

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MYSTERY LAKE



Success for All

District Newsletter

Issue 03 - February 2014

Welcome to the School District of Mystery Lake

TRUSTEE TALK by Alexander Ashton

The board and district is always looking for new ways to be connected to the community, and one idea has already begun. An ad hoc committee will look at creating a new trustee position for students with positions will partake in meetings and committees and be able to speak and debate as any other trustee. We are looking forward to this as not only will it create new leaders, but also educate students in policy, finances, management, education and several other fields that are necessary for the student's careers and for their own community. Times change and our students need more modern learning experiences that also allow them to be active in the community with their unique perspective. This is one activity to accomplish modernization, and we are always open to more.

Hopefully everyone had a great break with family and friends and is recharged for this new year.

NEW REPORT CARD FOR 2013-2014

The Manitoba government has introduced a new provincial report card to enhance the quality of education in Manitoba and to build stronger partnerships among students, their teachers and parents.

This fall is the launch of this new report card in the School District of Mystery Lake. There will be three report cards each school year designed to tell parents about their child's strengths and where the child needs support. As this is the first time that the School District of Mystery Lake is using this format, there may be some formatting changes to the template throughout the year. Parent Connect allows parents to view and print their child's report card. If you require assistance in accessing this system, please contact your child's school. Keep in mind that the report card is only one way of communicating with your child's teacher. The School District of Mystery Lake encourages on-going communication of all types, as it helps to ensure your child's success.

For more information on the provincial report card, please visit http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/assess/report_cards/index.html

SCIENCE FAIR DATES

Burntwood Science Fair – February 19
Deerwood Science Fair – February 27
Juniper Science Fair – February 21
Riverside Science Fair – February 25
Wapanohk Community School – Feb 25
Westwood Science Fair – March 4, 2014

EARLY NUMERACY SUPPORT IN MYSTERY LAKE: KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 4

Numbers, numbers, numbers, everywhere!

What am I to do?

W-e-I-I.... "Think like a Mathematician!"

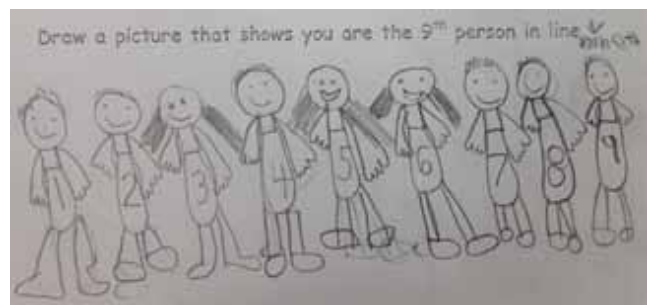
Did you know math is everywhere? It is! That is why it is so important that as parents we begin sharing mathematical ideas with our children from an early age. Counting socks as we sort the laundry or forks as we set the table, counting backwards as we eat fruit snacks or cookies from a package to tell how many are left, or skip counting by twos as we pass the cars in the mall parking lot to see how many tires there are; all these activities help to connect numbers and our daily life. For older students we can relate things in our lives to fractions and ask "what fraction of a cup of milk do we need to make the pancakes? What fraction of the bag of buns did we use at lunch? What fraction of the day did you sleep?" Posing math problems for our children to think about builds meaningful experiences that help them make connections with their in-school experiences. Our provincial government provides more ideas for -Helping Your Child Learn Math: A Parent's Guide at the following link - <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/parents/learn/math.html>



My Child in School: A Resource for Parents like you is another Manitoba government web source with information for all subject areas about what your child is learning, assessment practises, and frequently asked questions. <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/parents/learn/math.html>.

See also revisions to the Grade K-8 curriculum which are being implemented this year. http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/math/framework_k-8_rev2013/index.html

Hi! My name is Shelley Cook and my job is to support teachers and students in Kindergarten to Grade 4 math classrooms. This year to enhance student mental math competency across the District, groups of teachers are exploring the book *Number Talks*. It is a resource that supports students in adding to their mental math strategy repertoire and an instructional strategy which builds on what we are already using. My in-class support is focused on "Thinking like a Mathematician". When a teacher invites



me into their classroom, we work together. We want the students to know we are all mathematicians and that math is about problem solving. We are learning to work together, use math talk, share our strategies, and record our work so others can understand our thinking. We are finding out there is often more than one way to solve a problem, sometimes there is more than one right answer, and that some strategies can get us to the answer quicker than others. Most importantly we want students to see that math is doable and that challenging our brain to solve problems can be FUN. Math is about talking, listening, pondering, sharing, asking questions, doing and justifying.

RD PARKER COLLEGIATE

The GLOW (Gay, Lesbian or Whatever) group at RD Parker is a group of students committed to bringing awareness to issues that LBTTQ and their allies deal with in their day to day lives. We all want to be accepted for who we are and are more able to do this comfortably when we feel safe. This is the fourth year that the high school has had the group. We meet at lunch hour and watch videos, talk, draw, laugh, play games, plan events and enjoy the company of other students who are very accepting of the diversity in our school. Any student, regardless of their sexual orientation/identity is welcome at our meetings.

Our major awareness event for the past two years has been the Day of Pink. This year we will be celebrating the Day of Pink on April 9, 2014. We encourage all staff and students to wear something pink on this international day against bullying, discrimination, homophobia and transphobia in our schools and communities.

Members of our group have presented at staff meetings, in elementary schools, in high school classrooms, met with district personnel to review the harassment policy for our school division, and we have participated in Stand Out conferences and the HOPE North conference.

Feel free to contact us or drop in to one of our meetings if you'd like to know more about what we do.

RDPC CHRISTMAS FLOAT EVEN BIGGER AND BETTER THIS YEAR!

It was another great collective effort again – the students of Power Mech, Student Council, Youth Aboriginal Council, and the Choir combined forces to produce another fantastic float for the Thompson Christmas Parade. This year, we had a semi-trailer bed to decorate, so way more props had to be fashioned and fixed to the trailer. Thanks to Dave from Smooks who provided the truck and trailer, McMunn and Yates who helped us out with an in kind donation for some of the supplies needed, and Nickel City who lent us a generator. Also thanks to Ms. Ponask and Mr. Adams who provided food for the students who put in so much effort!



RDPC REMINDERS

Last day to change classes is Feb. 21
Last day to drop classes is March 21
For more information please contact
Student Services at (204) 677-6228.

HANDS, HEARTS AND HOPE

Hands Hearts and Hope accepts \$5000 in grant money from the Thompson Community Foundation. H3 used the money to purchase canteen equipment . This new equipment will help them in their fund raising efforts. They are working towards a goal of \$10 000 to build a school in Sierra Leone.

Free the Children's We Day is a one-day event designed to spread awareness regarding social justice issues among youth and to inspire them to make a difference. For the students from RDPC, We Day was so much more than one single day of inspiration; we left We Day impacted, and wanting to make a difference both locally and globally.

Upon our return to school, we organized "We Scare Hunger" and raised over 820 lbs. of food for the Salvation Army food bank. We adopted a village in Sierra Leone last year, as Sierra Leone has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world. We have donated \$3000 dollars toward the building of a school there. We hope to donate enough money this year to complete the building of the school.

Each brick is \$20 so we have a ways to go. We have many more fundraising ideas for this year to help with local and global social justice issues. I believe I speak for everyone when I say that We Day changed our lives. Through this experience we learned the power of positive change and that we can make a difference, no matter how small or insignificant we may feel. I am sure that every last one of us will continue to make positive changes in the world as a result of the things we learned from We Day. We have many more fundraising ideas for this year to help with local and global social justice issues. We hope to reach our goal of \$10 000. We are also organizing a Toy Drive for local children at Christmas. Finally we are raising money for the Philippines Disaster Relief fund. We are motivated to making a difference in our world.



R.D. PARKER HAIR STYLING

The students in Grade 11 and 12 Hair Styling have been working feverishly to raise money to attend a Hair Show in New York City (tentatively from March 9th-14th 2014).

Students have been selling nutritional lunches and baking for Hallowe'en and we held another Hallowe'en Haunted house to help offset costs. Presently, we have been knitting/crocheting scarves and slippers to raise funds for the Holiday Craft Sale that takes place at RDPC and hair styling students have been selling 50/50 draw tickets. We also did temporary glitter tattoos and henna tattoos at the craft sale as well as some of the different things being donated by parents/family of these students. Keeana Waterman has been demonstrating her talent for creating dream catchers, window hangings and earrings. She has so many ideas. During the craft sale, hair styling students will be in the hair styling lab providing many salon services such as colors, cuts, hi lites, mini manicures.

**FIRST COME FIRST SERVE, DROP IN ONLY!
THIS ALL HAPPENS DECEMBER 7, 2013 at RD Parker**

Come out and support the many great people who are participating in this event
Watch for Hair Styling's Fitness Fundraiser in the NEW YEAR.



MUSTACHES COME OFF AT PARKER

Friday November 29th the clippers and shaving cream and razors came out in the Forum of R.D.Parker for the annual Movember shave-off to raise money and awareness for prostate cancer. Several teachers and a few students who had been growing out their 'staches stepped forward for the shave-off. Kyle Goyak encouraged the large crowd assembled, many who sported their own mustaches for the day. The bidding began at a dollar, and the two top bids came in at 50\$. Cosmetology helped out with electric clippers, and Youth Aboriginal Council was on hand to sell mustache shaped cookies. The total was \$305.75, a bit down from last year, but it was still a worthwhile event for prostate awareness and school spirit. Thanks to Clarke's Pharmacy for donating the shaving cream and razors.



The Science department is proud to announce that we have taken on a new bottle recycling program within the school. We have 9 new recycle bins strategically placed within the school that are to be used for plastic bottles, cans and cartons. We are part of the Recycle Everywhere 101 School program. The program is designed for Manitoba schools, and is a fantastic way to get students and staff working together to accomplish a goal. R.D. Parker students and staff, stay tuned for Environmental trivia on the announcements, to win cool prizes.

We have had positive student/teacher involvement within our department and continue with painting our wall murals. We are also eagerly waiting for two new display cases to arrive within our science hallway. They will be used to showcase various science themes and awards.

In addition, our Envirothon club is in full swing. We have a strong group of students who are dedicated to environmental studies. We have been actively studying various topics such as soils, forestry, aquatics, wildlife, and our theme topic for 2013/2014, sustainable agriculture. Our latest lunch hour session was dedicated to soil profiles, and pH. We have been diligently studying about NTFP's (Non timber forest products), and focusing our attention on our annual Christmas wreath fundraiser. Thank you to all of you who bought a wreath in support of the R.D. Parker Envirothon club, and to those of you who generously donated your gently used Christmas decorations and ornaments to help us with this project.



GRADE 11 STUDENT IN HONOUR BAND

Vatineh Magaji, a grade 11 student at R.D. Parker Collegiate, successfully auditioned for the Manitoba Band Association's Senior Honour Band. Vatineh performed her rigorous audition on CD and sent it to the Manitoba Band Association along with over 150+ other students throughout the province. The CD's are then listened to by a panel of musicians and music teachers to select the finest players in the province. The panel selected students in a 'blind' situation, not knowing the name of the student or the school they were from. Vatineh was one of two bass clarinetists chosen, the other a grade 12 student from Linden Christian School.

Rehearsals took place in Winnipeg from November 7-9 and the concert was at Jubilee Place in Winnipeg on November 9th. This same group will be performing in the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's Rising Stars Concert on May 13, 2014 at the Manitoba Centennial Concert Hall in Winnipeg.

JUNIPER SCHOOL

“THE TRADITION CONTINUES. . .”

This past weekend’s (Nov. 23rd & 24th) volleyball tournament was a huge success for both the School District of Mystery Lake and Juniper School as well. The boys were victorious over Riverside in the championship game and our girls made it to the semi-finals before bowing out to Westwood in a very intense three game thriller. Of Note: This will be Juniper’s 7th banner brought home over the previous two years: Congratulation Jaguars – We are so very proud of you! Also, a major “Thank You” goes out to all of our coaches and assistants for a job well done: Mr. Brad Williams, Ms. Tracy McNish, Ms. Janelle Armitage, Mrs. Anne Gray-Kaspick, Mrs. Rea-Cormier and Mrs. Maureen Cox.



THE VIRTUES PROJECT

The Virtues Project is a global, grassroots initiative that inspires the practice of virtues in everyday life. Over the years it has sparked a global revolution of kindness, justice, and integrity. Further, the Virtues Project empowers individuals to live more authentic, meaningful lives; encourages families to raise children of compassion & consideration; enables educators to create safe caring, and high performing learning communities; and empowers leaders to move towards excellence & ethics in the work place.



The Virtues Project has been an important part of Juniper School’s operating system, how we do business, our school plans, for some five years now. Each year we have sent teachers, resource personnel, counsellors and administrators off to Calgary for virtues training. We are proud to announce that nearly all staff, currently with us at Juniper, have been trained in the delivery of Virtue Education.

The Delivery Process: Each month of the school calendar year is dedicated to one specific virtue (i.e.) November’s virtue was “Consideration” and the school wide activity focussed on the making of cranes (origami) in “Remembrance” of not only our fallen in World War Two, but the fallen of others. With the activity, our entire school population is divided into virtue groups and dispersed throughout the school. During our 75 minute activity time, we teach about the specific virtue identified and create a piece of art that when completed is put on display for all to view.

Each month’s virtue is promoted on the 1st page of our monthly newsletter. Within Juniper, during our daily announcements, students are acknowledged for any and all virtuous acts performed with “Jaguar Pride”. Lastly, in regards to discipline, all involved, attempt to educate the student out of inappropriate behavior through the use of specific virtue language designed to heal and direct the child toward healthier ways of being.

DEERWOOD SCHOOL

Deerwood School Grade 5 Students Learn at Mile 20

Together with students from Burntwood School, Mrs. Caldwell's Grade 5 class attended a day of fascinating learning as they discovered the many teachings and life skills of the Cree culture at Mile 20, a special place near Thompson recognized and valued as sacred by our local Cree population.

Students, upon arrival, formed a circle and were greeted by S.D.M.L. Cree and Cultural Proficiency Educators Mr. Cook, Ms. Cook (district numeracy teacher) and Ms. Dykun, along with many of our region's elders. Learners were then split into small groups and led through many amazing hands-on learning experiences. Examples of these included learning the significance of each pole while building an actual Tipi, smelling and handling plants used for medicines, preparing and baking bannock on a stick over a campfire, listening to sweet grass stories and making their own braids. A traditional lunch was enjoyed by students consisting of soup, bannock, tea



and fruit. As the day came to a close, students, staff and elders once again gathered in a circle to say farewell. Learners then thanked the elders, organizers of the day of learning and U.C.N. student teachers that were also helping out by presenting them with pocket bags of tobacco.

Deerwood School's Grade 5 students created their own personal scrapbooks of this event to remember and appreciate the teachings from the land. A fine autumn day accompanied the learning that took place at Mile 20 on September 19th.

Deerwood School Remembers

The vibrant energy that characterizes Deerwood School came to a halt for 45 minutes on the Friday before Remembrance Day as students and staff assembled in the gym to listen, reflect, pray and remember all the women and men who sacrificed their lives so that all Canadians may live in peace and enjoy freedom in their daily lives.

With the theme of how to create peace in our world ever so present, the assembly was unusually special; meaningful in such a way that it brought children and adults to tears, striking to our hearts the core reason for all present as to why we gathered: "Lest We Forget." With junior high students delivering poignant messages on how to build peace in our school each morning on the week of the assembly, Friday's assembly began with the singing of "O' Canada," followed by a reading of John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields," presented by Ms. Forsythe's Grade One and Mrs. McInnis' Grade Four Class. The Grades 2-6 Choir, under the direction of K-6

DEERWOOD (cont.)

Music Teacher Mr. Frigo and accompanied by Mrs. Hobbs, then sang “Be a Peacemaker,” a song composed by Manitoba Composer Craig Cassils. The “Last Post,” followed by two minutes of silence and the “Reveille” were then performed by Deerwood Alumni student Domanick Pennell with Constable Rob Cleveland of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police subsequently assisting Deerwood School Principal Mrs. McInnes in the school “Laying of the Wreaths.”

Unique to this year’s assembly, a brief music video by Nova Scotia Musician Terry Kelly titled “A Pittance of Time” was then shown. The video depicted a man in a drug store who refused to pause on the Eleventh Hour with his fellow shoppers and the powerful feelings that were evoked from the man’s reluctance. The assembly then ended with the Grades 2-6 choir singing verses two and three of “O’ Canada,” verses rarely heard in public but strongly reflect the love that Canadians have for their nation.

Pictured: Deerwood School Grades 2-6 Choir after performing at the Remembrance Day Assembly with Constable Rob Cleveland of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Mr. Frigo.



Deerwood School’s Grade 6 Students learn to D.A.R.E

Ms. Clare’s Grade 6 class recently had the opportunity to work with Constable Rob Cleveland of the R.C.M.P. on a very special program called DARE, (Keeping It Real) for which the name itself serves as an acronym for Define Assess Respond Evaluate. (D.A.R.E.) Consisting of 10 lessons that were taught by Constable Cleveland, who was a former student of Deerwood School in his youth, these lessons led our Grade 6 students through discussions and activities on topics such as healthy living, networking in the community, peer pressure and bullying, with a particular focus on differentiating between telling rather than tattling on others.

D.A.R.E’s core premise, “making wise choices and what we do with our choices” is a central component to each of D.A.R.E.’s 10 lessons, emphasizing the notion of student self-evaluation of thoughts and actions in daily life.

Constable Cleveland noted that the Grade 6 class was very engaged in their class discussions and further commented how he thoroughly enjoyed working with these students. Currently, Constable Cleveland is also working on another program with our Grades 7 and 8 students called Aboriginal Shield, which is a program similar to D.A.R.E. but tailored to junior high students and has more of an Aboriginal perspective.

Deerwood School would like to take this opportunity to thank Constable Cleveland for his time in teaching both the D.A.R.E. and the Aboriginal Shield programs to Deerwood School students. Deerwood School would also like to thank and commend him for being actively involved in our school as our students and staff value and appreciate his presence and the role modeling that he provides for our learning community.

WESTWOOD SCHOOL

Grade 5 Trip to Mile 20

On Thursday, September 16th, the grade 5 classes went on a field trip to Mile 20. We were also joined by the grade 5 class from Juniper School. Mile 20 is a spiritual place for the people of Nelson House. Our classes were invited to learn about their culture for the day and we had a great time. We got to braid sweetgrass, do some drumming, make bannock on a stick, learn about traditional medicines, heard some stories, learned about how to do math on the land, and about how tipis are put up and the teachings we can learn from each of the poles used in making a tipi. We had a hot lunch of soup or stew and hotdogs. We got to roast our own hotdogs! We got back after everyone else had left for the day and our parents picked us up. We had a great time at Mile 20!



Grade 5 Pirate Day Festivities

On October 4th, the grade 5's had their Pirate Day. When everyone walked in, there was a wooden plank we had to walk across to get into the classroom. Everyone had on costumes, swords and even beards thanks to our parents!

At 9:15, we went to the Multi-Purpose Room to perform our play. The grade 5 classes sang seven songs together and nine students were actors. Thank you to Mrs. Lowe and Mrs. Hyndman for putting on the play and to Ms. Johnston for participating as a pirate in training.

In the afternoon we watched the movie Hook. It is about Peter Pan and he is grown up. He must return to Neverland to save his kids and take on Captain Hook. We all ate treats and muffins while we watched the movie. We read the non-fiction novel Pirates by W. Osbourne and M. Pope Osbourne during the month of September. We did lots of activities involving pirates.

Junior High Bonspiel

The curling bonspiel was a hit with 48 grade 7 and 8 students taking part. Congrats to the winning team; Watson which was skipped by Taylor Watson and the other players were Ramona Pelland, Sabarina Robertson, and Tanesha Singh on.



WESTWOOD (cont.)

Bugged Out!

As part of the “Diversity Of Life” unit in grade six science, students in Westwood 6M designed and created arthropod prototypes and shoebox habitats. Working in pairs, students used the principles of scientific inquiry and the design process to “invent” arthropods and appropriate habitats. Students researched the characteristics of arthropods, their food sources, protective features and preferred habitat. Design components included a broad assortment of materials such as paper towel tubes, egg cartons, pipe cleaners, bottle caps, construction paper, foam scraps, styrofoam balls, plasticene, toothpicks, pasta pieces, popsicles sticks, etc. Want to have a closer look? Come see them in the Westwood library... but hurry... the creepy crawlers and fliers will soon be heading to a new biome.



Remembrance Day

Cadets and Scouts from Westwood School standing at attention during our annual Remembrance Day Assembly.



and friends for donations to go towards the annual Paint Lake Field Trip. Both classes did very well raising money. Mrs. Bancken and Mr. Larocque had challenged both classes to see which group could raise the most - the prize being the back of the bus for the ride to Paint Lake in June. 4B won with a difference of \$100. Guest reader Loretta Dykun joined the Grade 4 class, reading one of her favourite books to the group. She then discussed the daily routines of owning and working with (sled dogs). Also, Westwood’s principal, Mrs. Williment read as part of the afternoon read a thon. Students then returned to class to read with a partner, enjoyed a snack and finished the day reading silently.

The idea of the read a thon is to get kids to enjoy reading and see the benefits, whether it be the trip to Paint Lake or to cozy up with a good book. A big congratulations and thanks go out to all those who raised money for the Paint Lake Trip.

VIRTUES DAY

Norman Northstars hockey players Zack Beaver, Rick Frechette & Aaron Beauchamp participated in our Virtues Day in November. Thank you to the Northstar team for handing out tickets to our students.

Grade 4 Read-a-thon

The Grade 4 Read a Thon A Great Success. An astounding \$1700.00 was raised by the Grade 4 students throughout the month of October. Students canvassed parent, family

ECOLE RIVERSIDE SCHOOL

Our school continues to rock! At our school we focus on on all curricular areas, with an additional emphasis on technology infusion. We also take great pride in the vast range of extra curricular opportunities we provide for our students. And as you all know we have a very active parent council. Our recent book fair, pizza days, and hosting the MAPC meeting was because of the efforts of this group of dedicated parents. Please consider joining this group as we continue to do great things for our children.

Here are a few things that we've been up to lately here at École Riverside School.

- Walking Wednesdays
- Terry Fox Walk
- Monthly virtues assemblies
- The River newsletter
- Student council
- PAX program
- Snack attack store
- Wolves without borders
- Parent council book fairs
- Jump rope for heart
- Gr 8 SEVEC trip to Quebec
- MAC Artists in the schools program
- African Drumming gr 4-8
- Red hand day project
- Active and safe routes to school
- Homework Club
- Choirs (gr 1-3, gr 1-3, and gr 4-6)
- Skills Canada presentations
- Student teachers
- Mine craft clubs
- Reading & Tech buddies
- Sturgeon project
- Class Wikis
- Bullying presentations
- Hygiene presentations
- Lamontagne fundraiser
- Farm to school fundraiser
- Classroom libraries donated by parent council
- Interschool sports (volleyball)
- Career Cruising
- Tell them from Me student surveys
- Running Club
- Bike Helmet program
- Students singing O' Canada in the am
- Intramural program
- Germ detectives
- Brighter smiles
- Coming soon:
- Christmas concerts
- Gr 1-3 musical theatre
- Arts festival (visual, speech, vocal/choral and dance)
- Science fairs
- Art Club
- Ski trips
- Zoomba Dance day
- Health fair
- A Refillable water bottle station

The Ken Spencer award is the Canadian Education Association's fifth annual national competition regarding innovation in schools. We recently applied for this award on behalf of the work Mme. Donovan did last year with her grade 7 students.

Mme. Donovan's grade 7 class undertook a series of social justice projects that were focused on making a difference in the world, infusing technology with their learning, and promoting peer to peer learning. Students were divided into inquiry teams and were responsible for leading an initiative each. Student's researched their issue, presented to all K-8 classes in our school, organized an event, informed our school community about their initiative, carried out the initiative, and raised monies and donating their profits to someone in need.

1. Initial project-Entire class. Issue: homeless/hunger. Initiative: school-wide food drive and sculpture challenge. All of our classes were challenged to create a sculpture with the cans of food that were being donated. Also clothes were collected for this project and all were donated to the Salvation Army.

ÉCOLE RIVERSIDE (cont.)

- Hannah, Matt, and Matt. Issue: Children at war. Initiative: Red Hand day. Students presented to all classes in our school. Project was district-wide involving all district schools. 1200 red hands were created that were displayed at our Remembrance Day ceremony last year. They also invited a veteran from the Afghanistan war and created this video. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JcaG1RQz7Q&safe=active>. Around \$500 was donated to war child.
- Olivia. Issue: World Hunger. Initiative: freerice competition/food drive. Olivia presented to all classes in our school. She organized a free rice competition at www.freerice.com. She organized a food drive for the salvation army. Mme. Donovan's class won the food drive competition and donated their free pizza's to the homeless shelter.
- Gabrielle, Brynn, and Johndy. Issue: Slavery. Initiative: Free the slaves dance/Slavery songs. Students presented to all classes in our school. Students had classes do a self analysis of consumerism patterns and how slavery is involved with these choices. The tedtalk http://www.ted.com/talks/lisa_kristine_glimpses_of_modern_day_slavery.html was shown to all gr 7 & 8 students followed by a panel discussion. In cooperation with Mme. Allard, our music teacher, the students learned and taught others traditional slavery songs. Around \$300 was donated to slaveryfootprint.org.
- Jasmine, Jonna, Serena. Issue: Lack of education. Initiative: Read-a-thon. Students presented to all classes in our school. The students organized a school-wide read-a-thon. Around \$900 was donated to Adra.org to purchase school packs of materials for needy children.
- Hailey and Tia. Issue: Homelessness. Initiative: Ball toss games at recess/blanket drive. Students presented to all classes in our school. Students organized a ball toss game at recess on our playground. Participants read homelessness facts from cans they knocked down and won freezies. Students also organized a blanket drive and delivered donated blankets on the streets of downtown Thompson to people currently homeless. Around \$275 was donated to raise the roof.

In closing, on behalf of all the staff at École Riverside School, I would once again like to thank you, our parents, for putting your continued trust in us as we educate your children for a brighter tomorrow.



WAPANOHK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

At Wapanohk, we serve a population of 400 students and attendance has been an issue for many years. With that being said, the staff of Wapanohk Community School is not ready to accept this and have been working extra hard to change this ongoing problem. In partnership with Building Student Success with Aboriginal Parents and Manitoba Education, our team is excited about this opportunity to put a plan into place to support and promote regular attendance.

Evidence –based practices that we are focusing on for the 2013-2014 school year.

- Walking school bus – We have hired a parent/guardian to start a walking school bus in our community. We have the largest catchment area in Thompson, and without school bus service this can be a problem with our families during the winter months. Local organizations have been very supportive, donating toques and mittens as a large number of our children do not have appropriate clothing when the temperature drops. We are also working out a plan with the City of Thompson to allow our students access to the city bus in the morning.
- Wake up call service – Using our automated attendance system, Wapanohk is offering a 7:45am wake-up service to those parents who have expressed an interest.
- Incentives –We have implemented a different approach this year, which involves classroom communities. Attendance is tracked each month and daily attendance is displayed outside of each classroom to promote the idea of a “classroom community” encouraging each other to improve their attendance. We do not include individual names, just a chart or visual for the student to see immediate feedback. Incentives have be used to celebrate growth and improvement.
- Attendance will be recognized and discussed in all newsletters and incorporated into our PBIS model when students are “caught” doing “a howling good thing”.

We will be focusing on ALL Wapanohk students, as we believe that it is never too early or to late too instill the importance of attending every day. We will track attendance and collect data to evaluate the success of the program throughout the year. We believe that if this project is successful, sustainability will take care of itself. When students attend regularly, marks will improve, self-confidence will soar and behaviour concerns will decrease. When you feel good about coming to school and you have people who believe in your potential, why would you opt to stay at home.

September’s attendance target was 80% and 324 students hit this target. Our overall attendance for the month of September was **90.2%**.

October’s attendance target was 80% and 295 students hit this target. Our overall attendance for the month of October was **89.2%**.

November’s target is 85% and we had 247 students hit this target. Our overall attendance for the month of November was **89.7%**.



Everybody
- in School
Every Day



WAPANOHK COMMUNITY SCHOOL (cont.)

Wapanohk is excited to announce the beginning of the garden project. This project aims to educate and promote food security, food sovereignty, and sustainable living in the Eastwood neighbourhood of Thompson. We will provide a gardening program that incorporates training and education for children and their families, and provide them with an opportunity to work and play together in a positive recreational atmosphere fostering overall healthier lifestyles. Our goal is to create a holistic gardening program by doing the following:

- Reclaim unused outdoor green space to build various sized garden plots, a compost demonstration site, and a green house.
- Hire a consultant to compile primary and secondary research to determine a neighbourhood/ community garden model that is inclusive of the neighbourhood demographics, includes teachers, students, and their families. This will direct the development of all subsequent educational programming and the model, including outcomes, will be made available to any interested members of the community.
- Emphasis of programs and services will be given to lower income families, reflective of a predominantly aboriginal population, and provide families who reside in rental properties without land space with access to beds.
- Develop gardening workshops in conjunction with school staff to ensure all material is reflective of the school curriculum.
- Using the social aspects of gardening, develop supports and activities that encourage family and neighbourhood participation in the garden program.
- Work with interested students/families to grow, harvest, prepare, and preserve their own foods. In subsequent years we would like to see this developed further into a peer mentoring program.
- Work with consultant to determine long term program sustainability.



BURNTWOOD SCHOOL

Staff and students at Burntwood School have had a successful start to the 2013/14 school year. The wealth of resources in Thompson provides many learning opportunities for our students at Burntwood School. Our school fosters an environment, which welcomes school presentations from the community at large. Some of the presentations that have been held are: RCMP safety presentations, Skills Canada, Fire Safety, Manitoba Addictions Foundation, RHA health presentation, City concert promotion, and Track and field.

Student voice is valued at Burntwood School. This year we have a united student council. Every Tuesday a group of exuberant students meets in the school library to plan events for our student body. Their amazingly creative ideas bring fun and excitement to our after-school events. Our student council doesn't just plan after-school activities. They have come up with all sorts of events that happen during school hours as well such as: spirit week, bake sales and organizing activities related to showing compassion. Another way we value student voice is through data collection from surveys. Students in grade 4-8 participated in an on-line survey entitled Tell Them From Me. Also our grade 7 & 8 classes participated in the Burntwood Regional Health Authority Youth Survey. Our school will use data from this survey for future planning. The themes of the surveys were focused around bullying and school safety.

Virtues Project

This year Burntwood School is implementing a group activity that focuses on virtues. Virtues groups will consist of students from kindergarten to grade eight. The goal of this project is to help build school community and leadership skills amongst the students.

Field Trips

Mile 20

During this field trip students learned about Aboriginal perspectives. They spent the day talking/ listening to elders and community leaders in a variety of settings. The activities consisted of: constructing a teepee, math on the land, making bannock, braiding sweet grass, learning about the sweat lodge, and listening to stories.



Fire Hall

During fire safety week, members of the fire department provided a presentation for our students regarding fire safety and encouraged students to create a fire escape route for their homes. The grade 3 students took the city bus to the fire hall to show their gratitude by presenting the fire department with healthy snacks that they made in class.

Weather Station Field Trip

The grade five students learn all about the wacky world of weather in science. Ms. McCartney organizes a field trip to the Weather Station at the Thompson Airport each year to enhance this learning opportunity. Students are able to see real weather technology at work and question a climatologist about everything weather related. He demonstrates everything from a lightning detector, rain gauge, laser, and snow gauge. He shows students how to read weather maps, the clouds and more. It is such a wonderful trip, and the students refer to it all year long.

BURNTWOOD SCHOOL (cont.)

Eggbies & Egg Toss

Burntwood Bobcats have been taking care of eggbies for over a decade! Students are reading a book by Jim McGugan called Project Egg, where a forgetful boy has to care for an egg like a real baby. They must care for, feed, bathe, and even sing lullabies for their eggbies. Students learn about the responsibility of taking care of their eggbies for the week. The twist at Burntwood is that the students must create a design project using items from around their home to SAVE their eggbies! We have a school wide Safe or Scrambled event at the end of the week. Everyone comes to see the eggbie projects get tossed from a very high location. The grade five teachers must open the projects to see if they are safe or scrambled! It is quite a sight to see and a much-loved tradition at our school.



Terry Fox Walk

The students of Burntwood school participated in the Terry Fox Walk donating \$ to the cancer foundation.

Inquiry Based Learning & Teaching

Mrs. Brolund's grade six class is using universal design for learning with the inquiry-based approach. Students are eagerly learning curricular content using multiple intelligence centers.

Sports

The volleyball team had an excellent season. The girls worked hard to improve their skills. The coaches (Mr. Martin & Miss. Brown) are proud of the way the grade 8's mentored the grade sevens. Great team work! Congratulations to the boys' volleyball team for their strong effort demonstrating teamwork and sportsmanship. Way to go Bobcats!

Highlights

- Canadian Citizenship Ceremony (students helped organize & participated in the ceremony)
- Earth Ranger Presentation (active presentation teaching about animal conservation)
- Acts of Compassion – Salvation Army (food hampers) & Operation Christmas Child

SUPPORTING REGULAR DAILY ATTENDANCE

What Can Families Do to Support Good Attendance?

- Attendance in school is mandatory in Manitoba – not optional?
- Participate in school events and activities to demonstrate your value of school and education
- If your child is 10 minutes late every day, they will have lost six days of instruction by the end of the school year?
- Talk to your kids about the importance of attendance, starting at an early age
- If your child misses only two days per month of school, they will have missed one month worth of instruction by the end of the school year?
- Communicate regularly with the school if there is a problem or a concern and see what ways there are to work together to solve it
- If your child misses 15 days of school every year, they will have lost one year of instruction by the end of grade 12?
- Help your child with preparing and planning for the upcoming school day to lessen anxiety
- Students who attend school regularly are more engaged in learning, they have a greater sense of belonging in their community and are more likely to graduate?
- Plan appointments around the school day whenever possible
- Individuals without a high school diploma are twice as likely to experience unemployment and earn a lower income than high school graduates?
- Plan vacations and outings around the school year whenever possible

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February 12 – District Professional Development Day – No School

March – Mini Winter Festival Month

March 31 – April 4 – Spring Break

April 14 – 18 – Education Week

April 16 – Student Led Conferences

May 8 – District Professional Development Day – No School

May 9 – Knights of Columbus track meet

May 9 – R.D. Parker Collegiate Prom

May 20 – 23 – Aboriginal Awareness Week

June 25 – R.D. Parker Collegiate Graduation

June 27 – Last Day of School