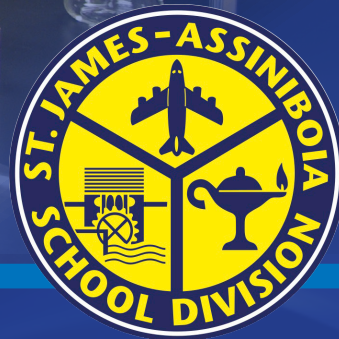
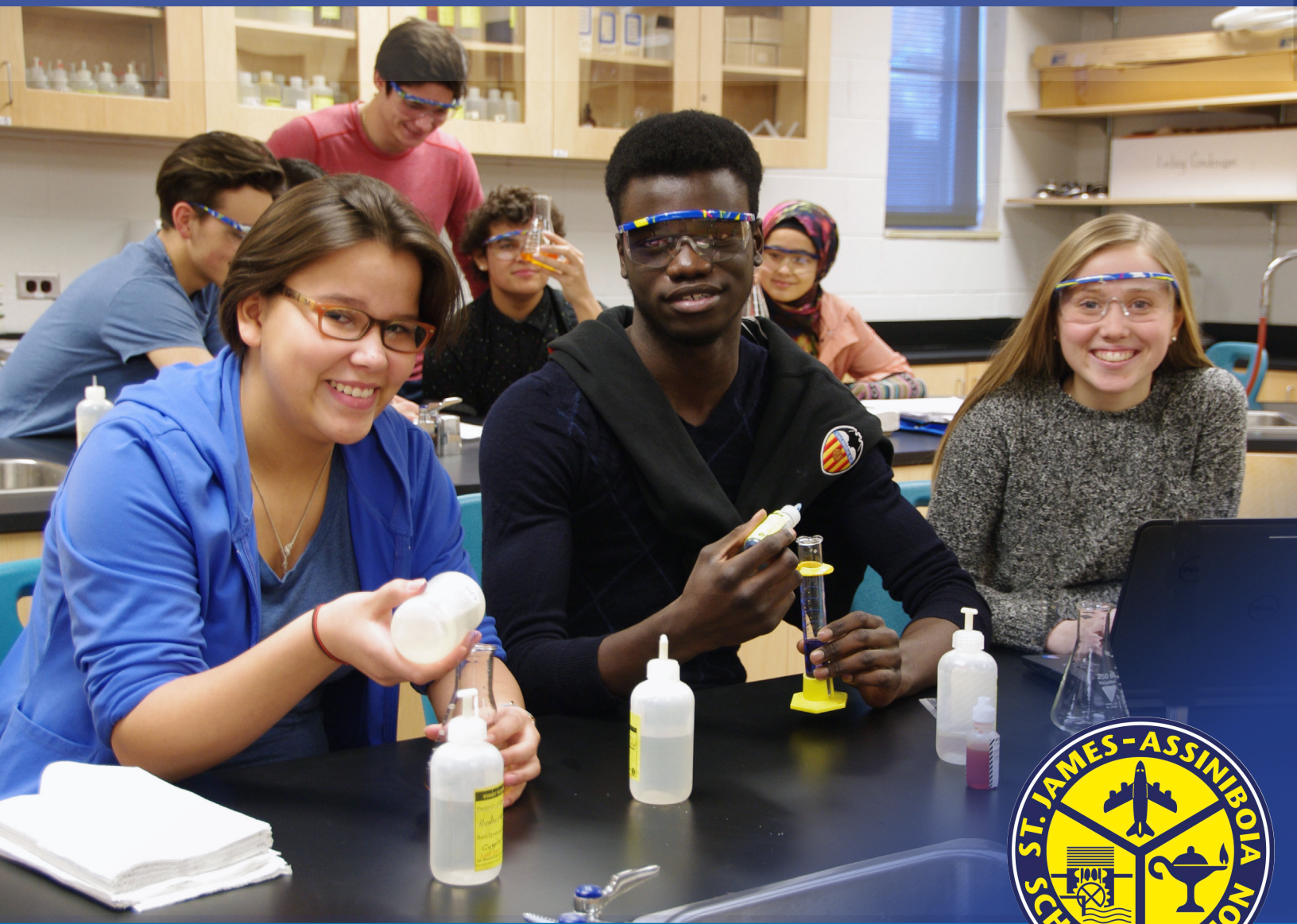


Annual Report to the Community 2016-17



St. James-Assiniboia School Division

Great Schools for Growing and Learning

www.sjasd.ca



Craig McGregor
Chair, Board of Trustees



Brett Lough
Chief Superintendent



Mike Friesen
Chief Financial Officer/
Secretary Treasurer

Introduction

Since 1959, St. James-Assiniboia School Division has been providing great schools for growing and learning in West Winnipeg. During that time, our commitment to educating every child has allowed us to form relationships with countless children, families and members of our community. As a Division, we recognize these partnerships as being extremely valuable for they enable us to work as a united front towards our mission to “provide meaningful, safe and caring educational environments so that all students are prepared to be responsible citizens in a democratic society.”

St. James-Assiniboia School Division currently provides educational programming and services to approximately 8,400 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. More than 1,300 teachers, administrators and support staff serve our student body in our 26 schools. In addition, approximately 3,100 adults enrolled in an array of courses offered through our Continuing Education program during the 2016-17 school year.

This annual Report to the Community is an opportunity for us to share both our Board’s planning efforts for the future, as well as the initiatives happening in our Division to support our Strategic Plan. Our 2016-2021 Strategic Plan is a living document to guide us towards achieving our vision:

“We are a leading and innovative learning community that will enable all students to succeed in our ever-changing world.”

We will continue to demonstrate our commitment to you, our community, by making strong connections to our four strategic outcomes. In doing so, we aim to provide evidence of the learning being delivered by all of our exceptional staff in each of our 26 schools. All Division-wide initiatives being carried out in our schools are based on recent data collected at the school level, internal and external research and public education topics deemed to be a priority within our province. For example, current topics outlined by the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents include: Early Learning, Mental Health, Indigenous Education and Curriculum.

On the following pages you will see a number of the leading edge achievements and initiatives we celebrated as a Division last year. While our schools share many common goals and are connected through Division-wide programs, we know each individual school in our Division is unique. Each year, all 26 schools in St. James-Assiniboia School Division generate their own Report to the Community to delve further into the activities, events, offerings and successes met or being worked on at each school. These reports are available by visiting individual school websites under About Us > School Plans. To view a detailed financial report for St. James-Assiniboia School Division, please visit www.sjasd.ca to view our 2017-2018 Budget.

The 2017 Report to the Community is a snapshot of our commitment to excellency, as well as the values and beliefs we stand by as an inclusive and innovative organization.



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.

Our Board of Trustees

King Edward/Deer Lodge Ward

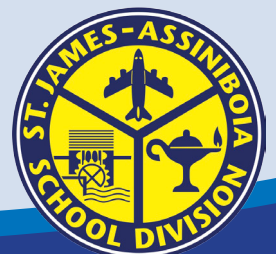
Ed Hume
Jennifer Lawson
Peter Woods

Silver Heights/Booth Ward

Craig Johnson
John Mulligan
Craig McGregor

Kirkfield/St. Charles Ward

Bruce Chegus
Sandy Lethbridge
Cheryl Smukowich



Celebrating Student Achievements

Academics

To cap off the 2016-17 school year on a high note, Grade

Four students were selected to represent SJASD at the 2017 Canada-Wide Science Fair based on their outstanding achievement at the 51st Divisional Science Fair. The event was held at the University of Regina, where Grade 7 Lincoln student Sameer B., Grade 8 Lincoln student Tharindu K., Grade 8 Bruce student Rowan N. and Grade 9 Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate student Noah D. all defended their individual projects. While significantly different, the projects shared a common connection this year as they all were related to energy! At the national event, both Tharindu and Noah earned bronze medals in their respective categories, Junior and Intermediate, and also received \$1,000 entrance scholarships to Western University.



At the 2017 *Yes I Can! Awards*, presented annually by the Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children, Kyle H. from Lincoln Middle School received the award for Outstanding Achievement in Academics. The award highlighted his strong work ethic, ability to collaborate with his peers on group projects and daily contributions in science, math and social studies.

12 Westwood Collegiate student Mike A. scored Top 10 in the province on the high school CAP (Canadian Association of Physicists) contest. The CAP high school exam is based upon an internationally recognized syllabus, the I.B. Physics Higher Core Curriculum, and is intentionally a high level contest. Only the top students from each school are expected to take part in the exam and only a handful of students in Canada are expected to completely finish the CAP Exam in the time allotted. Students from only four schools placed in the Top 10 in Manitoba out of more than 100 students writing. Mike attended the awards ceremony, hosted by the University of Manitoba, alongside his physics teacher, Mr. Johnson, to be recognized for his outstanding achievement.



Grade 11 John Taylor Collegiate student Linhui Huang received a special invitation to attend the University of Waterloo's Mathematics Workshop based on her exceptional score on Fermat, the national Grade 11 Mathematics contest. A total of 61 participants from across the country attended the workshop to engage in high level math-based lectures and learning.

Governor General Awards 2017

The Governor General's Academic Award recognizes the outstanding scholastic achievements of students graduating with the highest average in Grades 11 and 12. The following four students received the Governor General Award in our Division for the 2016-17 school year:

- Brett Armstrong, John Taylor Collegiate
- Caden Chabot, Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate
- David Loewen, Westwood Collegiate
- Janine Ysabel Santos, St. James Collegiate



Athletics

In the 2016-17 school year, two students in SJASD were named MHSAA Tire Recycle Urban Athletes of Week:

- Mikayla W. - November 8, 2016
Westwood Varsity Girls Volleyball Team
- Risto Z. - March 7, 2017
John Taylor Varsity Boys Basketball Team

At the 2017 "Yes I Can!" Awards, Grade 4 student Sydney F. was recognized from Buchanan School for her determination and perseverance in the area of mobility. From Kindergarten to Grade 4, she has increased her strength to move from a wheelchair to the use of a walker to walking unassisted during all transitions alongside her classmates.

Grade 12 Westwood Collegiate student Tyson L. represented Canada at the World Junior Speed Skating Championships in Finland in February 2017. He brought home a silver medal in the team sprint, two individual bronze medals in the 1000 metre and 1500 metre events and earned a bronze medal in the overall individual standings.

Extra Curricular Summary 2016-17

Cross Country Team Results

1) Bruce 2) Lincoln 3) Golden Gate

Badminton Team Results

1) Bruce 2) Lincoln

Badminton Individual Results

Boys Singles: GWMS Girls Singles: Bruce
Boys Doubles: Golden Gate Girls Doubles: Bruce
Mixed Doubles: Bruce

Tier 1 Volleyball Champions

Boys: Bruce Girls: Bruce

Tier 1 Basketball Champions

Boys: Lincoln Girls: Lincoln

Track and Field Team Results

1) Lincoln 2) Bruce 3) Golden Gate

WWAC Volleyball Champions

Junior Varsity Girls - Sturgeon Heights
Varsity Girls - Westwood

MHSAA Provincial Volleyball

John Taylor JV Boys AAA Volleyball Provincial Bronze
John Taylor JV Girls AAA Volleyball Provincial Tournament
John Taylor Varsity Boys AAA Volleyball Provincial Tournament
Sturgeon Heights JV Girls AAAA Volleyball Provincial Final Four
Westwood JV Boys AAAA Volleyball Provincial Tournament
Westwood Varsity Girls AAAA Volleyball Provincial Final Four

WWAC Basketball Champions

Junior Varsity Girls Tier 1 - Sturgeon Heights

MHSAA Provincial Basketball

John Taylor JV Boys AAA Basketball Provincial Bronze
St. James JV Boys AAA Basketball Provincial Bronze
St. James Varsity Boys AAA Basketball Provincial Tournament

WWAC Curling

Boys Champions - Westwood (moved onto Provincials)
Girls Finalists - Westwood

WWAC Badminton

Boys Doubles - 2nd Place, Westwood

WWAC Track Team Results

JV Girls Champions - St. James
JV Boys Runner Up - St. James
Varsity Girls Runner Up - Westwood

WWAC Soccer Champions

Girls - Sturgeon Heights (Provincial Finalists)

Winnipeg High School Rugby WHSR 7's

Boys A Champions - Sturgeon Heights

Arts

Westwood Collegiate student Aidan Clarke was presented the Outstanding Canadian Drummer Award for 2017 from Pearl Drums Canada. He received a complimentary drum set paired with the prestigious award.

The St. James-Assiniboia Divisional Musical Theatre group brought to life the magical journey of "James and the Giant Peach Jr." More than 150 students in Grades 4 through 8 across our Division participated in the production, directed by Paula Olko.

Grade 4 student Bennett B. from Voyageur Student won the Arbor Day t-shirt design contest. Her design was featured on all of the Arbor Day 2017 t-shirts for the event held at St. Vital Park on June 3.

At MusicFest Canada 2017 in Niagara Falls, the Senior Jazz Ensemble from Westwood Collegiate earned Gold and the Vocal Jazz Polysonix group earned Silver. Students Carter L. and Carter K. were both recognized with an Honour Award for top member of their performance.

Grade 11 Westwood Collegiate student Camryn D. received a Gold Medal Award for obtaining the highest mark in Level 6 Voice in Manitoba, as well as first class honours with distinction. The outstanding recognition was presented on behalf of The Royal Conservatory.



At the 2017 Winnipeg Music Festival, the SJASD Senior Concert Choir received a number of exceptional accolades including: the Winnipeg Mennonite Children's Choir Alumni Golden Era Bursary, the Walter Klymkiw Trophy and Walter Klymkiw Memorial Bursary, the Caledonia Singers Peter Buchan Memorial Bursary, the Saults and Pollard Limited Shield and the Lieutenant Governor's Trophy for the top performance at the festival.

French Immersion

SJASD held its annual Concours d'Art Oratoire event at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate in March of 2017. Concours d'Art Oratoire is an annual public speaking event sponsored by Canadian Parents for French. The goal of the event is to develop effective public speaking skills while



simultaneously motivating students to advance their second language skills. Each year, students prepare and deliver either a speech or poem on a topic of their choice in front of an audience, as well as panel of judges. Our students performed exceptionally well at the Division level and 13 students from six different schools placed first in their category. Those students moved on to represent SJASD at the provincial event, held on May 6 at the Université de St. Boniface. Below are the provincial results:

Jessica J., Stevenson-Britannia School - 1st place
Meelad A., Stevenson-Britannia School - 3rd place
Charlotte-Anne R., Hedges Middle School - Participation
Hannah E., École Golden Gate - 3rd place
Vianna L., École Golden Gate - Participation
Ryan B., Ness Middle School - 3rd place
Emily F., Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate - 2nd place
Moussa D., Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate - 2nd place
Agape Y., Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate - 2nd place
Ryan H., Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate - 1st place
Afnaan A., École Bannatyne - Participation
Sadie M., École Bannatyne - Participation

Trades and Technology

At the 20th Annual Skills Manitoba Competition, our students did an exceptional job representing SJASD. With 42 skilled trades and technology contests spanning six industry sectors, our students competed in the following categories: Baking, Cooking, Electrical Installation, Graphic Design, Hairstyling, Job Skill Demonstration, Photography, Public Speaking and Website Development. Eight students from Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate medalled at the 2017 event, earning three gold, two silver and three bronze medals. Our three gold medal finalists, Jose I. (Electrical Installation), Emily V. (Job Skill Demonstration) and Emma L. (Public Speaking) moved on to compete at the Skills Canada National Competition, which took place in May at the RBC Convention Centre. At the national level, Jose I., earned gold in Electrical Installation and Emily V. received silver in Job Skill Demonstration. All students competed well under pressure and demonstrated tremendous talent in their respective fields.

Skills Manitoba Finalists

Gold - Jose I., Electrical Installation, Emily V., Job Skill Demonstration, Emma L., Public Speaking

Silver - Liam S., Photography, Peter M., Website Development

Bronze - Madison M., Graphic Design, Aaron M., Baking, Aimee S., Public Speaking

The robotics program at John Taylor Collegiate thrived in the 2016-17 school year as students began creating intelligent robots through LEGO® Mindstorms® platforms. Class participants reviewed the program and shared their passion for learning advanced programming skills and expanding



their S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) related knowledge. Using Touch and Ultrasonic/Infrared sensors, students designed robots capable of drawing shapes, navigating mazes and following randomized paths. This hands-on science and technology program is on the rise.

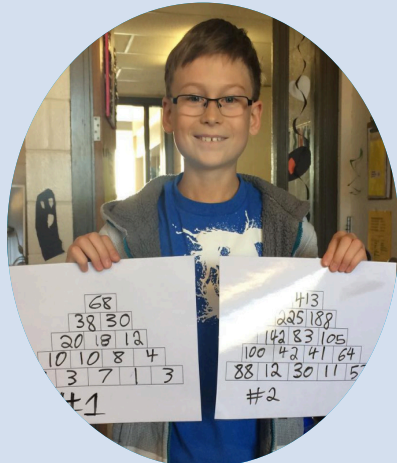
Grade 12 student Chris P. received a number of prestigious honours in connection to the aviation program offered at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate. Chris received the Neil James Armstrong Scholarship for \$3,000, presented by the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA) in October of 2016 and was also chosen as the 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.

Strengthening our Numeracy and Literacy Skills

In St. James-Assiniboia School Division, we recognize high-level numeracy and literacy skills as the essential, foundational components of each child's education. In the 2016-17 school year, our Division collaborated to strengthen these two areas by adding additional supports within our classrooms, growing available resources and finding new ways to make skill-building activities fun and engaging for all learners.

Adding Literacy Coaches

At the beginning of the school year, we added four literacy coaches to our Divisional team. This mirrored our efforts made the year prior, when we introduced four itinerant teachers in the area of numeracy. We now have a team of eight highly-skilled teachers assigned to a group of schools to provide coaching in improved teaching, planning, assessment and student learning. The coaches are becoming familiar faces inside our classrooms as they build relationships with students and teachers to help all learners reach their full potential. Each individual school in SJASD set out numeracy and literacy goals for the 2017-18 school year and our coaching team worked diligently alongside school staff to help meet those ambitious targets.



Resources to Support Student Growth

Our schools are always looking for new ways to bring more resources into the classrooms, especially ones that reflect students' interests. For example, École Bannatyne hosts a book fair each year to raise money for growing classroom libraries. All of the books that are purchased are based on classroom wishlists to encourage recreational reading at the early years level. At Crestview School, the Ms. Willows Book Award was introduced through a partnership with the St. James Scholarship Foundation to allow each student to bring home a new book each year from a selection of approximately 50 titles. The Division's Innovative Grant Program also provides financial assistance for the purchase of supplies, material, equipment and/or consultative services associated with innovative projects based on applications submitted by school staff. In the 2016-17 school year, these grants purchased math manipulative kits, instructional and problem-solving materials, makerspace supplies for S.T.E.M. related projects and other equipment to help build numeracy and literacy skills. Our staff also participated in Professional Development sessions to learn how to best utilize these manipulatives and further apply the Optimal Learning Model, outlined in the book *Teaching Essentials* by Regie Routman.

Collaborating With Our Peers and Partners

To promote early literacy development, the Division offers a program called Literacy Links. Literacy Links supports parents with pre-school children in understanding how to develop a positive literacy environment in the home setting prior to Kindergarten. As students move through the school system, they collaborate on unique class projects to foster their numeracy and literacy skills such as Number Talks, The Classroom Economy or The Classroom Story, to name a few. Our students also build strong connections across their family of schools through programs such as the Reading Buddies. High school students regularly meet with early years students to model reading, reflect critically, converse and bond through literature. Many of our schools have initiated school-wide, daily reading sessions where Grade 1 students do the same activity as Grade 5 students to create a culture of literacy on campus. Our teaching staff meet frequently to achieve common assessment timelines, share activities and develop a sense of parallel programming to encourage common teaching practices, especially in the area of math education. At the senior years level, students participate in national and international math contests, such as the annual Waterloo Mathematics Contest and the Caribou Contest, to test their grade level skills on a larger scale.



Making Fractions and Fiction Fun

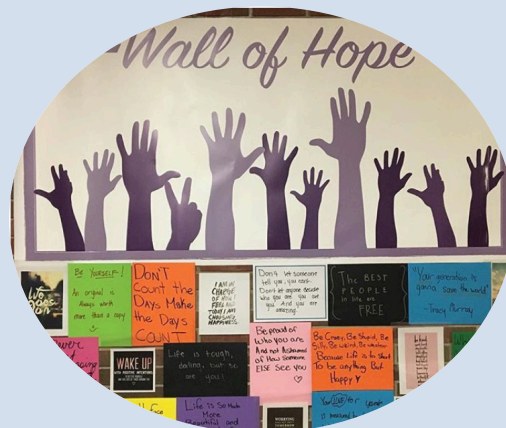
When class activities are fun, students are more motivated to participate and learn. Whether this means building intelligent robots at John Taylor Collegiate or engaging in Math Playgrounds at Lakewood School, students are continually learning curricular material through exciting, unconventional methods. "I Love to Read" month in February is an annual opportunity for our Division to celebrate literacy and have fun with books! In 2017, Sansome School hosted a "Read in at the Beach" event in the school gymnasium paired with a school-wide Book Exchange Fair. Linwood School had the opportunity to have two Winnipeg Jets players come and read to them as part of the *Reading Takes Flight* program and all of our schools hosted many special guests from the community to endorse reading all month long. The act of taking curricular learning outside is another way our schools have fun with course material. Our schools have also seen the benefit of bringing families into learning environments, especially at the early years level. École Assiniboine hosted a successful Parent Math Night, Heritage School enjoyed a Family Literacy evening with different centres stationed throughout the school and École Robert Browning celebrated a Numeracy Night complete with life-size Jenga.

Working to provide inclusive and safe environments

In SJASD, we aim to provide safe and welcoming environments to enable all children to grow, learn and excel. To be an inclusive organization, we must keep in mind all groups or individuals who might be excluded in a school environment and take action to eliminate those situations through policy and education. Below are examples of initiatives carried out in the previous school year to support our inclusive and safe schools mission.

Awareness Days within our Schools

All schools in our Division actively recognize specific days or weeks throughout the year to raise awareness for different initiatives. As we work to create safe spaces within our schools, students across our Division participate in Anti-Bullying Awareness Day. In 2017, entire classrooms wore pink on February 22 to represent their shared commitment to prevent bullying within their school. Our schools also recognize Orange Shirt Day, an annual acknowledgement on September 30 across Canada to raise awareness about the impact of Residential Schools. Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate recognized Sources of Strength Week, in alignment with Mental Health Week, to raise awareness about preventing suicide through activities such as the Wall of Hope. Westwood Collegiate annually recognizes Spirit Day on the third Thursday of October by wearing purple to take a unified stance against the bullying and harassment of GLBTTQ youth.



Welcoming Newcomer Students

The growing number of newcomer students to enter our Division has resulted in the implementation of new strategies to ensure all students feel included at school. With 15% of our student body speaking English as an Additional Language (EAL), we are actively working to develop language proficiency skills through programs such as EAL and LAL (Literacy, Academics and Language) to help our students succeed. Our Division collaborates with the N.E.E.D.S Centre to help students receive additional support outside of school and we kick off each school year with our welcome programs. Welcome programs are an opportunity for students and their families to meet with school staff to share information and discuss any questions/concerns about their new learning environment. Translation services can be made available for these meetings. Throughout the school year, a main priority is helping new students build relationships. For example at St. James Collegiate, where one third of the student body can be identified as EAL, student ambassadors help welcome new students to the school by giving tours and offering them daily support with language or assistance finding lockers, etc.

Celebrating Cultural Diversity

Whether a student is new to the country, part of our International Student Program, or has grown up in Canada, all students have something to gain and offer by participating in cultural initiatives at school. In 2016-17, Brooklands School partnered with the Manitoba Arts Council to bring in a professional dancer to teach students contemporary choreography inspired by the various cultures present in their school community. Stevenson-Britannia School hosted a Family Day to honour Canada's 150th anniversary and celebrated our nation's multicultural identity through food, music and dance. Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate hosted the school's annual International Lunch where more than 100 students and staff dined together over dishes from upwards of 20 countries around the world. Year round, St. James Collegiate offers a number of world-themed programs, such as The World Bread Cafe, a weekly sampling of international breads, or the World Literature program, an opportunity for students to explore literature in their first language and then discuss their thoughts in English.

School Resource Officers on Campus

SJASD has continued its partnership with the Winnipeg Police Service to have two School Resource Officers present in our schools. Each officer visits 13 schools on a regular basis to help address any safety issues on campus. Officers Constable Morton and Constable White work alongside staff and administration to resolve conflicts, meet with students, offer advice, take part in re-entry meetings and provide support. In the fourth year of this partnership, the officers are being approached more often and with less hesitation as a result of the relationships they have fostered within our schools.



Accessibility Plan

In February of 2017, our Division finalized an Accessibility Plan in agreement with the Accessibility for Manitobans Act. The plan was put in place to eliminate or reduce barriers for people who may be affected by disability, aging, an injury or other life event. All Division staff participated in online training in the area of accessibility to meet current legislation and be able to work together towards achieving this goal. A Divisional Accessibility Committee was formed in the 2016-17 school year to begin evaluating our facilities and resources to best meet the needs of our community in the areas of mobility, dexterity, vision, communication, understanding and mental health.

A Platform for Autism

In 2016, a Grade 11 John Taylor Collegiate student launched a Facebook page that received thousands of views called "Matthew's Autism Journey." He created the page to help more people see the challenges that people with autism face in their daily lives so that they can better help them succeed and reach their full potential. This Facebook page is an educational platform packed with positive messaging, insight and kindness-themed posts. Matthew's online undertaking reached the student body at his school and from there he was asked to join the Student Council Helping Hands Committee and was honoured for his citizenship efforts with the Student of the Month Award.

Taking Action towards Truth and Reconciliation

Our Division is currently on a shared journey towards truth and reconciliation to help revitalize the relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in our country. As our students study the history of Canada, they are also learning about the Indian Act, residential schools and the broken relationships between settlers and Indigenous people rooted in our country's past. With the help of local professionals/organizations, paired with our Divisional Indigenous Education team, we are actively working to prioritize Indigenous Education within our schools and celebrate the success of our Indigenous graduates. SJASD recognizes that all of our school communities are located on Treaty One Land, the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, Ininiw and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation. Below are a few examples of the steps our Division took to respond to calls to action put forward by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC).



Indigenous Art and Culture in our Schools

In the 2016-17 school year, Phoenix School participated in an art workshop led by renowned Indigenous soap stone carver and storyteller, Michael Many Eagles. The Phoenix students carved soap and other figurines, learned Cree words and discovered an appreciation for this fun yet challenging, hands-on activity. Buchanan School embarked on the Gourd Rattle Project where members of the community grew gourds in their backyards and prepared them for student use. The students decorated their gourds in the colours of the Medicine Wheel, as well as with animals from the Seven Teachings and filled them with sound-making materials. They learned about the use of rattles in Aboriginal communities in Manitoba and concluded the project with a school-wide Rattle Celebration centred on Reconciliation. École Assiniboine celebrated its first Treaty Day on May 26, 2017. Students spent the entire day outside engaging in Teepee teachings with Buffalo Bill, smudging and story telling in an outdoor classroom, drumming with an Indigenous Education teacher, crafting, reading and playing Indigenous games.

The Jameswood Blanket Project

Jameswood Alternative School (JAS) initiated a Blanket Project to represent their commitment to Truth and Reconciliation in a symbolic way. Using Hudson Bay blankets as symbols of Canada, students worked through our country's difficult history by tearing and ripping blankets to tangibly show breaches in relationships. Indigenous Education Teacher Mrs. Waters presented six teachings about relationships in the areas of government, education, community, family, health and youth. Students then embarked on the challenging task of mending these blankets back together in a beautiful and meaningful way to represent reconciliation. The process had a tremendous impact on all of the students and staff involved and they decided to share their project with all of the senior years schools in our Division. JAS held a Blanket Ceremony to present a each high school in our Division with a mended blanket. The blankets are currently on display in all of our high schools. The school also donated one blanket to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

1st Graduation Pow Wow

SJASD hosted its first Graduation Pow Wow Ceremony to honour and celebrate the accomplishments of our Indigenous graduates. After months of preparation, the event came to life on June 1, 2017 at St. James Collegiate. Hundreds of guests from all across Manitoba gathered to celebrate the achievements of 35 self-declared Indigenous graduates representing all high schools in our Division. The event consisted of many elements, such as a pipe ceremony, a community feast, student performances, drumming circles, a Grand Entry procession, dancers in full regalia and most importantly, our students in their graduation gowns. Each student received a certificate, a tassel for their graduation cap in the four colours of the medicine wheel, and a medicine bag. The event concluded with an exchange of congratulations in a semi-circle to shake the hands of all the graduates.



Indigenous Leadership Award

At the first Graduation Pow Wow Ceremony, St. James Scholarship Foundation President, Bruce Alexander, announced the introduction of a new scholarship award called The Indigenous Leadership Award. The award was presented for the first time in June of 2017 to Charly Hinton from College Sturgeon Heights Collegiate in the amount of \$1,000. The award recognizes a self-identified Indigenous student with post-secondary aspirations based on community involvement, extra-curricular endeavors, strength of character and fortitude. The award will be presented annually in SJASD on behalf of the St. James Scholarship Foundation.

The Winnipeg Indigenous Accord

On June 20, more than 80 organizations, businesses and individuals came together at The Forks to provide the first signatures for Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord. School Board Chair Craig McGregor signed the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord on behalf of SJASD to symbolize our commitment to truth and reconciliation. While our organizational journey towards reconciliation has already begun, our signature on the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord represents our long term commitment towards the TRC's 94 calls to action. Each year we will report our progress and set new goals as part of our shared desire to build a stronger, better future for our students.

Prioritizing health and wellness within our schools

The well-being of every child is a priority in our Division. We are committed to promoting active and healthy lifestyles but also ensuring our students feel emotionally, mentally, socially and spiritually supported. We recognize wellness is a broad spectrum, especially as students move through the school system and go through different experiences in their lives. As a Division, we are working to offer our students and their families as many resources as possible, whether that be in-school, out-of-school, or through community connections to help our students lead healthy, happy lives. Below are some examples of how we incorporated wellness in the 2016-17 school year.

Safe Schools Forum “Wellness Today: Building Healthy Futures”

The safe schools forum is a biannual event held in our Division with a specific theme in mind. In April 2017, the forum was centered on the spectrum of wellness. Local organizations such as the Canadian Mental Health Association, the YMCA, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and many more were in attendance to provide assistance and offer expertise throughout the night. As well, each school in our Division has a Safe Schools Committee. The committee is made up of students, all of whom were tasked with creating videos to highlight the wellness initiatives within their school. These videos were played at the forum, held in the Westwood Collegiate theatre, to demonstrate what wellness is, how we can help ourselves and others lead healthy lives and shed light on the wellness efforts being implemented within our schools every day.

Nutrition Night at Athlone School

Athlone School partnered with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority to host a family friendly Nutrition Night to kick off the school year. A Community Nutrition Educator shared a presentation with parents and students alike on preparing healthy lunches and snacks to fuel children for a productive day. Students also worked with staff members and volunteers to prepare a series of healthy snacks and dishes for everyone to enjoy. The Athlone Parent Council took the lead on planning this event, which outlined important food groups, the nutrients children need and brought many approachable suggestions to the table for families in the community to test out.



The Robb Nash Project

The Robb Nash Project is an experience beyond the typical concert. The concert took place on Bell Let's Talk Day in January of 2017 and was interwoven with powerful storytelling and positive messaging pertaining to mental health. Grade 7 and 8 students from across our Division participated in the event, where a number of musicians took the stage and shared their personal experiences in the area of mental health. The musicians explained how overcoming obstacles during difficult times in their lives was aided by reaching out to friends, families and teachers for help, and in some cases, seeking professional support. The concert targeted middle years students and stressed the value of breaking the silence so no one feels alone and also the importance of making good decisions to best fit your life and personal goals.



Yoga and Meditation in our Schools

Yoga and mindfulness are both being incorporated into school life as either extra-curricular activities or classroom exercises. For example, in the previous school year, St. James Collegiate formed a partnership with an instructor from Moksha Yoga Winnipeg to offer yoga classes once a week during the lunch hour. École Golden Gate Middle School also participated in yoga classes in the morning led by an instructor from Pop Up Prana. Stevenson-Britannia School and Linwood School had students practicing yoga during the Outdoor Challenge in June, introducing yoga instruction at an early age. Meditation is also being injected into student life as schools such as Hedges Middle School, Strathmillan School, Crestview School and École Robert Browning work with the Mind Up teaching curriculum. Teachers are prioritizing mindfulness exercises at the start of class to help students let go of any stressors in their day, clear their minds and regain their focus. Westwood Collegiate incorporates meditation and breathing techniques in the advanced dance and drama programs to assist students in regulating their breath and steadying themselves prior to performing.

Great Kindness Challenge

Each year, our schools participate in an international initiative called the Great Kindness Challenge. The challenge runs for one school week near the end of January and tasks schools with finding as many ways as possible to demonstrate kindness. Year after year, our schools take this challenge to new heights. They find meaningful, innovative ways to show their peers, staff, family and community members they care and appreciate them, such as sending cards to their secretaries, helping caretakers with the garbage or saying hi to someone new at school. This one-week kindness challenge instills the idea that small acts of kindness can make a great difference in someone's day, an idea we work to keep at the forefront of our students' minds all year round. This challenge works to strengthen emotional and social well-being as students give and receive kindness through an array of thoughtful actions.

Seeking Sustainable Solutions

St. James-Assiniboia School Division is working to find sustainable solutions wherever possible. As we continue to improve our own best practices in the area of sustainability, we simultaneously labour to provide our students with the tools and knowledge they need to be advocates to create a sustainable future. Below is a snapshot of sustainable initiatives carried out in the 2016-17 school year.



Water Bottle Filling Stations

While four schools in SJASD had water bottle filling stations installed last year, the Grade 5 students at École Bannatyne came up with the proposal all on their own. The Student Voice Team connected with their peers, school principal, parents and the Division maintenance team to achieve their goal of having two new water bottle filling stations installed on the second floor. The school then sold school-themed, re-usable water bottles to prevent students from bringing disposable water bottles to school.

Gymnasium Light Replacements

It is an ongoing effort in our Division to remove the metal halide and incandescent light fixtures in school gymnasiums and replace these fixtures with new, energy-efficient T5 fluorescent lamps. In the previous school year, our maintenance team replaced the light fixtures at École Assiniboine, Heritage School and Hedges Middle School.

Outdoor Classrooms, Challenges and Gardens

Taking students outdoors to learn is a budding practice in SJASD. Each school is at different stage but many are already seeing the benefits of efforts made to date, such as utilizing outdoor classrooms year-round to support curricular learning. A number of our schools participated in what is known as “The Outdoor Challenge” last year in differing capacities with Brooklands School and Stevenson-Britannia School taking the biggest leap. The two schools conducted all of their classes outside during the month of June for two weeks straight, rain or shine. The result... some classes opted to stay outside an additional week or two! They loved exploring their local surroundings and being immersed in nature. In turn, students became more environmentally conscious as they discussed different topics related to the care and condition of our earth. Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate also planted a sustainable garden near the end of the school year with the help of a grant from Nutrients for Life. This allowed students to gain a greater understanding of where their food comes from and tap into their teamwork skills to keep the garden alive and healthy.

St. James Collegiate is named Canada’s 17th Fair Trade School

St. James Collegiate Institute (SJCI) is Winnipeg’s first, Manitoba’s third and Canada’s 17th designated Fair Trade School. A group of students were inspired by classroom discussions surrounding fair trade and sustainability, so much so they opted to meet outside of class and form what is now called the EcoJimmies, the SJCI Sustainability Group. The team began collaborating to incorporate more fair trade products into school events, such as hot chocolate/coffee stands on fair trade Fridays, bake sales and selling fair trade roses for Valentine’s Day. By becoming fair trade, the school is raising awareness for environmentally sustainable production, trade justice and helping build stronger communities across the globe.



Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Awards

Strathmillan School received an honourable mention in the category of Education for Sustainability at the 2017 Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Awards held at the Manitoba Legislative Building. The School was recognized for its commitment to water stewardship and strong focus on sustainable development in the area of water. The nomination came from The Lake Winnipeg Foundation, who partnered with the school the previous year to create awareness and understanding around some of the issues facing our local waters.

Westwood Collegiate places 1st at 2017 Manitoba Envirothon

A team of five students and one teacher advisor from Westwood Collegiate competed against 19 teams at the 2017 Manitoba Envirothon. The theme of the hands-on competition was “Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship.” The team participated in 15 trail test stations focussing on soils and land use, wildlife, forestry and water ecology. Using their critical thinking skills, the students delivered an oral presentation sharing their solutions to a specific environmental challenge. The Westwood team received first place in the competition and moved on to attend the NCF-Envirothon, North America’s largest high school environmental education competition.

Arbor Day Celebration at Voyageur School

The City of Winnipeg Urban Forestry Branch sponsored Voyageur School to host Arbor Day in May of 2017. The school received the opportunity by submitting a written outline of their most recent sustainable development efforts including: a new outdoor classroom, numerous tree plantings and greening of school grounds. At the celebration, environmental organizations and local dignitaries, including Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba Janice Filmon, addressed the entire student body about the importance of conservation and the contribution of trees and forests to our Canadian way of life. To conclude the event, two trees were planted: a Siberian Larch to represent Arbor Day and a Regal Celebration Maple to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of Canada in a sustainable way.

Supporting active local and global citizenship

Our students are being supported within our schools to apply their learning to real world topics and contribute as much as they can to helping make our world a better place. The act of being a local and global citizen looks like volunteerism, fundraising initiatives, speaking up, listening to others, respecting diverse views, raising awareness and being part of a movement not defined by politics or geography but rather actions, beliefs and values beneficial to all communities around the world.

Mission to Mexico Education Project

With tons of philanthropic endeavours always in motion in SJASD, the Mission to Mexico Education Project has involved fundraising projects at multiple schools over the past 10 years. For the second time in three years, a group of students, teachers, families and community members flew to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, to help grow educational opportunities in underprivileged communities. On the 2017 trip, the group worked to develop the first public library in Puerto Vallarta as well as teach classes, build picnic tables, sort books and bond with students through sports/after-school programs. The eye-opening experience filled our students and staff with gratitude and furthered their passion for helping others experience some of the things we take for granted, such as having a roof over our heads, a school to attend or a library to visit.



Citizenship Ceremony at Ecole Golden Gate

To be an active local and global citizen it is important to understand what the term citizenship means and its respective processes in our country. In January of 2017, École Golden Gate held a Citizenship Ceremony to swear in 44 new citizens from 12 different countries. The event saw many local dignitaries and organizations in attendance, as well as the Grade 7 student body at the school. Students learned about the value of citizenship, diversity, and the process of welcoming others to our country, both formally and informally. Students studied the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom to learn their citizenship rights and wrote letters to congratulate new citizens and share a warm welcome message with them. The ceremony completed the school's UNESCO Reaching Across Borders Project.

A Milestone in Student Leadership

In September of 2016, our Division celebrated our 10th Annual SJASD Youth Forum. Staff and students from all 26 schools gathered at the Holiday Inn Airport West to participate in a full day of learning, reflecting and planning. The youth forum is a motivating, educational experience for our students to learn more about current local and global issues and discover ways in which they can help make a difference. The event consists of presentations from local organizations, group exercises and goal setting sessions. As a wide variety of specialized groups form within our schools, such as Student Voice teams, Youth in Philanthropy, Social Justice, WE teams, Culture Clubs and many more, we know our students are taking the information back to their schools and collaborating to build a better, more supportive school community. Fundraising initiatives are frequently highlighted on the community page in our Division newsletter and many of those projects are sparked at the youth forum, originating from the idea of a single student or group of students.

Working Hard for Water

A year-long project at Buchanan School called "Water is Everyone's Responsibility" made quite a splash in the 2015-16 school year. The project brought awareness to the many Canadian communities facing clean drinking water shortages and educated students about the crisis. The following school year, Buchanan hosted "Story Paddle Auctions" to raise funds for WaterAid Canada and the Lake Winnipeg Foundation by selling the artwork created during the project made by students, staff and community members. On the topic of clean water, a student at Westwood Collegiate organized a clean up of Sturgeon Creek on World Ocean's Day in 2017. Students spent hours canoeing up and down the creek working to beautify our local waterway. Lastly, two female students from Westwood Collegiate won a provincial contest called "Caring for Our Watersheds," in which their call to action involved hosting a dance show to increase the awareness of issues affecting our local watersheds. The showcase called *Losing Tides* was held at Manitoba the Theatre for Young People on February 8, 2017.



Inaugural Student-Trustee Forum 2017

Senior years students representing all of our high schools expressed their experiences, opinions and ideas to members of the St. James-Assiniboia School Board at the first Student-Trustee Forum in May of 2017.

With respect to our motto, "Great Schools for Growing and Learning," student feedback is an extremely valuable source of information to help us accomplish that statement and continue to evolve as an educational organization. Our students used their voices to advocate for the changes they wished to see in our Division, which demonstrated their strong analytical and communication skills. At the same time, as students reflected on topics such as overall school experience and their education, trustees and administration gained a ground level view of what is happening and how students are feeling within our schools.

Exploring new, valuable learning partnerships

Each year, individual schools partner with a wide array of local organizations to help our Division provide unique learning experiences for our students. Annually, in our fall Divisional newsletter called *Contact*, we list and thank all of our community partners for their contributions, naming more than 200 local supporters. Below are a few examples of the valuable partnerships formed in the 2016-17 school year.

Young Women's Conference

As part of our Career Development initiative to educate students about career choices, 54 female students attended the 2017 Young Women's Conference. The Grade 8 participants represented Bruce, Ness, Hedges and Lincoln Middle School. The event was hosted by Skills Manitoba, a non-profit organization that explores and promotes career options in the skilled trades and technologies. The Young Women's Conference featured a female trade mentor at each table, hands-on activities, a tour of Red River College, trade-related exercises and different educational stations. One student expressed a love for the masonry piece, while another was fascinated by the electrical component. All of the students were introduced to career options they were either unfamiliar with or didn't know existed. Skills Manitoba is an excellent partnership for our Division, as students at Jameswood Alternative School and John Taylor Collegiate also attended an event spearheaded by the organization — the National Skilled Trades and Technology Week.



Health Care Aide Certification

John Taylor Collegiate collaborated with the St. James-Assiniboia Continuing Education program to launch a Health Care Aide Certification course for Grade 12 students. The Continuing Education office is located on the third floor of the school and offers a sought-after Health Care Aide Certification course to adult applicants. This is the first year the course has been made available to high school students at the Grade 12 level. Students applied and interviewed to earn the opportunity as only four spots were available in the pilot year. Students reflected on the program as a helpful way to prepare them for entering an array of post-secondary programs and further their passion for one day working in the health care field.



Intergenerational Relationships

A Grade 3 class at Athlone School reached out to local seniors in the community with the hope of forming a fun, educational partnership, like the one they witnessed in a YouTube video called *The Growing Season Trailer*. Not long after, the students were connecting with their "Grandbuddies" at Sturgeon Creek Retirement Residence, stopping by for numerous visits throughout the school year to talk, eat, learn and create art together. The Grade 6 students at Ness Middle School, while a little bit older, also discovered the value of developing cross-generational relationships as they actively visited and engaged with the residents of Golden West Centennial Lodge. These opportunities to share stories, ask each other questions and laugh with one another allow both parties to develop a deeper appreciation for one another and learn from each other in ways that aren't accessible inside the classroom.

Learn to Play Program

The Learn to Play initiative, developed jointly by the National Hockey League and the NHL Players' Association, ran for the first time in SJASD in the 2016-17 school year. The program provides an hour of on-ice, age-appropriate instruction for Grade 3 students who are not currently enrolled in hockey. The objective of the program is to allow more children to experience the joys of hockey and grow their basic skills on the ice. Our students flourished upon being given this opportunity, especially those who had never skated before, as they gained confidence on the ice and learned the basics of hockey in a short period of time. The students visit different community rinks in St. James-Assiniboia and are led by certified instructors.

Newcomers to Canada

During the summer months leading up to the 2016-17 school year, newcomer students at Brooklands School had the opportunity to explore Winnipeg and build relationships in the city through a partnership between SJASD 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. The group experienced the Fringe Festival, museum tours, community pools and splash pads, the local fire hall station, Fort Whyte Alive and bowling! Students were given orientation programming in the areas of health and nutrition, safety and law, community and places, and education and employment. The program, run by N.E.E.D.S. Centre staff, provided students and their families with opportunities to explore their community and enhance their English language acquisition prior to the first day of school.

Planning for success in the future

2017-2018 Budget Report

In SJASD, our focus is to continually improve the education of our students, while maintaining the lowest possible cost to our taxpayers. This balance is achieved by concentrating on our budget goals and considering any major factors specific to a select budget year.

For the 2017-18 school year, our Division planned considering the following circumstances: a decline of provincial support (-2%), an increase in enrollment, a rise in salary costs, a greater volume of student support needs and a slow property assessment growth.

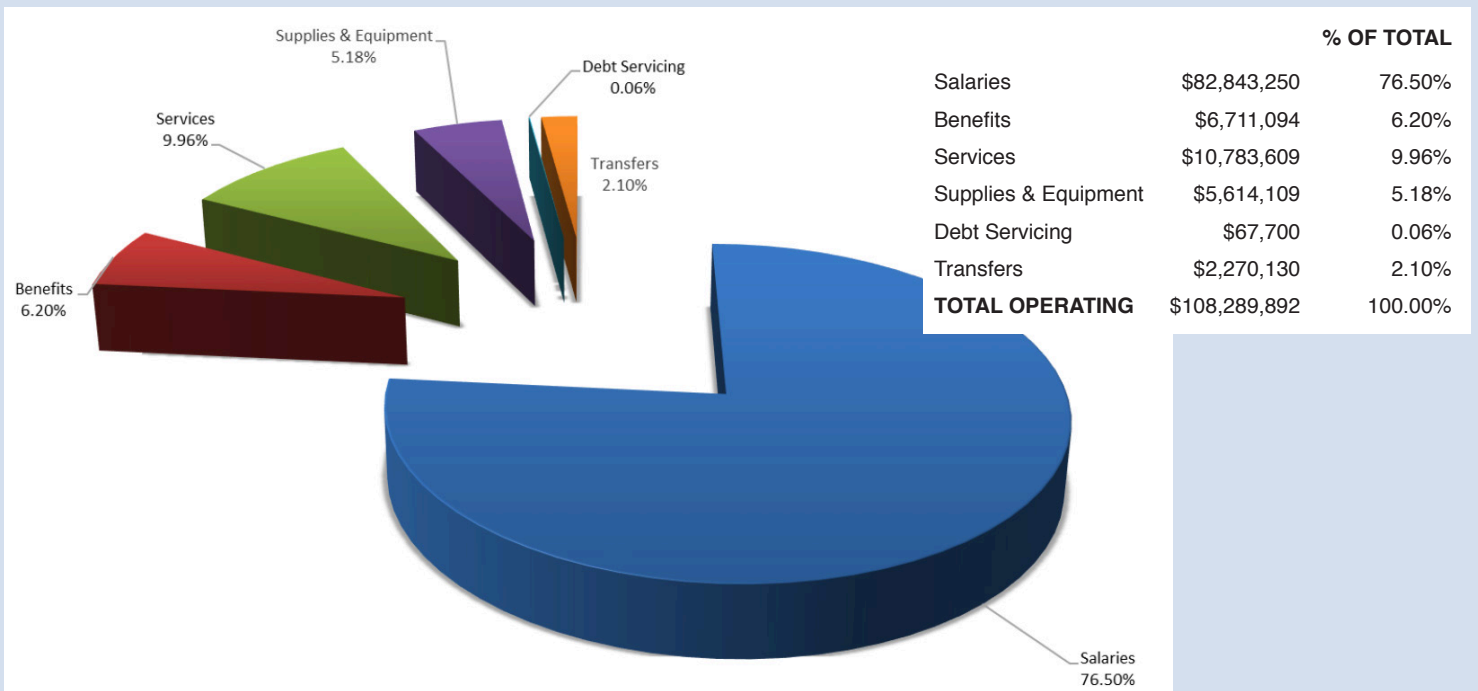
On March 2, 2017, our Division held our annual public budget meeting at the board office where the Board of Trustees and members of our Finance Department presented and reviewed the 2017/18 Draft Budget. At the meeting, as well as afterwards through an online survey, we received valuable input and positive feedback from our local stakeholders. As an example, 83% of survey respondents indicated they felt the school division was “Good” or “Very Good” at managing taxpayers’ dollars. Our final budget reflected the second lowest taxation rate in Metro Winnipeg and represented our commitment to meeting the educational requirements of our diverse student population. Our final budget also highlighted two major initiatives as part of our five-year plan to plan to repair/renovate school buildings, totalling \$11.5 million, and incorporate technology network upgrades/ replacement, in the amount of \$8.6 million. Please see below the breakdown of our Total Operating Expenditures Budget.



BUDGET GOALS

- 1) Maintain programs and quality
- 2) Focus resources on the classroom
- 3) Achieve balance between educational needs and low taxation
- 4) Address maintenance/repair requirements of aging buildings
- 5) Comply with new government requirements for education
- 6) Comply with new Workplace Safety and Health legislation
- 7) Reduce staffing through attrition (retirements)
- 8) Align the budget with our Strategic Plan
- 9) Apply sustainable development principles

Total Operating Expenditures Budget 2017-18



Our Vision

We are a leading and innovative learning community that will enable all students to succeed in our ever-changing world.

Our Mission

We aim to provide a meaningful, safe and caring educational environment so that all students are prepared to be responsible citizens in a democratic society.

Our Values

Respect

We respect each other, our diversity, our communities and our organization.

Integrity

We honour our obligations and are truthful in all of our interactions.

Responsibility

We are responsible and accountable for our actions, decisions and our own learning.

Consultation

We collect data and listen to opinions, perceptions and outcomes to make decisions and take actions.

Excellence

We believe student achievement is based on individual abilities. The growth and professional development of our employees along with inclusive, innovating and engaging programs and services increase the potential of all students.

Our Beliefs

- A welcoming, safe and caring environment is the foundation for successful learning.
- Each student deserves a quality public education where they can learn to their fullest potential with equitable opportunities, resources and supports.
- Parent/guardian engagement and collaborative relationships contribute to the success of our students.
- Our employees and their professional development are critical to the success of the Division.
- Decisions are evidence-based and made in the best interests of our students.
- Education is delivered in a responsive, proactive and fiscally responsible manner.

Our Outcomes

Each learner actively demonstrates academic, emotional and social growth.

- Responsive, meaningful and engaging instruction
- Appropriate, current and relevant programming
- Strong focus on numeracy and literacy
- Student self-assessment
- Celebrations of learning

Each learner benefits from strong learning partnerships.

- Community involvement in school-based activities
- Promotion of active and healthy lifestyles
- Nurture positive relationships with families and the local and global community

Each learner is an active local and global citizen.

- Understand and respect diverse values and world views
- Learning is connected to real world applications and actions
- Inclusion of student voice

Each learner benefits from exceptional staff, a balanced financial position and appropriate physical infrastructure.

- Safe and inclusive physical learning environments
- Exceptional and effective teaching and support staff
- Grow, protect and utilize revenues to achieve positive student outcomes

The St. James-Assiniboia School Division's strategic plan is a roadmap and living framework to define where the organization is going in the future.





St. James-Assiniboia School Division

Great Schools for Growing and Learning

www.sjasd.ca