

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MYSTERY LAKE



Success for All

District Newsletter

Issue 04 - June 2014

Welcome to the School District of Mystery Lake

TRUSTEE TALK by Leslie Tucker

During our seemingly reluctant spring, I can't help but reflect on the importance of "foundations"...of solid basements to keep out the massive winter snow melt, solid roadways to avoid the pitfalls of cavernous potholes, and solid educational policies and procedures for the School District. These act as an "operating and maintenance manual" for all activities and decisions involved in the school system whether trustee, employee, student, parent or other. Policies and procedure sometimes seem to be ever-so-tedious and dull, but serve the critical task of ensuring fair and consistent practice in response to ethical, moral and legislative imperatives. The District has been proactive with new legislation (such as Bill 18) through establishing policy and procedure guidelines on bullying and cyber bullying, supporting staff and Board in developing Cultural Proficiency, and facilitating and supporting the gay-straight G.L.O.W. (Gay, Lesbian Or Whatever) alliance at R.D. Parker. The Board will continue to ensure that foundational policies and procedures evolve to maintain consistent practice in respectful behavior in and out of class, to appreciate diversity, and to move further towards cultural proficiency.

Have a great June, and a safe and interesting summer holiday!

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Regular daily attendance at school by all students is essential to support student learning and achievement. Attendance data is a valuable source of information and can provide quantitative figures that will better inform decision making and assist schools and the district in creative proactive initiatives to improve student attendance.

The factors affecting student attendance includes, but is not limited to, weather, transportation, health, truancy and vacations. Anytime student attendance falls below 90% in a month, the school must report the reasons why to the province. This data is collected and used by individual schools and the province throughout the year.

The attendance rate in Manitoba public schools for the 2012-2013 school year was 93.63%. For the School District of Mystery Lake, the attendance rate was 89.13%. The top reason for the absenteeism was health. Student mobility is the rate at which students move from one school community to another. Establishing the relationship between mobility and achievement is difficult due to the fact that mobility is related to many factors. However, mobility has been found to be prevalent among students who traditionally demonstrate achievement gaps. The School District of Mystery Lake's mobility index is 17.8% for the 2012-2013 school year.

When students attend regularly and develop a connection with their school community, their success and achievement will be enhanced as well.

MAY IS BETTER SPEECH & HEARING MONTH

Each year speech-language pathologists, audiologists and supportive personnel across North America dedicate the month of May to raise public awareness about communication health issues and intervention.

Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) as well as the *American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA)* each launch their annual campaign to highlight **May is Better Speech and Hearing Month**. The focus involves early identification and intervention related to communication disorders and hearing loss as well as swallowing disorders (dysphagia). A great deal of information and resources are available on each of their websites.



In our school district, the Speech-Language Pathologists select a theme or topic to promote this event. Students receiving direct speech and/or language services are asked to create a display that highlights the type of goals being targeted in direct therapy. These goals include articulation therapy, language development, fluency (stuttering), or other areas of communication.

This year, frogs were sent “a leaping” into our schools! Of course not real frogs, but colorful, attractive frog princes and princesses displaying our students varied speech and language goals on the tip of their tongues. In addition to our displays, a calendar of Home Activities for Speech & Language Development was designed by Louise Stuart, S-LP, and posted on our district website. The calendar was also sent to each of our schools for distribution.

I wish to thank all our students, our school administrators, our Support Personnel for Speech-Language Pathology and my S-LP colleagues for making this May month a success!

INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR YOUR SCHOOL BOARD?

Manitoba School Boards Association will be holding a candidate information session via web conference on Tuesday, June 17th at 7:00 p.m.

To obtain links for this webinar contact Janis Arnold: JArnold@mbschoolboards.ca

Can't make any of these sessions? The webinar will be recorded and posted. Find the link at: www.mbschoolboards.ca after June 17, 2014.

What makes an effective school trustee?

1. Support public schools and public education.
2. Regularly engage in professional development.
3. Act with commitment.
4. Come thoroughly prepared for meetings.
5. Understand the difference between board and staff roles and responsibilities.
6. Consider all viewpoints before making a decision.
7. Work toward consensus on difficult issues.
8. Respect confidentiality.
9. Strive for open and honest communication with board members, staff, and the community.
10. Respect the final decisions of the board.

RDPC

Students Offering Support (S.O.S.) Youth Group at RD Parker Collegiate

This group was formed as an extension of the Hope North Suicide Prevention Committee as a school based suicide prevention strategy. The main goal of the group was to create and offer a sense of belonging within our large school culture, with a particular focus on mental health and wellness.

The group kicked off immediately at the beginning of the school year with celebrating World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10/13. The main target group was the grade 9s to ease them into their transition within our school. Our SOS students facilitated ice breakers with each English class to help the students get to know each other and their teacher a little better through fun activities. There were many laughs and giggles that day.

On October 4, 2013, members of SOS and other youth groups attended a Sister in Spirit Vigil held at the RCMP to support promoting awareness of the issue that many Aboriginal Women across Manitoba have been murdered or remain missing. We wanted our students to hear the stories and have the opportunity to feel empathy for others. It was a truly worthy cause and the students learnt many lessons that day. I saw it with my own eyes. Near the end of the vigil, a lone man, clearly grief-stricken, came up to the group, crying and upset. I saw our students circle around him and give him a candle to light. He lit his candle and spoke in Cree about his sadness and loss. Even though there was a language barrier for some youth; they appeared to feel his grief. I witnessed compassion, empathy and patience in our students. That man needed someone to hear him and the youth gave him that platform. How wonderful to see.



Halloween brought out some silliness in the group. SOS conducted zombie face painting as well as helped with the Halloween Assembly activities. What I appreciated most is that I saw some of our most shy and anxious kids take a leadership role. It was a great opportunity to boost their confidence in their own abilities.

Then SOS embarked on a HUGE school project in November of 2013. As Christmas time is a stressful time of year for most families, we wanted to recognize the strengths our staff and students have within our school. Our goal was for every person in our school to receive a positive message of strength specific to that person. We were most appreciative for the feedback we received from our teachers about our students. Sources of strength also came from interviews with various students regarding our teachers, teachers regarding EAs, administration regarding support staff, etc. We could not forget our custodians so our kids came up with positive comments for them as well. We wanted to ensure that not one person was left out. That meant that we gathered positive comments for close to 1000 people. We looped the comments together and created a CHAIN OF HOPE. With the assistance of our wonderful Carpentry department, it was proudly displayed throughout our school. We continue to display it today as a reminder of how great our students and staff are.

RDPC (cont.)

Each activity we do presents an opportunity to grow as a person. I recall one moment in which a student informed us that she cried happy tears when she read it. The loops symbolized belonging and connection, two main goals of our group.

In mid January 2014, 23 students across the district (grade 8 reps from the elementary schools and high school students) were trained over two and a half days by TEEN TALK. The students learned about addressing social issues that impact teenage life in hopes of preparing them to provide support to their peers as well as themselves. This training opportunity was only possible through the financial backing of Hope North Suicide Prevention Committee.

At the end of February, we celebrated Pink Shirt Day, an anti-bullying campaign across Canada. We sold over 270 shirts. Some students could be seen signing each other's shirts and others participated that may not have previously. It was a great success.

On April 9th, our group and our school celebrated diversity by wearing pink shirts on the "Day of Pink". Day of Pink is the International Day against Bullying, Discrimination, Homophobia and Transphobia in schools and communities.

SOS members will be participating in the "Defeat Depression Walk" on Saturday May 10, 2014 to show support to those that suffer from depression within our school district and within our community.

What is next for the group? SOS has many more plans as we move into our next school year. SOS looks forward to these new adventures with the goal of spreading HOPE throughout our school.

Submitted by Treena Kuhl, School Counsellor; Krista Kristjanson, School Counsellor; Melissa Wakeling, Teacher; and Ainslee McLaughlin, 4th Year Social Work Student

Treena Kuhl

Nominated for a YWCA Thompson Woman of Distinction award for her dedication to fostering a safe, supportive environment where students are encouraged to reach their full potential. Her mantra; everyone deserves to have someone in their corner, inspired her to organize the SOS (Students Offer Support) Anti-Suicide Group so that no student has to feel alone. Treena also volunteers to coach basketball at RDPC, canvass for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, and promotes autism awareness.



RDPC (cont.)

Let there be life!

Students in Grade 11 CAD Drafting at RDPC are bringing life to many interesting and unique projects. Pictured are Noman Khawar, who designed an iPhone 5 case. Sean Gillis who designed the Body of a car, which will be outfitted with an electrical motor and switch and Gerda Van Tonder who has designed a clock face for her engineering project! All projects are 3D printed with a Mojo 1000 printer. Many other students are currently designing various projects from the artistic to realistic life applications!



Envirothon

On April 22-24, the R.D Parker Collegiate Envirothon team participated in training sessions as well as the Northern Regional Envirothon competition at the RiverLodge Place in Thompson, MB. The training sessions consisted of a variety of hands on activities working in the areas of Forestry, Aquatics, Soil, Wildlife and Sustainable Agriculture. Students studied relevant subject content, created and presented a poster presentation as well as competed in a timed field test. The Envirothon advisors: Mr. Volante, Ms.



Sousa, and Mrs. Harwood, are proud to announce that the R.D. Parker team came in first place, followed by Norway House (HBO) and Cormorant. Five teams competed from the Northern region, with the top three qualifying for the provincial competition. The provincial competition will be hosted at Brandon University, on May 22-24th, and will have a similar structure of an outdoor field test along a trail, and an orals competition. “Envirothon is an annual hands-on environmental educational competition for high school students, designed to encourage team work, problem-solving skills, and public speaking skills while fostering an appreciation for current environmental issues”. We run a lunch hour club that meets weekly, and runs all year long. It is open to ALL high school students. From our club, we then generally establish a school team early in the Spring to represent the high school in competitions.

RDPC Varsity Girls Basketball Successful Adventure

It was a busy, sometimes gruelling (the travel), but a very successful and satisfying basketball season for RDPC’s Varsity Girls basketball team. Some 31 games into it, the Trojans found themselves in a competitive Provincial final losing a close one (by 3 points) to an admirable and more senior opponent, the Virden Golden Bears.

RDPC (cont.)

Throughout the entire season, the team made their coaches, parents and school proud with intense dedication and many successes and accolades along the way. The team steamrolled through their season with tournament wins at Sanford, Windsor Park, Thompson and The Pas in addition to many more exhibition game wins in Brandon, Swan River, Winnipeg and Minot. Along the way, there were several tournament MVP's and all-stars awarded as well as lots of praise and recognition from other school's tournament organizers, administrators, the media and the high school "basketball world". However, there were also many cold dark early mornings, many hours on the hardwood in preparation, half a dozen sprained ankles and sprained fingers, and many hotel homework sessions. Their success did not come easily to the players or the coaches!

Although many of the players were individually recognized, none of the successes could have been accomplished without "the team"; looking out for each other, pushing each other, caring for each other, laughing with each other, arguing with each other (over the best seat in the van), competing against each other and competing with each other; grade 12s Krystin Williams, Nicole Robson and Tatum O'Meara, grade 11's Finleigh Tucker-Titanich and Justice Jackson, grade 10's Adrianna Proulx, Brianna Bourguignon and Caitlin Fennel, and Grade 9 Victoria Hollett, and Coaches Sara Gillis, Chris Victor, Kaysi Voigt and Courtney McKay.

After ending the season with the exhilarating experience of being provincial finalists, the RD Parker Trojans still managed to scoop up a few more accolades to add to their list of accomplishments: Adrianna Proulx and Tatum O'Meara were named to the Provincial Tournament All-star team, Nicole Robson was awarded RDPC athlete of the month for March, Krystin Williams and Tatum O'Meara were honored by being chosen to play in the graduating all-star game in April where Tatum was recognized as MVP of the game, Adrianna Proulx was named to the All-Manitoba 1st all-star team by the Manitoba Coaches Association, a rare honor for a grade 10 student, and Sara Gillis was recognized as High School AAA Female Coach of the Year.

Six players from this season's squad are expected to return for another competitive season next year, with a good contingent of junior varsity players coming up the ranks who have been well coached by Wes Braun. Even as the players head into the final stretch at school with lots of other things going on every day, they just can't forget their passion or stop the basketball "bug"; "remember that play when.....", or "Coach can you supervise the gym...", or "Can we make a club team to play in...", or "Will the gym be open in July?"...



RDPC (cont.)

Two Students from R.D. Parker Collegiate attended the annual Skills Manitoba Competition at Red River College in Winnipeg April 10th. The students, Dylan Roberts (left) and Steven Moorehead (right) competed in the Small Engines category and did very well. Dylan finished second place out of 8 competitors province wide.



Fire and Water don't mix but they are two topics covered in Outdoor Education. In the top picture students are attempting to start a fire with limited resources while the bottom picture has students learning how to maneuver their kayaks.



New Principal for RDPC in 2014

We are proud to announce that Mr. Rob Fisher will be the new principal of R.D. Parker Collegiate, effective September, 2014.

Mr. Fisher began his teaching career 30 years ago as a physical education teacher at the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation in Nelson House, Manitoba. While in Nelson House for 19 years, his career advanced from being a teacher, to computer coordinator, vice principal, principal, and the top position as the Director of Education. Coming to the School District of Mystery Lake 13 years ago, Mr. Fisher began as a teacher at R.D. Parker Collegiate for 3 years and then became a curriculum consultant at the Board office. Rob was seconded to Manitoba Education for 2 years as the manager of the learning support and technology unit, and for the past 4 years has been the principal of Ecole Riverside School.

Rob has lived in Thompson for the past 23 years and is happily married to Judy Smart, who teaches grade 2 at Westwood School. Their 2 daughters recently graduated from R.D. Parker Collegiate and are both attending the University of Manitoba.

Having earned a B.A., B.PHE, B.Ed and a Masters Degree from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Rob is honoured to be given the opportunity as Principal of R.D. Parker Collegiate beginning in September, 2014.

WAPANOHK

Wapanohk has had another fantastic, fun filled year. 2013/14 has been filled with many exciting, educational experiences, along with laughter and friendships. Our wonderful team of specialists, teachers, educational assistants and support staff has provided the best education for each student entrusted in their care. Through collaboration with our families, we have worked hard at nurturing students towards becoming positive community members and leaders. Thank you for taking the time to read about the wonderful things that we have been doing this year.

Breakfast is Served!

We have fed 10,000 bellies again this year, thanks to the unbelievable dedication of many individuals and community partners within Thompson. Without their tireless support, this would not have been possible.



Lighthouses

Our drop-in center, funded by Manitoba Justice, is still going strong. Thanks to our coordinators, Katy, Brody, Rob and Ellana, our youth have been provided a safe place to enjoy the evening. Physical activity, healthy cooking, community guest speakers, and cultural crafts are just a few things that occurred at our program this year.



FAST

Wapanohk completed our 11th cycle of FAST (families and schools together) this year. Over 130 families have been empowered by this awesome program over the last 11 years. Thank you again to our families, staff, UCN and the amazing support from local organizations to ensure the success of this program.

Community Garden

We are super excited about the next phase of our community garden. Traditional plants, seeds, grow stands, raspberry bushes and planters have been arriving at the school daily. Johanna and Rob hosted a family information night and excitement is building.



Wapanohk Extras

Fishing League

Wapanohk will be participating in the Manitoba fishing league again this year. The league is an excellent time to discuss water safety as we are surrounded by beautiful lakes in this province.



Attendance

Our attendance has been great! Wapanohk's attendance has not dipped below 85% all year. Our classroom communities have been encouraging each other to come to school every day. Walk up calls, classroom celebrations, bus passes, and family draws are a few things that have been making a difference. Outdoor land based education will be starting in June. We are excited to introduce beading and looming into our first week.

After School Activites

RBC after school clubs have supported our working families for the last 6 years. Having the opportunity for students to engage in activities after school has been an excellent opportunity to build important relationships and provide a safe place for our students to play.

We have had many fantastic presentations this year! Earth rangers, winter story tellers, authors, Mining presentations from Vale, MADD, Young Women's/Men's conference, Chad Solomon, and Manitoba Theatre for Young People, just to name a few.

Shelley Cook, our district numeracy teacher, joined the students of Wapanohk in May to transform our gymnasium into Hogwarts. Thanks to Coral Thompson and Kelly Scallion at RDPC for providing 15 high school students to help. The day was a huge success. Students were enjoying the day without realizing that they were learning math.



DEERWOOD

Day of Pink!

On April 9th Deerwood School participated in the International Day of Pink. The morning began with an assembly featuring the Michigan Olivet Middle School Football Team's Touching Touchdown. This video was a powerful message about how a school can come together to create a safe and respectful school environment.



The second video clip shown was an iMovie Photo-voice presentation. The photo-voice presentation involved innovative participatory photography and digital storytelling methods from the students.

The purpose of this was to create a story based on the responses to bullying we had from the student's Tell Them From Me Survey. By compiling the responses through storytelling our students had the opportunity to represent themselves and create tools for advocacy and communications to achieve positive social change.

Deerwood School also participated in a "Walk a Mile" wearing anything pink – from pink hair to pants and t-shirts - to raise awareness to stop the various forms of bullying and to promote solidarity.

Congratulations!

The Minister of Education declared March, 2014 as "Perfect Attendance Month". During our assembly on April 25th, we were able to acknowledge 57 of our 197 students at Deerwood School for reaching this goal and presented them with certificates and prizes!

Deerwood School Student of the Month Awards Assembly: A Tradition of Celebrating Success and Spirit

The positive, dynamic synergy that makes up the school spirit of Deerwood School is always felt at our Student of the Month Awards assemblies. While it is the steadfast belief of Deerwood School Educators that individual learners and student groups should have regular opportunities to be celebrated for their growth in their academic and social development, these assemblies serve so much to tighten the fabric that makes Deerwood School a vibrant, caring community of learners.



Key to the application of the School's District of Mystery Lake's motto "Success for All" is the recognition of individual and group learners at these awards. In Deerwood School's endeavor to include all supporters of a child's success, Deerwood Educators routinely invite parents of award recipients to attend the assemblies. Celebrating success in all aspects of academic and social learning, recognized students receive Physical Education and Music Awards provided by their Phys. Ed. and Music teachers on an alternating, monthly basis. Recognizing that attendance is essential to instilling confidence in learning, Deerwood School also provides special Student Awards for outstanding attendance. Just recently, 57 Deerwood School students received such recognition for their perfect, daily attendance at school.

While it can be said that when a community recognizes growth in each individual, the community discovers its strength as a whole, Deerwood School's Student of the Month Award assemblies present ample opportunity for students to showcase their talents and various initiatives. Presentations featuring Festival of the Arts participants, Student Council and our Grades 2-6 Choir are a unique sample of the many groups that our learners are engaged in.

As a community of learners that gathers together at the Student of the Month Award assemblies, the attention of our students and staff is additionally drawn to important, global messages that help make Deerwood School a safer and better place for learning. Presentations such as those by Constable Cleveland for the D.A.R.E Program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) the International Day of Pink that was initially spear-headed by a group of our Grade Seven girls and those by our supportive Deerwood School Parent Council inform all of us of timely issues and projects that can help us and others.

Student of the Month Award Assemblies: Together we aspire, together we achieve!

Deerwood students spend 2 days at the circus!!

Deerwood Students in grades 5, 6 and 7 were invited to the 14th annual Circus and Magic Partnership (C.A.M.P) Program in Wabowden on March 25th and 26th.

Mel Johnson School in Wabowden invited Thompson students to join them and to share in this wonderful opportunity. The two day tour offered our youth opportunities to build on developing skills and self-confidence in a fun and interesting manner. Participants were trained in the use of circus and magic materials such as stilts, unicycles, juggling equipment, magic supplies and tight wire rigs by some talented and patient international artists. Deerwood School is very thankful for the opportunity. It was GREAT!

Deerwood students get to "zumba"!

Zumba is a fitness program that involves dance aerobic elements where the students warm up at the beginning of class and then creatively move to ROCKIN' MUSIC!! Our instructor, Samantha, provides students with the opportunity to completely express themselves in a fun filled way, while participating in a healthy activity. At Deerwood School, Zumba classes are offered to Grades 1-4 on Wednesdays and Grades 5-8 on Fridays during lunch hour. What an exciting new way to keep our children active!



BURNTWOOD

Student Council Moments

The 2013/2014 school year at Burntwood School has been an exciting time for our student council. Our student council brought us many moments throughout this year that the students will remember as the school year comes to a close.

The student council hosted three dances this year: sock hop in the fall, Winter Dance, and spring pajama dance. In November, student council hosted a popcorn and movie event at the school.

The student council did several self-directed fundraisers; global, local, and the school. Their first fundraiser was for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. Burntwood students raised \$400 which was matched by the government. Next, they began our second fundraiser of the year which was to raise \$500 for our local humane society. Lastly, the council's bakes sales have gone into our student activity account.



As the Knights of Columbus sports event came closer towards the end of the school year, student council began planning the pep rally. Our tumblers practiced an amazing routine, Miss Ray led rehearsals for a rousing rendition of Katy Perry's Roar, and Miss McCartney prepared chants for the student body to use when we cheered on our athletes at the arena. Our pep rally was exhilarating for everyone, especially the athletes.

Virtues Project

Burntwood School successfully started a school wide Virtues Project. Every staff member in the school has a group consisting of 13 - 14 children ranging from grades K-8. Students meet every second month with their virtue group. A whole school mini assembly starts off the virtue group meeting with a power point and or demonstration on the selected virtue of the month. Our goal is to inspire the practice of virtues in everyday life, sparking a school community of kindness, justice, and integrity which will create a safe, caring, and high performing learning community at Burntwood School. We are very proud of the hard work and enthusiasm for the virtues project from both staff and students.

Healthy Schools Grant

Ms. Conner's Grade 3 class received a healthy schools grant to plant vegetables and flowers this spring. Mrs. Conner and her students had two goals in mind. Their first goal was to be able to grow enough vegetables for everyone in class to have a salad and possibly do some baking with their vegetables. Their second goal was to plant flowers to brighten up the school yard for the community to enjoy.

As our growing season is quite short in Thompson the students learned that some plants needed to be started indoors where they would be warm. Mrs. Conner and the grade 3's cleaned out the old greenhouse in the

basement to make it operational. They planted seeds and have scheduled a daily caring for the plants. Mrs. Conner has integrated this project into other curricular areas. From the science curriculum, they are learning about plant growth. Students are developing their writing and observation skills in language arts while writing in their plant journals. They are measuring the growth of the plants weekly and are quite excited when they see the plant growth, especially over a weekend.

Miss Victor Retires

Burntwood Staff and students, along with many colleagues in the district, would like to bid a fond farewell to Miss Victor. After 33 years with the district, she will be retiring in June.

Miss Victor began her career teaching junior high at Eastwood School. After 20 years, Burntwood was the fortunate recipient of her expertise. Throughout the years, Miss Victor has been an integral part of the school community. She has been a source of inspiration to her students through organizing student councils, fun fairs, and intramurals, as well as the countless hours dedicated to coaching volleyball, basketball, badminton, softball, Knights of Columbus, and Trojan Basketball.

High standards in education have been a focal point of her career with both students and colleagues. Her school day never ended at 3:30. She always made herself available to help students after hours. Miss Victor's commitment to education was also evident in her willingness to accept student teachers and mentor new teachers.

Miss Victor has made a difference in the lives of the students she has taught and the educators who have had the privilege to work with her. We will miss her sense of humor, invaluable contributions, and advice. We wish her all the best in her retirement!

Extra-Curricular

Burntwood staff provided a variety of extra-curricular clubs this school year. The clubs help to develop a sense of community within the school and provide many students with the opportunity to participate in diverse activities.

2013-2014 Club: drama, choir, drumming, camera, junior high gym club, intermediate gym club, Zumba, gardening club, student council, prep rally club, and tumbler club

Burntwood School's music classroom has been rocking' this year! We started out in September with five new keyboards. All students are learning basic songs on the piano – even with only five keyboards many students have made excellent progress. We also ordered three more cajon drums bringing our total to ten. The students love drumming circle; for some kids this is the best part of music class. This year we sent three groups to Festival of the Arts – choir, a hip hop dance group, and a percussion group – all the students worked hard, and the hip hop group was awarded silver. The percussion group was asked to perform at the Festival Highlights concert which is a great honour. In January, the school was hit with "The Cup Song" craze, and kids could be seen everywhere around school drumming on cups. Our latest escapade was to do "The Cup Song" in the gym with over a hundred students! We might have broken a record? Don't know. But it sure was cool! ?

ÉCOLE RIVERSIDE

This is the last newsletter I'm submitting as principal of École Riverside School. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with your children, you, and our wonderful staff for the past 4 years. I'll see you soon at R.D. Parker.

At École Riverside we continue to focus on all curricular areas, with an additional emphasis on technology infusion. We also take great pride in the vast range of extra curricular and co-curricular opportunities we provide for our students.

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

- Christmas concerts
- Walking Wednesdays
- Monthly virtues assemblies
- The River newsletter
- Student council
- PAX program
- Snack attack store
- Wolves without borders
- Parent council book fairs
- Gr 8 SEVEC trip to Quebec
- Active and safe routes to school
- Homework Club
- Choirs (gr 1-3, gr 1-3, and gr 4-6)
- Student teachers
- Minecraft clubs
- Reading & Tech buddies
- Sturgeon project
- Class Wikis
- Bullying presentations
- Farm to school fundraiser
- Interschool sports (basketball)
- Career Cruising
- Tell them from Me student surveys
- Running Club
- Bike Helmet program
- Students singing O' Canada in the am
- Intramural program
- I'm Thumbbody
- Science Fairs
- Music Month Fiddler Jennilee Martineau
- I love to read month
- Let's talk science workshops
- Honor Band
- Mini Festival du voyageur
- Gr 1-4 musical theatre with B. Gorlick
- Arts festival (visual, speech, vocal/choral and dance)
- Art Club
- Junior Achievement
- Northern Skilled trades conference
- Young women's conference
- Knights of Columbus
- MTYP play night light
- Kidnetic energy WISE workshops
- Commonwealth games Minecraft comp
- Parent council hotdog fundraiser
- Ski Trips
- A Refillable water bottle station

Coming soon:

- Welcome to Kindergarten
- Intramurals (softball)
- Grade 8 transition camp @ Liz Lake
- Mystery Lake in Motion 5k run
- Winnipeg Symphony performance
- Lunch on the lawn
- Northern Lights coffee house
- Kindergarten grad
- Grade 8 promotion night and dance
- Zumba
- Health fair file:///C:/Users/Brad/Downloads/gagne.jpg

Mme. Gagne's class "Jumping for Joy"



École Riverside School Students – Doing their part to prevent unnecessary waste

Since January we have been using our refillable water bottle station. To date we have not added almost 8000 plastic bottles to our landfill. Many of our students now have re-usable water bottles that they now fill every day. Keep up the great work everyone. We are in the planning stages right now to add additional replacement water fountain stations throughout the school. To see a video of the day we began this initiative check here. <https://socialcam.com/v/aoVhYPa7?autostart=true>



Junior High Girls win City Basketball Championship

Congratulations girls and a big thank you to coaches
Mme Kate and Mme Donovan



2014 SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Key Dates

September 10, 2014 Nomination Period Begins

September 16, 2014 Nomination Period Ends

Withdrawal Deadline

Two conditions apply: no later than 24 hours after the close of nominations and there are enough candidates to fill the office you are seeking.

Trustee Elections: October 22, 2014

For more information please go to: www.mbschoolboards.ca/elections2014.php

JUNIPER SCHOOL

The Education for Action Pilot Project

The Education for Action Pilot Project involves all Grade 7 students at Juniper School, supporting them as they transition from junior high through to high school graduation. In partnership with Manitoba Education, SDML, UCN and other community members, our team is working to give students additional opportunities to build resiliency as they grow. Combined with ongoing school activities, project components include: more academic engagement, including a focus on small group-work in math; improved cultural proficiency, in part through Northern and Aboriginal cultural experiences; and increased use of career-planning tools and exposure to careers of interest. Students are also learning how to tell stories through new media such as iPods, with a view to showcasing their work in a 'Digital Storytelling Lodge'. Further to helping create conditions for students to succeed, the project aims to share lessons learned district-wide. What do Juniper activities look like in practice? Two recent success stories were the Grade 7 Winter Camps and Jr. High Career Days.

Winter Camps

In collaboration with UCN's Kenanow Education department, SDML's Cultural Proficiency educators, Elders and other experts, Juniper's project team took Grade 7 girls and boys on overnight winter camping trips to Liz Lake scout camp the last week of March. Building on classroom lessons, the students explored the following traditional, land-based activities firsthand: fire building, shelter building, emergency rescue measures, snowshoeing, trapping, bannock making, soap carving, drumming, astronomy and storytelling. They made connections between learning in class and learning at camp, recorded their experiences using iPods, gained even more appreciation of Indigenous knowledge, and had loads of fun!



Career Days

Jr. High students used a website called Career Cruising to find out how their current interests may match up with suitable careers. Based on these results, professionals in careers of interest were invited to interact with them in late April. Students learned about a wide range of possibilities: from veterinary medicine to video game development, from mining to singing, from nursing to personal training, and from the

Thompson Airport to animal training with the RCMP. "I had a lot of fun," one boy wrote afterwards, "and I'm going to broaden my job choices for the future." Thank you once again to the following community members, among others, for inspiring our students: Jacques Abgral, Luz Alvarez, Paul Beck & Jim MacIntyre, Chris Byrne & Mitch Nicolas, Heather de Groot & Cheryl Iliencko, Camille Lapierre, Raphael van Lierop (BC), Curtis Ross, Adele Sweeny, Jen Tretjak, and Jason Muzzerall & Police Dog Charlie.



Juniper Jot Notes

Our recent / ongoing activities:

- The Virtues Project
- 'Let's Talk Science' Day
- Author Anita Daher Visit
- Ojibwe Storyteller & Hoop Dancer Jody Gaskin Performance
- Jr. High Basketball
- Intramurals
- 'I Love to Read' Month
- Science Fair
- Yoga
- Zumba
- Awards Assemblies
- Ski Trips
- Art Club
- Snow Sculpture
- Mini-Winterfest
- School Store
- Student Council
- Day of Green
- Dream Factory' Fundraiser
- DREAM Youth Conference
- Band/ Jazz/ Choir Concerts
- Elimination of Discrimination Walk
- MADD Presentation
- Arts Festival
- Chess Club
- Running Club
- Puppeteer Chad Solomon Visit
- UCN Literacy Festival
- 'Baby Think It Over'
- Health Fair
- Spirit Week
- Knights of Columbus
- Parent Council
- School Mascot Fund raising
- MTYP Play 'NIGHT LIGHT'
- WISE Workshops ~ and more!

Relay for Life

Juniper School won a Silver Award at this year's Relay for Life. Our students, staff, families and friends raised over \$4,300 and counting... Congratulations to the Jungle Jaguar team that walked their paws off the night of the relay, and to everyone who made special contributions to our relay rally – including Isaac, Mr. Griffin and Jordy (pictured) who let their heads be shaved in solidarity. Our student-made, yellow-and-black Juniper Hats are being worn with pride. We are all Jaguars!



2014-2015 SCHOOL CALENDAR

September 4	First day of classes
December 22 - January 2	Winter Break
March 30 - April 3	Spring Break
June 30	Last day of school

WESTWOOD

The 38th annual Knights of Columbus Indoor Games were held at the C. A. Nesbit Arena on May 9, 2014, and the Westwood Vikings once again claimed the title as the top elementary school in Thompson. It was a close and competitive meet until the end, with the Burntwood Bobcats, Deerwood Dragons, and Riverside Rams all positioned within striking distance of Westwood heading in to the final event. The championship was the 12th consecutive for Westwood, and the 15th in the last 16 years. Westwood's team had nearly 90 athletes, and displayed a depth of talent throughout their roster that helped them capture four of the six Age Group Titles en route to the overall championship.



I Love to Read Activities

During "I Love to Read" month Grades 2R, 2S, 3B, 3W, and 6M got together to promote reading and social responsibility by holding Westwood School's first ever "Reading for a Cause".

On February 19, a determined group of grade three students supported by some dedicated grade six students congregated for a brown bag lunch and reading activity in Westwood School library. The grade three students chose the Thompson Homeless Shelter as their cause. Students participated in a thoughtful discussion about the topic, enjoyed their lunches, and read some great books. Ms. Bettess and her class have plans for further social action regarding their selected cause.

Avery enthusiastic crew of grade two and grade six students assembled for another brown bag lunch and reading activity on February 21. This group decided to name the Thompson Humane Society as their benefactor. During lunch Hannah L. read some interesting articles about animals and explained the need to protect animals from abusive situations. After a brief discussion and sharing session, the grade two students partnered with the grade six students to do some buddy reading. This group raised just under \$100. The presentation of the money to the Thompson Humane Society will occur in March.

Congratulations to the students who attended these sessions. Your efforts will help to make a difference. The Thompson Humane Society's thank you note expressed their appreciation and for the thoughtfulness of the grade two and six students.

Grade six Oleschak entered a recycling contest, "Recycle Everywhere". Thanks to the students' dedication to the recycling effort, they were able to recycle 1387 items. The class



would like to take this time to thank all the classrooms for helping by generously donating all their recyclables to our cause. The grade six class is anxiously waiting for March 11, to find out if they have won the “Recycle Everywhere” contests.

Cookies for Cancer

April is Cancer Awareness month. We are very aware, in our family, the fight against cancer is a battle. Mrs. Lowe is a cancer survivor and Mr. Lowe is currently undergoing chemotherapy in his war against the disease. To encourage the Lowe girls, Kailee and Rorie, and to raise awareness and show determination, our family organized a cookie pop sale called “Cookies for Cancer”. Everyone helped – organizing, baking, icing and selling the cookies at Westwood School on Friday, April 25th. It was a sweet success. Over \$435 was raised – and was donated to Cancer Care Manitoba.



Thank you to all who helped. To the children who bought a cookie for their friend who didn't have any money. To children who gave extra money, saying “keep the change”. Especially to the teachers who contributed so that each child in their class was able to have a cookie. The sale was proof of our school “Virtues” program, one of whose values is “determination”.

Coins for Cancer

Grade three students Keela Menard and Mariam Yacout decided they would like to ask Christmas Concert goes for a silver collection to donate to cancer. These two young ladies sat at the entrance to the Letkemann Theatre and, thanks to your generosity, they collected \$119.20. Well done girls!



Grade One Science Fun!

Our grade one students have been hard at work in Science. 1R students studied the environments of Manitoba animals. 1B students learned about recycling in the Objects & Materials unit. They collected a huge pile of recycling from their blue boxes at home and brought it to school. Each student had a chance to design an item and build it, as you can see from the creativity pictured here. There were birdhouses, buildings, robots, boats, skyscrapers and even a spaceship!



WESTWOOD (cont.)

Relay for Life

Riley Locke took it upon himself to raise money for the Relay for Life Cancer fundraiser. He had two fundraising goals: the 1st goal was to raise \$250 and he would dye his hair pink and the 2nd goal was \$500 to shave his head. Riley challenged the Westwood community and collected \$80. Riley still followed through with shaving his head. Riley sincerely thanks all who donated towards this worthy cause.



Recognition of Deserving Westwood Staff

Zoe Bettess was nominated and selected to receive the “ManACE Educator of the Year Award” primarily for her role in creating the very successful #mbedchat and the Manitoba Blogging Challenge. In addition, Ms. Bettess has made enormous strides in connecting with other educators, bringing them into her classroom despite the challenges faced. Her sharing, connecting and passion show through in her twitter presence and in projects she has undertaken with other teachers and classrooms, such as the recently announced #Mathphotoaday Instagram challenge.

Cora Grant was recently nominated for a “Woman of Distinction Award” for being the driving force behind the first annual “Run for Mums” held on October 6, 2013 in Thompson. This 5km walk/run was meant to educate our community about women who suffer from postpartum depression and postpartum psychosis. Ms. Grant feels that for the sake of all struggling moms, we need to let them know that there are people out there who care and that there are resources to help them. Awareness and acceptance are key! We couldn’t be more proud of our staff members!



During February 5B worked very hard on writing their own books. The finished books arrived just before Spring Break and here they are pictures with their work.