



Great Schools for
Growing and Learning

St. James-Assiniboia School Division

Spring Issue 2017

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www.sjsd.net



SJASD brings *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* to life

Inside the Westwood Collegiate theatre, SJASD students take a fantastic journey. James, along with his insect companions, work together to avoid great danger as they travel across the Atlantic Ocean on an enormous floating peach.

This imaginative tale, brought to life by the St. James-Assiniboia Divisional Musical Theatre group, is a new adaption of the Roald Dahl novel, *James and the Giant Peach*, published in 1961. The Divisional production, directed by Paula Olko, consisted of two extremely talented casts. A total of 10 shows ran from January 28 to February 4. More than 150 students in Grades 4 through 8 brought this magical story to life. From human centipedes and ladybugs to conniving, squabbling aunts, each member of the cast transported audiences into James' colourful world where anything was possible.

As one great musical in our Division wraps up, another is already underway. Three students at Lincoln Middle School, who all played lead roles in *James and the Giant Peach Jr.*, are excited to be part of the upcoming school production, *Madagascar Jr.* "I had so much fun performing in James and the Giant Peach, and can't wait to be a part of Madagascar Jr."

said Grade 7 student Taylor H.

Taylor played the centipede in cast 2 and is now playing Kowalski in *Madagascar Jr.* She says musical theatre is a way for her to express her love for dancing, singing, and acting.

Grade 7 student Jenna C., who played ladybug in cast 1, is looking forward to being a zookeeper in the Lincoln production. "I'm having so much fun learning my lines and singing," said Jenna.

Last but not least, Grade 8 student Alyssa R., otherwise known as ladybug in cast 2 or soon-to-be Skipper in *Madagascar Jr.*, has been part of Divisional theatre for five years. *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* marked her last Divisional production and *Madagascar Jr.* will be her final Lincoln musical.

"In musical theatre, everybody becomes family, and I have met some lifelong friends," said Alyssa. "I have learned so much from theatre."

From the students at Lincoln, "We all love musical theatre and we hope you can come see *Madagascar Jr.* at Westwood Collegiate on April 24 and 25!" Please contact the school for tickets.

St. James-Assiniboia School Division presents the Safe Schools Forum "Wellness Today: Building Healthy Futures"

St. James-Assiniboia School Division invites all members of the community to attend the Safe Schools Forum "Wellness Today: Building Healthy Futures."

As part of our commitment to keep our schools safe, our Division has teamed up with local organizations and individuals to break down the broad spectrum of wellness. The forum will provide additional information and support for families and students in the areas of mental, physical, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing.

Time: 4:30 - 7:00 pm.
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2017
Location: Westwood Collegiate, 360 Rouge Rd.

The forum will include: guest speakers, information booths, student presentations, free pizza dinner, live entertainment, door prizes and more. We hope to see you there!





Kienan LaFrance with his former head coach and math teacher Brett Watt at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate.

One-on-One with LaFrance and the Cup

Ottawa RedBlacks running back Kienan LaFrance is no stranger to St. James-Assiniboia School Division.

He began his school years studying french immersion at École Robert Browning and continued to pursue his french education at École Golden Gate and later, Silver Heights Collegiate. It was around this time he was introduced to the game of football.

Kienan has always been a hard-working athletic individual, but football was where he found his true calling. After a few years playing with the St.

James Rods, Kienan took his talents to Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate, to play under Head Coach Brett Watt. In 2008, Kienan helped lead the Huskies to the Kas Vidruk Division Championship in the Winnipeg High School Football League.

As a player, Kienan has always been one of the hardest working members of his team. In his three-year career with the Winnipeg Rifles Junior Football Club, he worked his way up from a special teams player to an All-Canadian running back. After three years there, he moved on to play for the

Manitoba Bisons, where he shared the backfield with his former high school teammate, Anthony Coombs. Kienan overcame adversity after breaking his leg in his first season and persevered to be drafted in the 6th round of the 2015 CFL draft by the Ottawa RedBlacks. In 2016, the young Sturgeon Heights graduate took an opportunity where he appeared front and centre on the national stage. In the CFL semi-final, in blistering conditions, with several inches of snow on the ground, Kienan stepped in for the injured starting running back and rushed for 25 carries and 157 yards to help lead the Redblacks to a victory and a Grey Cup birth.

In the 2016 Grey Cup game, Kienan played a key support role, amassing 11 carries and 42 yards while adding six catches for 31 yards out of the backfield. The Redblacks finished the day with a 39-33 victory over the Calgary Stampeders.

On Tuesday, February 21, Kienan celebrated his success with the community. After a private breakfast with some students at Sturgeon Heights, the cup was on display in the Sturgeon Heights gym for students and the community to meet Kienan and take pictures with the Grey Cup.

After a long morning of smiles, pictures and congratulations, Kienan took the cup back to his old middle school, Golden Gate, for an assembly. It was a truly magical experience as Kienan

walked in holding the cup, alongside students that play for his old community program, the St. James Rods. The theme of the whole day was work ethic, humility and tenacity. Kienan is extremely excited and very grateful to be able to share his success with the community that has been such a big part of his life.

This sense of community isn't new for Kienan. Since his first days at the Manitoba Bisons, he has returned to Sturgeon Heights every year to participate in the annual Pros vs Joes fundraiser, which helps support the non-profit charity, Project Echo. He has come in to speak to the Sturgeon Heights basketball and football programs and has routinely participated in Winnipeg's "I Love To Read" month. When the opportunity arose to bring the Grey Cup back to Winnipeg and celebrate with his friends, family and former teachers, Kienan didn't hesitate for a second.

As a professional athlete, it can be tough being away from home. No matter where he is playing football, Kienan LaFrance will always feel at home with his friends, family and community in Winnipeg.

After a stellar performance in the playoffs with Ottawa, Kienan will be competing for a starting spot with the Saskatchewan Roughriders going into the 2017-2018 season.

Submitted by Mr. Vincent, Teacher

Westwood speed skater earns four medals in Finland

Westwood Collegiate student Tyson Langelaar set the bar high representing Canada at the World Junior Speed Skating Championships in Helsinki, Finland.

Throughout the competition, held February 17-19, Tyson earned a silver medal in the team sprint, two individual bronze medals in the 1000 metre and 1500 metre events, as well as a bronze medal in the overall individual standings.

"I wanted to win an individual medal and a team medal, but winning three individuals was way beyond what I planned to do," said Tyson.

While he says "it was sweet to grab a medal with the team," the biggest highlight of the competition for Tyson was placing third in the overall individual standings.

Helsinki marked his second time attending the World Juniors as last year he also competed in Changchun, China, and he still has one more year left of junior eligibility. Upon returning home

from Finland with four medals in tow, he is now focussing his efforts on two goals for next year: his last World Juniors competition and the upcoming Olympic trials.

The Grade 12 student is part of the St. James Speed Skating Club, based out of the Allard Arena, and skates long track at the Susan Auch Oval. He also skates long track with the provincial team at the St. Norbert Community Centre.

When Tyson returned home to Winnipeg on Monday, February 20, a swarm of family, friends, teammates, as well as many young skaters who he coaches were there to greet him and celebrate his outstanding achievements.

Tyson thanked his parents for all of their support, and attributed his growth over the past two years to his coach, Tyler Derraugh, who helped him transition to a higher level of skating. Amazing job, Tyson!



Supplied Photo

Grade 3 students hit the ice for "Learn to Play"

Grade 3 students at Voyageur School who are not currently enrolled in a hockey program were invited to participate in the Learn to Play program, offered for the first time this year in St. James-Assiniboia School Division. Once a week, Grade 3 students from Voyageur, Sansome, Lakewood, Athlone, Heritage, Strathmillan, Buchanan and Crestview Schools are transported to Keith Bodley Arena. Participants in the Learn to Play program receive an hour of age-appropriate instruction in a safe and fun environment.

All students receive free head-to-toe equipment, paired with supportive instruction to help all students, including those who have never skated before.

"I've never been on the ice before or played hockey and I've always wanted to," said Grade 3 participant Morgan K. "Now is my time and I'm so happy to be able to."

The Learn to Play on-ice instruction plans are developed in collaboration with experts from USA Hockey and Hockey Canada and are taught by certified instructors, led by NHL Alumni.

"I like how they challenge you and you get to learn the skills quickly," said participant Hayden N.

As students across our Division continue to improve their skating and hockey skills, many of the young participants are enjoying the team element and supportive atmosphere.



"The Learn to Play initiative was developed jointly by the National Hockey League and the NHL Players' Association to offer more families a chance to experience everything that makes youth hockey so rewarding."

- learntoplay.nhl.com/jets

Athlete of the Week for JTC

John Taylor Collegiate student Risto Zimbakov was named Tire Recycle Urban Athlete of the Week on March 7. Risto (Riki), is a 6'4 guard on the Piper Varsity Boys Basketball team. This year he helped lead his team into the Provincial championships averaging 35 points, 11 rebounds and 5 assists per game throughout the regular season. His coach, Mr. Kavadas, says he is one of the top players in this year's graduating class. The Grade 12 athlete maintains a 90% academic average. Congratulations Riki!



SJCI connects with Moksha Yoga Winnipeg

SJCI students are taking time during the week to clear their minds, focus on their breath, and strengthen their bodies.

Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Frolek, helped initiate a partnership between St. James Collegiate, Moksha Yoga Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Public Library to allow students the opportunity to experience yoga free of charge. The eight-week program, which began February 8, is part of the Moksha Yoga Schools Project where a certified instructor visits the school once a week to lead an hour-long introductory yoga class. At St. James Collegiate, the classes are held every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the first four of which were carried out in the program room inside the Winnipeg Public Library.

This community-based initiative to promote health and mental wellness is already benefitting students with still a few weeks left to go!

"I like how it is in the middle of the

week, in the middle of the day, that's a day I look forward to," said Grade 10 participant Avery B. "School can be so stressful but I know on Wednesday, I get to do my yoga and relax."

Grade 10 student Harshita A. says doing the shavasana pose makes all the thoughts in her head go away and allows her to listen to nothing but her breath.

"I moved here three years, and at my past school in India we had a yoga club on Fridays," said Harshita.

She is enjoying learning a different style of yoga and says her body is more flexible and comfortable after just a few classes.

While Avery and Harshita have practiced yoga before, Moksha instructor Aurella N. says this is the first time for about 90% of the students.

"It's super fun," said Aurella. "A lot of them are very enthusiastic and willing to try new things."

Aurella works for Moksha Yoga



Winnipeg and instructs classes at both the Donald and Waverley locations. All of the students had positive things to say about Aurella's style of teaching, mentioning how they feel comfortable and confident throughout the class.

For St. James Collegiate student Rainnah G., the yoga program is a way for her to relieve stress as she works an after school job on Wednesdays and has found herself feeling

more relaxed after yoga, helping her carry out the rest of her day.

As senior years students work to achieve balance between work, school and extracurricular activities, yoga allows them to slow down and connect with themselves.

The St. James Collegiate students say they would love to see the program expand and for more people to come in, including boys!

Students and staff roll out their mats at Golden Gate

Fridays at Golden Gate Middle School have been feeling more relaxed and zen than ever, and it's all because of yoga!

Every Friday morning from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m., staff and students have the opportunity to get out of their comfort zones and try something new. Gators of all ages, sizes, and fitness levels have been gathering to practice yoga together, and they leave feeling refreshed, rejuvenated, and ready to take on the rest of the day. The yoga sessions at the school started in the first week of December and have been running every Friday since, with the exception of holidays and inservices. The weekly yoga sessions are led by Kelsey Sinclair, a certified yoga instructor and member of the Pop Up Prana Winnipeg team.

Yoga has many proven physical and mental benefits, some of which include: increased balance, stability, flexibility, and core strength, and decreased anxiety and overall stress levels. The underlying idea is everyone can benefit from yoga. All athletes require core strength and flexibility in order to play



faster and stronger with less risk of injury. Feeling stressed or overwhelmed? Yoga's focus on linking movement with breath helps a person feel more centered and in control. If you're not an athlete, yoga poses can be modified for beginners as you build up strength and endurance in a welcoming and accepting environment. This weekly practice at Golden Gate has attracted a diverse group of students and staff: basketball players, dancers, football players, hockey and ringette players, band members, non-athletes, teachers, artists, and office staff have all been experiencing the benefits of yoga. Each session attendance continues to grow seeing an average of 25-30 participants!

Golden Gate teacher, Mr. Bodnar, says the plan was to go until the end of March with the yoga sessions, but the school received money from the Healthy Schools Grant to allow the program to continue until the end of the school year.

A healthy mind and a healthy body are at the center of a positive, fulfilling, and productive life. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced yogi, the Golden Gate school community has learned yoga is truly for everyone!

Building Connections and Confidence through Literacy

In October and November of 2016, Grade 7 students in Room 9 at George Waters Middle School took part in the Reading Buddies program for the first time!

"They are a very diverse class and so I thought we needed something different to assist with our literacy goals," said Language Arts and Social Studies teacher Ms. Bakker.

The class chose to partner with Stevenson-Britannia Elementary School as eight students in the class previously attended Stevenson. The Grade 7 group walked to Stevenson for each visit to read to Ms. Engstrom's Grade 2 and 3 class.

The first visit consisted of various "getting to know you" activities and concluded with the Grade 7 students reading to the Grade 2's and 3's. During the next two visits, the students took turns reading to each other and focussed on finding the main ideas in books. The students learned to summarize the major events together and discovered some underlying messages and themes as well. To help motivate reluctant readers, Stevenson librarian Ms. Janzen, along with Ms. Engstrom and Ms. Bakker ensured there were tons of fiction and non-fiction books to choose from to provide lots of options for the students.

"One of the greatest things the students gained was confidence," said Ms. Bakker.

Grade 7 student Caren T. said she got along really well with her partner because her partner was "very shy and reminded her of herself." The Grade 7 students discovered they don't get that nervous with a younger audience. The George Waters students also learned they liked picture books more than they thought they did!

Many of the Grade 2 and 3 students looked up to their reading buddy, saying comments like "my reading buddy was smart, friendly and helpful when they were reading aloud." The elementary students were very enthusiastic about the Grade 7 reading visits. Grade 2 student Alexcis B. said, "I liked reading some of the chapter books. I felt like a big kid, just like my buddy."

The students learned to adjust their reading rates and pause more often during stories. One of the biggest rewards the teachers noticed from the experience was seeing how motivated some of the quieter students were by the process. The Grade 7 readers also taught the younger students to spell new words and discovered they had quite a lot in common with their younger buddies.

"My reading buddy was very patient," said Grade 3 student Andrea P. "I would like for them to come to our school again!"

Submitted by Ms. Bakker and Ms. Engstrom, Teachers

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

April 11

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

April 12

Safe Schools Community Forum, 4:30 p.m., Westwood Collegiate, Public Welcome

April 14

Good Friday: No Classes

April 19 & 20

Early Years Divisional Speed Stacks

April 20

Divisional Choir Tour Day

April 21

Admin Inservice: No School

April 25 & 26

SJASD Art Exhibition, Glendale Golf and Country Club, 4:00 to 7:30 p.m.

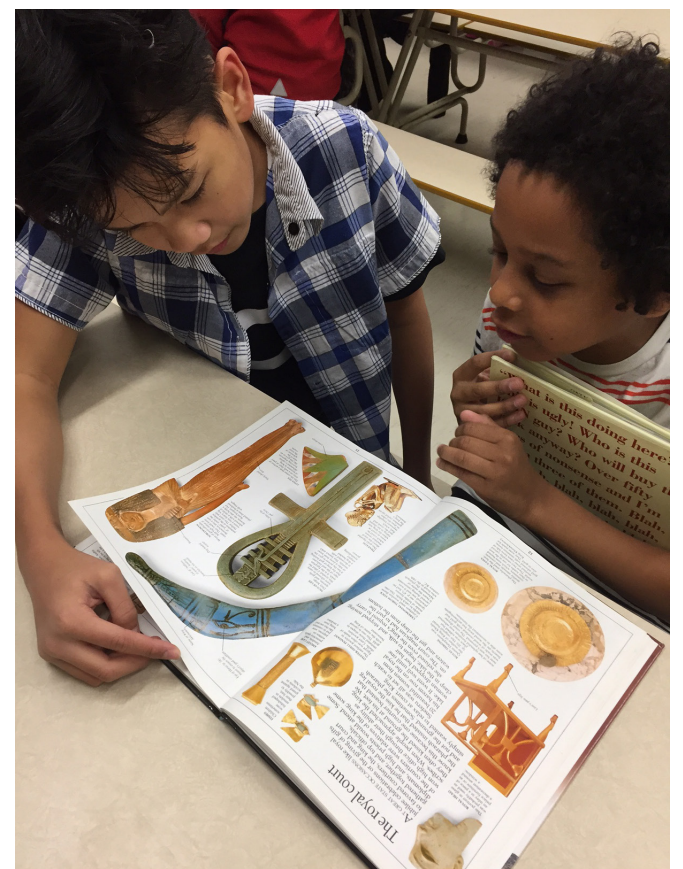
April 26 & 27

Middle Years Divisional Badminton Tournament

April 28

Senior Years Reports

Visit our Divisional Calendar at www.sjdsd.net for additional details and information.



Two of the Reading Buddy participants from George Waters Middle School and Stevenson-Britannia School.

I LOVE TO READ

Each year in February, SJASD indulges in "I Love to Read" month. Throughout the many years we've been celebrating I Love to Read, staff in our Division continue to introduce new ideas and activities for students to engage and grow with literacy. Below are just a few highlights from I Love to Read 2017!

Linwood School

A lucky group of Linwood students enjoyed a special visit early on during "I Love to Read" month. On February 8, 2017, Winnipeg Jet forward Adam Lowry and defenceman Mark Stuart read to and engaged with the Grade 2/3 students of Room 10. Grade 3 student, Drayson D., won the Winnipeg Jets Reading Takes Flight contest to earn this memorable and fun experience for his class. After reading the Winnipeg Jets book, "The Home Team," both players signed autographs and participated in a Q&A session with the students. One student asked the players, "What kind of books do you like to read?" This sparked a lengthy conversation about fiction, non-fiction and different genres.

"I like fiction and non-fiction," said Stuart. "Adam and I are both going back to school and doing lots of textbook reading online so we can get ready for our exams."

Adam Lowry received a big response from the students in Room 10 when he mentioned he was a fan of the Harry Potter series and said he was on book 3 or 4 right now.

"Both of the guys were so friendly and welcoming, and let the students take lots of pictures and sign autographs," said teacher Mr. Young. "It was a great day for our class!"



Heritage School

To kick off "I Love to Read" month, Heritage School hosted a literacy evening on February 2 for students and families in the community. More than 125 people participated in the event geared towards K-3 students. There were seven literacy centers: Let your Inner Seuss Loose, A Night With Mother Goose, Jump into Literacy, Hole Punch Palooza, Write Around the Room, Reading and Technology. On arrival, families picked up a passport and had one hour to circulate through the centers at their own pace.

"Very interactive," commented one Heritage parent. "Loved all the different ways to see literacy."

Families were then invited back to the gym for pizza, lemonade and prizes. Thank you to the families, Heritage teachers, our Divisional Occupational Therapist and Literacy Coach who helped make this evening a great success. Submitted by Mrs. Richtik & Mrs. MacRae, Teachers



Sansome School

Sansome School launched "I Love to Read" with a literacy-themed spirit week. The celebration began with a school-wide "Read-in at the Beach" event. As the week continued, students and staff participated in a variety of activities, including spending time in the literacy lounge (main foyer of the school) to enjoy a great book as a small group or with their entire class. "Drop Everything and Read" (D.E.A.R.) commenced each day as well, complete with Sansome D.E.A.R.

police patrolling the school in search of the most dedicated readers. Daily book clubs in the library, ongoing guest readers, literacy games, group story writing and a successful school-wide book exchange fair highlighted the busy week. At the fair, Sansome collected more than 600 gently used books for students to select from and share with their families.



Voyageur reflects on Residential Schools

Grade 5 students at Voyageur School are studying Canadian history and learning about Canada's Indigenous people. During "I Love to Read" month, one class hosted two special guests: local residential school survivor Betty Ross and local author David Robertson. The visits are described below from the perspectives of two students in the class.

Grade 5 student, Cassia W.

Have you ever met a residential school survivor? Our grade 5 class at Voyageur School did and her name was Betty Ross. She lived in Cross Lake, Manitoba. She went to residential school from the age of 5 through to 21 years old. She tells her story and shares her memories about surviving residential school to many people to help them try to understand what it was like to leave her family at such a young age. When we asked her how she survived all those years in residential school, she taught our class that she survived by turning negative into positive in very hard situations. We were excited to meet her and had prepared questions for her to answer and she always thanked us so kindly. I thought that Betty's visit with us was outstanding because she taught us so many new things and now we can share our learning with the rest of the world! Now that you have heard about Betty Ross you might like to learn more about her experiences. I suggest reading David Robertson's book, "Sugar Falls."

Grade 5 student, Kendall S.

Have you ever met an author that has written so many books about one topic? This month our Grade 5 class met David Robertson. He told us he is Swampy Cree. You may recognize his name as a local author. He told us that he knew he wanted to be an author since he was in Grade 3, when he wrote a bunch of poems. David writes about residential school survivors' experiences. David came to Voyageur and read his latest children's book called "When We Were Alone". He explained to us that the children who attended residential schools had to cut their hair, not speak their language, dress in uniforms and move away from their families and communities. He helped us understand how hard these changes were for these children. David writes graphic novels. Some of the graphic novels he has written are: "The Scout Tommy Prince", "Sugar Falls," and "Chief Mistahimaskwa".



Huskies reading the way at Strathmillan

During the fall term, Grade 10 students from Ms. Engel's Reading is Thinking class at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate visited Strathmillan School once a week to connect with Miss Kirkland's Grade 1 students. The goal was to build community and bridge the gap between early and senior years students, however, the experience quickly turned out to be much more.

Prior to their initial visit, the Grade 10 students were taught reading strategies for a younger audience, such as making predictions from pictures, reading with fluency, responding to punctuation and reading with excitement. This took the senior years participants out of their comfort zones and challenged them to take risks.

As the high school students put their new reading skills to the test, the Grade 1 students listened intently. The young students proved to be a respectful and curious audience as the bonds between the students began to grow. Grade 1 students started checking their calendars in anticipation of the arrival of their Husky Buddy readers. The Grade 1's were learning from a new source and seeing more and more models of great readers. As time went on, the Strathmillan students began practicing their own reading skills in front of their buddies. The Grade 1's would eagerly head to their book boxes and pluck a book or two to read. As the sessions continued, it was apparent all of the students involved gained confidence in their reading skills and became more comfortable with one another.

After first term, Ms. Engel's students wrote reflections about the experience. The teachers and coordinators realized this partnership meant a great deal to the students as the responses were deep, personal and touching. Staff then made plans to incorporate more authentic reading and writing experiences for the students, such as filling in the journals the Grade 10 students made for their younger buddies.

While the Grade 1 students viewed their buddies as mentors, the older buddies recognized the satisfaction and importance of student modelling. This partnership helped our students and staff stretch beyond the borders of their own classrooms and build a sense of responsibility, leadership, and community. When children read and write for an audience and with a purpose in mind, they take ownership and responsibility for their learning. This experience demonstrated the power of children seeing themselves as teachers of reading, and creating life-long leaders.

Submitted by Ms. Kirkland and Ms. Engel, Teachers, and Ms. Stark, Literacy Coach



What is Deep Learning?

St. James Assiniboia School Division has been part of the New Pedagogies for Deep Learning global partnership for approximately three years. The Deep Learning Competencies, better known as the 6 C's, are the skill sets each and every student needs to achieve and excel in, in order to flourish in today's complex world. The 6 C's include: character education, citizenship, critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, communication and creativity and imagination. Our Division coordinators work in partnership with our teachers and principals to design rich learning experiences to build on learners' strengths and needs, create new knowledge using real-life problem solving and help all students identify their talents, purpose and passion.

Deep Learning at Lincoln: *Connecting the Classroom to Health and Environmental Concerns*

In today's digitally, and globally interconnected world, it is no longer enough for students to interact with facts and formulas in isolated classroom lessons. Instead, Lincoln students are developing a more global perspective by considering their classroom learning and personal interests in light of real-life social and environmental issues.

In science, students were challenged to provide an in-depth analysis of the safe handling and environmental impact of a particular chemical substance or mixture used everyday.

"When I first started this project, I had several choices to choose from, such as nuclear radiation and acid rain," said Grade 7 student Nathan V. "The reason I chose fertilizers amongst all those choices is because of its impact in Canada, specifically Manitoba."

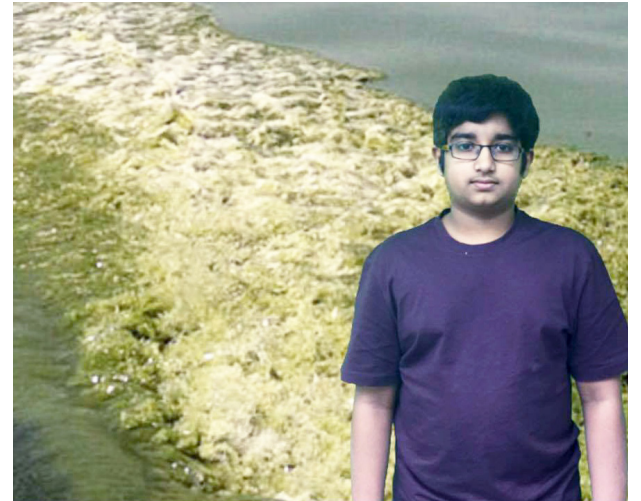
He mentioned how at his elementary school — Strathmillan — students were involved in a campaign to support the Lake Winnipeg Foundation. Nathan learned how algae was one of the main threats facing Lake Winnipeg due to fertilizers getting into the water causing the growth of harmful algae.

"When I started my project, I recalled the campaign and realized how big the issue was, and wanted to learn more about algae blooms," expressed Nathan in his research statement.

Lincoln students Benny K. and Briar M. also helped contribute to the research efforts involved in the project, as well as the class presentation. Below is an excerpt from the project:

Fertilizers are substances that can be both beneficial and destructive, and are used to enhance soil fertility and plant growth. There are three major types of fertilizer: organic, biosolid and chemical.

- Chemical fertilizers, one of the more commonly used types, has the biggest impact on the environment and the health of other organisms. Chemical fertilizers can contain nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium compounds.
 - Biosolids, like chemical fertilizers are hazardous waste, as they are made of treated sewage sludge.
 - Organic fertilizers, which are the most environmentally-friendly fertilizers, are made up of natural materials such as plant matter, animal waste, etc.
- The nitrogen found in most chemical fertilizers can cause groundwater contamination, which can have a deadly outcome. Urea, a commonly used nitrogen fertilizer can cause an additional impact on the environment, as it can deplete ozone levels, and it releases nitrous oxide, which is a major cause of acid rain. Many chemical fertilizers can cause Blue Baby Syndrome, the deadly outcome of an infant taking in baby formula contaminated by chemical fertilizers. Blue Baby Syndrome can result in a coma or even death. Phosphorus, another chemical used in chemical fertilizers, is an essential nutrient for plant growth. The downside, however, is phosphorus also boosts the growth of blue-green algae blooms in water bodies. The algae blooms can make humans and other animals extremely sick, and can contaminate water. Algae blooms also suck oxygen out of the water body they reside in, suffocating the other organisms that rely on oxygen from the water. Algae blooms are currently a big problem here in Manitoba, as large amounts of them are located in Lake Winnipeg. These algae blooms severely affect the life of fish in the lake, and the tourism/fishing industries. Believe it or not, 7,900



Grade 7 Lincoln student Nathan V. standing in front of algae blooms—a problem facing Lake Winnipeg.

tonnes of phosphorus enters Lake Winnipeg annually, and most of it stays there.

To ensure that we keep our world and ourselves safe from the dangers posed by fertilizers, we must know where and how to dispose of them. Fertilizers cannot be recycled, and should never be thrown into the trash, as chemical fertilizers and biosolids are considered hazardous waste. Instead, go to the nearest household hazardous waste facility and dispose of it there, in its original packaging, or better yet, give leftover fertilizer to family/friends to use. If you want to use a natural alternative, instead of using chemical fertilizers, try using compost made of fruit and vegetable remains, or crushed eggshells. Worms are also an excellent choice, as their waste helps boost plant growth.

Deep Learning leads to creative solutions at Crestview

At Crestview School, K-5 students are being introduced to a common language about how they can describe their own Deep Learning using the 6 C's. We introduce these valuable concepts through fun hands-on challenges, rich literature, inquiry-based learning and projects that support making meaningful change in our community and beyond.

In our Makerspace, Room 5 at Crestview School, students have opportunities to work in groups to solve problems. By taking part in team challenges, students are learning it takes patience to listen to



ideas and consider the perspective of others in order to collaboratively solve problems or create new designs. Understanding that we learn from mistakes and validating each other's input support feelings of safety to share thoughts without fear of rejection. Through engaging discussions, students respectfully share prior experiences, opinions, viewpoints and ideas. These conversations provide rich opportunities to understand diverse perspectives within the group, build empathy and practice positive and meaningful communication skills.

Students are learning creativity comes in many forms and can be used to solve real-world problems such as what to do about continual traffic jams in a city or how to plan an effective play in hockey. Learning by doing, encouraging one another, reflecting on the process of a design and trying it all over again builds resilience, tenacity, grit and the ability to persevere as a team. Valuable critical thinking skills come into play when students make connections and apply new knowledge to real-world problems and personal experiences. When students find topics/causes they are passionate about and



see problems as opportunities to help, the personal learning is incredibly meaningful and builds strong character.

Ultimately, the goal of Deep Learning at Crestview School is to help our students understand how they can see problems as opportunities to develop novel solutions, help others and be key contributors within their communities. These acts of citizenship in our students build character and will support productive, peaceful societies in the future.

Submitted by Bev Stephenson, Vice Principal

Career planning sparks class art project

Grade 9 students at St. James Collegiate participated in an innovative career program from February 13 to 15.

The three-day program involved students in the career exploration process using the visual art techniques of origami and collage. School Guidance Counsellor, Christina Brophy, and Divisional Career Development Teacher, Heather Rose, worked with Manitoba Artist, Robert Christiani, to deliver a program that would engage students in career development using fun, hands-on visual art activities.

Robert Christiani, a visual artist and teacher for more than 25 years, applied his formal education as a professional visual artist working in health care and now is the co-owner of Journey Home Artist Retreat in Walderssee, Manitoba. Robert also assists schools as part of the Artist in the Schools program and Arts Smarts program through the Manitoba Arts Council.

The program at St. James Collegiate involved students building gigantic classroom "fortune tellers" to showcase their learning of the many different internal and external influences that contribute to building a comprehensive career plan. Exploration, creativity and collaboration were the focus over the three days, as students learned about the internal influence of their values, skills, interests, and personal style in connection to career planning. Students also learned about the external influences on their career planning, including work/life experiences, learning experiences and the impact of significant others.



COMMUNITY

Gators welcome new Canadian citizens



Photo by Chelsey Bernhard

On January 30, Golden Gate Middle School hosted a Canadian Citizenship Ceremony, swearing in 44 proud new citizens from 12 different countries.

The ceremony taught Golden Gate's Grade 7 students a number of important lessons about the value of citizenship, diversity, and welcoming others to our great country. As Presiding Officer Dwight MacAuley said, "Canada is a model to the world of diversity. It is thanks to this diversity, not in spite of it, that the country is prospering."

To prepare for the ceremony, students spent the month of January learning about the process of becoming a Canadian citizen, plus the citizenship rights outlined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. As well, students got involved by writing letters of congratulations to the new citizens and welcoming them with music.

Other special guests present to welcome the new citizens on January 30 included: MLA Scott Johnston, MLA Wab Kinew and Sergeant Michelle Nielson of the Armed Forces. The ceremony completed the UNESCO Reaching Across Borders Project, helping students better understand the importance of welcoming other cultures to Canada. It also supported two strategic outcomes on our Divisional Strategic Plan, each learner is "an active local and global citizen" and "actively demonstrates academic, emotional, and social growth."

Submitted by Ms. Bees and Mme. Hurd, Teachers

Bonding over bread at St. James Collegiate

The Bread-Fast Club, just like the classic film, is bringing students at St. James Collegiate closer together.

Every Wednesday morning as students enter the school, members of the World Bread-Fast Club are there to provide them with a sample of bread from a particular region around the world. Each week boasts a new bread variety paired with different spreads, as well as an informative write up about where the bread is popular in the world, the pronunciation and other interesting details.

While this initiative ensures students don't go to class hungry, it also provides a unique opportunity for them to connect and learn about different cultures.

"I've tried all of the breads but I like Pandesal the most," said Grade 10

Bread-Fast Club member Daphne C. "Just because it's what we mainly eat in the Philippines."

From 8:00 to 8:30 a.m., conversations about family backgrounds, favourite foods, childhood memories and different countries fill the front foyer.

Teacher Mrs. Kopetsky explains how the school has 140 declared EAL (English as an Additional Language) students and therefore is always looking for new ways to highlight and celebrate the school's rich cultural diversity.

Mrs. Kopetsky applied for funding from the Division in the form of an Innovative Grant to launch the program this year. The school also reached out to the Manitoba Teachers' Society for additional support.



The student volunteers behind the World Bread-Fast Club at St. James Collegiate on February 8. Congratulations to all of the students and staff involved, and thank you to our community partners who helped make the program possible, including: Marcel's Bakery, Young's Market, Lakomka Bakery, High Tea Bakery, and La Belle Baguette to name a few.



Cyclones send out sweets to support a familiar shelter

Many of the students at Sansome School are aware of the fantastic support the Winnipeg Pet Rescue Shelter offers to pets in need of care and homes within our community. Our Social Justice students decided to go one step further to determine the organization's greatest needs.

After researching the shelter, the students discovered the most in-demand items are supplies to care for individual animals, such as food, toys, bedding and grooming materials. These young leaders at Sansome came up with the idea to sell candy grams to generate a cash donation.

All of the Social Justice students gave up periods of their recess and lunch hour to sell Candy-Grams on Valentines Day. Each Candy-Gram sold for \$1.00, encouraging Sansome students to send each other

special treats for a great cause.

In the words of Grade 5 students Brielle F. and Sara B., who both have family pets obtained from the Winnipeg Pet Rescue Shelter;

"We wanted to raise money for this shelter because most of us have pets and every animal has the right to live."

The Winnipeg Pet Rescue Shelter is a non-profit, no-kill animal shelter. In the end, the students raised just over \$200 for the Winnipeg Pet Rescue Shelter. Congratulations to the Social Justice students and to their lead teacher, Mrs. Cassell, for identifying an outstanding organization within our community and offering support for all that they do. The school donation was given to volunteers at the shelter for them to purchase a variety of in-demand items.

Everything to gain from our Grandbuddies at Athlone

Athlone students reach out to a group of local seniors in an effort to bring younger and older generations together for an opportunity to bond and learn.

Grade 3 teacher Mrs. Andrews decided to pursue the project after a YouTube video sparked the idea. The video, which she shared with her class, was about nursery school students and elderly residents who were sharing the same space. The class proceeded to read similar stories/articles about the impact of intergenerational relationships.

"This project is about wellness," said Mrs. Andrews. "Many of our older adults experience social isolation, which is closely connected with loneliness and depression. We have these beautiful people just down the street from us who might need their spirits lifted and we have a unique opportunity to do just that."

She reached out to Danielle Jamieson, Director of Health and Wellness at Sturgeon Creek Retirement Residence, who shared her enthusiasm for the project.

Their plan is to meet monthly, alternating between students going to the retirement residence and residents visiting the students at school. Each session will begin with an icebreaker activity to spark conversation. Future activities may include games, cookie decorating, scavenger hunts, bocce ball, bingo, music, or art. Writing projects are also in

the works. The students hope to feature their Grandbuddies in a class book and invite them to special events in the school, like their class poetry celebration. Each meeting will end with snack time, allowing buddies to bond further.

The Grandbuddies benefit from the chance to pass on their knowledge and life experience to a member of a younger generation. This can provide them with a strong sense of purpose, as well as excitement and anticipation of future visits together.

Our Athlone students are able to gain new connections, a better understanding of the aging process and learn facts and skills they may have never been introduced to before. The opportunity is there for their Grandbuddies to develop into role models and also trigger their motivation to learn new things. These special visits also reinforce positive social skills, such as empathy and kindness.

So far Room 8 has visited their Grandbuddies twice at their residence. They spent the time getting to know each other and making 'Valentines for Vets.' The Grandbuddies returned the favour and came to visit the students on Pink Shirt Day. They gathered in the Athlone School library to enjoy activities and snacks. The students also proudly showed their Grandbuddies around the school.

A big thank you to Mrs. Andrews and Danielle Jamieson for making this project happen. Their hope is there will be lasting impact on both sides as



these relationships continue to grow. Plans to continue the partnership into the following school year are already in the works!

Student feedback

"I think it is a good project because it lets us get to know the people in our community and spend time and joke with them. I think it would be good if more classes could do such a project." - Michael G.

"Older people are fun to play with and they are funny too. I am learning about my grandbuddy's favourite things. He likes to run and swim and his favourite food is roast beef. It's fun getting to know them." - Danier A.

"I think the Grandbuddies Project is great. It is good for memories. If you don't have a grandpa or grandma, it's like getting your grandma or grandpa back." - Evelyn J.

CONGRATULATIONS



Huskies win "AAAA" JV Provincial Championship

On Tuesday, March 14, the Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate Junior Varsity Girls Basketball team captured the "AAAA" Provincial Championship title at the University of Manitoba.

The Husky girls were ranked first heading into the playoffs and won two back-to-back games to solidify their spot in the final.

The final pinned the Huskies up against the Oak Park Raiders, where Sturgeon Heights came away with a win of 83-67.

Two members of the Husky team were also presented special honours: forward Tia D. received Tournament All-Star and guard Anna K. was named Tournament M.V.P. Congrats to the team, and to head coach, DJ Dupasquier, and assistant coach, Cadin Dupasquier. Way to go, Huskies!

Jimnies bring home bronze at Provincials

The St. James Collegiate Boys Basketball team earned bronze in the "AAA" Provincial Championships. The St. James Jimnies beat St. Norbert Collegiate in the third place play-off, 66-46. Amazing work, Jimnies!



SJASD earns top honours at Manitoba Festivals

Congratulations to Bruce Middle School band director, Tara Johnson, recipient of the George Douglas Award at the 2017 Optimist Festival! The award is presented in recognition of exemplary performance, mature on and off stage presence, responsiveness to the clinic, commitment to the festival through longevity of participation, and the development of an outstanding band program. Tara Johnson is pictured to the right receiving her award from Bill Kristjanson, Chair of the Optimist Band Festival.



A second outstanding achievement is extended to the SJASD Senior Concert Choir, under the direction of Avonlea Armstrong-Green. This group received the following awards: 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 2017 Winnipeg Music Festival!

Pictured to the right are the Divisional finalists from the Secondary event, held on March 9, who will be representing our Division at Provincials!



Félicitations Concours d'Art Oratoire participants

On March 8 and 9, St. James-Assiniboia School Division held its annual Concours d'Art Oratoire event at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate. Concours d'Art Oratoire is an annual public speaking event sponsored by Canadian Parents for French. The objective of the event is to develop effective public speaking skills while simultaneously motivating students to improve their oral skills in their second language. Students gain confidence as they strengthen their language skills by preparing and delivering a speech or reciting a poem before an audience.

Congratulations to all participants for selecting engaging topics and delivering them with great execution. After both evenings, the following 13 students who received first place in their category will be moving on to represent our Division at Provincials: Sadie M., Jessica J., Ryan B., Meelad A., Mikaël F., Hannah E., Ryan H., Charlotte-Anne R., Vianna L., Agape S., Moussa D., Emily F. and Gabriel F.

The Provincial Concours d'Art Oratoire will be held on May 6th at the Université de St. Boniface. Best of luck to all students moving forward!

"Yes I Can" recognitions for SJASD

Congratulations to all of the 2017 Yes I Can award recipients in our Division. The Yes I Can! awards are presented annually by the Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children to students with exceptionalities who have exhibited outstanding improvement in several different categories, or individuals who have made significant contributions to the lives of these students.

Kyle H. from Lincoln Middle School was recognized for outstanding achievement in academics. His hard work, perseverance and work ethic over two years increased his ability to participate in group discussions and collaborate with peers during group work in daily science, math and social studies.

Sydney F., Grade 4 Buchanan student, has worked diligently on her mobility challenges since Kindergarten. With much determination and perseverance, Sydney increased her strength to move from a wheelchair into the use of a walker in Grade 1. By Grade 2, she increased her independence to supportive standing and then transferring herself in and out of her wheelchair. Sydney's stamina increased throughout Grade 3, allowing her to move independently throughout the school using only her walker. Now a Grade 4 student, she joins her class walking unassisted during all transitions.



Marla Gillingham, currently at Buchanan school, has worked as an educational assistant for almost 11 years. Her genuine, caring nature results in her having great relationships and understanding of the students she works with each day. Marla is intuitive, inquisitive, and will seek out new strategies to accelerate the physical development and skills acquisition of her students.

Caroline Thurlbeck, an educational assistant at Buchanan School, has worked with exceptional children for 10 years. Her supportive personality and persistence challenges students, helping them achieve and surpass their goals and most importantly, discover what they can do while developing a positive self-image and self-confidence.

Randal Bychuk has worked at Strathmillan School for eight years as a music teacher and previously a Grade 4/5 teacher. He always creates welcoming and accepting environments for each of his students and works diligently to understand each child's needs, goals, gifts and motivators so they can experience academic and social success. The impact for his students is one of increased belonging, skill development and joy!

Jenn Tsouras has worked with exceptional children as a Speech and Language Pathologist for 13 years. She creates a fun and engaging atmosphere that encourages students to work hard and achieve success. She makes children feel valued, respected and heard. Jenn is phenomenal at programming successful, fun and inclusive ways to facilitate language and communication for students to help them in both their home and school lives.

Nominations for Yes I Can Awards are submitted in September every year. For more information, please visit the Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children website.

Keeping kindness in mind at Sansome School

During the last week of January, Sansome School took part in “The Great Kindness Challenge.”

The main purpose of this challenge is to highlight the routine acts of kindness that our students, staff and community do each day to support each other in both a simple and profound way to make them feel both comfortable and valued at Sansome.

Over a five-day period our students set the goal of recognizing 1000 acts of kindness such as; saying “thank you,” making eye contact with someone new and smiling, picking up litter, offering compliments, sharing with others, and much more. At the end of each day, classrooms recorded all of the acts of kindness they participated in using an online survey. This survey helped students discover new ways they could be kind to others, as well as set goals to take positive action the next day.

By the end of the week, students and staff exceeded their original goal and recorded over 1600 acts of kindness!

We are very proud of our students and hope they continue to pay attention to all of the acts of kindness that surround them each day!



Students at Sansome School dabbing in the shape of heart to celebrate a successful year of participating in the Great Kindness Challenge.



Caught Being Kind at Golden Gate

During the week of January 23 to January 27, staff and students at École Golden Gate Middle School were challenged to complete as many kind gestures as possible for the Great Kindness Challenge.

While some students wrote positive messages on Post-it notes and distributed them on lockers, others made thank-you cards to special people in their lives. As students pushed themselves outside of their comfort zones to come up with new, creative ways to be kind, their gestures were recognized on the “Caught Being Kind” board.

“The Caught Being Kind board is a cool idea,” said student Colton M. “I was surprised by how many fish there were by the end of the week.”

Golden Gate student Carly M. said she felt pretty happy when she found a Post-it note on her locker because it meant “someone took the time to write it.” Perhaps most importantly, students learned that a kind gesture doesn’t have to take a lot of effort and it can feel pretty good!

Have you been caught being kind lately?

Submitted by Ms. Bees, Guidance Counsellor



International Women’s Day 2017 at SJCI

On March 8, 2017, St. James Collegiate held its second annual International Women’s Day celebration. Two female students dreamt of creating this event after gaining inspiration from the Manitoba W.I.S.E (Working in Support of Equality) Conference in 2015. This year’s event saw a fantastic turnout with many St. James Collegiate students, family and friends in attendance. What an inspiring way to support International Women’s Day 2017. Pictured on the left are two of the student leaders who helped make this year’s event a great success, Grade 11 student Ayoub M. and Grade 12 Student Council President Trixie M.

Warm accessories courtesy of École Assiniboine

École Assiniboine’s Student Voice Group is always looking for unique ways to help the community. Lexi K., a Grade 5 student who belongs to the Student Voice Group, had been browsing the web with her mom over the winter break when she stumbled upon an awesome idea! She’d come across a photo of a scarf wrapped around a tree with a note attached. The note explained how the scarf was not lost but was free for anyone in need to take and use. Lexi came to the first Student Voice Group meeting in January and told the team about the idea. Immediately, the group said, “Let’s do it!”. The main idea was to help the homeless or anyone in need.

“We have lots of stuff, like ski pants, heavy jackets, hats, scarves, mitts, and whatever else we may need to keep warm,” said Lexi. “But there are a lot of people out there who aren’t as lucky as we are and we wanted to do what we could to help.”

As the students began planning, the first thing they set out to do was collect scarves. The students put a request for donations in the École Assiniboine monthly newsletter. Not long after, the scarves, hats, and mitts started coming in. The next step was to divide the winter wear between all the student voice members. The group members, along with their parents, ventured into the community to tie winter packages to trees, posts, and signs. Each package

included a note that read:

“I’m not lost. If you are stuck in the cold, take this scarf and mitts to keep warm! Stay warm and do something to help someone else if you can!”

The packages of warmth and kindness were distributed in early February in places such as: the Millenium Library, the MTS Centre, Salvation Army, Assiniboine Park and other busy locations in and around our St. James-Assiniboia community.

Students have been reporting back with great excitement whenever they’ve noticed one of their packages have been picked up!



Pink Shirt Day at Voyageur School

On February 22, students and staff across our Division wore pink to support Anti-Bullying Awareness Day. We received feedback from a Grade 2 class at Voyageur School, Room 15, about what they learned.

All of the students and staff at Voyageur School wore pink to support the Canadian Red Cross Pink Shirt Day. The hallways and classrooms were a sea of pink. In Room 15, during the classes daily “Talking Circle” activity, the students discussed Pink Shirt Day. Ms. McCullough asked the students “Why do we celebrate Pink Shirt Day?”

“Wearing pink shows the bullies they can’t hurt us. We will stand up for everybody.” - Connor M.

“We celebrate “Pink Shirt Day” because a boy in Nova Scotia got bullied for wearing pink. Some boys decided to wear pink shirts to show the boy he wasn’t alone.” – Milena S.

“Wearing pink is a symbol that we want to stop bullying.” – Kaydence B.

The students continued to brainstorm the many ways to stand up against bullying inside and outside of school. Grade 2 student Abigail B. summed up the purpose of the day saying “We should remember to be kind not just on Pink Shirt Day but every day. Every day should be anti-bullying day!”

Submitted by Ms. McCullough, Teacher



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