

# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MYSTERY LAKE

JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER



SUCCESS FOR ALL

## TRUSTEE TALK by Janet Brady

When I think back to my days attending public school in Montreal, I remember learning the basic skills of numeracy and literacy and taking advantage of opportunities that were presented to me. These opportunities included playing basketball, getting involved in student politics and assisting in social justice causes while attending high school. I believe that many of us found our passion and purpose during our school days whether that passion or purpose was science, music, drama, sports or politics. School was our launching pad which helped us pursue our areas of interest. For many of us school even helped us figure out what we wanted to be when we grew up.

Congratulations to the grade 12 graduates of RD Parker Collegiate. I hope the School District of Mystery Lake has helped you figure out your path in life and that you will contribute and give back to the community which supported you during your education journey. It has been an honour and pleasure to serve as a trustee for the School District of Mystery Lake for the past seven years.

Have a great summer everyone!

## TABS FOR WHEELCHAIRS



Our first ever local TABS FOR WHEELCHAIRS campaign will be to purchase a transport chair to be used by multiple students within the School District of Mystery Lake. This past year there were 2 students that required a transport chair like the one pictured above. Our goal is to collect enough aluminum tabs to purchase a wheelchair and have it available for any student that may need it on a temporary or emergency basis.

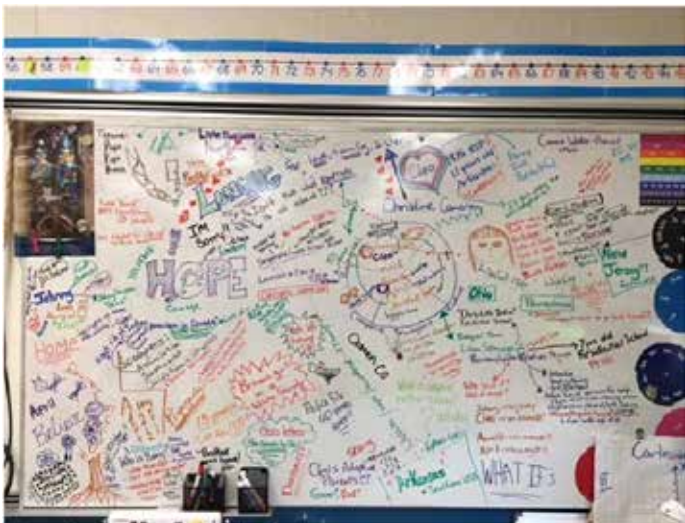
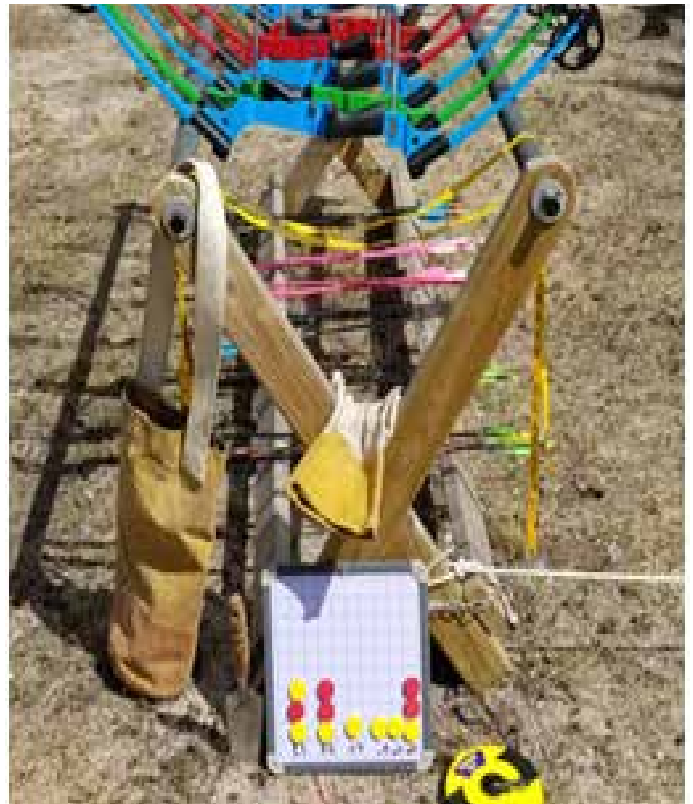
Drop off all your tabs to Juniper School during regular school hours. Call 204-677-6242 for more information.



# DISTRICT NEWS

## Numeracy

There have been many outside learning opportunities for our students this year. Many of these opportunities have been enriched to include cross-curricular learning. Our grade 8 students who attended transition camps at Mile 20 and Liz Lake learned how to connect archery with statistics.



7/8 Porth at Juniper School documenting their journey of listening to Missing and Murdered: Finding Cleo that dealt with 60's Scoop and Residential Schools and a family's determination to find their missing sibling.



Grade 8 students from Burntwood, Deerwood, and Juniper Schools participating in a live skype interview with investigative journalist Connie Walker from CBC; host of Missing and Murdered: Finding Cleo.



## DISTRICT NEWS (CONT.)



Oskatisak Drummers from Wapanohk Community School and Deerwood School sing a Grand Entry at the Manitoba Games in Thompson



Students from RD Parker paint a tipi under the guidance of Jaysen Lucas during the Spring Gathering at Mile 20



Woodworking at Grade 8 transition camp



Seven teachings activity at Grade 8 transition camp



## DISTRICT NEWS (CONT.)



Teachers engaged in land-based learning opportunities.



Bringing up memories of the past to understand the present.



Elder working with students in a Juniper School classroom.



Grade 8 students gather around the fire during transition camp at Liz Lake.

## DISTRICT NEWS (CONT.)



Embracing traditional skills in the classroom.



RD Parker student learns soapstone carving from Irvin Head during Spring Gathering at Mile 20.

## Literacy



*Story Vine construction discussion*



*The grade 5 Wapanohk students entertain the SBO personnel at Christmas performing the poem they wrote, "Twas Two Weeks before Christmas at Wapanohk School."*



*Grade Four Janisch; sharing their story vines.*



# R.D. PARKER COLLEGIATE

## Hands, Heart, Hope

Hands, Heart, and Hope, also known as H3, is a social justice group working towards positive local and global change. The students involved in this group are champions of human rights, mental health education, and women empowerment. This year our students are involved in many local and global initiatives.

For the 2017-18 school year, H3 is focused on several local initiatives. H3 collected over 5000 lbs. of food for Thompson Food Bank this school year! Thank you to the community for supporting this great cause! H3 also has remarked on a global campaign "We Are Rafikis". This campaign empowers women in Kenya and helps them earn money to send their children to school by selling handmade Rafiki bracelets. Each bracelet has a code to track your impact when buying the bracelet. Thank you to the community and R.D. Parker for making each campaign a success!



*September 2017, H3 received a picture of 3 young girls enjoying the well that was built with H3s donated money*



*H3 collected 2000 lbs. of food in the month of October for their We Scare Hunger Campaign. All food was donated to our local food bank.*



*H3 students selling Rafiki Bracelets at the Thompson Business Expo*



H3 president, Hayley Jenkins, presented an idea of a free lunch program at RD Parker to the 100 Women Who Care in March. H3 is proud to announce that they were given funds from this group to run the free lunch program for an entire year! Each student is given a sandwich, piece of fruit, yogurt/ applesauce/cheese stick and healthy drink.

## R.D. PARKER COLLEGIATE (CONT.)

On May 26 H3 delivered \$1,850 worth of food to the Thompson Food Bank and \$500 in supplies to the Thompson Humane Society. The group's year-long fundraising campaigns has also allowed them to donate an additional \$1,850 to the Me to We Projects in Ethiopia.



H3 member, McKenna Brown, was instrumental in organizing a fundraiser for the Humboldt Broncos fund! In total H3 donated 1841.85 to the Humboldt Broncos. Over \$800 was raised by McKenna Brown herself! Way to go!!



## Social Studies – History Tour

In April 2018, 32 R.D. Parker students embarked on a history tour with EF tours, 'Juno to Ortona'. Students and teachers learned about the early history and culture of France and Italy. Canadian and European history fused together as they toured significant World War II sites. Sites visited included The Juno Beach Centre where textbooks came to life as they learned about D-Day and Canadian sacrifice to liberate France. The group then ventured their way to Italy where they went to the small fishing village of Ortona. Ortona was the site of the Battle of Ortona where Canadian soldiers bravely fought long and hard to push through German occupied Italy in World War II. Canadians eventually liberated Ortona but at a high cost. Through experiential learning our students gained new perspectives, develop important 21st-century skills and become true global citizens.

Students who attend trips like these gain so much more knowledge by experiencing history firsthand and taking part in world travel. The trip lends itself to many of the curriculum outcomes found in the following courses: Social Studies Grade 9, Geography Grade 10, and History



*RD parker Students at Beny-Sur-Mer War Canadian War Cemetery*



## R.D. PARKER COLLEGIATE (CONT.)

Grade 11. Students completed a project called 'Remembering a Fallen Soldier'. Each student was assigned a soldier that has fallen in the line of duty. Teachers and students then laid crosses in thanks to the soldier they researched. The group paid their respects at two Commonwealth commentaries, Moro River Canadian War Cemetery in Italy and the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery in France. This is a life changing trip for many students, which will open up their world view, gain a new found appreciate of our men and women who serve in the military and also allow them to appreciate what is taught to them in our curriculum. We would like to thank the School District of Mystery Lake, USW Local 6166, Thompson Teachers Association, the Royal Canadian Legion, and the community of Thompson for supporting us in our fundraising efforts.



*Moro River War Cememrty (left); Private Gordon Thompson, Canadian soldier who died in the battle of Ortona (right)*

### Social Studies – Exploring Aboriginal Perspective

On June 6th, the Social Studies department organized a field trip to The Strand Theatre for a private viewing of the movie 'Indian Horse', an adaptation of Richard Wagamese's novel Indian Horse. The film centres on Saul Indian Horse, a young Canadian First Nations boy who survives the Indian residential school system to become a star ice hockey player.



### Social Studies – Guest Speaker

4 history classes had the privilege to listen to guest speaker, Sya Gregovski, tell her story about her time during World War II living in Nazi occupied Netherlands as a young child and immigration to Canada.



### Native Studies

Traditional Knowledge Grade 11 and Native Studies Grade 11 classes using hand-on activities to learn about the history of bannock and how the first Nations people adapted to change.





# R.D. PARKER COLLEGIATE (CONT.)

## R.D. PARKER MUSIC DEPARTMENT

We have had a busy school year in the Music Department at R.D. Parker! We started off the year with excellent news, finding out that one of our Grade 11 students, Abbey Smith, successfully auditioned and was accepted into the Senior Provincial Honour Band taking place in Winnipeg, Manitoba. In October, we hosted the Norman Jazz Festival here in Thompson. The new year started off well with Kai Kirby-McDougall and Mark Fortin travelling to Winnipeg to participate in the Provincial Honour Choir.

March was a busy month in the department. 37 Thompson students travelled to Dauphin to participate in the Parkland/Norman Honour Band. Also in March, 42 students travelled to Brandon to participate in the Brandon Jazz Festival.

April consisted of preparations for our Senior Tour to Festival Disney in Orlando, Florida. All three of our performing ensembles competed in the festival and received "Excellent" ratings. As well, our Senior Concert Band participated in the "You're Instrumental!" workshop where they recorded a selection of Disney Music accompanied by footage from a Disney Film. In May, we proudly sent 5 more students to the Provincial Honour Bands in Winnipeg. Emma Fitzpatrick, Danica Ryan, Abi Deibert and Nicole Cruda were part of the Junior Honour Band and Madyson Caldwell was part of the Intermediate Honour Band. June brought forth the 33rd Annual Cabaret with the theme "Villains", celebrating 25 graduands from the Music Program.



## Global Issues Grade 12

For the last 2 months, Mr. Brolund's Global Issues class have been putting into effect their 'Take Action' project. This project involves the community of Thompson and also on a global scale. These projects are created, organized and implemented by the students. It is a way for the students to be an agent of change and to contribute to their community.

## Science Department

It has been another busy semester in the RDPC Science department. In April and May, many of our Science classes participated in outreach workshops presented by the Lets Talk Science students from U of W and the WISE Kidnetic students from U of M. Our high school students were engaged in a variety of activities such as building circuits, DNA detection and gel electrophoresis, and the Science of flight, to name a few. During the month of April, the Science department registered for the "Recycle My Cell Earth Month Challenge". We managed to collect over 60 old, damaged and out of use cell phones, smartphones, wireless PDA's and pagers. These devices have been sent to GREENTEC in Cambridge, ON, for processing, where they will be broken down to their base components, recycled, and thus avoid entering into our landfill sites, contaminating our environment.

On April 24-25th, the RDPC Envirothon team competed in the Northern Regional Competition at Riverlodge Place in Thompson, MB. They performed well, and scored exceptionally well on their poster presentation to a panel of judges. Our Envirothon students worked diligently this semester to prepare for, and fundraise for their Provincial Competition in Churchill, MB on May 24-27. Our school team (Thompson Tree Huggers) was composed of the following students: Junvi De Ramos, Lala Rukh, Katelyn Pilon, Sanpreet Kaur and Het Patel. Our students were among the 131 students (16 teams), advisors and volunteers, across the province that participated in the four day, life changing experience in the sub-arctic! Our students were very competitive during the field test, and oral presentation, winning an award for their "Excellence in Orals Presentation" based on Citizen Science and the underlying theme of Climate Change.

Several grade 11 and 12 students participated in the physics CAP challenge exam, as well as the Avogadro and CHEM 13 News Challenge exams again this year. We commend them for taking on this challenge.

On May 11th, the teachers within the Science department participated in a full day of PD with presentations from a variety of guest speakers from the Manitoba, Department of Sustainable Development. The guest speakers addressed various aspects of Climate Change. Among the guest speakers were: Don Macdonald, speaking in regards to Aquatics and Invasive Species, Paul Nikiema speaking in regards to provincial research on climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as Vicki Trim who spoke in regards to Forest Fire management and community planning. Several of our Envirothon students also participated in this awesome PD.

This year, Tressa McDonald was our Grade 11 recipient, who attended the Verna J. Kirkness Science and Engineering Program at the University of Manitoba, during the week of May 28-June 1st. Tressa was very fortunate to have worked alongside Dr. Jillian Detwiler, her cooperating professor, in the Department of Biological Sciences. During Tressa's week on campus, Tressa studied invertebrates; addressing the ecology and evolution of host parasite interactions.



## R.D. PARKER COLLEGIATE (CONT.)

We would also like to acknowledge, Hayley Jenkins as the 2018 Schulich leader nominee for RDPC, demonstrating excellence in the STEM fields: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Lastly, the R.D Parker Science department is excited about our new investment in the purchase of two 8x8 solar powered, raised bed, self- watering greenhouses that can extend the growing season by up to 3 months! The greenhouses are designed exclusively for Northern Climates. The greenhouses are based on Bob Sharp's design and are built by Norwest Manufacturing. Bob Sharp traveled to Thompson on May 11th, where he shared his passion and knowledge on connecting his greenhouses with curriculum. He has been involved for more than 45 years in a wide variety of educational activities that include, principal, superintendent, curriculum coordinator and experiential teacher with public schools, 11 years with Yukon College teaching courses in YNTEP, and six years teaching a Northern greenhouse design course for the Yukon Department of Agriculture. Our intentions are for our Envirothon students to help manage these greenhouses, and to provide a holistic approach to learning by growing, and harvesting a variety of plants and vegetables, that we can then study, donate to our food services department, and share with others.



# BURNTWOOD SCHOOL

## Breakfast Program

Burntwood School is fortunate to have successfully run a breakfast program for the entire school year. In June 2017 we were awarded a startup grant of \$8700.00 through the "Thompson Community Foundation". This funding was allocated to the purchase of appliances, serving and cooking equipment, utensils, cutlery and lunch tables. In January the school board then provided our program space with a complete renovation. We diligently worked hard to access a number of breakfast grants and were awarded \$740.00 from "Show Kids You Care" and \$2400.00 from the "Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba". Our program operates daily with the help and commitment of dedicated staff. We continue to seek out funding opportunities to keep the program operating. The program is open to all students in grade K-8, and on an average, are currently serving 20-30 students daily.



## FAST

Burntwood school ran the FAST (Families and Schools Together) program for the first time this spring. Seven families completed the 8 week program. Each family participated in the fast activities that were held on Thursday evenings. The F.A.S.T. program helps families and the school learn, share, grow and strengthen the family bond along with the home-school connection. The families were presented with a certificate to show that they completed the program with their dedication.



## Technology

Burntwood School continues to strive to prepare students for their future by providing opportunities to be digitally creative, critical, and conscious. Students are using various tech tools to collaborate and communicate within and beyond their classrooms. From a Skype visit with a well-known author to an underwater Virtual Reality adventure to the creation of an iMovie that shares learned knowledge of Egypt, technology plays an important role in all stages and styles of learning. Our students are encouraged to be digital creators as well as consumers. More importantly, students are learning the importance of digital citizenship and how to become smart, responsible, and respectful members of their online communities.





## Outdoor Learning

Why I take my class outside! By Amanda Fulton, Grade 5 Teacher

I take any chance I can to learn outside with my class. The primary reason is for health and wellness. Sunshine and fresh air are essential for well-being; students (and teachers!) benefit both physically and mentally. Going outside in nature also allows us to develop relationships with one another and with the land. We are able to use our senses to gather first-hand information about the world. We can then use our shared experiences to make connections across all areas of the curriculum.

During the week (June 11 -15) my class and I participated in a week long outdoor classroom challenge. Our day started by setting up the prospector tent (classroom space) and then ended by taking it down. Our mornings were spent investigating how people lived in the past; telling stories, creating beading/weaving art, and making excursions to the Millennium trail. The afternoons were filled with inquiring about the future; recording and graphing data about the weather using our class-made weather station. I am proud of my students for taking on this challenge, and I hope they continue the joy of outdoor learning all summer.



## Gardening

Mrs. Conner and Mr. Ditz have continued the Burntwood School Garden. This year we are trying a new approach to the garden called “Desert Planters”. These planters store water and do not need to be watered as much as regular planters. The students were very excited to plant carrots, beans, peas, beets, onions, radishes and lettuce. We have also expanded our raspberry patch. We are excited to be able to harvest these fruits and vegetables in the fall.

## Maker Space

This year Burntwood has put a lot of time and energy into creating a Makerspace in the school. A Makerspace is a place where students can make things. Some of the projects we’ve done include making instruments, websites, bridges, towers, lego structures, straw structures, and pixel art on our Lego Wall. Next year we have plans to learn coding, create projects with circuits, write songs, write and publish books, and delve deeper into making more art — both physical and digital. But more than just creating things, Makerspace is a place where students can develop the skills they will need for the rest of their lives. Students have to have more than just knowledge in today’s workplace. Some of the most important skills that are necessary are the following: divergent thinking, iterative thinking, collaboration, creative risk taking, and empathy. These skills are sometimes not easy to learn in the classroom, though, in our Makerspace, students are learning these different intangibles right alongside other abilities that could lead to work in fields that are currently very short of skilled workers — such as coding, website building and design, and creating art, particularly digital. Makerspace concepts can be implemented school-wide, as we’re doing, or it can be done in individual classrooms. You can contact Burntwood School to learn more or check out this video that we made explaining the what and the why of Makerspace. <http://themusicproject.ca/makerspace>



# DEERWOOD SCHOOL

## New Choral Risers

We are incredibly grateful to the Thompson Community Foundation, United Steelworkers Local 6166 & the Knights of Columbus for their financial contributions to the purchase of new Choral Risers. They look amazing and are helping our Gr. 2-6 Choir sound even more incredible!

## Grade 2-6 Choir & Boys Cree Drum Group

Our Choir & Drum Group had another busy and successful year. The Choir meets twice a week during the lunch hour. Here are some highlights of the past couple months:



### **April:**

Grades 3-8 Boys' Cree Drum Group perform "The Water Song" for the Opening of Juniper School's We Walk for Water campaign.

Grades 2-6 Choir is invited and performs 'O Canada' at the Opening Ceremonies for the Knights of Columbus Games.

### **May:**

Grades 2-6 Choir performs at the Thompson Festival of the Arts and is invited to perform at the T.F.A. Highlights concert later in the month. The choir received the Norman Choral Association Award for their performance of the Don Besig choral composition "Ghostship" from the suite "Reflections of a Lad at Sea"

### **June:**

The Grades 2-6 Choir and Grades 3-8 Boys' Cree Drum Group perform for residents of the Northern Spirit Manor.

Grades 2-6 Choir Lunch-on-the-Lawn mini-concert.

## Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Through the support of our Local Mac's Convenience Store "Fueling our Schools" Program, the IBEW 2034 Community Awareness Donation, our Parent Council and the fundraising efforts of Mrs. Lafreniere's class, we have been able to purchase 4 Mimio Projectors which will be installed into classrooms over the summer. These projectors assist in interactive learning of our students. Thank you to everyone who helped with these purchases.





# DEERWOOD SCHOOL (CONT.)

## Walking School Bus

Get on the Bus! Every Tuesday and Thursday morning from the end of May until the last week of June, many of our students started the day off with a walking school bus trip. Students met on Elk Bay on Tuesdays and Greenway Cres on Thursdays. From each location we got our heart rates up by enjoying a lovely walk and some social time to catch up with friends. What a great way to start the day!



## Cultural Proficiency

Miss Taylor's Grade 1 class is planting the three sisters into the school garden. The three sisters are corn, beans and squash; which support and enhance each other's growth. Beans add nitrogen to the soil. Squash blocks weeds from receiving sunlight. Corn gives the beans a natural trellis. These plants are traditionally grown by First Nations People's in Canada.



## Mother's Day Sale

On May 9th, Mrs. Todd's class organized a Mother's Day Sale. They collected various items, which were then put on display and purchased by other students in the school for their moms. They raised \$716.75 with which they were able to purchase \$300 worth of food for the local Salvation Army Food Bank; for UNICEF they bought 2531 water purification tablets, 15 bed nets, school supplies for 35 children and other needed items. Also, through Plan Canada they bought Bees, Chicks, Hens & a Rooster as well as supplies needed to plant a garden. Thank you for being such thoughtful global citizens.



## Science Fair Accomplishments

We held our school science fair on March 15th with 60 projects submitted at the school level. We are proud to say that 13 of our school based projects were selected to participate in Regional Science Fair held at École Riverside. Science fair was such an accomplishment because of the help of the student's families, the volunteer judges and Mme Mervat who organized it all, so "Thank You" very much.

On April 13th and 14th École Riverside hosted the Regional Science Fair for Northern Manitoba. Participants came from Flin Flon and The Pas to compete in the Science Fair. We had a few École Riverside participants place at the science fair, as well as receive additional awards. Adrianna Ouellette was awarded the best overall project for grades 4-6 in the general science category. Samara Green and Anaya Pernamand participated in National Science Fair in Toronto in May and placed 10th overall in their category. Congratulations to all participants.



Grade 4 General - 1st Place - Reese Beavies & Mackenna Steeves

Grade 4 Life - 1st Place - David Hynes & Michael Hynes

Grade 5 Life - 1st Place - Kaitlyn Krentz

Grade 5 General - 1st Place - Adrianna Ouellette

Grade 7/8 Physical & Environmental - 3rd Place Ethan Portey & Madexx Long

Grade 7/8 Health - 1st Place - Samara Green & Anaya Permanad



## Big Congratulations for Being Accepted into Junior Honour Band

Congratulations to Emma Fitzpatrick and Nicole Cruda who both successfully auditioned and were accepted into the Manitoba Provincial Junior Honour Band. Emma and Nicole prepared scales and pieces that were recorded and sent anonymously to an adjudication panel in Winnipeg. From there, the committee selected the best auditions. Emma and Nicole are two of five Thompson students who were selected this year for the Provincial Honour Bands. The Honour Band took place at the University of Manitoba and Garden City Collegiate from May 3rd-5th."

## Walk to School Challenge – Through École Riverside Parent Council

Parent Council challenged our students to walk to school the months of April, May and June to become more physically active. Students in Kindergarten through grade 3 tracked their steps at home and brought back to school every two weeks and grade 4 through 8 tracked in their classrooms. With the walking challenge we saw less traffic in our main loop during the morning drop off, but after school continues to be congested. The grade 7's in Mme Allison's class won the step challenge in April with 43,300 steps. All the names were thrown into a draw for those students who participated and they had a chance to win a new bike. Parent Council bought one bike while Canadian Tire donated the second bike.



# ÉCOLE RIVERSIDE (CONT)

## Showing Generosity in our Community

We are extremely proud of our student council members who showed up and served hot dogs and water to people of the community on May 24th. Constable Rob Anderson was also there to help us that afternoon. The day was extremely hot and people were appreciative of the food and water. Thank you girls for being so generous within our community. Also a big “Thank You” to the teachers who volunteered their time with them; Mrs. McKenzie, Mme Oster, Mme Ketch and Mrs. Roberts.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time this year by coming into our classrooms and presenting to the students.

Melissa Pham	Hallie Pruder
Michelle Pruder	Amy-Lynn Torte
Kathy Beavis	Niki Ashton
Kelly Bindle	Scott Velemirovich
Dennis Fenskie	Sandra Diebert
Lesie Allard	Jenna Dennis
Parents of Mme Squires’ Class	Mme Houndle
Parents of Mme Donovan’s Class	Thompson Fire Fighters



## Food Drive Challenge

Michael Hynes and David Hynes organized a food drive challenge with the school in April to help the Salvation Army Food Bank who was in dire need of food. We challenged the K-4 and 5-8 to see who could bring more food. With the generosity of our students we ended up with 5 large boxes of food. Great job boys!!

## Family Dance

On December 8th Student Council organized a family dance event, where families were able to come and spend two hours together dancing in the gym. We would like to thank all the families who came and participated, as well as student council, for all their hard work in organizing and running the event.



# JUNIPER SCHOOL

## Juniper's Green Action Team

Juniper School's "Green Action Team" is a group of students and teachers who come up with initiatives to enact throughout the school, over the school year and beyond. Our main focus centers around our 6R's of Reusing, Reducing, Refusing, Removing, Rethinking & Recycling that which we consume (or not) on a daily basis to lessen our environmental footprint on planet earth. Thus far, our "Green Action School" has achieved several badges, banners & certificates for reaching specific green action goals. These are proudly displayed in the hallway of our school. The most notable to date is having achieved "Earth Status" recognition for completing 1000 green actions as a collective, all-inclusive school community. Green actions can be anything from the use of GOOS paper to reusing milk cartoons to water the plants located in our in-school green house. Plants grown are given to students and green team members or sold to the parent-public to support further green action possibilities. Other major "Green Action Initiatives" completed are:

1. The construction of a compost bin and the creation of a weekly composting program that sees the entire school recycling greens to create soil.
2. The construction of a raspberry planter containing a fruit garden within.
3. Having staff purchase compost bins for their own compost programs at home.
4. The establishment of vermi-composting units in specific classrooms throughout the school.
5. The yearly organization of Waste Reduction week in October and EARTH week in April.
6. Entering the 28 Day Challenge with Sage Gardens in Winnipeg. They provided the seeds for classes and individuals within Juniper to grow lettuce, basil and parsley in mini-gardens. Lettuce grown was used to make salads for in-school meals, or to feed pets here and elsewhere.
7. Touring Thompson's Recycling Center (TRC) to see the 6W's of their operation.
8. Touring Vale to see how their waste management program was run. Mr. Land & Mrs. Paulic were very interested in the "composting" side of our equation. Also, a new campaign that the Green Team and the TRC will be promoting is that of the "Tabs for Wheelchairs" program. Be sure to stay tuned for further details, but in the meantime, please save & forward all of your tabs to Juniper School –THANK YOU.



## We Stand Together

On June 1st, Juniper School was invited to participate in the "WE Stand Together" enrichment program. We were very excited as we were the only Manitoba school to participate in this activity. Seven students, from Grade 4 and 7, participated via Skype and were invited to speak to other groups in the Greater Toronto area about all the projects we have completed in learning about "Reconciliation". The day started off with some drummers, and then we listened to Craig Kielburger and the Right Honourable Paul Martin talk about how we can work together to start talking about "Reconciliation", and begin to make Canada a better





# JUNIPER SCHOOL (CONT.)

place. The students spoke about the numerous projects that have happened in our school over the last year. The other schools that met with us asked questions about our projects and then we got to hear about some of the projects that they have done. It was an amazing opportunity to hear what other schools are doing and to be able to see what “Reconciliation” meant to them! One of our students even got to ask Mr. Paul Martin a question! The students said that they were really excited to meet a Canadian Prime Minister. They really enjoyed the drummers and Rapper – “Cody Coyote”. One of the students said that the most exciting thing was getting to meet and talk to other kids who feel the same way about “Reconciliation.” Three classes gathered to watch us on the “WE” presentation live, and to cheer us on. It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved!

## We Walk For Water

On Friday, April 27th, Juniper student council organized a “We Walk for Water” event. In coordination with over 1500 other schools across the land, this “We” event is meant to raise awareness about the lack of clean, accessible (potable) drinking water worldwide. 844 million people around the world lack access to clean water. That’s more than 20x the population of Canada. The students at Juniper School want to be the generation to help change this. They learned that it was primarily the girls’ job to walk long distances to collect the family’s daily water supply, which meant that they could not attend school. “They and We”, do not think this is right.

They hope to raise enough money to build a “water-well” in Kenya, Africa, to support a community there as part of our global concern initiative. They chose Kenya because a group of Juniper teachers and other Mystery Lake School District staff are going to Kenya this summer. These teachers will be working with the Free the Children Foundation, and side-by-side with locals of the Maasai Mara Region on a community project. They will be helping to address challenges with projects like restoring schools, building libraries, and digging latrines and hand-washing stations.

Juniper students know that access to water is a human right. No being can live without water and the water we have on earth now is the same water that has been here for thousands of years – it just keeps cycling itself back to purity. Water does not belong to anyone, and it is everyone’s job to take care of it. They are very aware of the lack of clean, accessible drinking water in many of our neighbouring reserves. They are looking for ways to help keep our water clean here in northern Manitoba.

To build a “well” in Africa, Juniper student council will need a lot of support. CHTM interviewed student council member, Winter Ross, and helped make Thompson aware of Juniper’s goals. The Deerwood Oskinikis Drummers learned the “Water Song” and also the “River Song”. Juniper School was honoured to have Mr. Cook and the drummers open the “water-walk” event with a prayer and songs. With pride and enthusiasm, all of Juniper School participated in the walk, with most of the school walking the entire Cree Road/Thompson Drive loop. Some students carried jugs of water on the entire walk to understand what it felt like for the girls in Africa. Students and staff also picked up garbage along the way. Riverside School cheered us on and made us feel so proud. Thanks to the individuals from the School Board Office, Board of Trustees, City of Thompson and the Thompson Citizen for walking side-by-side with Juniper School. It takes a community to help a community.



# WAPANOHK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## New Indigenous Look to Wapanohk Grounds

On our front wall there is a greeting: Tansi ota Pitkwe (Hello - come in, we have room for you). At the back of the school seven large rocks were donated from Sapach to represent our belief in the Seven Teachings: Humility— tapahtenimowin, Love-sakihitowin, Respect-mancitowin, Truth-tapwewin, Honesty-tapwenimowin, Courage-sokitehewin, and Wisdom-nipokawin. Students run freely to play on the rocks. The rocks also represent the bison who freely ran across Canada. One grade one girl was asked, "Where were you?" She replied, "Chillin' on the rocks." In our backyard we have a learning cabin built by volunteers. The front mural has spilled out of its boundaries and flows freely down the wall and over the bench with the phrase "As long as the sun shines and the waters flow," referring to the treaties that were signed by Indigenous people and the government. As you move over to the asphalt baseball area the northern lights are reflected from the sky. We were able to do this project with the help of Our Foundation Thompson grant, donations, and volunteers.

## National Indigenous Veterans' Day

November 8, 2017 we honoured Percy Laubman who passed away this year. Percy has attended many Veterans' days through the years at Wapanohk and other elementary schools. He was willing to tell the good stories and horrible truths of war. He spoke about the Korean war and being on a ship across the Pacific Ocean. Percy spent 14 months in the Armed Services. He was a wounded war hero; he is a role model for our young people. Percy worked hard, love people, and his country. Our student council vice president read his biography to the students, parents, and dignitaries. The school will honour Percy by hanging a plaque on the wall; an everlasting memory "Lest we forget".



## What is Wapanohk?

I took this photo because I really wanted to show how much this school means to me and what my first impression of it was. To me, Wapanohk School is a beautiful place where I learned Honesty, Courage, Respect, Love, Humour, Creativity and Humility, among many other wonderful teachings. When I first came to Canada, I thought the kids were going to be very mean to me or bully me, but Wapanohk was actually very nice and welcoming to me. It showed me that I really shouldn't believe in negative rumours and I should always focus on the bright side of things. Being at Wapanohk School for the last nine months has been an amazing experience for me.

- Written by a Grade 8 student



Wapanohk Wolf Packs created a tile wall representing one of the seven teachings: Love-sakihitowin. Every second month the wolf packs meet to discuss and create something that represents one of the seven teaching that our school believes in. The mixed age groups from kindergarten to grade 8 make for interesting results.





# WAPANOHK COMMUNITY SCHOOL (cont.)

## Month of May-Infusion of Indigenous Culture and Language

Our counsellor felt that we need to do more to make our students feel proud of their culture and proud of themselves. Residential and 60 scoop survivors came in and spoke to the students about their experiences and how they were affected. Some harsh realities came out: not being allowed to see your parents does not make for an enjoyable childhood, and you were not allowed to speak your language. The students had many question for the survivors. On a positive note, Wapanohk had the first Indigenous career fair which will become an annual event. Six different careers were presented to grade 3 to 8 students. The careers were carpenters, health workers, RCMP, fire fighters, Elder, and Cree teacher. Wapanohk was fortunate to bring in Cowboy Smithx to talk about Truth and Reconciliation and about the field of film making. Cowboy produced and directed the film "The Elder in the Making". Grade 7 and 8's from Juniper and a few students from RDPC were invited to his presentation. Again the students had many question and were excited about his productions. Pascal Bighetty's puppet Show was not able to come for May, but he is coming in June. During the month of May Wapanohk has our annual Cree Language Festival where teachers displayed bulletin boards full of Cree words about animals, chiefs, buildings, insects, relationships, and fish. A special assembly was held in honour of Cree Language. Wapanohk drummers sang, Cree classes performed, the choir group sang E Kanata with students. During the afternoon students played Cree games and sports. An Indigenous Coffee House was hosted by Wapanohk with local performers. The gym classes in May learned Indigenous sport games and competed with their classmates. Awards were given out for first, second and third. It was a packed full month of Cree culture and language. Lastly, we were very fortunate to bring in the film "Indian Horse" at the Strand Theater. Students in grade 6, 7, and 8 and Juniper's 7 and 8's were invited to a viewing. It was a heavy movie; however, the students learned a lot and have a better understanding of the effects of residential schools. Next year Wapanohk will continue with infusing Indigenous culture and Cree language with our students to help them be proud of who they are.

## Volleyball Games-Le Voie du Nord/God's Lake Narrows

This year we started something new to be more inclusive with surrounding schools. Last year Wapanohk had an all-night volleyball fundraiser for our students and this year we invited the French School, Ecole La Voie du Nord to join us. It was an exhausting and fun event. Through the night different teachers came to play volleyball. Our physical education teacher switched up the teams each game so everyone got a chance to play with the other players. On another occasion, God's Lake Narrows called to see if they could come up and play volleyball with us. They were having trouble finding a host. Our physical education teacher stepped up to the plate and we had a wonderful tournament with them. They have very talented players; it was good to have the stiff competition.



# WESTWOOD SCHOOL

## Orange Shirt Day - By Cora Grant, Gr. 8 Teacher

On Friday, September 29th, we acknowledged 'Orange Shirt Day', a day to recognize the harm done to generations of Indigenous children who were forced to attend residential schools throughout Canada and we affirmed our commitment to ensure that 'Every Child Matters'. The Westwood grade 8 students were very honored to host guest speaker Grant Queskekapow from Norway House. Mr. Queskekapow shared his residential school experiences. We thank Mr. Queskekapow and his family for taking the time to travel to Thompson and join us in such an impactful, educational morning.



For over 150 years, residential schools operated in Canada. Over 150,000 children attended these schools. At least 6,000 children died while in Canada's residential schools. The Canadian government's decision to invest in residential schools was based on a belief to break the bonds between parents and children.

This was a very traumatic time for Indigenous people and their communities; just because it happened in the past, does not mean it is forgotten. Awareness of the hidden truth about residential schools can create acceptance among cultures in Canada so history does not repeat itself.

## Poetry - by Rits Fountain, IDEAL Teacher

Madison Dunn puts so much effort into practicing her braille skills at school and at home every day. She recently received a big award from the contest she entered last year AltLit Braille Creative Writing Contest, sponsored by CNIB (altlit.ca)

### Madison

**M** is for Musical

**A** is for Active

**D** is for Dog lover

**I** is for Impressive

**S** is for Smart

**O** is for Original

**N** is for Nice





# WESTWOOD SCHOOL (CONT)

## Owl Pellet Dissection - by 4J

The students in grade 4 Janisch have been learning about owls. Many owls swallow their food whole. Bones, fur, and feathers are coughed up as a pellet, as these things are not easily digested. We were very excited to work in pairs to dissect an actual Barn Owl Pellet! While a few students thought it was downright disgusting, most found it fun and interesting. Many bones were found, but the coolest finds were the mole, shrew, and bird skulls!



## Kindness at Valentines

The grade two classes prepared valentines for the residents of Northern Spirit Manor. Mrs. Smart delivered them to the personal care home. The students received a heartfelt message of gratitude, in return.



## Congratulations - by Stevie MacPherson, Band Teacher

Congratulations to Danica Ryan who successfully auditioned and was accepted into the Manitoba Provincial Junior Honour Band. Danica prepared scales and pieces that were recorded and sent anonymously to an adjudication panel in Winnipeg. From there, the committee selected 13 trumpets in the whole province, Danica earning herself the 8th spot. Danica is scheduled to play in the Honour Band from May 3rd-5th, with the final concert being held at Garden City Collegiate.

