused and able to plan out my schedule. I felt like I had an advantage. In time, you will start to realize how much this way of learning has affected you in a very positive way. Hopefully you embrace all that you have learned along the way and will maintain the relationships with your teachers; they are relationships and skills that will affect you for the rest of your life in the best ways possible."

After the awarding of diplomas, grads and their guests headed off

to a social event with staff at the DLC next door.

Terri, a mother of one of the grads, was thrilled with the day's activities and despite the five hour drive, said she would do it again in a heartbeat. "Grad was absolutely beyond our expectations, we couldn't have asked for anything more. The ceremony provided <our daughter> an opportunity to celebrate the closure or completion of this really big chapter of her life... it was perfect."

Such overwhelmingly positive feedback from staff and students alike has the DLC Grad Planning Committee jotting down ideas to make next year's event even better.

"We may work with them from afar, but we are dedicated to our students. They are unique and hardworking individuals and they deserve round after round of applause. We are excited to create this event for them," said Haddie.

For all of you who would like to participate in our Graduation Ceremony next year, make sure to watch for announcements in the fall.

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

CONSIDER 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!

ENTER TO WIN A BOSE BLUETOOTH SPEAKER!

Three easy steps to enter:

- 1) record a brief video and tell us the coolest thing you've experienced as a home-based learner
- 2) post it on one of four social media platforms
- 3) message us "@sunwestDLC I want to win the BOSE! #DLCrocks"

Deadline: June 16th

Complete contest rules here
<http://ow.ly/cxIV30csWcx>



DLC Virtual Open House

Wednesday, June 21 @ 7:30pm

Learn how we can support your learner as they venture through the elementary years. We'll discuss the role of our teachers and the array of resources that we can help you access.

Go to www.sunwestDLC.ca to find the link!



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

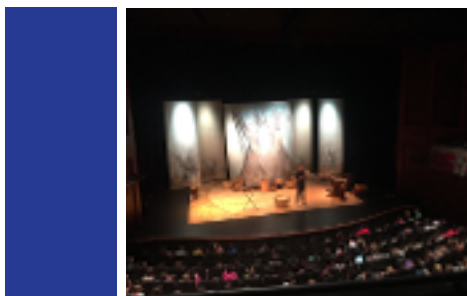
welding training spaces.

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."





**Grab a coffee
and join us on
*The Home School
Meet.***

Our new Facebook group is a public online place to connect with other families who learn at home.

- ▶ We respect all choices.
- ▶ We share our ups and downs.
- ▶ We support each other.
- ▶ We share in the wisdom and experience of others.
- ▶ We showcase excellence.

Care to join us?



New Course Launched: Animation 20L

Sun West DLC has partnered with Vancouver Animation School (VANAS) to offer this cool new course - available for the first time ever to Saskatchewan high school students.

Experienced Disney and Pixar animators teach you how to bring the illusion of life to animated characters and by the end of the course, you will have a portfolio of your own animated works.

For complete details on this new high school elective, visit this page of our DLC website.

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 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