

# The DLC SCOOP



## Home-Based Learners Thrilled to Join Kenaston School Students for Arts Ed Workshop

Kenaston School was alive with the sights and sounds of creativity in action on Monday, October 3rd. Twenty-four children from home-based learning environments joined Kenaston elementary students for the Sun West Distance Learning Centre's first ever Arts Education Workshop. As they moved from classroom to classroom, the students were immersed in a variety of independent and collaborative scenarios where they were encouraged to channel their creativity into story, song and dance. Professional artists from the Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange were on hand to lead these sessions, inspiring the youth with their experiences and energy.

"The DLC provides a complete spectrum of K-12 online courses and educational supports that families can access from a home-based learning environment. We know that these learners are also looking for opportunities to connect with their peers in a face-to-face setting. The Arts Ed Workshop was a wonderful way to do just that," said Kim Johnson, Vice Principal of the DLC. "The expressions on the kids' faces spoke volumes. They were thrilled to be able to interact with other kids – new kids – in both a fun and educational environment. From our perspective, it was outcome-based, experiential learning at its finest."

According to one mother who brought four of her home-schooled children to the workshop, the DLC accomplished great things that day. "Our children enjoyed

learning new skills but also in taking part of a shared experience with other kids their own ages."

And from the artists' perspective, the workshop format creates unique opportunities for heightened self-awareness, but also for broadening perspectives about the world around them. "I see the power of the arts at work in this setting; individual self-esteem blossoms, there is visible delight in the discovery of new talents and interests and at the same time, the arts help young people to make connections and to see the world in new ways," says professional storyteller, Danica Lorer. "We love sharing our passion with young people who may not have other opportunities to experience the arts."

A HUGE  
thank you to



With a broad spectrum of K-12 Ministry-approved, online courses, the DLC offers families who have chosen to educate from home a set of quality, educational resources and supports that has not always been accessible in the past. The academic portion of a DLC course, which includes all subject-related content, assessments, videos and instruction, is housed online and accessible to learners any time of day, 365 days a year. And in addition to the digital resources, DLC educators are continuously looking to supplement the online experience with opportunities like the Arts Ed Workshop that enable physical interaction amongst peers.



*Storyteller and face painter, Danica Lorer, has been creating art and inspiring creativity for 18 years.*

"We are thrilled to work with organizations like the Cultural Exchange that believe, like we do, that learning happens in a variety of ways. While digital technologies facilitate access in one way, these hands-on events augment that learning with another kind of experience. And creating personalized learning for each learner is what the DLC is all about," says Johnson.



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

## Teacher Feature

# Haddie Korolis



I am Ms. Colleen Underwood, soon to be Haddie Korolis (I got married Christmas Eve, 2015 and prefer my alternate name - just waiting on the paperwork) and I am one of the 55 teachers at the DLC. I live in Saskatoon with my spouse, two daughters, a son, two dogs, a cat and a snake.

I graduated from the College of Education at the U of S, then took my skills abroad to the United Kingdom teaching in Dartford, Kent - the hometown of Mick Jagger. After that, I joined the Distance Learning Centre in September of 2014, beginning my teaching career here in Canada.

I think that change is one of the many things in the world we can rely on, and because of that I believe that being prepared for what the world has to offer us is important. I want to help the young people of today to be true to themselves, to be equipped to enjoy the day-to-day of life and to be ready for the challenges that come.

I think that education is the key that opens doors. Those doors can lead to careers, relationships, or even happiness. A self-analyzed life is the healthiest - do what you love, love what you do and know why you want to do it.

## Want to Participate in a DLC Grade 12 Graduation?

For the first time in 2017, we have plans to host a DLC Graduation Event. We have started to explore what that might look like and would like to invite you to join in the conversation.

### Interested in learning more?

Email Renee Harrison at [renee.harrison@sunwestsd.ca](mailto:renee.harrison@sunwestsd.ca) if you want to participate in this exciting occasion.

## Student Leadership on a National Platform

According to DLC teacher Kristin Sampson, the DLC couldn't have been better represented at the Canadian Student Leadership Conference (CSLC) in Edmonston, New Brunswick last month.

Sampson accompanied three DLC students to the week long conference where they interacted with over 1,000 delegates from across the country. In addition to participating in a wide variety of leadership-focused workshops, they also presented a group research project on the hidden sugars in sports drinks and power bars to a subset of the conference crowd. "Very few attendees had the opportunity to present at the conference," said Sampson, "but we created an opportunity for them and they capitalized on it. As a DLC teacher, I was very proud."

"My favourite part about CSLC was meeting strong student leaders from all over Canada who were just as excited as I was to be there!" said one of the lucky conference-goers. "I really expanded my knowledge on what leadership can be and how I can improve as a leader."

The opportunity to attend the CSLC was made available through the DLC *Leadership 20* course. Over the course of their studies, these Grade 10 and 11 students study effective communications skills and conduct self-evaluations of their own leadership competencies and styles. Then, for students interested in the conference, they had to demonstrate to a selection committee what they had learned, why they want to go and how they planned to apply their new knowledge in a new setting.

The DLC believes strongly that opportunities like this make critical - and lasting - connections between theory and practice. "As a school, we are always trying to create connections, says Principal Jade Ballek. "Connections between classroom and workplace, between teacher and student, between peers. Distance education does not mean that learners are on their own, instead it means we have the flexibility to be innovative and non-traditional in our approach."



## Extra-Curricular Opportunities Abound for DLC Students

One of the most exciting things about being a part of a school community is access to extracurricular activities. To ensure that students at our school have their own unique opportunities, we've launched four new clubs that are designed to augment the distance learning experience.

### Photography Club

Photog expert or newbie with a camera? Either way, join us. Students will gather on Google Hangouts for biweekly meetings where they will share and discuss their latest creative efforts. They will explore the theory behind a great photo, as well as putting to use their newfound knowledge with hands-on work. In friendly competition, students compete for the honour of 'best shot'. Depending on the wishes of the group, optional face-to-face meetings may be scheduled.

### Gaming Club

The DLC Online Gaming Club invites students to gather in an online setting, engaging in strategic fun in one of three gaming environments:

*Minecraft*, *Hearthstone*, or *Dungeons & Dragons*. While playing each game, students will work with DLC teachers to learn game mechanics and strategies that they put into action as they interact with other students from the DLC. The Gaming Club will take all reasonable steps to ensure that gaming activities remain within DLC-monitored online communities.

### Environmental Club

DLC Environmental Club is looking for ideas for projects and activities that you can do at home to improve the environment locally and beyond. Club meetings will provide a place to explore and discuss ideas and to inspire others. There may be an optional field trip component as well.

### Outdoor Ed Club

For our home-based Grade 9-12 students, the DLC is planning our first ever Winter Camping Excursion. Tentatively scheduled for March 2017, we hope to engage interested students in determining the schedule of winter sports and duration of the trip.

Visit [www.sunwestdlc.ca](http://www.sunwestdlc.ca) for more details on these exciting initiatives.

## REVAMPING CREATIVE WRITING 20

KAYLA OSIKA TALKS ABOUT ONE OF OUR NEW & IMPROVED HUMANITIES ELECTIVES

Creative Writing 20 falls under the English Language Arts umbrella and it delves into poetry, fiction, non-fiction and script writing. Students read, dissect, and compose in all four of these modes. The course is designed to refine and strengthen writing skills, resulting in a more confident and experienced writer.

Is this course a fit for you? If you love to write and want to learn more about different genres of creative writing, we would say yes. Creative Writing 20 not only creates opportunities for you to produce creative prose but it introduces you to a plethora of contests and publications that you can submit your work to. Some of these competitions include the "2017 CBC Short Story Prize" as well as the annual "Windscript" publication. At the end of the course, you will have a portfolio of work which can be a valuable asset as you pursue a career in the creative writing field.

Currently, the course is under development and registration is restricted. The new and improved version of this course will be available in January 2017.

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



Join us on social media for all the latest DLC news and updates.



## The Principal's Take

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



In an online school, sometimes it is difficult to get to know each other through the computer or over the phone. But relationships are extremely important to us and this year, we are focusing on building stronger connections with you, our students, and all the people who support you in your learning. In addition to phone calls and emails, we are hosting a number of workshops and field trips for students, including the cultural arts workshop we had this past month.

Thank you to those who were able to make the trip to Kenaston to participate. Judging by the smiles at the end of the day, it was an overwhelming success!

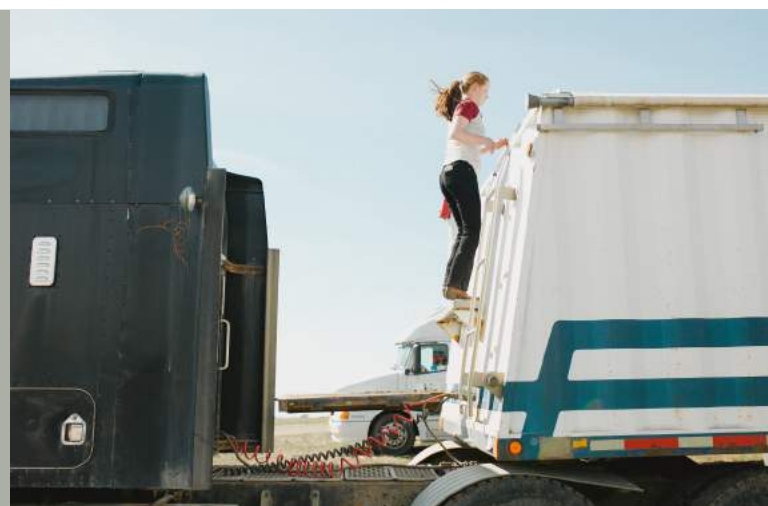
The introduction of online extra-curricular clubs is new for the DLC, and we've already starting bringing students together virtually in our photography, gaming, and eco clubs. As well, we have started hosting live sessions where you can learn more about the services we offer, such as the role of our career counselling staff, and take a virtual tour of our facility.

We believe that online learning can empower every learner and we are extremely grateful for the opportunity to be your educational partner. Please feel free to connect with us via phone, email, through Facebook or Twitter. And if you are in the Kenaston area, please stop by... we'd love to show you around.

*Jade Ballek*

As winter made an appearance early this year, DLC students in our various agriculture-based courses needed to get creative in tackling the hands-on portion of their study. In each of our Cow/Calf, Equine and Field Crop Studies courses, there is an online, theoretical element and a practical, in-the-field component. Course assessment is based on a combination of written assignments, video submissions, and a comprehensive resource manual that the student compiles throughout his/her course.

For more information on these and our other 80+ unique electives, visit [www.sunwestdlc.ca/courses](http://www.sunwestdlc.ca/courses).



## Sun West Career Development Alive on Social Media

Designed for our Sun West students, families, and staff, we invite you all to follow us on our *Sun West Career Development* Facebook page or, if you prefer Twitter, [@careerconnect](https://twitter.com/careerconnect). We are using these social media platforms to share career-advancement opportunities, employment-related information, and valuable life-transition resources that we have developed or

or learned about.

You can also access information pertaining to post secondary institutions and their initiatives, including where to find and how to prepare for scholarships, scholarship deadlines and events, such as school visits for colleges and universities, that are geared towards high school students.

If you have questions about an event, initiative or any other content, please contact the DLC Career Counsellor, Renee Harrison, at [renee.harrison@sunwestdlc.ca](mailto:renee.harrison@sunwestdlc.ca).