



News Release

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Jumpstart Afterschool Program takes flight

A celebration held today marked the positive impact the new Jumpstart Afterschool Program is having on 170 students every week in Saskatoon.

The new Jumpstart Afterschool Program – funded by Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities and launched in partnership with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, Saskatoon Public Schools and Give Kids A Chance Charity – began in November and is offered in seven schools in Saskatoon.

“Canadian Tire has always been passionate about giving back to the community, and through Jumpstart we can reach more local families. For kids, playing sports is about more than getting active: sports equip kids for life by teaching important skills like courage, confidence and teamwork. On behalf of Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities, I am proud to support the Jumpstart Afterschool Program and help more kids get active,” said Paul Cairns, local Canadian Tire dealer.

At each location, participating students in Grades 4-7 gather for the program three times a week. The program provides sport and physical activity opportunities for students, which increases their self-confidence and encourages a life-long interest in healthy pursuits.

The program also incorporates a leadership development opportunity for secondary and post-secondary students. University students enrolled in the University of Saskatchewan’s College of Education and the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP) act as mentors by planning and leading each school program. High school students work as youth leaders, where they receive guidance from university mentors and develop leadership skills.

“Community partnerships are invaluable for providing opportunities for our students’ growth. With Jumpstart’s initiative, we have come together on a program that supports not only our students in developing healthy habits but also develops our next generation of leaders,” said Ray Morrison, board chair for Saskatoon Public Schools.

“I really can’t say enough about the Jumpstart program and what it means for students who participate,” said Diane Boyko, Board of Education chair for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. “It’s about so much more than getting kids active. I see students grow in confidence and build their self-esteem; they start to realize their own potential for success. I wish we could offer this opportunity to all of our students.”

The Canadian Tire Jumpstart Classic Golf Tournament will be held in Saskatoon on June 22, with funds raised going to support the afterschool program.

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