

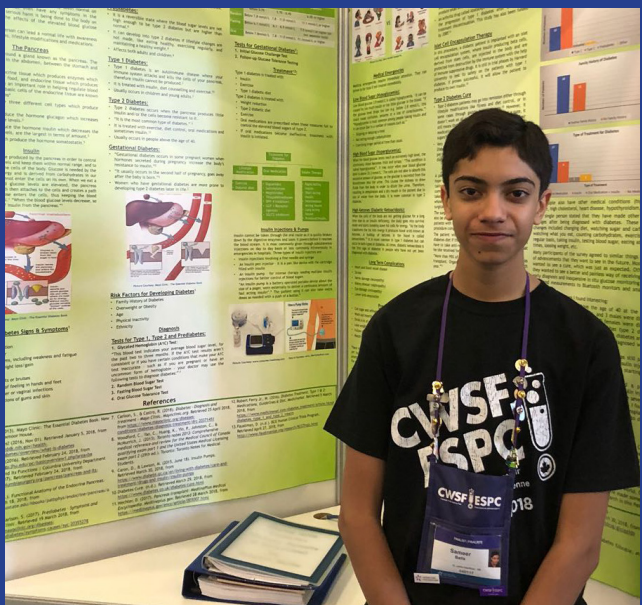


CONTACT

Great Schools for
Growing and Learning

St. James-Assiniboia School Division

Summer Issue 2018



Science Fair students return from Nationals in Ottawa

Page 4



Photo by Rygiel Photography

Ancient Civilizations come to life at École Assiniboine

Page 6



Annual Red River Heritage Fair

Page 8



SJASD Senior Concert Choir at the Riverside Church in Upper Manhattan for the World Strides Music Festival. Senior Concert Choir earns Top Honours at World Festival

The SJASD Senior Concert Choir left an outstanding impression in the Big Apple.

In April of 2018, the SJASD Senior Concert Choir travelled to New York to compete in the Heritage World Strides Music Festival. Choral groups from all over North America compete in the prestigious festival to perform for nationally acclaimed adjudicators. Our group of 52 students in Grades 9 through 12 did an exceptional job representing SJASD at the event and

brought home a number of reputable honours. The group, directed by Avonlea Armstrong-Green and accompanied by Melody Koop, earned a Gold medal standing, the Adjudicator's Award for having combined marks over 95% and the Outstanding Choral Award recognizing the Top Choir of the Festival. We are extremely proud of our students and staff for delivering a wonderful performance and wish to congratulate them on growing their musical education.

2018/2019 Budget Summary

Comprehensive Educational Programming and Low School Taxes!

Comprehensive Educational Programming

- Full Day Kindergarten
- Advanced Placement
- International Baccalaureate
- Adapted Swim Program
- Continuing Education

Provincial Funding

For the second consecutive year, St. James-Assiniboia received a (2%) cut in Provincial Funding. Overall Provincial Funding as a percentage of Total Operating Revenue has decreased from 72.95% in 1985 to 51.78% in 2018.

Special Requirement

- 2018/2019: \$65,510,729
- 2017/2018: \$64,226,205
- Increase: \$1,284,524 or 2% (Provincial Guideline is 2%)

Continuing to provide innovative and quality programming at a low mill rate

- St. James-Assiniboia 12.973 (2018)
- St. James-Assiniboia 13.111 (2017)
- Metro Average 14.060 (2018)

Average Home Value

- \$274,700 (2018)
- School Taxes on Average Home:
 - Low School Tax Increase 1.57%
 - School Tax Increase \$24.83 or \$2.07 per month

Operating Expenditures

- Operating expenditures \$108,772,302 (2018)
- Low Increase of \$482,410 or 0.45%
- Many of the Operating Expenditures have offsetting revenues
- No cuts were made to programs or services at schools

Enrolment

- September 2017: 8,450
- September 2018: 8,600
- Projected increase of 150 students

Property Assessment

- St. James-Assiniboia 2018 Portioned Assessment increased by 4.74%
- Metro Average 2018 Portioned Assessment increased by 4.92%

Gross Operating Reserve

- \$2,346,737 or 2.16% of 2018/2019 operating expenditures (Provincial Government guideline is 4%)

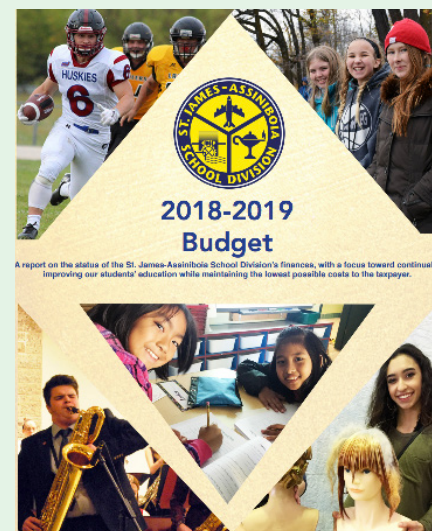
Major Initiatives

- 5-Year Plan for the repairs/renovations of school buildings - \$11.5 million
- 5-Year Plan for Technology Network upgrades and replacement - \$9.8 million

Administrative Costs

- Administrative costs are 2.99% (the Provincial Government guideline is 3.00%)

(Budget Continued on Page 2)



For more information, our complete 2018-2019 budget report is available on our website at www.sjasd.ca

2018-2019 BUDGET

Comments from the Chair



Board Chair, Craig McGregor

The 2018/2019 Budget continued to present many significant challenges.

Operational challenges included a projected enrolment increase of 150 students, school building repairs for older buildings, technology network upgrades, and rising costs for utilities, supplies, and insurance.

In addition, the Provincial Government reduced the funding to SJASD by 2% for a second consecutive year, directed school divisions to limit their Special Budget Requirement to 2%, and reduce administration costs to a maximum of 3%.

The 2018/2019 Budget has met all of the challenges. The Board of Trustees have approved a balanced budget that has no cuts to programs or services at schools, provides new initiatives such as Peaceful Village and the Adapted Swim Program, provides a minimal 2% increase to the Special Budget Requirement, has Administration Costs of 2.99%, and a low tax increase on the average home of 1.57% or \$24.83 or \$2.07 per month. The 2018/2019 Budget is a positive outcome for students, staff, and the tax payer.

As the Provincial Government reviews education funding it will continue to be important to safeguard the local decision making of School Boards to ensure local community priorities and concerns are locally represented and can be addressed in a responsive, knowledgeable, caring, and fiscally prudent manner.

Chair of the Board, Craig McGregor

1.0 BUDGET GOALS

The St. James-Assiniboia School Division (SJASD) has incorporated the following Budget Goals in determining the 2018/2019 Budget.

- 1) To Maintain Programs and Quality
- 2) To Focus Resources on the Classroom
- 3) To Achieve a Balance between Educational Needs and Low Taxation
- 4) To Address the increasing Maintenance/Repair requirements of Aging Buildings
- 5) To Comply with New Government Requirements for Education
- 6) To Comply with New Government Accessibility Legislation
- 7) To Reduce Staffing through Attrition (Retirements)
- 8) To Align the Budget with the Strategic Plan of the School Division
- 9) To Apply Sustainable Development Principles (Environmental, Social, and Economic)

2.0 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

• Provincial Funding

The provincial funding announcement of February 8, 2018 by Minister of Education and Training Ian Wishart indicated a provincial increase of 0.50%. The provincial increase is distributed amongst all the school divisions in Manitoba and varies for each school division

• Provincial Funding Announcement

Year	Provincial Announcement	SJASD Increase
2018/2019	0.50%	-2.00%
2017/2018	1.00%	-2.00%
2016/2017	2.55%	0.00%
2015/2016	2.00%	0.00%
2014/2015	2.00%	0.30%*
2013/2014	2.30%	0.00%
2012/2013	2.20%	0.00%
2011/2012	2.70%	2.20%
2010/2011	2.95%	2.50%
9 Year Avg	2.02%	0.08%

The 2018/2019 announced provincial cut for SJASD was (2.00%).

* The 2014/2015 SJASD increase indicates 0.30% but it included new grants with offsetting expenditure requirements. The 2014/2015 increase for existing service requirements was 0.00%.

• Provincial Funding Support

The provincial education funding formula provides the SJASD with less revenue because of its higher portioned assessment or perceived ability to tax.

In 2017/2018, the SJASD received Provincial Funding of \$7,054 per student while the Metro Average was \$7,707.

Overall Provincial support for SJASD as a percentage of Total Operating Revenue continues to decrease significantly. Provincial support as a percentage of total operating revenue has decreased from 72.95% in 1985 to 51.78% in 2018. If the current trend continues, Provincial support could decline to 50% or less.

The Provincial support declined in 2018 despite SJASD maintaining the Operating Expenditure increase to a marginal 0.45%.

If the 2018/2019 Provincial Support had been maintained at the same level as 2017/2018, SJASD would have received \$58,202,685. However, Provincial support decreased from 53.01% to 51.78%, resulting in a shortfall of \$1,349,224.

Budget Year	Provincial Support 53.01%	Actual Provincial Support 51.79%	1 Year 2018/2019 Shortfall
2018/2019	\$58,202,685	\$56,853,461	\$1,349,224

The impact is significant on the School Division and the local homeowner.

• Formula Support Guarantee

Any expected increase to Provincial Funding because of increasing enrolment is deducted from the Formula Support Guarantee until it has a zero balance.

Enrolment is forecast to increase by 150 students in 2018/2019.

In 2018/2019, the SJASD will receive Formula Guarantee Support of \$538,036, which represents a reduction in funding of (\$812,736).

2017/2018	2018/2019	Reduction
\$1,350,772	\$538,036	\$812,736

• Tax Incentive Grant (TIG)

The Provincial Government is eliminating the Tax Incentive Grant over a 6 year period.

In prior years, SJASD received a TIG of \$3,480,523.

In 2018/2019, SJASD will receive a TIG of \$2,900,436, which represents a further reduction of (\$580,087).

2017/2018	2018/2019	Reduction
\$3,480,523	\$2,900,436	\$580,087

• Tax Incentive Grant Guarantee (TIGG)

In 2018/2019, the SJASD will receive a Tax Incentive Grant Guarantee of \$510,477 to partially offset the reduction of the TIG.

The TIGG ensures that the Division does not receive less than 98% of the prior year's overall support.

It is anticipated that as enrolment continues to increase, the SJASD support in future years will continue to be decreased to offset the Tax Incentive Grant Guarantee (TIGG).

• Property Assessment

The 2018 Property Assessment reflects assessed values as determined by the City of Winnipeg. Reassessment occurs every two years.

Portioned Assessment for 2018 has increased by 4.74%.

	2018	2017	Increase	%
City of Winnipeg	\$4,343,272,904	\$4,146,570,863	\$196,702,041	4.74%

In 2018, SJASD has a portioned assessment increase of 4.74% which is slightly lower than the Metro Average increase in Portioned Assessment of 4.92%.

• Special Levy

The Manitoba Public Schools Act requires that the Province of Manitoba and School Divisions share the responsibility for financing public schools. Annually, a School Division establishes its taxation requirements by approving a Special Levy and Budget Requirement.

Historically, the Special Levy was intended to provide programs and services valued by the Community. For example, in St. James-Assiniboia:

- Full Day Kindergarten
- Busing at 1.0 kilometer vs. 1.6 kilometers
- International Baccalaureate
- Integrated Arts
- Lunchroom Supervisors

The Special Levy is now utilized to fund a substantial portion of basic educational programming and represents 44.83% of the Total Operating Revenue.

Despite receiving a (2%) provincial funding cut and experiencing significant expenditure requirements, the SJASD continues to be committed to maintaining a low mill rate. The metro mill rate average for 2018 is 14.060 mills. The 2018 SJASD mill rate will decrease to 12.973 mills.

2018-2019 BUDGET

The SJASD Average value for a home in 2018 is \$274,700. The 2018 value is an increase from 2017 of \$7,100 or 2.65%.

Tax Year	Average House Value	Portioned Assessment of House 45%	Education Mill Rate	Education Property Tax
2018	\$274,700	\$123,615	12.973	\$1,603.66
2017	\$267,600	\$120,420	13.111	\$1,578.83
Difference	\$7,100	\$3,195	(0.138)	\$24.83

The homeowner is forecast to receive a \$700 Education Property Tax Credit. The 2018 Net Education Property Tax is \$903.66. The average home in SJASD will incur a 2018 Net Education Tax increase of \$24.83 or \$2.07 per month or 1.57%.

TABLE A

Comparison of Education Tax Costs in Metro Winnipeg 2018
(Based on a home valued at \$274,700)

School Division	2018 (Mill Rate)	2018 (Education Tax)	2018 (MEPTCA*)	2018 (Net Education Tax)
St. James-Assiniboia	12.973	\$1,604	(\$700)	\$904
Seven Oaks	16.400	\$2,027	(\$700)	\$1,327
Winnipeg	14.762	\$1,825	(\$700)	\$1,125
River East-Transcona	13.436	\$1,661	(\$700)	\$961
Louis Riel	13.347	\$1,650	(\$700)	\$950
Pembina Trails	12.357	\$1,528	(\$700)	\$828
Metro Average (excluding SJASD)	14.060	\$1,738	(\$700)	\$1,038

In St. James-Assiniboia, a homeowner assessed at \$274,700 paid \$134 less in Net Education Tax

*** MEPTCA – Manitoba Education Property Tax Credit**

• Property Tax Bill

Education Property Tax in SJASD continues to represent a significantly smaller percentage of the overall property tax bill. The average assessed home value in St. James-Assiniboia in 2017 was \$267,600. The Net Education Property Tax paid on the average home was \$879 in 2017. It represented only 31.94% of the average homeowner's property tax bill. The remaining 68.06% represented City of Winnipeg Property Tax requirements. The Education Property Tax is substantially reduced by the Education Property Tax Credit of \$700.

• Education Property Tax Credit (EPTC)

The Education Property Tax Credit reduces the Education Property Tax paid by the home owner and is provided by the Province of Manitoba. In 2018/2019, the EPTC (\$12,897,194) is deemed a provincial revenue source. It is anticipated that homeowners will receive an EPTC of \$700 on their 2018 property tax bill.

• Gross Operating Reserve

The SJASD is projecting a June 30, 2019 Gross Operating Reserve of \$2,346,737 or 2.16% of operating expenditures. The Provincial Guideline is 4% of operating expenditures.

• Administration Costs

The SJASD 2018/2019 Administration Costs are \$3,284,007 or 2.99%. The Provincial Guideline is 3.00%.

• Operational Challenges

- In 2018/2019, the Division faces significant challenges such as:
- 1) A Provincial Funding decrease of 2.00% in 2018/2019
 - 2) A Provincial Funding decrease of 2.00% in 2017/2018
 - 3) Projected increased enrolment of 631 students over the next 5 years
 - 4) Aging School Building Repairs (\$11,500,000 – five years)
 - 5) Aging Technology Network Upgrades (\$980,000 – five years)
 - 6) Salary Settlements for Bargaining Units in Year 3 of the Sustainability Period
 - 7) Salary Increments
 - 8) Additional Substitute Costs
 - 9) Benefit Costs (ex. Maternity, Parental Leaves)
 - 10) Rising Service Costs
 - 11) Government Regulations (ex. Maximum K – 3 Class Size, Accessibility)
 - 12) A new block Provincial Allocation formula for Exceptional Student funding

• Expenditure Budget

For the 2018/2019 school year, the SJASD has a draft operating expenditure budget of \$108,772,302 which is a 0.45% increase from the 2017/2018 budget of \$108,289,892. Many of the expenditures have offsetting revenues.

- 1) International Education \$1,384,600
- 2) K-3 Class Size \$1,202,884
- 3) Continuing Education \$530,000
- 4) Leased Space \$420,502

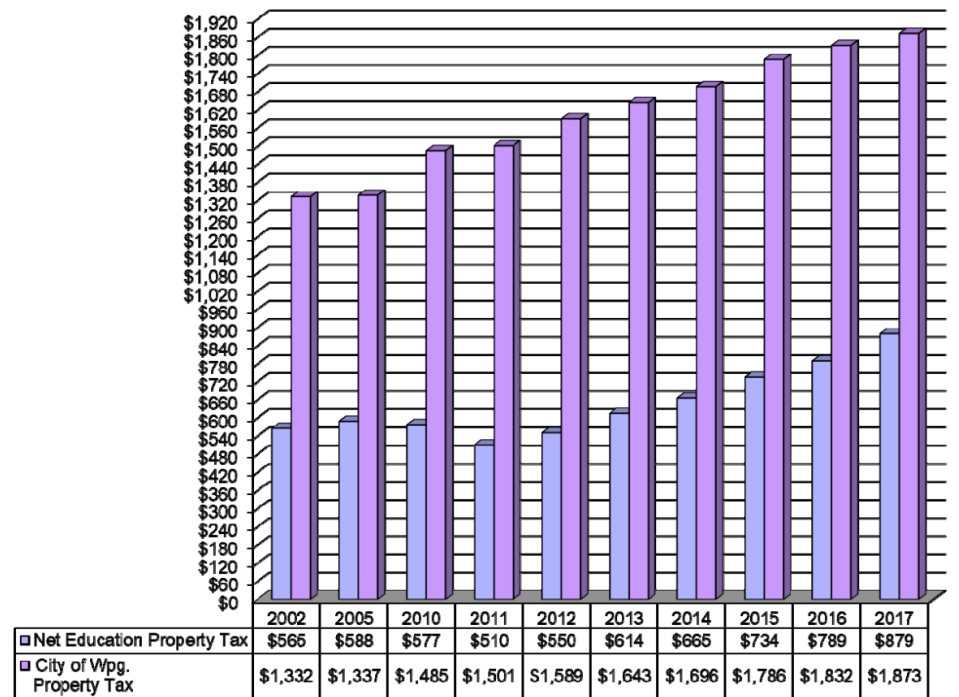
• New Initiatives

In November 2017, the Division held a Parent/Trustee Forum to discuss educational priorities and challenges. Despite limited provincial funding, four new initiatives have been included in the 2018/2019 Budget.

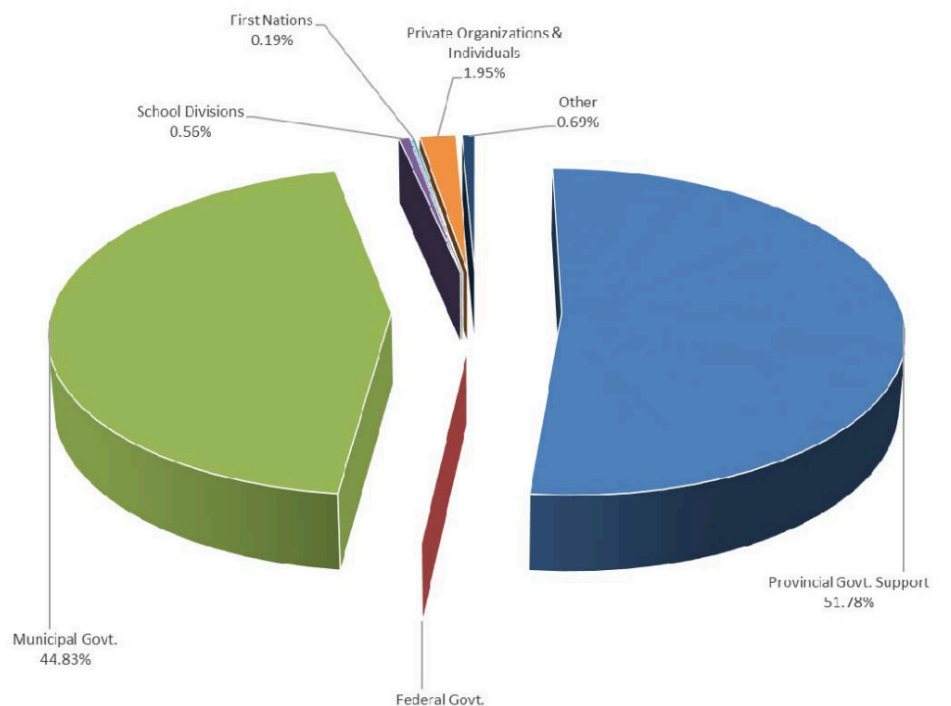
- Addictions Counsellor \$57,300
- Peaceful Village \$30,875
- Adapted Swim Program \$29,662
- Nutritious Foods for K-12 \$21,489

For more information, our complete 2018-2019 budget report is available on our website at www.sjasd.ca

Comparison of Education Property Tax and City of Winnipeg Property Tax on Average Home in St. James-Assiniboia



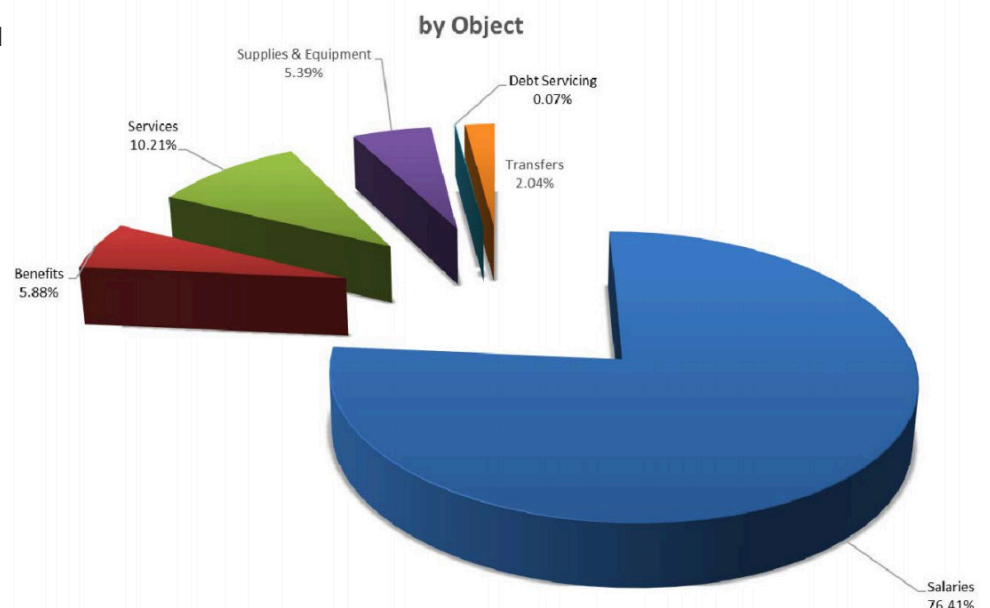
Total Operating Revenue Budget 2018/2019



2018/2019 OPERATING REVENUE

		% OF TOTAL
Provincial Govt. Support	\$56,853,461	51.78%
Federal Govt.	\$0	0.00%
Municipal Govt.	\$49,225,406	44.83%
School Divisions	\$619,209	0.56%
First Nations	\$210,000	0.19%
Private Organizations & Individuals	\$2,129,992	1.95%
Other	\$757,602	0.69%
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$109,795,670	100.00%

Total Operating Expenditures Budget 2018/2019



2018/2019 OPERATING EXPENDITURES

		% OF TOTAL
Salaries	\$83,116,215	76.41%
Benefits	\$6,390,400	5.88%
Services	\$11,107,887	10.21%
Supplies & Equipment	\$5,865,321	5.39%
Debt Servicing	\$75,197	0.07%
Transfers	\$2,217,282	2.04%
TOTAL OPERATING	\$108,772,302	100.00%



From the left: Teacher Mr. Fisher-Smith, Tharindu K., Sameer B., Noah D., Shanaya M. and Mme Lachance.

Science Fair finalists compete in Canada's Capital

Four students represented SJASD at the 57th Annual Canada-Wide Science Fair this year in Ottawa. Students Noah D. (Sturgeon Heights), Sameer B. (Lincoln), Shanaya M. (Sturgeon Heights) and Tharindu K. (Sturgeon Heights) travelled to Ontario the week of May 12 to 19 to defend their 2018 Science Fair projects. Two teacher chaperones, Mme Lachance and Mr. Fisher-Smith, also went on the trip to assist and support the group of students throughout the experience. The four students were selected based on specific criteria evaluated by judges at the SJASD Divisional Fair, held on April 4. At Nationals, the students showcased their diverse projects and shared their research alongside 500 students from across Canada, with a total of 400 projects at the event.

The four SJASD projects included:

“Coping with Diabetes” by Sameer B. (Grade 8), “Backpack Potential Energy System” by Tharindu K. (Grade 9), “Got Lift?” by Noah D. (Grade 10) and “Comparison of Blood Glucose levels before and during Type 1 Diabetes Camp” by Shanaya M. (Grade 10).

At Canada's National Science Fair, each student received positive feedback about their project and Sameer B. earned a Bronze Medal in the Junior Excellence category for his project, “Coping with Diabetes.”

A big congratulations to our students for qualifying for this fantastic learning opportunity and producing outstanding projects this year! Well done! Also, a big thank you to Mr. Fisher-Smith and Mme Lachance for supporting our students at the National competition.

JTC student finishes Top 5 in Provincial Math Contest

Every February, hundreds of Grade 12 students across Manitoba write the provincial mathematics contest from the University of Manitoba. This year, due to her outstanding achievement on the Manitoba Mathematical Competition Contest, John Taylor Collegiate student (Malinda) Linhui H. was invited to the MMC Contest dinner celebrating the top five achievers in Manitoba. The dinner and cash prizes were sponsored by the Winnipeg Actuaries Club, the University of Manitoba, the Manitoba Association of Mathematics Teachers and the Canadian Mathematical Society. Malinda finished as the top female contestant in the province. Congratulations to Malinda on this exceptional math achievement. She is pictured below with her John Taylor Collegiate teachers and a Mathematics Professor from the University of Manitoba at the celebratory dinner. Malinda said she felt honoured to be at the event and is looking forward to pursuing a Life Sciences Degree at McGill University in the fall! We wish Malinda the best of luck in her future endeavours!



From the left: JTC teacher Mrs. Bergmuller, University of Manitoba Mathematics Professor Dr. Robert Craigen, JTC student Malinda H. and JTC teacher Mr. Gietz.

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Warriors explore the wonders of Iceland

Over spring break, 30 students from Westwood Collegiate, along with three staff members and two parent chaperones, shared in a remarkable learning experience across the Atlantic Ocean. The group enjoyed a nine-day, science-based tour of Iceland from March 22 to 30. Each day was spent exploring the country's fascinating landscape and varied geographical make-up.

After flying through Toronto, the first day began at 6:30 a.m. in Keflavik. The group kicked off their tour with a trip around the Golden Circle — a loop from Reykjavik to central Iceland and back. Gullfoss Waterfall, which was once a prospect for the country's energy generation, marked the first stop of the day, followed by Pingvellir National Park. The park is situated in a rift valley caused by the shift of two tectonic plates. Throughout the day, the students learned a great deal about how plate tectonics are affecting Iceland's landscape.

“Iceland is filled with so much natural beauty,” said Grade 12 student Megan H. “Gullfoss Waterfall was particularly breathtaking as it was massive and the amount of water flowing was mesmerizing. It was so loud, powerful and pure.”

From there, the students headed north to Vatnshellir Cave. As they were guided through a lava tube, they learned how it was formed and had the opportunity to see rare microorganisms native to the cave.

“It was such an amazing experience when our tour guide told us to turn off our flashlights and stand in the pitch-black lava tunnel.” said Grade 12 student Karley J. “We literally could

not see our hands in front of our faces and all we could hear was the water dripping from the melting glacier above us. I really gained an appreciation for the natural processes that take place on Earth.”

The group then ventured to a nearby black sand beach to watch the waves roll in. Students also learned about the phenomenon of hot springs—naturally occurring areas of hot water heated by underground volcanic activity — and roamed through old villages and towns. They then enjoyed a tour of Europe's second largest glacier, the Langjökull glacier. The group went inside the glacier by travelling through a recently carved, man-made tunnel. The educational component involved understanding the history of glaciers in Iceland, and the changing shape and compression of them in recent years.

Next up, the Hellisheiði geothermal power plant. Here, the group explored Iceland's efforts to use only completely renewable energy to fuel their country. The magma underneath the island heats the water, which the country uses in the form of steam to heat its domestic water and generate electricity. The students also visited a greenhouse, heated geothermally, where farmers produce tomatoes and cucumbers for the country year-round. Afterwards, the students hiked 3.5 kilometres up a mountain to a natural hot spring. They were able to relax, unwind and warm up after being outside in the cold. Weather conditions in Iceland are similar to Winnipeg that time of year, with cold winds and mild temperatures.

Later in the week, the group participated in a glacier hike in Skaftafell



Westwood Collegiate students tour a year-round, geothermal greenhouse in Iceland.

National Park. The tour guides shared their knowledge of glacier movement, moraine deposits and crevasse formation. This glacier was also featured in the movie “Interstellar.”



Finally the group arrived in Reykjavik, the capital city of Iceland with a population of around 200,000 people. They explored the city's charming stores

and attractions, such as the Hallgrímskirkja Church and the Sun Voyager sculpture. At night, students made their way to the Harpa Concert Hall to view a comedic play about Iceland's Saga history that involved participation from the audience. On the last day in Iceland, the students engaged in a city scavenger hunt in the morning, and departed for home in the afternoon.

The entire Westwood Collegiate group — students, staff and family members alike — had an unforgettable time in Iceland. The combination of the country's rich culture, inspiring renewable energy efforts and exceptional geography allowed students to return home with new-found knowledge, a broader perspective and many amazing memories! A special thank you to those who helped supervise the trip and to everyone who made this learning opportunity possible!

Submitted by student travellers Rebecca L.J., Sarah E. and Brietta P.

Coming Events for 2018/19

Monday, August 20

All schools will be open with secretarial staff in attendance.

Tuesday, August 28

School Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.,
2574 Portage Ave., Public Welcome

Monday, September 3

Labour Day: No School

Tuesday, September 4

Inservice: No School

Wednesday, September 5

Early and Middle Years Triad Conferences

Thursday, September 6

Early and Middle Years Triad Conferences

Friday, September 7

Early and Middle Years First Day of Classes

Notice of Parent Meetings

St. James-Assiniboia schools will hold Annual Meetings to establish a Parent Council or Parent Advisory Committee. This is an opportunity to become involved in your school and have a positive impact on your child's education. Please attend the meeting at your school. We need your input and ideas! The date and time of the meeting will be shared on individual school websites.

Vision Program at Heritage School

The ability to see clearly is sharpening students' perspectives and learning capabilities at Heritage School.

The Opticians Association of Canada teamed up with the Essilor Vision Foundation to offer a special vision program called "It Starts Here" at Heritage School. Principal Mr. Moffatt says Heritage was approached by the Opticians Association of Canada as they had previously run the same program in several other provinces and were wanting to expand into Manitoba.

"We became the lucky participating school," said Mr. Moffatt.

The object of the program is to address any vision issues among children through professional eye testing in order to help youth reach their full potential in both school and their lives. "It Starts Here" is a mobile clinic service that offers no-cost eye examinations and glasses to students as they travel to varying schools across the country, typically based on applications highlighting a strong need for the service.

In January of 2018, the entire school from Kindergarten to Grade



Heritage students after participating in the "It Starts Here" vision program.

5 received free eye screenings from a group of professional opticians. The students transitioned through a variety of stations to test their vision and at the final station, were encouraged to pick out their personal frames. All of the students in the school either received prescription glasses or sunglasses based on their results. The mobile clinic provided complete eye examinations to 58 students and 41 students received new prescription glasses at Heritage School. The students were extremely grateful to receive this service and many students are already noticing a big difference.

"I love wearing glasses at school," said Grade 5 student Cody B. "They help me read, they help me see, they do the work for my eyes and I love it!"

Fellow Grade 5 Heritage student Raylene L. couldn't agree more.

"When I put on my glasses it feels like I am watching a movie," said Raylene. "I was happy to get new glasses because now I can see better."

A big thank you to the Opticians Association of Canada for reaching out to a school in SJASD with this opportunity as it certainly had a tremendous impact on our students.

Submitted by Teacher Mrs. Richtik

Giving voices to Endangered Species at ERB

Global warming, conservation, and endangered are words we frequently hear in daily conversations and in the media. But what do they actually mean? In February of 2018, Mme Buchanan's Grade 4 and 5 class at École Robert Browning zeroed in on these topics to define them in the real-world. Their in-depth research and passion led to a surprise partnership with the Assiniboine Park Zoo.

It began with a documentary on global warming. During the film, the students witnessed the negative impacts of climate change through the eyes of a starving polar bear. This was the moment everything shifted. The students learned what a species at risk of extinction looks like and gained the understanding that animals don't disappear overnight. It is a drawn out process and one that is very difficult for them to endure.

"Seeing the video about the polar bear and knowing there are all of these endangered animals in the world really worried me," said Grade 5 student Noella R. "It informed me we need to be more careful with what we do to the environment."

As a result, the class took a closer

look at the endangered animals listed on the World Wildlife Fund website. From there, each student chose one endangered animal to study. They researched the animal's habitat, why the animal is endangered and what can be done to help or protect the animal. Carter G., also in Grade 5, elaborated on his decision-making.

"I researched several animals that I could choose from and ended up choosing the Giant Chinese Salamander because there are not many left in the world. I wanted to try and help them out."

The book, *Dear Children of the Earth* by Schim Schimmel, inspired the students to write a letter from their animal's perspective to ask the Children of the Earth for help.

"It made me feel good when I was writing the letter because I knew I was helping my endangered animal, the Lemur, by telling people how sad it is when they don't take care of an animal's habitat," said Grade 5 student Kadence S.

Grade 4 student Brooke R. said her love for animals really motivated her to step up with this project.

"I really feel myself and the whole

Envirothon teams hit the trail in Churchill

From May 24 to 27, nine students in SJASD competed in the 2018 Manitoba Envirothon hosted in Churchill, MB.

Two teams entered the provincial event on behalf of SJASD including one Westwood Collegiate/St. James Collegiate team and one Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate team. Each team had a staff advisor from their school — Mr. Shoemsmith, Ms. Zinn, M. Amma-Lanthier and Mrs. Connor — who provided support during the trip.

At the event, participating teams ventured through a 1-2 kilometre trail answering questions about soils, forestry, aquatics and wildlife geared towards a specific theme. This year's theme was climate change in the North. The challenging trail test is a hands-on, team activity that involves specialized equipment, specimens and identification guides to answer the questions.

The second part of the competition focused on a specific problem a team

must solve in an oral presentation. This year's topic challenged students to involve citizen science for conducting climate change research in the North. The teams prepared their material and presented for 10 minutes in front of a panel of researchers and environmental experts. The teams are still waiting for their results but know they did not place top three this year. At the event, the Westwood/St. James team earned recognition for excellence in the soils and land-use questions. Evaluations aside, there is still much to be gained from attending the event.

"It was a great experience for me and it's sad to think that it's my last year competing in it," said SJCI student Ian J. "It helped me narrow decisions for my future and I am really excited to come back next year as a volunteer."

A trip to Churchill would not be complete without a chance for the students to act as tourists for a couple of days.



École Robert Browning students speak out for endangered species around the world with a class project featured at the Assiniboine Park Zoo.

class did some of our best work."

Brooke isn't the only one to think so. The Assiniboine Park Zoo expressed interest in showcasing the students' work in their new Education Centre classrooms. On May 18, Endangered Species Day, the students and a group of parent volunteers braved the weather to go see their animal letters on display. While on location, the students learned that numerous zoo

staff members and volunteers not only read their letters, but felt compelled to donate to some of the conservation organizations listed in their work.

"It brings me great joy to know that my students' voices are being heard," said Mme Buchanan. "They're seeing their hard work reach multiple audiences and make a huge difference for the animals."

Submitted by Mme Buchanan



The CSHC Envirothon team in front of a Kal Barteski polar bear mural in Churchill.

Students sampled some Northern cuisine such as caribou, muskox, goose and arctic char, and also enjoyed a local tour. On the last day of the trip, the students could choose from a variety of activities, including "Scientist for a Day" and hiking the tundra out to Cape Merry.

Throughout the trip, the students had a great time learning about the North and meeting students from across the province. They hope to return to Churchill one day to see polar bears and belugas, or perhaps even become a research scientist of the North!

Submitted by Teacher Mr. Shoemsmith

Exploring the World at Linwood School

On May 17, Grade 2 and 3 students from Linwood School excitedly welcomed over 100 visitors to the school's annual Celebration of Learning. This year's theme for the school-wide celebration was "Exploring the World."

Leading up to the event, students in Grades 2 and 3 worked to integrate the theme into a number of subjects including science, social studies, language arts, math, visual arts and music. They couldn't wait to show off what they had been working on to their family members and friends! When asked what she was most excited to share, student Vlada G. said, "I can't wait to show my diya candle. It's a special candle for Diwali which is the festival of lights." Another student, Kylie L. added, "I have been working really, really hard! I am excited for my family to see my work."

At the celebration, visitors of the school had the opportunity to experience a glimpse of life in India, Mexico and South Africa. The event kicked off in the gymnasium with three musical performances before branching off into many other stations around the school. Visitors also watched three short movies, which were produced to highlight student learning from each of the countries studied.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent walking through a museum inside the school. The gallery showcased the artwork and research projects created by the students, as well as a global market featuring artifacts and snacks from India, Mexico and South Africa. A highlight of the afternoon involved a special guest, Winnipeg Henna, who dazzled students, staff and visitors alike with her knowledge and artistic creations!

After attending Linwood's Celebration of Learning, a student's grandfather shared a few of his thoughts:

"Hats off to the teachers and students involved! The three distinct cultures and coun-



tries were showcased by each group ... the student videos giving informative snapshots of different aspects of each culture, from animals and foods found there to religion and politics, was very well done. I don't remember grade school being this much fun!"

Watching the students proudly sharing their learning and seeing families engaged in the celebration demonstrated the success of the annual event. The only concern the Grade 2/3 team has now is wondering how they could possibly top this event next year!

Submitted by Teacher Ashton du Plessis.



Photo by Rygiel Photography

Dig It! at École Assiniboine A Musical Tale of Ancient Civilizations

Students in Grades 3 through 5 at École Assiniboine showcased their talents in the spring musical, *Dig It!* They travelled back in time and joined inquisitive archaeologists Taki and Tut, along with their fossil friend Lucy, as they explored the wonders of ancient civilizations. From the farm labourers of early Mesopotamia and Egyptian mummies who "rapped," to a chorus of ancient Greeks, to Romulus and Remus who dreamed of building a great city, they discovered the archeological mysteries of the past. The students rehearsed for over a month during lunch hours and after school to prepare for four performances in the month of April (Cast 1 and Cast 2). As part of the learning that accompanied the musical, students in Grades 1 and 2 from Ms. Hoch's class wrote a review of the production. Here is the shared writing the class put together as a review of *Dig It!* We are so proud of all the students who performed, helped with set up and made the musical a huge success!

École Assiniboine Presents: *Dig It!*

Reviewed By: The Grade 1/2 students in Room 6

Are you ready to teleport back in time? Well, do we have a show for you! École Assiniboine's musical *Dig It!* is an entertaining historical performance. These talented kids took us on a journey back in time to places like: Ethiopia, Greece, Rome and more! The costumes were amazing, the music was beautiful and the dancing was incredible! Overall, the show was EPIC!

We recommend *Dig It!* to adults and children of all ages! Get it?! We hope you all get a chance to see Dig It!



sent who they feel they are as individuals. Grade 4 student Ava R. said she chose the whale because she loves her family and described her identity as being about caring, strength, wisdom and working hard. Meanwhile, students Prabhleen L. and Katie M. both selected the loon for different reasons.

"The loon stands for peace and giving and I am peaceful and giving," said Prabhleen.

"I express my identity by being nice to people," said Katie. "I chose the loon because I try to make things better, like if my friends fight, I try to make it better."

Button Blankets date back more than 150 years in history and were traditionally worn during ceremony. The textile art form involved students sewing buttons and designs on felt pieces as a tribute to traditional Button Blankets, involving mother of pearls and depicting a glimpse of one's personal lineage. The Button Blanket is thought of by many as equal in beauty and significance to that of a totem pole.

This year-long Button Blanket project branched into many topics, activities and exercises falling under the umbrella of Indigenous education. The objective being that our students gain a deeper understanding of how Indigenous communities have their own unique set of customs, teachings, rituals and traditions, all relevant to our country's past, present and future. We hope these experiences learning about West Coast Indigenous Peoples, as well as Residential Schools and Truth and Reconciliation will foster lasting memories for our students to carry with them throughout their lives.

Submitted by Buchanan School Indigenous Committee

Embellishing Ceremonial Button Blankets at Buchanan A nod to the history of Pacific Northwest Indigenous peoples

Buchanan students are broadening their knowledge of Canadian history and Indigenous culture one stitch at a time.

Button Blankets are the latest learning tool at Buchanan, originating from West Coast Indigenous peoples. The study began by learning about potlatch celebrations and discovering how the use of Button Blankets were banned from 1885-1951 by the Government of Canada.

"I think they would have felt sad and mad because button blankets are a tradition of theirs and a way to express themselves," said Grade 4 student Connor Z. "The opportunity to show everybody their talents was restricted."

This led to a discussion about Indigenous relations throughout Canadian history. The Button Blanket project presented opportunities to deepen each child's understanding about Button Blankets, residential schools and today's Truth and Reconciliation movement. The project also addressed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, including Educational Principals 1 through 4 listed below:

- 1) Collaboration with survivors, Aboriginal peoples and educators to make age appropriate curriculum on residential schools, treaties and Aboriginal peoples historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement
- 2) Educate teachers to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms

- 3) Develop and implement curriculum and learning resources about Aboriginal peoples in Canadian history and the history and legacy of residential schools

- 4) Collaboration with Aboriginal elders

Through resources such as storytellers, guest speakers, literature, artifacts, research and videos, Buchanan students gained insight into the customs of the Pacific Northwest Indigenous peoples, and the hardships faced by students in residential schools. During Professor Peter Morin's visit, students were able to witness the passion he had for his personal Button Blanket and learned of his involvement in helping create the largest Button Blanket in the world. Elder Grandma Shingoose shared her experience attending a residential school and the impact it had on her, her culture and the community. Divisional Aboriginal liaison Pam Peristy brought students into sharing circles to further explore different topics students were curious about relating to Indigenous culture and history. Familiar Buchanan guest, Renee McGurry, from Treaty Relations Manitoba also toured classrooms to offer information about treaty relations in Manitoba and Canada, as well as shed light on the meaning and use of Button Blankets.

In the Haida culture, history is shared through storytelling, which promotes identity formation. With many components of identity, such as family history, gender, religion, language, etc., students began identifying symbols and colours in West Coast art to reflect their own diverse identities. The students selected an image they felt reflected similar traits to their own and expressed their thoughts through a creative writing project. This cross-curricular assignment got students thinking about their individual identities in preparation to create their own mini Button Blanket squares.

"I chose the bear for my button blanket because it represents how I act around others... it represents bravery and honesty," explained Grade 5 student Winner N. "My blanket has five buttons because I have five people in my family. One is gone but we still remember him and that is why I chose five because he is still part of my family."

Many students chose different animals to repre-



CONGRATULATIONS

Sturgeon Singers bring home Earl Grey Trophy

On April 6, a special gathering took place in the choir room at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate during the lunch hour. Winnipeg Music Festival Executive Director Joanne Mercier visited the school to present the prestigious Earl Grey Trophy to the Sturgeon Heights Concert Choir. The group, directed by Avonlea Armstrong-Green, received the honour based on their performance at this year's Winnipeg Music Festival. The Earl Grey Trophy acknowledges the most outstanding performance by a Mixed School Chorus in Grades 7-12.

Joanne explained how more than 200 choirs participate in the festival each year and approximately 25% of those choirs are eligible to receive the Earl Grey Trophy. She also enlightened the students about the origins of the trophy as well, which was named after the Fourth Governor General of Canada, Albert Henry George Grey. He was equally passionate about sports as he was about the arts and to symbolize his support in these two areas he donated The Grey Cup Trophy to the Canadian Rugby Union in 1909 and the Earl Grey Trophy to the Grey Competition for Music and Drama in 1907. This is now the Grey Cup which is awarded each year in the Canadian Football League and the Earl



The Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate Concert Choir receiving the Earl Grey Trophy for their outstanding performance at the 2018 Winnipeg Music Festival. Pictured far right in the third row is Winnipeg Music Festival Executive Director Joanne Mercier and the far left in the second row is Concert Choir Director Avonlea Armstrong-Green.

Grey Trophy has remained part of the Winnipeg Music Festival since it was donated to the organization in 1923.

"It's just an outstanding standard that comes out of this school in terms of the preparation," said Joanne of the concert choir. "The difficulty of the pieces that are performed is always something

very challenging and I think there is just a strong commitment from not just the teacher but from the participants."

Congratulations to all Concert Choir members and to Avonlea Armstrong-Green on this honourable award. Best of luck in your future performances!

SJASD students clean up at International Film Festival

Congratulations to Grade 7 Bruce student Erika L. and Grade 9 Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate students, Rylan A. and Gavin C., on earning top prizes at the 22nd Annual Freeze Frame International Film Festival.

The festival runs a Youth Video Contest, which is open to aspiring young filmmakers from ages 6 to 18. It aims to showcase the creative talents of youth from around the world, including applicants from Canada, United States and Europe. In the 2018 contest, Huskies Rylan and Gavin received the award for Best Music Video for a song they wrote and sang themselves. Erika also won an exceptional award for Best Public Service Announcement with an animation about littering. Great job to these three SJASD students for taking the initiative to enter this contest and for earning outstanding accolades in their respective categories! Well done!



From the left: Rylan A. and Gavin C. accepting their awards for Best Music Video.



Bruce student Erika L. accepting her award for the Best Public Service Announcement.

2018 Skills Manitoba Medalists

A total of 27 students represented SJASD at the 2018 Skills Manitoba Competition on April 12 at Red River College. Congratulations to all students who participated in the trade and technology contests this year, and an extended congratulations to the following 14 students who medalled at the event:



Gold
Vitina S., 2D Character Computer Animation, Jameswood, Nico D.B., 3D Digital Game Art, Sturgeon Heights, Shannon W., Cooking, Sturgeon Heights, Megan P., Job Skill Demonstration, Sturgeon Heights, Aqil M., Web Design and Development, Sturgeon Heights



Silver
Jose I., Electrical Installation, Sturgeon Heights
Nicholas H., Electronics, Sturgeon Heights
Brianna Z., Mobile Robotics, Sturgeon Heights
Carson W. Mobile Robotics, Sturgeon Heights
Emma L., Public Speaking, Sturgeon Heights



Bronze
Brayden R., Electronics, Sturgeon Heights
Hannah M., Hairstyling, Sturgeon Heights
Ellyza P., Video Production, Sturgeon Heights
Amber V., Video Production, Sturgeon Heights

Five medals for SJASD at Provincial Concours

The 2018 Provincial Concours d'art oratoire event took place on May 5 at l'Université de Saint-Boniface. A total of 12 students in Grades 3 to 12 competed on behalf of SJASD, with representation from six schools.

Concours d'art oratoire is an annual French public speaking event hosted by the Manitoba branch of Canadian Parents for French (CPF-MB). The objective is to help students develop effective speaking skills while simultaneously improving their oral skills in their second language. This year, the CPF-MB decided to include new categories piloted at the Divisional and Provincial levels last year. In previous years, students in the Grade 4, 5 and 6 French Communication and Culture category were asked to recite a poem from a list of options. This year the students presented a short speech about their lives. Other categories new to concours include: telling an individual/duo story at the Grade 3/4 Immersion level, The Dragon's Den in French Immersion Grade 9/10 and an Imaginary Conversation at the Grade 7/8 Immersion level.



Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate (CSHC) medallists from the left: Ryan H., Moussa D., Emma L. and Agape S.

After placing first at the Division level, the following students competed in provincials: Jessica J. and Amjad A. (Stevenson), Afnaan A. (Bannatyne), Olive D. (Assiniboine), Zoe D.W. (Bannatyne), Van L. (Ness), Ryan H., Moussa D., Emma L. and Agape S. (Sturgeon), and Colton M. and Meredith R. (Golden Gate).

Congratulations to all 2018 concours participants, as well as an extended applause for our five student medallists this year:

Jessica J. (Stevenson) Bronze Medal, Ryan H. (CSHC) Bronze Medal, Moussa D. (CSHC) Silver Medal



Stevenson-Britannia finalist Jessica J. paired with a \$1,000 bursary, Emma L. (CSHC) Bronze Medal, Agape S. (CSHC) Silver Medal paired with a \$1,000 bursary.

National Science Challenge

Three Westwood Collegiate students hit the national radar competing in the annual Michael Smith Science Challenge. The challenge is named after Nobel Prize winner Dr. Michael Smith and is sponsored by UBC. Grade 10 student Bentley T. earned the top mark in Manitoba and received a special certificate along with a cash prize. Grade 10 students Rose R. and Jessica T. scored in the top 20% nationally and received certificates of excellence. Westwood Collegiate teacher Mr. Johnson also received a certificate of excellence as the teacher of a provincial winner. A big congratulations to this Westwood team on earning these outstanding science honours.



To read more student and staff achievements in SJASD, follow us on social media or visit our website at:



@st.james_assiniboiasd
@St.JamesAssiniboiaSchoolDivision
www.sjasd.ca

Students minding their way at Voyageur

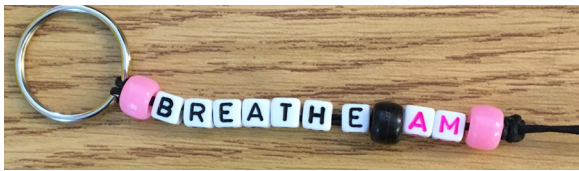
Throughout the 2017-18 school year, the students and staff at Voyageur School took a journey to focus on individual mindfulness and emotional regulation. The movement began with the implementation of the MindUP Curriculum. This program highlights how our brains function and respond to stress. It also offers many mindfulness practices and strategies that can be taught to students to help them focus their brains, improve their learning and lead healthier lives. Many of these techniques were integrated at the school level, such as through various breathing exercises, using the app *Stop, Breathe & Think Kids*, children's literature and even yoga classes.

Students in Grades 4 and 5 had a special opportunity to participate in an eight-week yoga program, taught through the Moksha Yoga Schools program. To continue to grow positive mental health education among students, the school also introduced the Zones of Regulation curriculum, which teaches students to identify how they are feeling in relation to a "zone." The program helps students gain skills in regulating their actions, increasing their self-awareness and control and in turn, improving their problem solving abilities. Each student also made a keychain with the word "BREATHE" on it, acting as a visual reminder for them to slow down, use the powerful tool of breathing to reduce their stress levels, calm their minds and refocus.

Submitted by MargaretAnn Attenborrow and Christin MacKay



Grade 4 and 5 students participating in an eight-week yoga workshop in the school gym.



A student keychain crafted to be a travelling reminder to take a deep breathe, slow down and remain calm.

Six schools enjoy a taste of Canadian History

A total of 18 students represented SJASD at the Red River Heritage Fair on May 3 at the University of Winnipeg. Students from the following schools took part in the 15th annual event: Assiniboine, Bannatyne, Crestview, Linwood, Sansome and Strathmillan. This year also marked the 25th year of Heritage Fairs across Canada.

Throughout the day, students participated in a variety of workshops such as Square Peg Tours highlighting famous people in Winnipeg, St. Boniface Museum Life in 1810, the History of the RCMP and the Bank of Canada History of Money. The students also participated in a scavenger hunt to learn more about the various museums and cultural activities offered in Manitoba. Finally, all participants defended their projects in front of at least two judges. Each student received a participation medal and the following students earned special honours at the awards ceremony:

Julia S. (Assiniboine), St. Boniface Museum Award, Project: Louis Riel
Ayden S. (Sansome), KGS Sustainability Award, Project: Four Seasons on my Family Farm

Jasper K. (Sansome), Manitoba Museum Award, Project: Oak Island
Milena S. (Bannatyne), Parks Canada Award, Project: Life of a Polar Bear
 Congratulations to all 2018 Heritage Fair participants on your hard work and dedication. It was a great day for all involved and we look forward to seeing your enthusiasm and engaging projects again next year!

Submitted by Carmen Lachance, Lindsey Noel, Jennifer Hernandez & Alexandra Eyjolfson



Warriors showcase their love of the arts

Annually, the arts students and staff combine forces with the Westwood Collegiate Arts Advisory Group, made up of arts parents, to host an evening arts extravaganza! This year "FLOTA" (For the Love of the Arts) took place on April 9 and the event sold out! The evening showcased the work of talented students in the areas of band, dance, drama, choral, film studies, graphic tech, and visual arts. The Westwood Arts Team is a dedicated group of highly regarded staff who work hard alongside their students to produce the show of the year! The staff and students could not do this large-scale event without the support, planning and work force of all of the arts parents! Under the guidance of Maureen Kennington and Doug Einarson, this group of dedicated parents met all year to help create the setting, organize the refreshments and sell the tickets for this event. A big thank you to them, as well as to Principal Mr. Dueck and Vice Principals Mrs. James and Mrs. Cordova for being the masters of ceremony, and for their continued support of the arts at Westwood. If you haven't attended a "For the Love of the Arts" evening before, we hope you consider joining us for this fun, inspiring evening in the future! Plan to join us in April of 2019 by keeping tabs on the Westwood website for ticket sales and event details! Congratulations to all of the students, staff, volunteers and organizers on a fantastic 2018 production!

Submitted by Teacher Ms. Teichroew



Congratulations Graduates!

Class of
2018



St. James-Assiniboia School Division wishes you great success and happiness in the future.

Online Summer School

July 3 to July 30, 2018

REGISTRATION will be live May 2018



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