

Gordon Denny Community School Grizzlies Athletic Program Promotes Academic Success

On Friday November 13, 2009 Gordon Denny Community School pee wee boys and girls volleyball players traveled to La Loche for an invitational tournament. Both teams finished first place in the tournament point standings and went on to victory in the finals.

Coaches Marc Gaumond and Sean Lockwood were both extremely happy with the results from their players. It was the first time in the history of Gordon Denny Community School where both boys and girls teams placed 1st in a volleyball tournament. It was an exciting time for both the players and coaches over the weekend; however victory was not what made this tournament a success.

Prior to the tournament, five grade 6 students were behind in their studies. Grade 6 homeroom teacher Mrs. Corrigan with the support of the school administration notified all five student athletes that if their work wasn't completed, they would not travel with the team to La Loche.

On Thursday November 12, during regular school hours, two grade 6 boys handed their homework into Mrs. Corrigan. At 7:00 pm that night, three grade 6 girls made the effort to go over to Mrs. Corrigan's home in order to receive extra assistance in completing their school work. By Friday morning, all 5 players had completed their school work and were eligible for travel.

When asked about the results from this tournament, principal Sean Lockwood comments; "The tournament victory was only icing on the cake. What made this tournament a success was the fact that players were motivated to complete their school work, thanks to our volleyball program and the efforts from their teacher Mrs. Corrigan".

"I have always believed that a successful school must have a strong athletic program. Athletics ties directly into academic success for a lot of students and my goal as principal is to continue building a strong athletic program that ties into academic success at Gordon Denny Community School".

"I want to personally thank my colleague Mrs. Corrigan for making her students accountable to complete their studies prior to attending this trip".

Vice- Principal Marc Gaumond also comments; "school sport is not about winning or losing, it's about the social skills our athletes learn from competition. Being able to work with others in a team setting is an important life skill that we as educators must teach our students".

Both Gaumond and Lockwood are former NCAA baseball players who attended universities in the United States. Sports is what got both principals into university programs and now they are trying to instill the importance of academics and athletics on to their students.



Top Photo: GDCS Pee Wee Girls Volleyball Champions

Top Row (Left to Right): Coach Marc Gaumond, Christen Ross, Jayme Woodhouse-Mckenzie, Gina Nelson, Brittany Bird, Alayna Calladine.

Bottom Row (Left to Right): Chyran Isbister, Neka Goulet, Sasha Roberts, Hannah Green

Bottom Photo: GDCS Pee Wee Boys Volleyball Champions

Top Row (Left to Right): Eddie Sanderson, Gage Mckenzie, Thomas Woods

Bottom Row (Left to Right): Chase Woods, Brandon Bird, Gavin Roy, Mason Charles, Coach Sean Lockwood, Rylie Caron (absent)