



Great Schools for
Growing and Learning

St. James-Assiniboia School Division

Winter Issue 2017

CONTACT



A pop-up French café sparks student engagement at GWMS

Page 2



Anti-bullying presentations paving the way at Bannatyne

A group of Grade 4 students recently made a significant impact in helping grow healthy relationships at École Bannatyne. Their mission was to counteract bullying and create safe environments by spreading messages of courage, kindness and respect. What began as an idea spurred by learning about heroes evolved into a school-wide anti-bullying awareness project.

Mme Vermesse's Grade 4 class began studying the characteristics of heroes in early November. A number of special guests were invited into the classroom to speak about their roles and what it means to be a hero. These visitors included wrestlers, fire fighters, cadets, police officers, nurses and a Manitoba Moose team manager. The class reflected on these visits by sharing the following words:

"It really helped us to see all sorts of heroes and learn about different perspectives. We really know now what heroes are and are thankful they took their time to come and talk to us. We learned that heroes are really important because they work hard and keep others safe. We also learned that anyone can be a hero; not just police officers or fire fighters. We were really happy to have them come and it was a great experience!"

Following the guest hero presentations, the students extended their learning by studying other heroes. They researched, designed and created their own hero posters, then wrote about and presented what they learned to their classmates.

"Heroes are very good people who love to help others," concluded the class.

While deepening their learning about what it means to be a hero, they decided to get involved in helping others by standing up to bullying at their school. They were inspired to act as a hero would, such as being kind, respectful, helpful, brave and courageous.

It was at this point they embarked on creating anti-bullying presentations. Mme Vermesse guided a number of discussions about how acts of bullying can hurt others, as well as how they could work to prevent bullying or take action to improve a difficult situation. They then divided into groups and each group created an anti-bullying visual, presentation and skit. The information identified types of bullying, where it happens

and what to do to stop it.

"We wanted to do this because we wanted to stop others from bullying at our school," explained the class. "We wanted to spread a message that bullying is mean and horrible and just wrong! Wouldn't you rather be a hero than a bully?"

The Grade 4 students visited other classrooms to present their posters and skits, courageously delivering the message that everyone can be a hero and help by standing up to bullies. Their skits represented what bullying might look like. The students also took the time in all classrooms to talk about how to get help. They described the "peace keeper" roles whereby students wearing vests are on the playground each recess to help, intervene and promote kindness while playing.

By touring classrooms at École Bannatyne and sharing their knowledge and vision with their peers, the Grade 4 students sparked an anti-bullying movement at their school. Mme Vermesse shared how the students in her class actively began demonstrating an increased level of kindness, respect and understanding towards one another and have reduced bullying in their homeroom. The students are using their anti-bullying toolkits to grow stronger, healthier relationships, which has become evident from teacher Mme Vermesse's perspective.

"Our class is trying to spread this anti-bullying message with the whole school division, maybe even the world! We think this was a very helpful project as we met lots of people who taught us a lot about helping others. We also learned there are many different types of heroes, many good things we can spread around the world and that part of being a hero is always being kind and respectful. Everyone can be a hero! We really like this idea!"

The students hope their work will motivate others to "be confident, not be scared, give compliments, be nice and just talk to someone."

We want to stop bullying and are hoping to make a big, big difference!

Written collectively by Mme Vermesse's Grade 4 students. Submitted by Principal Mme Boyko



Partnering with our peers for MTS PD Day

Page 6



Brooklands students perform on stage with legend Roger Waters

Page 8

www.sjasd.ca

In Connection to Bullying Awareness Week, November 13-17, 2017

Theme: "Stand Up to Bullying"

Pink Shirt Day, Anti-Bullying Awareness Day, February 28, 2018

We encourage everyone to wear pink!

Canadian Red Cross visits Voyageur School for special Pink Shirt Day kick-off

Alanna T. and Cassia W. are both Grade 6 students in SJASD. On November 23, they were invited back to their former school, Voyageur School, to celebrate their 2017 anti-bullying video project with their peers and participate in a kick-off event with the Canadian Red Cross (CRC). The CRC selected Voyageur as the location to launch their campaign and reveal their Pink Day 2018 t-shirts designs.

"We selected Voyageur School because they submitted a video to the film festival in 2017 and did a really incredible job," said CRC Program representative Carolyn Labossiere. "We wanted to recognize the efforts of students that are showing an action for how they can create change in their school."

Alanna and Cassia presented to the Grade 4/5 student body at Voyageur School and explained the thought process behind their video called *Everyday Superheroes*. They referenced the importance of creating a storyboard to structure their ideas prior to filming and mentioned how they wish they could share a blooper reel as there were some funny moments captured during production. Their younger



peers were quite impressed with their messaging and videography skills and began brainstorming ideas for their own 2018 video submissions.

The CRC then revealed two t-shirt designs to everyone in attendance, including one limited-edition

graffiti design for schools in Manitoba and Nunavut, and one national Pink Day campaign t-shirt for schools and businesses across Canada. The t-shirts are to be worn on February 28 and April 11 in 2018 to support anti-bullying awareness in Canada.

News Channel elevates Kindness Movement at École Golden Gate Middle School

The Social Justice Club at École Golden Gate Middle School is on-air and ready to spread the word. That being said, the word for first term is kindness!

The students decided to kick off the school year promoting kindness using the school YouTube channel, *Gator Bytes Live Stream*.

"Presenting (on-air) is nerve wracking at first, but it feels good to have tried it," says Grade 7 student Gaby P.

The team has been hosting a live broadcast every Tuesday morning to celebrate kindness and is getting the student body involved in helping share the message!

Inspired by a video called *Kindness Boomerang* by Life Vest, the students created a remix of their own to demonstrate how kind acts can ripple through École Golden Gate. They also created a video challenging the school community to take action and do something to spread kindness. Check out the videos at:

<https://tinyurl.com/GatorBytesPlaylist>

Throughout the month of November, staff and students were encouraged to send kindness shout-outs to each other to recognize the kind acts happening everyday within their school. Kindness shout-outs were also read aloud on the live broadcast to further promote and celebrate positive social interactions on campus. As well, the Social Justice Club initiated kindness-themed book reviews for the recurring *Gator Bytes* segment called "Borrow This Book."



The Social Justice Club is keeping it kind at École Golden Gate by sharing positive messages and shout-outs on the school news YouTube Channel called *Gator Bytes*.

Next term, the Social Justice Club will be focusing on celebrating diversity at their school, followed by a theme of environmental sustainability for term three. Stay tuned to the *Gator Bytes* news channel for

more great videos!

Submitted by Teacher Ms. Bernhard and Guidance Counsellor Mlle Bees

GWMS students raising their hands in favour of French Cuisine and Culture

Much like a café in Paris, for one day each month, the corner of Mme Coutris's classroom offers lively conversations, savoury french treats and a view of the Eiffel tower (in 2D). This day is known at George Waters Middle School as Le Café.

The Grade 7 and 8 students are eager to earn a spot at the Le Café table, which is situated at the back of the classroom beside the window. The students are committed to working hard all year round to improve their chances of being selected for the special experience.

"We do French activities and if you participate, you get tickets," explained Grade 7 student Matthew B. "Our teacher puts them in a bin and at the end of the month she draws six people and they get to do the café."

Grade 7 student Christmas J. says she earned tickets by answering lots of questions, working hard, being quiet, and doing extra challenges.

While Mme Coutris wishes she could do the café each month for all her students, she works within her budget to offer the experience as a reward for those students who are working hard to improve their French language skills. At the start of the school year, she explains to all of her classes the link between the GWMS Le Café and the prevalent café culture that has long been a cornerstone of the French lifestyle.

"I tell them 'Oh they got it right in France, people sit for hours and they talk with their friends, hang out and just look at people walking by,'" said Mme Coutris.

At the latest Le Café, held on December 1, students in each class dined over croissants, French jam, bananas and apple juice. The

first two students selected are the hosts for the gathering and next four students are the guests. The hosts are responsible for serving their guests, welcoming them and striking the conversation. Technology is not permitted at the table as students are encouraged to interact face-to-face and make eye contact. One group started out by asking how everyone's day was going and the conversation quickly blossomed into discussing art projects, favourite flavours of jam and laughing about proper café manners, as they drank their apple juice boxes with their pinkies out.

All of the students expressed being happy they were selected for the Le Café and said they particularly enjoyed having a period to relax and eat delicious food.

"I like to include fruit as well because nutrition is important and sometimes that is the best part of their day because they didn't bring or have breakfast," explained Mme Coutris.

"Oh ya, we feel like we are in a café," said one group, who collectively expressed that French was one of their favourite subjects.

Mme Coutris volunteers at the Greek pavilion at Folklorama each year and knows that "if you feed people, they will want to be there."

In her experience, based on carrying out the Le Café for five years, she says "if you hook students on the culture, they will have a greater incentive to learn."

Her students are certainly hooked! In each class, students race to answer questions, stay after the bell to perform French language challenges as a way to earn extra tickets and are actively involved in class projects with an end goal of being selected for at least one Le Café.



GWMS students after a Le Café session on Friday, December 1. From the left: Grade 7 participants Christmas J., Ava S., Jackson C., Alex P., Matthew B., and Jabez C.





The perks of waking up a Golden Gate Gator

Staff and students at École Golden Gate Middle School have been starting their days off right. Every day at 8:15 a.m. inside Room 9, the school offers a free breakfast program for students who want a healthy snack in the morning or are looking for a place to connect. Through the support of a grant from the Manitoba Teachers' Society, the staff recently built a Lego wall to further encourage collaborative play early in the day.

The club is becoming quite popular within the school and is being celebrated among the students for offering a welcoming and relaxing atmosphere.

"Breakfast club is an amazing club to stay warm, eat food, and bond with friends," shared two Grade 7 students.

Although the food plays an important part for

many students, others are eager to participate as a fun way to start their day.

"I like breakfast club because I get to interact with people and play board games," said Grade 7 student Jalen S.

The program runs on a drop-in basis with some students participating daily and others coming sporadically or whenever they can. Up to 30 students come to enjoy the benefits of the program on a regular basis which has helped build positive student-teacher connections outside of the regular classroom setting. The staff and students at Golden Gate would like to thank the Manitoba Teachers' Society and Silver Heights Food Fare for their continued support of this valuable program.

Submitted by Teacher Ms. Bees

St. James Collegiate students present at Canadian Museum for Human Rights

The first day of December marked an extremely exciting and memorable day for the Social Justice students at St. James Collegiate.

After an intensive study of learning about the Indigenous narrative in Canada, the past was brought to life. A group of 13 students presented a play called *Moving Toward Truth and Reconciliation* at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in front of the Manitoba UNESCO family of schools,



staff and students. The students initially came up with the idea to create the play after participating in social justice study groups alongside Indigenous Education teacher Mrs. Waters. The play was first performed at both St. James Collegiate and George Waters Middle School as part of Orange Shirt Day 2017. The UNESCO family of schools audience in December consisted of 15 Member Schools and nine Candidate Schools in Manitoba. These schools have demonstrated or are working towards demonstrating a sustained commitment to the ideals, values, work and principles of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The 15-minute, multi-media production chronicled snapshots of Canadian history, highlighting the significant details of Indigenous peoples and the settler relationship. From the days of early trading to the legislation of the Indian Act, the play also covered the policies leading up to residential schools and the '60s Scoop.

"I became involved with this project in part because it hits close to home,"



expressed social justice member Avery B. "My mother was part of the '60s Scoop, having been removed from a Metis family and put up for adoption. It turned out well for our family but has made me very aware of how people are still impacted today and I want to be part of helping others learn more about the truth of this important piece of Canadian history that was a true tragedy."

Despite teary eyes and a stillness that filled the room, the story not often told came to life. The play delivered a

message of hope.

"As challenging as it may be for us to learn and accept the truth, it's still a crucial step in envisioning the Canada we want ourselves to represent," said social justice member Sarah L.

The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action will light the way to help Canadians better understand the injustices of the past, the disparities of the present and movement toward a future of equality for all citizens.

Submitted by Teachers Ms. Frolek and Mrs. Waters

Connecting with nature and Indigenous culture at Birds Hill Provincial Park

June 27, 2017 proved to be a valuable day of learning for two Grade 7 classes from École Golden Gate Middle School. With the support of two Divisional Indigenous Education liasons, Pam Peristy and Richelle Scott, Mrs. Bees and Mrs. Copeland accompanied their students to Birds Hill Provincial Park for the day.

At the park, students toured the natural habitat and learned to identify important Manitoba plants and animals. The two classes experienced firsthand a number of the concepts they are currently studying in science and social studies and deepened their understanding through hands-on learning. This opportunity to get outside the classroom allowed students to interact with their local surroundings and engage with nature and their peers. Students were surprised to discover the complex nature of the ecosys-

tems that exist in their own backyards.

The Birds Hill field trip also made several important connections to topics they had explored earlier in the year during classroom Talking Circles. Many students benefited from this classroom initiative as it helped them gain a better appreciation of Indigenous culture, while allowing them to bond as a class.

"I enjoyed that we all came together and listened to one another," said Cheyenne P.

Ally appreciated the atmosphere created during the Talking Circles, sharing "it was a place to go where you could just talk and not be judged."

The staff at École Golden Gate Middle School would like to thank the Manitoba Teachers' Society for their support of this worthwhile learning opportunity.

Submitted by Guidance Counsellor Mlle Bees



Two Grade 7 classes from École Golden Gate Middle School ventured to Birds Hill Provincial Park to explore ecosystems, land relationships and local vegetation.



Students from GWMS and St. James Collegiate enjoying WE Day 2017 at the MTS Centre on October 25.

WE Day 2017: Inspiring the Change in SJASD

During the lunch break at WE Day 2017, three students from GWMS shared a message they learned during the morning session almost in unison, "that everybody matters."

More than 400 SJASD students attended WE Day Manitoba this year wearing orange t-shirts that read "We Inspire the Change." Students spent the day exploring what it means to be an active local and global citizen, which is one of our strategic outcomes in SJASD.

Annually, the themes presented at WE Day mirror the initiatives celebrated within our schools, such as the importance of kindness, respecting diverse values, applying our learning to real-world situations, getting involved in our communities and speaking out on topics we care about. All of these concepts when put into action have the power to create a positive change in a

student's life. At least that was the case for a few Grade 8 Sharks.

Daimler G., Andrei E. and Cerl O. decided to make the most out of their last year before high school by joining every club offered at their school. So far that list consists of the leadership club, choir, photography and volleyball at George Waters Middle School.

"The more activities you do and join, the more your day will get better, the more your life will get better and it's more fun!" said Cerl.

While schools encourage extra-curricular/community involvement, WE Day shows students the spectrum of what is possible and creates a powerful energy for students to carry with them in their future endeavours. It will be interesting to see what Daimler, Cerl and Andrei, as well as the rest of our students take on next!

The fate of Carta Marina lies in the hands of GWMS students

GWMS student Ariel N., also known by her Grade 8 peers as Ned, sat down with her older sister to discuss the Classroom Story idea brought to life in Mr. Schmidt's class.

Her sister, who was in Mr. Schmidt's class the previous year, expressed how much she enjoyed the same classroom story her sister was working on called *Carta Marina*. While the name of the classroom story remains the same, the plot and journey is wildly different each year as it is up to the students to dictate where the storyline will lead them. Their creative ideas and ability to work together are two of the necessary elements required to begin formulating an engaging, unpredictable narrative.

Grade 8 student Mark M. explained how at the start of the school year, Mr. Schmidt offers the students a bunch of different characters to choose from and then they come up with their own character identity.

"You choose his strength, his dexterity, his health, how smart he is and you pick his backstory," said Mark.

Mark used the term "his" because in *Carta Marina* his character is Tor, a member of the sixth crusade across the Holy Land. Much like how Ariel is actually a mouse named Ned who dreams of coming back to life as a lion or dragon. This idea that all of the students in the class are characters working together has sparked conversations between classmates who aren't as familiar with one another and has even resulted in new friendships being made outside of English Language Arts class.

"The whole idea of the classroom story is that you are using a narrative to get kids talking to each other in meaningful ways and everyone is working



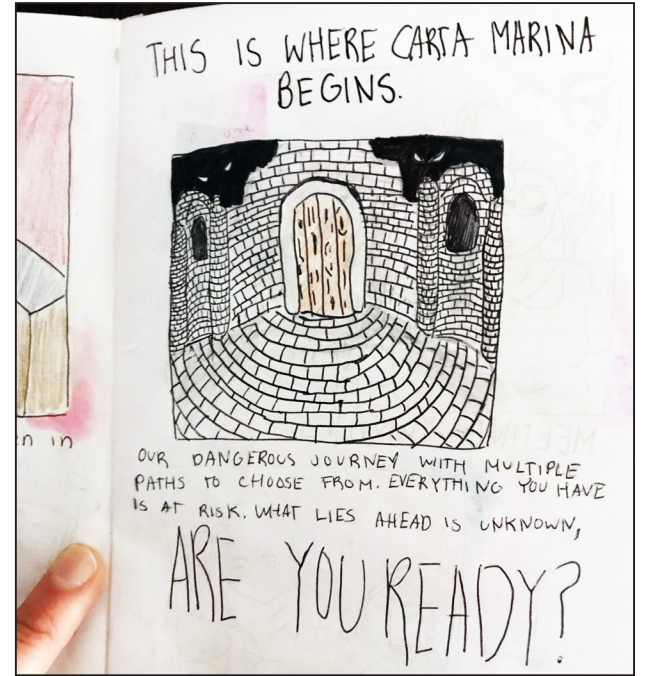
towards a common goal," explained Teacher Mr. Schmidt. "Students get a chance to explore the story from their character's perspective, which builds empathy and creative writing skills."

A big piece of the classroom story is generating content to advance the plot. Students are actively writing, drawing and brainstorming new ideas and scenarios to either escape trouble or best a new challenge. Mr. Schmidt often tosses lessons or road bumps into the mix to encourage students to talk and work together to find a solution.

"If you want to succeed, you can't just go at it alone," said Mark. "I mean I guess you could succeed alone but it would definitely be a lot harder."

From being trapped in a dystopia to going back in time, students are using their imaginations freely and constantly playing around with new ideas.

Mr. Schmidt says the one thing he's noticed grow



the most is their creative mindset as they start realizing the power of their words and their ability to add ideas into a story.

Ariel says she is always trying to add more detail into her writing or find new words to make her writing more exciting. Meanwhile Mark is loving that he can incorporate his knowledge of medieval history and explore new writing tasks such as scripting a letter to the king, which he did outside of class.

While the classroom story is a big undertaking, Mr. Schmidt knows there is plenty of pedagogy to support the social theory of learning. Social interaction plays a key role in the process of cognitive development, as referenced by Vygotsky's Social Development Theory. As for this year, this is where *Carta Marina* begins but who knows where it will end!

How vertical non-permanent learning spaces changed our classrooms at Hedges

Two years ago, a colleague and I attended a professional development (PD) session on *Building Thinking Classrooms* with a follow-up session one year later. As with every PD session, we settled in and tried to figure out what we could take back to our classrooms. It started with the speaker, Peter Liljedahl, talking to us about why he was there and how he was going to show us ways to make our students become better thinkers. Those first five minutes felt like five hours but little did I know, the next five hours would feel like five minutes!

Peter got us out of our seats, randomly grouped us and had us answer a few open-ended math problems. These problems were worked out and solved on vertical non-permanent surfaces with only one marker between four people. This was all it took to start transforming how we viewed our classrooms.

If you allow students to brainstorm on non-permanent surfaces, they are more likely to take chances and think critically and creatively about the question. The vertical surface, with no chairs, forces students to stand which implements movement. Vertical non-permanent learning spaces allows students to see each other's ideas and leads to collaboration between groups. The single mark-

er encourages groups to communicate, collaborate and promotes citizenship. Using open-ended math questions is designed to promote critical thinking skills and have students apply various problem-solving strategies.

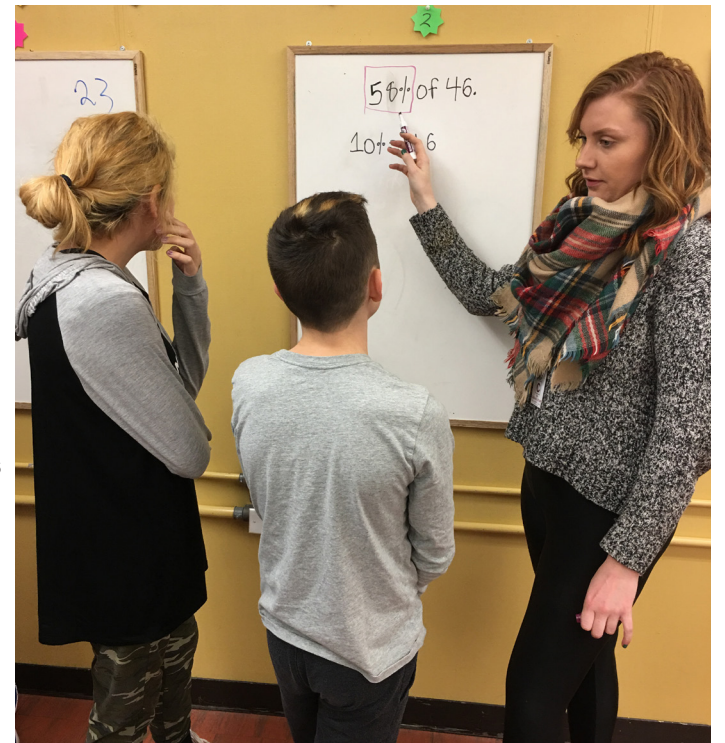
"You get to try hard questions in groups and get ideas from other people," said Grade 8 student Roselyn L.

The success students have in working in these groups also helps to foster character growth and boosts their self-confidence.

"It's good because I'm a visual learner and it helps me to see it written out," shared Grade 8 student Jenna K.

We have used this strategy with various classes and in multiple subjects with the same results. High student engagement and deeper thinking are the benefits of a classroom utilizing this strategy on a daily basis. Students are asking focused questions, designing various creative solutions and building their confidence to attempt any problem posed to them. All you need is some vertical space to write, whiteboard markers and the confidence to try it out in your classroom!

Submitted by Teachers Mr. Edinger and Ms. Fletcher



Grade 7 Hedges students Isabella M. and Steven D. working alongside teacher candidate Ms. Bumstead to solve a math problem using a vertical surface in their classroom.



Sansome students Haywaad S. (left) and William M. are learning the basics of coding with Beebots.

Makerspace boosts creative culture at Sansome School

A Makerspace is a community space within our school where students can gather to take part in hands-on learning and encourages both creativity and innovation. Students can explore, tinker, discover, collaborate, design, create and make!

Our makerspace is equipped with a variety of tools that can be used for designing all kinds of creations. Some of these tools include arts and crafts supplies, such as clay, pipe cleaners, paint, popsicle sticks, cardboard, paper, and glue as well as a variety of manipulatives to support growth and understanding in the areas of coding and robotics.

Makerspaces are a unique opportunity for student engagement as they promote design thinking and increased planning of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) activities. By operating as a community space, this area can function as an educational centre, gathering place, and creative studio all in one. By including a variety of creative materials, this space is accessible to individuals across a range of ages and abilities.

Accumulation of materials is an ongoing need to both establish and continue the success of this space. We are always looking for items you may have around your home that could possibly be

donated to support the creative efforts of our students. The items that would be most helpful to Sansome students at this time are:

- plastic tubes
- paper towel/toilet paper rolls
- Lego/K'Nex
- building toys/blocks
- plastic/paper cups/plates
- low temperature glue guns and glue sticks
- yarn/string
- paper (origami, wallpaper scraps, tinfoil, wax)
- duct/masking tape
- cardboard
- broken toys (especially wheels and axles)
- craft supplies e.g. marbles/beads/straws
- hot wheels cars
- egg cartons
- plastic lids and containers e.g. milk jug, margarine
- wood scraps
- fabric
- old CDs/DVDs

Any donated items can be brought to the school office and we will ensure they are put to use within our Sansome Makerspace.

Submitted by Teacher Ms. Cairns



It's time to register for the 2018-2019 school year!

All Schools in St. James-Assiniboia School Division will hold Information Evenings either in January or February 2018

Kindergarten

All children registering for Kindergarten must be five years old by December 31, 2018 in order to register for Kindergarten starting in September 2018. Each school in the St. James-Assiniboia School Division is hosting an Information Evening to provide you with an opportunity to meet the teachers and learn more about school programs.

The following Kindergarten Information Evenings will begin at 7:00 p.m. Registrations will be accepted by schools beginning on January 26, 2018, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Start times will be provided at the Information Evening or by contacting the school.

École Assiniboine School,* 175 Winston Rd., 204-885-2216	Monday, January 22
Athlone School, 110 Athlone Dr., 204-832-1373	Thursday, January 18
École Bannatyne School,* 363 Thompson Dr., 204-888-1101	Monday, January 22
Brooklands School, 1950 Pacific Ave., 204-633-9630	Tuesday, January 23
Buchanan School, 815 Buchanan Blvd., 204-888-0680	Wednesday, January 24
Crestview School, 333 Morgan Cres., 204-885-7710	Tuesday, January 23
Heritage School, 47 Heritage Blvd., 204-837-1394	Tuesday, January 23
Lakewood School, 55 Kay Cres., 204-889-9360	Wednesday, January 17
Linwood School, 266 Linwood St., 204-889-9356	Thursday, January 18
Phoenix School, 111 Alboro St., Headingley, 204-889-5053	Wednesday, January 17
École Robert Browning,* 130 Browning Blvd., 204-837-8381	Monday, January 22
Sansome School, 181 Sansome Ave., 204-889-6000	Thursday, January 25
Stevenson-Britannia School, 1777 Silver Ave., 204-832-1359	Tuesday, January 23
Strathmillan School, 339 Strathmillan Rd., 204-888-0148	Wednesday, January 24
Voyageur School, 37 Voyageur Ave., 204-888-3390	Thursday, January 25

* French Immersion

For additional information, please visit our [Guide to Early Years Out-of-Catchment Registration Brochure](#), found at www.sjasd.ca/Schools/StudentRegistration

Middle Years

The following Information Evenings have been scheduled to provide parents and students with information on school programs. All Information Evenings begin at 7:00 p.m. Registration forms will be accepted on January 26, 2018.

Bruce Middle School, 333 Booth Dr., 204-888-1990	Thursday, January 25
George Waters Middle School, 190 Ferry Rd., 204-888-4898	Wednesday, January 24
École Golden Gate Middle School, 330 Bruce Ave., 204-837-5808	Wednesday, January 17
Hedges Middle School, 369 Fairlane Ave., 204-837-5843	Monday, January 15
Lincoln Middle School, 3180 McBey Ave., 204-837-8397	Tuesday, January 16
Ness Middle School, 3300 Ness Ave., 204-837-1361	Thursday, January 18

MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMMING

Middle Years schools in St. James-Assiniboia School Division are composed of Grades 6 to 8, and are specifically designed to address educational issues involving young people in the transition period between childhood and full adolescence. Along with the regular academic program, all of our Middle Years schools offer a wide range of options as well as extra-curricular activities.

Non-resident students are welcome. However it is important to note that students living outside the Metro area must register by May 15, 2018 to be considered for registration. Students who live within city limits must register prior to September 30, 2018. Please contact the school, the School Board office at 204-888-7951, or visit www.sjasd.ca for more information.

Great Schools for Growing and Learning
www.sjasd.ca



Senior Years

Our four high schools are holding Information Evenings on the following dates for parents and students to meet teachers and learn more about the different types of programs available. All Information Evenings begin at 7:00 p.m. Registration forms will be accepted on February 16, 2018.

John Taylor Collegiate, 470 Hamilton Ave., 204-888-8930	Thursday, February 15
St. James Collegiate (ASTec), 1900 Portage Ave., 204-888-4867	Monday, February 12
Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate, 2665 Ness Ave., 204-888-0684	Tuesday, February 13
Westwood Collegiate, 360 Rouge Rd., 204-888-7650	Wednesday, February 14

SENIOR YEARS PROGRAMMING

Advanced Placement Courses (AP)

AP courses provide students with an opportunity to earn internationally accepted university credits while still in high school. Both John Taylor Collegiate and St. James Collegiate will offer AP courses in Grade 12.

French Immersion

Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate is a dual-track high school offering complete programs in French Immersion and English.

International Baccalaureate (IB)

This worldwide program responds to the need for greater academic challenge in the senior years. Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate and Westwood Collegiate offer the IB program (Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate offers this program in both English and French). Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate and Westwood Collegiate will have program information at their Information Evenings.

Arts Education Program

The Arts programs at all four of our high schools offer a full range of academic courses, as well as enriched arts education for students with a demonstrated talent that may include band, choral, dance, drama, musical theatre and visual arts. Westwood Collegiate offers Advanced and IB programs to enhance the performing arts.

SJASD earns three PHE Manitoba Awards

Physical and health educators, along with an entire SJASD school were recognized for their innovative methods and unwavering commitment to students at the annual PHE Manitoba Awards ceremony, held on October 19 at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate.

St. James Collegiate physical education teacher Ms. Van Aggelen received the Stu Sieme Award, which is presented annually to a school with an exemplary outdoor education program. St. James Collegiate principal Ms. Steffler presented the award to Ms. Van Aggelen and spoke to her impact within the school. She highlighted the creation of the Sustainability Wilderness program, calling it "the house she built." The program helps students learn how to survive in the wilderness, strengthen their relationships with nature and the land, and allows them to connect with their peers in a new environment.

Also recognized by PHE Manitoba was physical education teacher Mr. Vermeylen from École Robert Browning. He earned the prestigious PHE Manitoba Early Years

Award. The PHE Manitoba Early, Middle and Senior Years Award is presented to one physical educator in each respective category who has shown outstanding leadership and dedication to the promotion of physical education in Manitoba. SJASD Physical and Health Education Coordinator Mr. Ross presented the award and shared how Mr. Vermeylen is a "Master Teacher" who helps his students develop a love for learning and a deep appreciation for physical education.

Lastly, Brooklands School was recognized with the Golden Apple Award which honours an outstanding school who has demonstrated a commitment in programming, resources and support of Healthy School initiatives, programs and events. Brooklands School principal Mr. Ferguson-Baird accepted the award alongside 10 of his colleagues who have all helped the school meet and surpass a number of their physical and health-related goals at the early years level.

Congratulations to Ms. Van Aggelen, Mr. Vermeylen and Brooklands School!



A group of staff members from Brooklands School celebrating their Golden Apple recognition at the PHE Manitoba Annual Awards evening.

COMMUNITY

Collaborating with our peers on MTS PD DAY

From Westwood Collegiate to Kildonan East Collegiate, Manitoba teachers spread out all across the city on MTS PD Day to further share and develop their professional skills.

The 2017 Manitoba Teachers' Society Professional Development Day took place on Friday, October 20. This inservice day is an opportunity for teachers to learn from one another in an inspiring, collaborative educational environment near the start of the school year. Our staff participated in MTS PD Day in a variety of capacities including helping organize full day events, leading professional development sessions and attending events all across the city to learn more about their respective fields.

"I think the most important take away for the participants was that empathy is at the heart of the design process," said SJASD coordinator Ms. Badger, who facilitated an afternoon workshop alongside coordinator Ms. McLauchlan at the Manitoba Association of Computing Educators event.

The PD event was called "Literacy & Makerspace at Millennium Library," and the afternoon session was titled *Picture Book Engineering*. Using the design thinking process, participants were asked to identify an issue, ideate solutions, and build a prototype to solve a problem for the character in a book.

"Ms. McLauchlan and I have facilitated this workshop many times and we are always surprised by the variety of creative solutions people come up with to solve their character's problem!"

Meanwhile, at L'Université de Saint-Boniface, SJASD Coordinator Mme Burnett was leading an escape room en français as part of the Manitoba Association of Teachers of French event. The activity, called "Le jeu d'évasion," was a breakout activity encouraging critical thinking, problem solving and teamwork through cultural exploration infused with language enrichment. Participants worked together to solve riddles, where the solution was either a word, key, direction or number, to open a series of locks on a "Breakout Box." The goal of the session was to solve the full riddle and open the box before the time runs out. As seen in the photo above, two SJASD teachers, along with their team, successfully unlocked the Festival du Voyageur Breakout Box to

Sansome partners with neighbouring schools in SJASD to spread Holiday Cheer

Throughout November and December, the students, staff and community of Sansome School annually participate in a variety of events to support those in need within our community and beyond. We often partner with schools throughout our Division to create a greater sense of community and ensure that our students are increasingly aware that helping others is not only an expectation of all St. James-Assiniboia schools, but it is the norm.

For the second year in a row, we have partnered with Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate (CSHC) to support their Pros vs. Joes event in support of Project Echo and Sam's Christmas. As a school, over 450 items including cash, non-perishable food items and new clothing items were raised to contribute to the overall initiative. Sansome School held a school-wide Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament to celebrate these donations and ensure students could partic-



Grade 2 students Aubrey C. (left) and Andi R. donating perishable foods items at Sansome School.



SJASD Coordinator Mme Burnett (2nd from the left) with École Assiniboine teachers Mme LaChance and Mme Noël capping off a successful MTS PD DAY session at the L'Université de Saint-Boniface.

reveal a faux beaver pelt.

While many other staff in our Division shared their professional skills and led engaging sessions across the city, SJASD also hosted two events. The Science Teachers Association of Manitoba (STAM) carried out the day at Westwood Collegiate and the Physical and Health Educators of Manitoba (PHE Manitoba) gathered at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate (CSHC). Westwood Collegiate teacher and incoming President of STAM, Mr. Johnson, explained how this year they introduced a speaker's series in the same vein as a TED Talk style event.

"Our keynote speaker was Dr. Jennifer Gardy, occasional host of *The Nature of Things*," explained Mr. Johnson. "She gave a great talk on engaging our students in science learning."

The STAM event at Westwood Collegiate sold out the venue and received extremely positive feedback. At the same time, the PHE Manitoba event happening at CSHC experienced a record turnout.

"The famous line in the classic film *Field of Dreams* says, "if you build it, he will come!" explained SJASD Physical and Health Education Coordinator Mr. Ross.

"People from all across the country came out in droves to attend the 2017 Power of Play Conference as just shy of 800 participants attended the annual MTS PD Day."

Mr. Ross explained how a diverse range of delegates listened to the world's top researchers in the area of play and explored the benefits of risky play, back to nature and the need for creativity in play.

participate in the upcoming Pros vs. Joes event held at CSHC.

As well, Sansome School further partnered with students from Westwood Collegiate in support of Koats for Kids. Students learned about this local charity during grade group meetings and now understand both the importance and efforts of this organization. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we were able to donate over 150 items of gently-used outdoor winter clothing to Westwood Collegiate's initiative. A number of SJASD schools were also involved in supporting Koats for Kids this year as part of an effort to keep youth in Winnipeg warm this winter. Participating schools included: École Assiniboine, St. James Collegiate, Jameswood Alternative School, Lincoln Middle School, Hedges Middle School, École Bannatyne, Bruce Middle School and the School Board Office. Many local families benefit from this organization as schools, daycares or social service agencies are able to place orders in our community, as well as across the city.

Lastly, Sansome's ongoing tradition of creating hampers for its own Westwood community continues. A variety of items continue to pour in from our community as well as sponsorship for age appropriate gifts to ensure all have a feeling a celebration and warmth over the holidays. We will be creating 10 hampers in total this year and delivering them just prior to winter break.

We would like to thank our generous community in supporting the ongoing charitable initiatives of our students and staff throughout the year. Great job to all schools who got involved in helping spread joy this holiday season.

Submitted by Principal Mr. Lizotte

Pictured top right: a team from Sansome School sending off three big bags of donations to Koats for Kids. Just below is a group of St. James Collegiate students compiling the gently-used clothing items collected at their school.



Stevenson-Britannia team with coordinator Mr. McKiel participating in the pre MTS PD Day workshop called TUCK, organized by PHE Manitoba.

Participants dispersed into break out sessions to put this message into practice. Students from Stevenson-Britannia School and École Robert Browning also participated in the day by providing examples of circus art instruction.

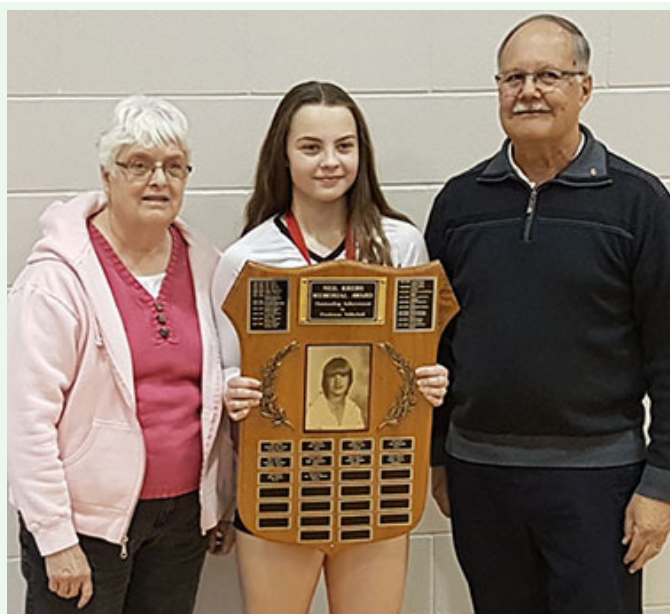
A huge congratulations to everyone who took part and dedicated their time, energy, skills to help make this year's MTS PD Day a great success. Thank you as well to all the volunteers!



Back Row: Mr. Lizotte and Westwood students Danika M., Carly S., Ava B. Front Row: Mrs. Vieira, Mr. Arnason.



CONGRATULATIONS



Divisional Champs, a Provincial win and the Neil Krebs Award at Bruce Middle School

The Bruce Bearcats were unstoppable this year on the volleyball court and their hard work resulted in one celebration after the next.

Both the Bruce Middle School Boys and Girls volleyball teams played Lincoln Middle School in the Divisional finals in late November. The two Bruce teams came away with the win and the Bearcats brought home two Tier 1 SJAMYAA Divisional Championship banners.

For the first time this year, teams at the Middle Years level were required to qualify to enter the Provincial Tournament. Both Bruce teams qualified to play in the tournament, which took place the weekend of December 1 and 2 at Dakota Community Centre. Unfortunately, the Bruce Boys were knocked out in the semi-final game against Leila North but girls went on to contend in the Provincial final. The Bruce Girls played the Killarney Raiders in the final and performed

exceptionally well under pressure. The girls communicated well on the court attributing to their Gold medal finish to cap off their fantastic season!

If that wasn't enough for Bruce to celebrate, Grade 8 Bruce student Emily B. was honoured with the 30th anniversary Neil Krebs Award. Neil Krebs was a student who played on the Boys volleyball team at Spring Valley School in SJASD. This award was developed as a memorial to Neil who died as a result of an automobile accident. The Neil Krebs Award is presented annually to a player who best exemplifies the characteristics Neil displayed as an athlete — excellent skill, sportsmanship and team commitment. Kenneth and Donna Krebs presented the divisional plaque to Emily B., along with a scholarship in the amount of \$100. A huge congratulations to all Bruce players and coaches this season!



Westwood JV Boys bring home Tier 1 Title

For the first time in the school's history, a boys team from Westwood Collegiate won the Winnipeg West Athletic Conference Championship. This historic win was earned by the Junior Varsity Boys team led by coaches Ken Vince and Kathryn Warner.

An exceptional season for the Warriors, the team boasted a 9-1 regular season record heading into the playoffs. They earned a bye in the first round, then went on to defeat Vincent Massey in the semi-finals. They faced off against the St. Pauls Crusaders in the final, where they won all three sets to bring home the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference title.

At that time, a number of Westwood players earned prestigious recognitions including: Bryce M., championship match MVP, Easton G., WWAC tournament All Star and Bryce C., WWAC MVP.

With only five losses in the regular season, including tournaments, the team headed into the Provincial Championship tournament ranked second. On November 23, they won all three sets playing the Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute Maroons, and again found themselves up against St. Paul's, except this time in the Provincial semi-final. The Warriors left it all on the court winning the second and third sets but in the best of five game came up just short. The team did not move onto the Provincial final but overall, experienced an exceptional season filled with proud moments and record-breaking highs! Congratulations, Warriors!



6th in the World in Caribou Math Contest

Grade 10 student Josh B. scores first in Manitoba and sixth in the world on the first 2017-18 Caribou Math Contest. The Caribou Contest is a world-wide online contest that is held six times throughout the school year. It aims to "improve student problem solving techniques by providing a wide variety of challenging math activities suitable for all students in grades 3-12."

Currently in a pre-calculus class at Westwood Collegiate, Josh wrote the Grade 9/10 contest along with his classmate Bentley T. Bentley also did exceptionally well, placing fourth in the province. Since it is a timed contest, the fact that Josh earned a score of 100% didn't automatically push him to the top of the list, as five other students in the world also scored 100% but finished the test in less time.

"I was excited because I didn't think I was going to do that well," said Josh. "It was a nice thing for me!"

He hopes to score 100% on the next test and is excited to see where his passion for math can lead him! Congratulations to Josh and Bentley! Keep up the great work!



Jayda named #1 in Provincial Coaches Poll

Grade 12 Westwood Collegiate student Jayda N. ranked first in the Winnipeg Sun's annual girls high school volleyball Top 10 coaches poll.

"As an athlete, Jayda is as good as it comes," said coach Mr. Enns. "She did absolutely everything for us this year as she was one of our top passers, top attackers, top blockers and even our setter for a little bit." Jayda was honoured to receive this recognition and explained how this was a big year for her, volleyball-wise.

"Last year was my first year hitting," explained Jayda. "I was a setter before so this was a learning year but I think it worked out for the better."

She honed her skills over the summer participating for Team Manitoba at the 2017 Canada Summer Games and is currently exploring her post-graduate options for universities to continue playing the sport she loves. Congratulations, Jayda. We wish you the best of luck in your future volleyball career!





The St. James-Assiniboia School Board of Trustees and Administration wish you the best of the holiday season and a happy, healthy 2018.

From left to right: Mike Wake, Assistant Superintendent, Craig Johnson, Trustee, Tanis Pshebniski, Assistant Superintendent, Brett Lough, Chief Superintendent, Sandy Lethbridge, Trustee, Kazia Paradis, Senior Executive Assistant, Bruce Chegus, Trustee, Craig McGregor, Board Chair, Jennifer Lawson, Trustee, John Mulligan, Trustee, Ed Hume, Trustee, Cheryl Smukowich, Board Vice Chair, Mike Friesen, Secretary-Treasurer/ Chief Financial Officer, Peter Woods, Trustee.



A group of 12 students from Brooklands School dancing on stage beside rock legend Roger Waters to the classic hit, *Another Brick in the Wall*.

Brooklands students on stage with Roger Waters

In 1980, *Another Brick in the Wall* by Pink Floyd remained at the top of the US singles chart for four consecutive weeks. The iconic rock song featuring a children's choir came to life in its full glory with 12 student performers from Brooklands School on October 22 at Bell MTS Place.

As part of the Us +Them Tour, Brooklands School was asked to join Roger Waters on stage to perform the classic hit *Another Brick in the Wall* mid-way through the concert. The Grade 4 and 5 students were beyond excited to participate and quickly began learning the lyrics and practicing their choreography.

"I was nervous," admitted Grade 4 student Stone P.

A number of her classmates were also nervous to perform on stage in front of such a big audience, but their fears seemed to dissolve when the big moment came.

"When the people were cheering, I was really happy because they were excited by our dancing," shared Stone.

Grade 5 student Jaskirat K. explained how she learned not to be nervous and that she can

dance on stage in front of 15,000 people!

The Brooklands students wore orange jumpsuits and black covers over their heads when they appeared on stage and began to chant the famous words "we don't need no thought control." The students later tore off their covers and jumpsuits to reveal black t-shirts that read "RESIST" in bold white letters on the front.

The Brooklands students shined on stage and the energy in the building grew with each dance move. The screen behind them captured all the fun our students were having as they soaked in this once in a lifetime experience with their peers.

While the students may not have grown up with Pink Floyd's music, they were ecstatic to meet Roger Waters back stage and experience the music industry firsthand. The Brooklands students also discussed the meaning behind the writing on their t-shirts with their school teachers, principals and families, encouraging them to be conscious of what is going on in the world around them and to always keep their minds and eyes open.

Amazing job to all performers!



St. James Collegiate Musical Theatre/ Choir students after their moving performance on Remembrance Day.

New Musical Theatre Program on the rise at SJCI

The staff and students at George Waters Middle School and St. James Collegiate were recently wowed by the incredible talent of a newly-formed Musical Theatre/Choir group within their family of schools. A group of nine students delivered an exceptional performance of *Imagine* by John Lennon at a jointly attended Remembrance Day Service held on November 9. Under the direction of Ms. Lough and accompanied by Ms. Thorleifson, the musical talents of Andrei C., Ian J., Ayoub M., Torey E., Avery T., Jennifer L., Sarah L., Salina L. and Sadie K. were evident for all in attendance. All of these students are currently enrolled in the newly-established Musical Theatre Program at St. James Collegiate this year. The school community is eagerly anticipating their future performances in the musical production of *The Wizard of Oz*, running from April 10-13 this spring. We hope to see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Be sure to mark your calendars for the following Division events and activities:

December 25 - January 5
Holiday Break

January 8
Schools re-open

January 9
Early Dismissal
School Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Public Welcome

January 15
Information Evenings begin (see Page 5)

January 23
Early Dismissal
School Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Public Welcome

January 15
Early and Middle Years
Registration Collection

January 26- February 1
School-Based Assessment Week



CONTACT

Contact is published four times per year for friends of the St. James-Assiniboia School Division.

Please send your letter to:
Jen Cameron, Editor
St. James-Assiniboia School Division
2574 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3J 0H8
Tel: (204) 888-7951

Visit our Divisional Calendar at www.sjasd.ca for additional details on other Division/school events.