



# CONTACT

Great Schools for  
Growing and Learning

St. James-Assiniboia School Division

Fall Issue 2016



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Teacher Mr. Vodopivec with two of his students, Sayge T. and Chris P. Both students are currently in the Aviation program at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate and have recently experienced great achievements within the field. Congrats to both students!



Aviation students Sayge T. and Chris P. inside the flight training device at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate.

## Flight Paths in Progress at Sturgeon

In 2002, Sturgeon Creek introduced the first Private and Commercial Pilot Ground School offered at the High School level in Canada. Now, 14 years later, the aviation program is flourishing through exceptional student drive and dedication, along with support from a growing list of partners.

While many students register for the aviation program in Grade 9 out of interest, a number of students go on to discover their future career paths.

“Ultimately, I want to be a commercial pilot,” Grade 12 student Chris P. said. “I want to be flying passengers around the world helping them get to where they want to be.”

Chris entered the program in Grade 9 after attending the open house. In his Grade 9 year, during a field trip to St. Andrews Airport, he had the opportunity to go up for a solo discovery flight alongside an instructor where he took control of an aircraft for the first time.

“It’s not just a subject that you take, it’s a whole different view on life,” said Chris. “It was an unbelievable feeling, I thought I could do this every day and it would never get old.”

Now in his senior year, Chris recently received a National Scholarship, the Neil James Armstrong Scholarship for \$3,000, presented to him by the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA) on October 1, 2016. He was also chosen as this year’s recipient of the WAA’S, Queen Elizabeth II Aviation Scholarship for \$1,000 to pursue post-secondary education in the field of Aviation, Aerospace and Tourism.

He plans on putting these funds towards earning his private pilot license this summer and is looking at post-secondary options within the field.

On top of finding his career path in the program, Chris was able to step out of his comfort zone and build connections in the community. This summer he volunteered at the Portage La Prairie air show with fellow aviation student Sayge T. and completed 55 volunteer hours for the Winnipeg Airport Silverwing Youth Ambassador Program.

“A lot of times people who come to Canada or Winnipeg for the first time, it is the silver wings who they have their first contact with,” explained Aviation teacher Mr. Vodopivec.

Chris benefitted from the program by receiving a job at the airport, where he is now learning about airport operations outside of class.

Mr. Vodopivec explains how his reward is seeing students succeed and head in a direction. He says “at first students think aviation is flying a plane, then throughout the years they realize there are a lot more options within this field.”

Sayge T., currently a Grade 11 aviation student, says she is looking forward to exploring the engineering aspect as they go more in-depth into engines this year.

Over the summer, Sayge and one other CSHC student, spent six weeks out in Gimli training to earn their glider’s pilot license through the Air Cadet’s program.

“It’s an aircraft without an engine,” explains Sayge. “So that comes in handy when you are flying an aircraft and your engine fails, I feel like it is essential for being a pilot.”

Sayge admits she was scared, being only sixteen with an instructor in the back telling her not to do certain things or else she’d stall, but says her education from this program helped her to succeed.

She mentioned finding out about the glider opportunity from her father, who taught cadets and also, Jill Oakes, an inspiring member of Women in Aviation who Mr. Vodopivec helped connect her with.

As Mr. Vodopivec assists his students towards achieving their aviation goals in high school, his students don’t forget about him as they move into their careers. Lining the door of the aviation room inside Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate is a series of thank you cards and “Where I am now” updates mailed-in by former students.

Mr. Vodopivec is in awe of all the students who have kept in touch, some of whom only took one course with him in Grade 12. Countless students are now studying and working in the aviation field, he mentions former students who are now military pilots, commercial pilots, aircraft mechanical engineers, flying for a local airline, studying airline management and pursuing many different paths within aviation.

As the program continues to offer great opportunities for students who are passionate about aviation, it wouldn’t be possible without the following partnerships: Winnipeg International Airport, St. Andrews Airport, Harv’s Air, Winnipeg Aviation, Manitoba Aviation Council, Young Eagles, COPA, Nav Canada, Red River College and FAA Youth Aviation and Space Program.



# A Message from the Chief Superintendent



Brett Lough, Chief Superintendent.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all staff, students and their families to the St. James-Assiniboia School Division for 2016-17. We hope that you had the opportunity to enjoy your friends and family over the past two months.

We would also like to welcome back Tanis Pshebniski to her role as Assistant Superintendent after a year of working with Manitoba Education and Training in the Student Achievement Support Unit. With her return to the Division, the superintendents' department will also see a slight change in the roles of the Assistant Superintendents. Tanis will have the portfolio of Assistant Superintendent, Education (K-8) and Student Services, while Mike Wake's portfolio will be Assistant Superintendent, Education (Gr. 6-12) and Administration. In keeping with creating a more collaborative culture, the Assistant Superintendents' roles will now overlap at the middle years level, to further support the vertical conversations we have begun on student data and instructional practices with our staff.

2016-17 will be a very busy year for our Division. The school year will see some significant changes with a new Division Strategic Plan in place, as well as the beginning of the middle years reorganization transition phase. In 2016-17, Grade 6 French Immersion students will now attend Ness Middle School. École Golden Gate Middle School will still have the Grade 7 and 8 French Immersion students. Hedges Middle School will see a significant boost in their student population as a part of the transition process with over 350 students now attending the John Taylor Collegiate

feeder school. While these changes are exciting for staff, students and the community, the Division will continue to work closely with schools affected through the transition period. With our 'shared leadership' model, the Board and school division staff will continue to provide opportunities for input in order that staff and the community continue to have a high level of confidence as we move forward with these changes.

As a Division, our focus will also be to continue to look for ways to provide more meaningful learning experiences for all of our students. As a staff, we will continue to accept the enormous responsibility of helping our children discover, and in some cases, rediscover the joy of learning. In support of this focus, we will continue to enhance the collaborative processes within our schools and their communities. Our schools will continue to reach out to the community to share and celebrate the value and successes of public education. All partners in the learning process - including students, employees, parents/guardians, and community members - have a valuable role in the development of our children into caring and productive members of society. John Hattie's research points out the significant importance of teachers working together and how this impacts their belief that they can and do make a difference in student learning. Heading into the new school year, we are confident that our staff will continue to embrace this notion of collaboration in St. James-Assiniboia School Division's ongoing pursuit of providing a quality education for all those students that enter our schools.

We look forward to working with you in the upcoming school year. Have a great year!

**Brett Lough, Chief Superintendent**

## Divisional logo highlights Indigenous landmark

St. James-Assiniboia School Division is steeped in Indigenous history.



On September 6, 2016, a Division inservice was held at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate for all staff and administration to attend. At the event, keynote speaker Dr. Niigaan Sinclair made mention of how one of the three divisional symbols represented on our logo speaks to our historical Indigenous beginnings.



Cuthbert Grant's mill is located on the bottom left hand side of our logo. Grant constructed a

watermill on Sturgeon Creek in 1829 and while the exact location is not known, we can still see today the replica located north of Portage Avenue in the Sturgeon Creek Greenway. Grant was a recognized leader of the Metis who established a settlement known as Grantown, home to approximately 2,000 Metis people located along the Assiniboine River. This area later became known as St. Francois Xavier.

By taking a closer look at the St. James-Assiniboia community, more local destinations are linked to our Indigenous history.

The St. James Church located across from Polo Park was a community populated by English speaking Metis. It is said there is an Indigenous burial ground on this site. The original church, used during the Riel Rebellion, had a watchtower that was used to see riders coming from Portage la Prairie when the Metis were trying to free Riel's prisoners. The parish gave this area the name of St. James.



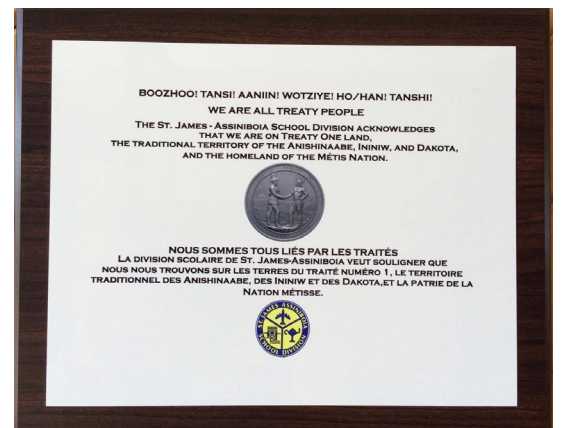
Bruce Park is also infused in Metis history. The park was donated to the city of Winnipeg by a Metis farmer named Peter Bruce who lived on the land from 1836 until his death in 1928. The park is surrounded in family stories telling of an altercation taking place in the 1800s where Cree warriors were killed and later buried somewhere in the park by Peter Bruce.



The Portage Trail, also known as Portage Avenue, was a doorway to the west used by Indigenous people to go on the buffalo hunt and settlers used it to cross into the prairies to trade and hunt. It is said there was a dam at this location along the trail, as it flooded frequently, and the dam was used to cross when the waters were high.

Our Division is imbued with Indigenous narratives that have become the basis of the land we teach on...Welcome to Treaty One land!

This September, all 26 schools in our Division received two plaques to display inside their school. The first plaque is our 2016-2021 Strategic Plan and the second is a document recognizing that we are on Treaty One Land.



Treaty One land, as described on the plaque, is the "traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Ininiw, and Dakota and the homeland of the Metis Nation."

Information provided by Indigenous Education Teacher Richelle Scott



## Improving problem solving skills at École Assiniboine

Inside Mme Noël's classroom at École Assiniboine, students are excited to see numeracy coach Lisa Page.

Grade 4 student Brooklynn H. says walking into class and seeing Mme Page means "it is going to be a fun math class!"

For the second year in a row, all four numeracy coaches within our Division are beginning to rotate through our schools with the objective to help individual schools meet their numeracy goals.

When Mme Page met with school administrators at École Assiniboine last year, the following numeracy goal was set:

***By the end of June 2017, 100% of students will increase problem solving skills through the use of grade level appropriate skills.***

"We hope to bring ideas and suggestions for teachers to help improve all student achievement in math," Mme Page said. "We are not just there to assist with struggling students."

The numeracy coaches work with students directly in the class providing small group instruction and also model whole class lessons. The plan is to provide ideas, activities and rich problems to support the great teaching going on within our schools.

After class, Brooklynn was asked what she learned from the lesson.

"I think problem solving," she said. "I had to build a picture on pieces of paper with blocks and you have to put the little shapes in the right spot or it won't all fit and you can't make the picture."

Brooklynn says she enjoys math when it is fun and inside a game. Teacher Mme Noël says Mme Page provided her class with new and exciting games to play while working on different math skills and also helped engage stu-



Mme Page providing small group instruction to Grade 4 students to help strengthen their mental math and problem solving skills.

dents in mental math through fun, hands-on problem solving activities.

Mme Page will be spending five weeks in total at École Assiniboine throughout the year, visiting all grade levels.

"I have noticed teachers are using many of the activities and suggestions I provided last year, and that students are happy to see me and happy to be doing math when I am in their rooms. Hopefully that will translate into progress."

## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL PRINCIPALS' MONTH!

The Learning Partnership announced the month of October as National Principal's Month! Our principals in SJASD make a tremendous difference within our schools and now is the time to celebrate all that they do. The hashtag capturing this initiative across the country is #OutstandingPrincipals. Let's share our stories. To nominate a SJASD principal to be honoured as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals, check out [www.thelearningpartnership.ca](http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca). A big thank you to all of our principals for their excellent leadership in our Division.

## Another resource on campus, Winnipeg Police Officers

As Constable Tara White walks through the halls at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate, students feel comfortable approaching her with all sorts of questions pertaining to the law. Whether they are asking her how to gain a job in forensics one day or when she will be available to discuss a more personal matter, students notice her presence and are utilizing her expertise within our schools. The same can be said for Constable Alana Morton.

In the 2013-14 school year, St. James-Assiniboia School Division partnered with the Winnipeg Police Service to introduce two School Resource Officers to patrol our campuses. Presently the two School Resource Officers (SRO's) for SJASD are Constable Alana Morton and Constable Tara White. Each officer is assigned 13 schools within our division, categorized by family of schools, to assist staff and administration in creating healthy and safe learning environments.

"School Resource Officers are hands-on," explained Constable White. "Issues from the community that are being brought into school, forced into the school sometimes, we are there to deal with that, which means anything from conflict resolution, mediation, to even an arrest in certain circumstances."

Both constables come from varied backgrounds within the police service and together have more than 30 years of combined experience working in law enforcement. Typically an officer must work five years in general patrol before they can apply to work in a specialty unit, which includes School Resource Officers.

"I feel very lucky," said Constable Morton. "We have the opportunity to build relationships and really get to know some of these kids, their backgrounds and their families."

While students may be hesitant to approach a police officer walking down the street, they are beginning to open up and seek out the officers inside our schools for an array of different reasons.

"I just thought they were there to take care of people involved with drugs and that kind of stuff," said a Grade 10 SJASD student. "I didn't think she was going to take care of other types of issues, like social media."

In a previous school year, this particular student

notified a school principal about receiving a threat over social media that made her feel unsafe at school. The principal brought in Constable White to help address the conflict. After meeting with the student to offer advice and help put safety precautions in place, the fear of something bad happening on campus was removed from the student's mind.

"She made me feel comfortable so that if something was to happen, I knew I'd have someone to go to and a police officer can maybe do more than a principal in some situations," said the student.

While both our SRO's agree that social media is a huge topic within our schools, especially at the Middle Years level, they also speak to students about many other matters such as: healthy relationships, domestic violence, drinking and driving, lock down procedures, the meaning of consent, the definition of self-defense and the list goes on. The role of a SRO includes meeting with students individually (often by request), talking to them in informal settings such as the hallway to formal settings such as a re-entry meeting, as well as providing education in group settings, for example at a career day or during law class.

Ms. Edwards, Vice Principal at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate, says "having the School Resource Officers available to us is phenomenal." She referenced a concerning situation that arose at her school last year where entry was confined to one side of the building and bags/purses were being checked. On this same day, early years students were being dropped off for a volleyball tournament.

"Constable White greeted the parents and the little children at the door, smile on her face, and handed out stickers to the elementary students. Having that presence as parents and their children entered the building was so reassuring to them as they left their little ones with us."

Golden Gate parent council member, Nancy Tovell, expressed how she loves the family of schools set up as it allows children the opportunity to develop a true relationship, with a face and a personality attached, to a member of the Winnipeg Police Service.

"To have this officer available as a resource to



Constable Alana Morton (left) and Constable Tara White standing with Havoc the Husky.

both families and children as they travel through the school system is such a proactive approach and I applaud the school division for supporting this over the last three years," said Nancy.

Prior to working in our Division, Constable White worked in the Pembina Trails School Division in the same capacity. This summer, Constable Morton and Constable White had the opportunity to go out into the community and see some of our students as well as some of her former students.

"Her former students were coming up to her with great stories about where they are now as young adults," said Constable Morton. "We are excited about that because we are relatively new to this school division but looking forward to seeing these students grow and eventually hearing their stories."



# Taking tipi teachings one step further

If you're driving past Stevenson-Britannia School, you may notice something new on the school grounds.

Students and staff worked with Mr. Joe Lancely, otherwise known as Tipi Joe, last year during The Integrated Arts program. Students expressed such an interest in learning about tipi teachings and the importance of tipis to the Indigenous culture that the school decided to purchase an 18ft tipi to function as an outdoor classroom. Students and teachers have been utilizing the tipi as both a learning space, and as a shelter during outdoor learning. Students have been taught tipi etiquette and tipi teachings. We will continue to delve deeper into this understanding throughout the 2016-2017 school year and for many years ahead.

This new tipi is just one of Stevenson-Britannia's steps towards reconciliation.

*Submitted by Principal Jane Couch, and Vice Principal Samantha Amaral*



From the left: Teacher Amanda Havixbeck, Principal Jane Couch, Joe Lancely (Tipi Joe), Vice Principal Samantha Amaral, and Teacher Curt McKinnon.



Each year hundreds of individuals and corporations in different areas and activities. We would like to thank you for working with us during the last school year.

- 103.1 Virgin Radio
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- Artsonia
- Assiniboia Christian Centre
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- Assiniboine Memorial Curling Club
- Assiniboine West Community Club
- Assiniboine Zoo
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- Auto Gallery of Winnipeg
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- B.A Robinson
- Best West
- Big Brothers/ Big Sisters
- Big Sand Volleyball Company
- Birchwood Automotive Group
- Birchwood Chevrolet Buick GMC
- Birchwood Honda West
- Birchwood Nissan
- Bison Transport
- Bord-Aire Community Club
- Boston Pizza
- Boyd Autobody
- Buggy Bath
- Calm 'N Sense Yoga for Kids
- Calvary Place
- Camp Arnes
- Camp Cedarwood
- Canadian Air Force
- Canadian Blood Services
- Canadian Museum of Human Rights
- Canadian Parents for French
- Canadian Printing Equipment
- Canadian Red Cross
- Canadian Tire
- Canadian Tire-Automotive
- CanadInns Polo Park
- Catholic Women's League
- Cattons
- CBC Weather
- Centennial Pool
- CGA Professional Corp
- Chicken Chef
- Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba
- Children Evangelism Fellowship
- Choral Fest Manitoba
- Christine Melnick - MLA
- City Auto Paints
- Columbia Insurance Broker
- Computech Camera Repair
- Costco
- Country Club Seniors Apartment Complex
- Crestview Park Day Nursery
- Crestview United Church
- Criti-Care - CPR training
- Cross Church
- Crosstown Civic Credit Union
- CTV Weather
- Cunningham Business Interiors
- Custom Dental Technologies
- Daily Grind
- Dairy Farmers of Manitoba
- Dance Manitoba
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- Lets Talk Science Nationa
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- Lifeworks
- Little Caesar's Pizza
- Live Different
- Long & McQuade
- Lord Selkirk Comprehens
- M.A.D.D. Canada
- M.P. Sharon Blady
- MACDON Industries
- Manitoba Association of P
- Manitoba Aviation Council
- Manitoba Children's Muse
- Manitoba Choral Associat
- Manitoba Eco Network
- Manitoba Hydro
- Manitoba Museum
- Manitoba Provincial Danc
- Manitoba Public Insuranc
- Manitoba Sports Federati
- Manitoba Teachers' Socie
- Manitoba Theatre Centre
- Manitoba Theatre for You
- Maple Grove Rugby Park
- Maple Leaf Construction
- Marks Work Warehouse
- Materials Distribution Age
- McDiarmid Lumber- West
- McDonalds
- Messiah Lutheran Church
- MFRC Daycare
- Miles Macdonell Collegiat
- Millennium Auto Service
- Mobile Mini Soccer
- Mondetta Clothing compa
- Moray Autobody-Collision
- Mother Earth Recycling
- Mr. Kevin Lamourieux
- Mr. Scott Gillingham- City
- Mr. Shawn Dobson- City
- MTS Iceplex
- Music Department
- Norm n' Nates
- NSI Film Exchange
- Oakley Optical Ltd.
- Oakview Extencicare
- Olympia Diner
- Petland Kenaston
- Piston Ring Service
- Pizza Hut

## Take Our Kids to Work Day, Nov. 2

*"The program supports career development by helping students connect school, the world of work, and their own futures." - The Learning Partnership*

Take our Kids to Work Day is an annual Canada-wide event where Grade 9 students enter the workforce for one day to gain experience, as well as insight, into future career possibilities.

A family member, friend, relative or local volunteer hosts a student at their place of work and introduces them to that specific job environment. Each year, this event, which is promoted by The Learning Partnership, takes place on the first Wednesday in November. This year Take Our Kids to Work Day is on November 2nd.

Thank you to all of our local employers. We appreciate your cooperation and support on this important day. We hope all of our Grade 9 students enjoy this experience and are able to take away something valuable.

For more information, to watch a video about this, or if employers would like to register for Take Our Kids to Work Day, please visit: <http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca/what-we-do/student-programs/take-our-kids-to-work>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### October 11

School Board Meeting  
7:30 p.m., Public Welcome  
Parenting Today Workshop

### October 21

Inservice: No School  
MTS PD Day

### October 25

School Board Meeting  
7:30 p.m., Public Welcome  
Parenting Today Workshop

### November 2

Take Our Kids to Work Day, Grade 9

### November 3

Divisional Choirs Concert, 7:00 p.m., Westwood Community Church

### November 8

School Board Meeting,  
7:30 p.m., Public Welcome

### November 10

Admin/Inservice  
No School

### November 11

Remembrance Day  
No Classes

### November 14

ChoralFest Manitoba  
4-on-4 Triple Ball Tournament

### November 18

Senior Years Reports  
Manitoba - WE Day

Visit our Divisional Calendar at [www.sjsd.net](http://www.sjsd.net) for additional details on other Division/school events.



# YOU ALL!

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Center  
WESCO Distributors  
Westwood Community Church  
Westwood Dental Centre  
Wilderness Supply  
Winners  
Winnipeg Airport Authority  
Winnipeg Art Gallery  
Winnipeg Aviation  
Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers  
Winnipeg Convention Centre  
Winnipeg Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep Ram  
Winnipeg Foundation  
Winnipeg Free Press  
Winnipeg Harvest  
Winnipeg Humane Society  
Winnipeg Hyundai  
Winnipeg Music Festival  
Winnipeg Police Service  
Winnipeg Public Library  
Winnipeg Public Library - Westwood Branch  
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority  
Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra  
Winnipeg Technical College  
WISE Kid-Netic  
World of Water  
WRENCH  
WSP Canada Inc  
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YMCA Daycare Service  
YM-YWCA  
Zoological Society of Manitoba



MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL  
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## Restructuring Phys Ed to incorporate dance

Thanks to the Manitoba Arts Council, Brooklands School is using dance as a vehicle to explore multi-cultural dance elements and weave them together into a unified expression of community.

Dancer Rebecca Sawdon is creating contemporary choreography with students that is inspired by various cultures represented in the Brooklands community.

"I'm teaching them about different dance forms in our province," explained Rebecca. "Different types of aboriginal dance forms, we've watched videos and talked about the storytelling that comes through in that, also some Filipino folk dance, and they are about to start learning Syrian dancing too."

This program meshes learning outcomes from the provincial PE curriculum as well as outcomes around community, diversity and culture. All grade levels will participate with Rebecca. PE teacher Mrs. Lamoureux is excited to be a part of the residency as it will be a great opportunity to promote dance as a lifelong physical activity! She is also excited that students will have opportunity to participate in group created choreography and work as a team while exploring self-expression, body-mechanics and self-awareness. "It's been a fantastic experience, second time we've worked with Rebecca and what the kids

are learning is expression through movement," commented Mrs. Lamoureux.

After a few days of practice, Rebecca found it rewarding to see students who are not usually leaders emerge as leaders in the group.

"We are offering information in a different way," said Rebecca. "I'm teaching them an abstract dance form, so they are learning that dance isn't necessarily about a story but a feeling and they are starting to grasp that, especially the older ones."

On day three of working with Rebecca, students were already finding the warm-up to be easier.

"They are learning a variety of life skills through dance: how to work as team, their fitness levels are going up and just that self-expression and creativity piece," said Rebecca.

After dance class is complete, students join Rebecca in completing a group evaluation based on the following six categories: try your best, teamwork, positive, silly, listening and fun.

The Grades 3, 4 and 5 classes participated in the dance workshop the first week, followed by the kindergarten to Grade 2 students the second week. Great job to all dancers and a big thank you to Rebecca for all her help!

## Getting to Know Trustee Peter Woods

On June 11, the City of Winnipeg held a School Trustee By-Election to appoint a new trustee for St. James-Assiniboia School Division. At the School Board Meeting on June 14, local resident Peter Woods was sworn in as the new School Board Trustee to serve the King Edward/Deer Lodge Ward.

Peter Woods, a graduate of the University of Manitoba, worked as Instructor in the Faculty of Physical Education from 1985-1993. For the past 25 years, Peter laboured in Senior Management positions for a number of community-based programs and obtained a wealth of leadership experience and expertise working with youth in Norway, Sweden and the UK.

Since 2001, Peter has been the Executive Director for Hockey Manitoba — the largest amateur sports organization in the province serving over 35,000 members annually. Peter is an active community volunteer and served as the President of Silver Heights Community Centre from 2006 until it amalgamated with Sturgeon Creek Community Centre in 2009. He is currently the Vice President of Sturgeon Heights Community Centre.

Peter is a strong advocate for a well-rounded and quality education for each student that includes the arts, academics and athletics.

"I believe it is important to properly prepare our students for post secondary opportunities whether that is to enrol in University, attend Community College, pursue a trade or directly enter into the work force. The school system needs to be inclusive to support all student



Local resident Peter Woods joined the Board of Trustees on June 14, 2016.

skill and interest levels."

Peter says in order to achieve this, a structured and transparent decision-making model is required.

"The St. James-Assiniboia School Division is fortunate to have benefitted from strong administrative leadership who are very responsible and conscious with all tax dollars. It is essential to ensure fiscal responsibility and management to taxpayers."

Peter is a very proud father of two boys who are both products and graduates of the St. James-Assiniboia School Division. He is also engaged with a number of charities and has enjoyed coaching several youth area sports teams throughout the years.

Welcome to the Board, Peter Woods.



# COMMUNITY



## Settling in at Brooklands Elementary

This summer, newcomer students at Brooklands were able to explore the city of Winnipeg thanks to a partnership between the St. James-Assiniboia School Division and Newcomers Employment and Education Development Services (N.E.E.D.S.) Inc. Students who recently arrived to Canada from Syria and Sudan were able to experience a wide range of cultural, interactive and community activities that enhanced their language and learning opportunities through participation in activities such as: The Fringe Festival, a variety of museums around the city, community pools and splash pads, the local fire hall station, Fort Whyte Alive and

bowling. Along with recreational and community activities, students were given orientation programming on topics such as: health & nutrition, safety & law, community & places, education & employment. The program, run by N.E.E.D.S. Centre staff, provided students and their families numerous opportunities to explore their community and enhance their English language acquisition. Submitted by N.E.E.D.S. Inc. Community Connector April Bauman and EAL Support Teacher Tracey Gluska

## Strathmillan's Moment in a Time Capsule

It's hard to believe Strathmillan School will be turning 64 years old in 2017! Opened in 1953, much has changed over the course of the years. This year, two new changes have occurred; Mrs. Heather Palmer has become our new principal and, with our new principal, a new fire alarm system has been installed. The panel where the old fire alarm system has been housed has now become an empty space. Ideas were formed very quickly with what to do with the space. "What if we made a time capsule that could be opened on the 100th birthday of Strathmillan School?" With the help of our school's Student Council and student body, Strathmillan School will be deciding on items to be placed in this capsule. The goal is for each item to represent education in

2016 and be not only neat, but also significant enough to be shared on Strathmillan's 100th birthday. "The time capsule is a really good idea because people in the the future will see our learning with books, pencils and technology," said 10-year-old Eva Anderson. "I am already looking forward to visiting our school on it's 100th anniversary," Grade 5 student, Liam H. said. Check out our Strathmillan School blog and leave a comment if you have a suggestion for an item that we should place in our time capsule that represents present day education. Stay tuned to the blog, strathmillan-school.blogspot.ca, to find out when in 2017 we will be closing the capsule until the year 2053. Submitted by Teacher Mr. Bychuk



Strathmillan's student council team, along with teacher Mr. Bychuk, are working together on a school time capsule to be opened in the year 2053.



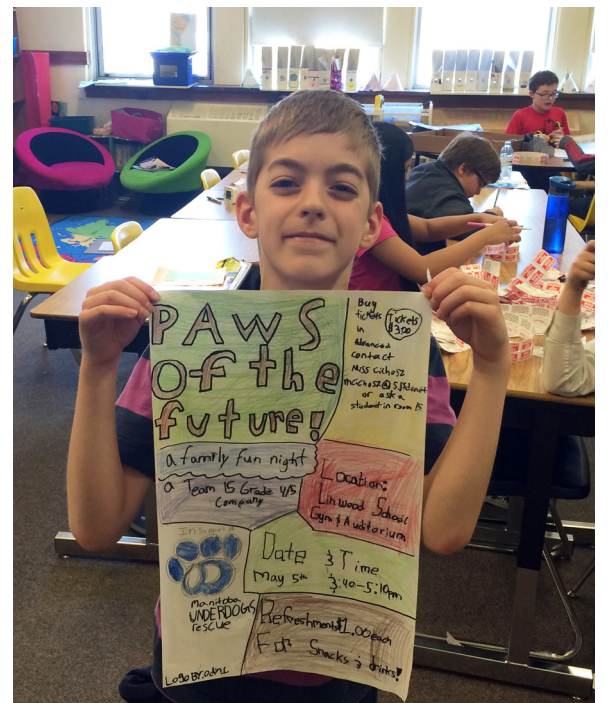
A Grade 4/5 Class from Linwood celebrates a successful business venture at the Fairmont Hotel Showcase, hosted by The Learning Partnership.



## Paws of the Future, A Linwood Business Venture

In room 15 at Linwood School, Grades 4 and 5, we ran our own business called Paws of the Future through the Entrepreneurial Adventure Program. We started in December 2015 and finished the project in May 2016. We worked with our business partner, Ms. Smith, and our teacher, Miss Cichosz. Our class had a Family Fun Night which included games, colouring, and refreshments to raise money for Manitoba Underdogs Rescue. We raised money by selling tickets to Family Fun Night (for \$3.00 each), selling food and drinks at Family Fun Night and at recess, and through dona-

tions. Our team paid for expenses out of a grant and a subsidy, so all the money we raised was profit, a total of \$1,548.15. We had fun helping Manitoba Underdogs and we learned how to run a business, work with others and manage money under pressure. Our company celebrated at a Showcase at the Fairmont Hotel on May 25, 2016. Our project was an amazing experience! **Written by the students in Room 15** "It was a great opportunity for the students to share their work and get ideas from other schools for next time," said Teacher Miss Cichosz.





# CONGRATULATIONS

## SJASD earns two Rainbow Stage Awards

In the 2015-16 school year, two stage productions in SJASD caught the eye of Rainbow Stage.

For the fifth consecutive year, Westwood Collegiate received a \$1,000 Rainbow Stage Performance Award, which recognizes outstanding achievement at the High School level. The school's production of West Side Story received a raving review from the Rainbow Stage Committee.

At the Middle Years level, Lincoln Middle School earned one of two \$750 Rainbow Stage Performance Awards presented in Manitoba. The school brought Shrek Jr. to life and received its second consecutive School Award from Rainbow Stage. Congratulations to both schools on the fantastic shows!



Lincoln Middle School's musical production of Shrek Jr. received a School Award on behalf of Rainbow Stage.

Each year Lincoln Middle School offers students the opportunity to participate in either a drama or musical production ... a production that demands commitment from each participating student, includes all of the details and elements of a large-scale production and is anything but a typical middle school theatrical show.

Everyone involved in this year's musical production of Shrek Jr. did a phenomenal job in making this an extraordinary, award-winning performance. Not only were they recognized at the school and community levels,

but also city-wide by receiving the Middle School Rainbow Stage Award for the second year in a row!

We are so very proud of all our students for their hard work, which shone through in every light. In the end everything turned out perfectly including costumes, acting, singing and dancing!

A special thank you goes out to all the staff who poured themselves into this production, as well as the many parents who volunteered their time.  
*Submitted by Teacher Cynthia Sinclair*



The John Taylor Collegiate table at the Divisional Youth Forum.

## 10th Annual Divisional Youth Forum

On September 28, at the Holiday Inn Airport West, SJASD celebrated the 10th annual Divisional Youth Forum!

This event aims to inspire students from all 26 schools to think about the world around them, both locally and globally, and discover ways to help raise awareness, take action and advocate for a better world.

Each year, an impressive line up of guest speakers assist in making the SJASD Youth Forum an educational and eye-opening experience for all who attend. A few presenters at this year's event included: Mark Chipman, executive chairman of True North Sports & Entertainment, Mary Melnychuk on behalf of the Green Action Centre, and Janelle Duerksen from Winnipeg Harvest.

Over the past decade, many exceptional ideas and leading initiatives have been introduced in our schools in response to the content shared at the youth forum. Each year, students and staff members create a pledge saying how they plan to make a change this year and post their statement onto a commitment poster. This year's commitment poster, which hung on the wall at the event outlining the number 10, is an exciting sign that we can expect more innovative movements and acts of kindness within our schools in the coming year.



The favourite classic West Side Story performed last year at Westwood Collegiate earned the school its fifth consecutive Rainbow Stage Award.

*The bar is set high at this school and students and staff strive to maintain a show excellence! A great effort by everyone! Bravo! - Rainbow Stage Committee Member*



Photo Supplied by St. James Canucks

St. James Collegiate teacher Mr. Thorsteinson receives honourable award from St. James Canucks past president, Tom Miller.

## Canucks honour SJCI Teacher

At the St. James Canucks Sportsman Dinner, held on May 26 at Canad Inns Polo Park, St. James Collegiate math teacher and department head Derek Thorsteinson received a prestigious recognition. Mr. Thorsteinson was presented the Tom Miller Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award on behalf of the St. James Canucks Junior Hockey Club Hockey. Mr. Thorsteinson coached his 52nd team this year between school sports and hockey. A well deserved achievement. Congratulations, Mr. Thorsteinson!



One highlight from the morning, guest speaker Mark Chipman shared his philanthropic beliefs with youth forum participants.



## Special grant from MusiCounts

Stevenson-Britannia music teacher, Ms. Julianna Rempel, applied for the MusiCounts Band Aid grant in the fall of 2015 with the hope that she would receive some assistance replacing Orff instruments (many of which had been purchased in the 1970s!). And boy did she succeed!

Stevenson-Britannia was one of three schools in Manitoba to receive the Band Aid grant from MusiCounts. Stevenson was able to purchase \$10,000 worth of new Orff instruments for the school's music program. In the spring of 2016, personnel from MusiCounts came out to Stevenson to present the instruments to our school. Stevenson-Britannia had an assembly to present these instruments to students. Several students had the opportunity to unwrap new instruments and try them out for the very first time. These instruments are now in daily use in the music program and Orff club at Stevenson. We appreciate Ms. Rempel's talents, drive, and desire to bring music into the daily lives of our students at Stevenson.

*Submitted by Jane Couch, Principal and Samantha Amaral, Vice Principal*



Two of the four B.L.A.S.T. teams caught in the middle of the caterpillar activity inside the gym at Bruce Middle School.

## Having a B.L.A.S.T. at Bruce!

It's Friday morning at Bruce Middle School and the gym is full of cheering, enthusiastic students. Bruce has a longstanding tradition of holding bi-monthly B.L.A.S.T. activities throughout the year. B.L.A.S.T. stands for "Bruce Links All Students Together." Every student at Bruce is connected with one of four B.L.A.S.T. groups; Hurricanes, Vampires, Mustangs or Spitfires. These groups cross all grade levels so students can meet peers they don't take classes with.

The purpose of B.L.A.S.T. activities is to develop relationships, enhance teambuilding and create school spirit in a fun, friendly and competitive environment. The activities are planned, prepared and implemented by the student leadership team. This provides students with the opportunity to have their voices heard and to develop leadership and communication skills.

The Bruce school community is looking forward to many more B.L.A.S.T. events throughout the upcoming school year, especially the students. As Sara R. said, "I did the caterpillar activity and it was fun!"

*Submitted by Janice Matthewman, Vice Principal*

## Nutrition Night at Athlone School

Measuring, stirring, crumbling and more!

On Tuesday, September 27, Athlone School held its first Nutrition Night.

Parents gathered in the library to hear an informative presentation on "Healthy Lunches" delivered by a Community Nutrition Educator from the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. At the same time, students were in the gym, being supervised by teachers and parent council members, as they laboured to prepare healthy snacks for everyone who attended.

Approximately 20 students sliced and diced fruit to create a platter for rainbow fruit kebabs and carefully measured all ingredients to prepare a large couscous salad. The students discovered they loved the smell of garlic, but weren't as receptive to the texture of feta cheese as they had to crumble it into the salad.

Athlone Parent Council President Erin Robbins came up with the idea to host this school event as she thought it would be a nice way to help busy families come up with a few more ideas for making healthy lunches and snacks. As the night concluded, the hard work by the students paid off and everyone enjoyed delicious snacks together! Great job Athlone on a successful inaugural event!



Students busy creating rainbow fruit kebabs.



Learning how to make couscous one step at a time.



Final step: stirring the couscous salad.



## CONTACT

Contact is published five times per year for friends of the St. James-Assiniboia School Division. Please send your letter to:

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