



News Release

Saskatoon Public Schools students invited to attend first-ever “Be Well” School Day Game focused on well-being

For immediate release: March 19, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

Thousands of Saskatoon Public Schools students are getting the chance to attend a professional basketball game during the school day this spring as part of a new initiative focused on student well-being, belonging, and healthy decision-making.

On May 14, 2026, the Saskatoon Mamba will host the 1st Annual “Be Well” School Day Game at SaskTel Centre. Open to students in grades 5–12, the event has been developed in partnership with Saskatoon Public Schools and reflects the division’s ongoing commitment to supporting student well-being and helping students develop the skills to make healthy choices.

“This is about much more than a basketball game,” says Colleen Norris, Saskatoon Public Schools’ Deputy Director of Education. “It’s about creating opportunities for students to feel connected and inspired. Experiences like this help bring our commitment to well-being to life and support students in building the skills they need to make healthy choices.”

The Be Well School Day Game serves as the season opener for the Mamba vs. the Vancouver Bandits and will combine a live Canadian Elite Basketball League experience with wellness-focused programming. Students will take part in activities with messaging centered on resilience, belonging, emotional regulation and mental health, with Saskatoon Mamba players sharing their own experiences and insights.

The experience will also extend beyond game day, with pre- and post-game classroom visits from players and team representatives to reinforce key messages in a more focused learning environment.

Participation in the Be Well School Day Game is \$21 per student, which includes transportation, in-class athlete engagement, and a complimentary ticket to a future Saskatoon Mamba regular-season game. Mamba is working with [Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation](#) and other community partners to secure support so that all interested students may participate, regardless of financial circumstances.

“When we proudly relaunched Saskatoon’s professional basketball team last month, we stood with students from Bedford Road and Mount Royal collegiates and promised that the Mamba would be about more than just basketball,” says co-chairman of the Saskatoon Mamba, Jason Ribeiro. “Every young person deserves the chance to experience the energy of live sports and entertainment and

feel a sense of belonging. We are deeply grateful for the collaboration and partnership from both the division and the Foundation.”

Mike Tanton, Community Advisor for the Saskatoon Mamba, is helping lead the initiative. A longtime coach, youth advocate and community builder, Tanton brings more than 30 years of experience supporting Indigenous youth and integrating cultural and educational programming into sport.

“When I heard the first whisperings of a wellness-focus school day game, I knew I wanted to be a part of it,” says Tanton. “Making basketball accessible, empowering youth, and strengthening community are things that most of us can get behind. I’m excited that we’re going to make this happen for Saskatoon youth.”

Event details are as follows:

1st Annual Be Well School Day Game

Thursday, May 14, 2026

SaskTel Centre

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Media are welcome to attend; please check in at the front desk upon arrival.

Individuals or organizations interested in supporting this initiative can find information [here](#).

PHOTO: Mamba School Game Day

