



Great Schools for
Growing and Learning

CONTACT

St. James-Assiniboia School Division

Summer Issue 2019



A moment with Her Excellency
Julie Payette

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George Waters Middle School students engaging with Lucy, the school's emotional support dog, on Friday, May 10.

Lucy helps lighten the load for students at GWMS

A new furry friend is working to boost the social and emotional well-being of students at George Waters Middle School (GWMS).

Before afternoon classes commence, students stop by the resource room at the front entrance of the school to say a quick hello to Lucy. Lucy is a five-year-old golden retriever who serves as an emotional support dog at the school every Friday.

"She loves it," said Ms. Orloff, Lucy's owner and the guidance counsellor at GWMS. "The minute the vest comes out, she starts to wag her tail, gets excited and runs to the door. She knows what it means."

Ms. Orloff works with students who have trouble self-regulating to give them the tools they need to achieve their goals and be successful in the school environment. Over the years, students have told Ms. Orloff how being around animals makes them feel a lot better. One particular student kept saying, "We should have a dog at our school."

This idea stuck with Ms. Orloff as she decided to enroll both her dogs in The Canine Good Neighbour Program. The training program involves a 12-step test for dogs to become certified, which Lucy passed in 2019. **Continued on Page 4**



Faceless Dolls Project connects
students in SJASD

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CONGRATULATIONS!

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www.sjasd.ca

2019/2020 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 third consecutive year, St. James-Assiniboia received a cut in Provincial Funding. Overall Provincial Funding as a percentage of Total Operating Revenue has decreased from 72.95% in 1985 to 50.70% in 2019.

Special Requirement

- 2019/2020: \$66,820,944
- 2018/2019: \$65,510,729
- Increase: \$1,310,215 or 2% (Provincial Guideline is 2%)

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

- St. James-Assiniboia 13.431(2019)
- St. James-Assiniboia 12.973 (2018)
- Metro Average 14.258 (2019)

Average Home Value

- \$275,100 (2019)

School Taxes on Average Home

- School Tax Increase 3.53%
- School Tax Increase \$56.70 or \$4.73 per month

Operating Expenditures

- Operating expenditures \$109,485,763 (2019)
- Low Increase of \$713,461 or 0.66%
- Many of the Operating Expenditures have offsetting revenues

Enrolment

- September 2018: 8,561
- September 2019: 8,665
- Projected increase of 104 students

Property Assessment

- St. James-Assiniboia 2019 Portioned Assessment increased by 0.27%
- Metro Average 2019 Portioned Assessment increased by 1.62%

Gross Operating Reserve

- \$2,967,967 or 2.7% of 2019/2020 operating expenditures (Provincial guideline is 4%)

Major Initiatives

- 5-Year Plan for the repairs/renovations of school buildings - \$12.0 million
- 5-Year Plan for Technology Network upgrades and replacement - \$9.1 million

Administrative Costs

- Administrative costs are 2.68% (Provincial guideline is 2.70%)



2019-2020 Budget

A report on the status of the St. James-Assiniboia School Division's finances, with a focus toward continually improving our students' education while maintaining the lowest possible costs to the taxpayer.



For more information, please visit:
www.sjasd.ca/Governance/Budget

(Budget Continued on Page 2)

2019-2020 BUDGET

Comments from the Chair



Board Chair, Cheryl Smukowich

Establishing an equitable balance between increasing education needs and reasonable taxation was a significant challenge in the 2019/2020 Budget process.

Operational challenges included a projected enrolment increase of 104 students, repairs for older school buildings, technology network upgrades and rising costs in many areas such as transportation, utilities, equipment and supplies.

The Provincial Government Revenue as a percentage of the Total Operating Revenue continued to decline and has decreased from 72.95% in 1985 to 50.70% in 2019. In addition, the Provincial Government directed school divisions to limit their Special Requirement (taxation) to 2% and reduce administration costs to a maximum of 2.70%.

The Board of Trustees approved a balanced budget with a small operating expenditure increase of 0.66% by identifying operating reductions and maintaining resources within the classroom. The 2019 school division mill rate of 13.431 is the second lowest in Metro Winnipeg. Administration Costs have been reduced to 2.68% of the operating budget.

The Board continues to value community engagement and holds annual events to share information and seek input. Events include the Parent/Trustee Forum, Student/Trustee Forum and the Public Budget Meeting. The Provincial Government Education Review in 2019 has the potential to significantly change the education system. It is important for all stakeholders to become actively involved in safe guarding the local decision making of School Boards to ensure local community priorities and concerns have local representation. Please visit our website at www.sjasd.ca for more information on the 2019 Education Review.

Chair of the Board, Cheryl Smukowich

1.0 BUDGET GOALS

The St. James-Assiniboia School Division (SJASD) has incorporated the following Budget Goals in determining the 2019/2020 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 Align the Budget with the Strategic Plan of the School Division
- 8) To Apply Sustainable Development Principles (Environmental, Social, and Economic)

2.0 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

• Provincial Funding

The provincial funding announcement from the Minister of Education and Training 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
2019/2020	0.50%	(0.90%)
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%	0.00%*
2013/2014	2.30%	0.00%
2012/2013	2.20%	0.00%
2011/2012	2.70%	2.20%
2010/2011	2.95%	2.50%
10 Year Avg	1.87%	(0.02%)

The 2019/2020 announced provincial cut for SJASD was (0.90%).

* The 2014/2015 SJASD Provincial announcement was a 0.30% increase 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 2018/2019, the SJASD received Provincial Funding of \$6,808 per student while the Metro Average was \$7,720.

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 50.70% in 2019.

If the current trend continues, Provincial support will decline to 50% or less. The Provincial support declined in 2019 despite SJASD maintaining the Operating Expenditure increase to a marginal 0.66%.

If the 2019/2020 Provincial Support had been maintained at the same level as 2018/2019, SJASD would have received \$57,915,894. However, Provincial support decreased from 51.78% to 50.70%, resulting in a shortfall of \$1,207,716.

Budget Year	Provincial Support 51.78%	Actual Provincial Support 50.70%	1 Year 2019/2020 Shortfall
2019/2020	\$57,915,894	\$56,708,178	\$1,207,716

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 104 students in 2019/2020.

In 2019/2020, the SJASD will receive Formula Guarantee Support of \$0, which represents a reduction in funding of (\$613,364).

2018/2019	2019/2020	Reduction
\$613,364	\$0	(\$613,364)

• Tax Incentive Grant (TIG) and Tax Incentive Grant Guarantee (TIGG)

The Provincial Tax Incentive Grant was a voluntary program intended to assist school divisions that maintained their special levy.

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

In 2018, SJASD received a TIG of \$2,900,436 and a TIGG of \$510,477. The TIGG ensured that the Division did not receive less than 98% of the prior year's overall support.

In 2019, SJASD will receive a total reduction (TIG and TIGG) of (\$1,090,564).

	2018/2019	2019/2020	Reduction
TIG	\$2,900,436	\$2,320,349	(\$580,087)
TIGG	\$510,477	\$0	(\$510,477)
Total	\$3,410,913	\$2,320,349	(\$1,090,564)

• Property Assessment

The 2019 Property Assessment reflects assessed values as determined by the City of Winnipeg. Reassessment occurs every two years.

Portioned Assessment for 2019 has increased by 0.27%.

	2019	2018	Increase	%
City of Winnipeg	\$4,355,143,659	\$4,343,272,904	\$11,870,755	0.27%

In 2019, SJASD has a portioned assessment increase of 0.27% which is significantly lower than the Metro Average increase in Portioned Assessment of 1.62%.

A higher increase in portioned assessment allows a School Division to have a smaller tax increase.

• 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
- International Baccalaureate
- Integrated Arts
- Lunchroom Supervisors

The Special Levy is now utilized to fund a substantial portion of basic educational programming and represents 46.04% of the Total Operating Revenue.

Despite receiving a (0.90%) 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 was 14.060 mills. The 2019 SJASD mill rate will increase to 13.431 mills.

2019-2020 BUDGET

The SJASD Average value for a home in 2019 is \$275,100.

Tax Year	Constant House Value	Portioned Assessment of House 45%	Education Mill Rate	Education Property Tax
2019	\$275,100	\$123,795	13.431	\$1,662.69
2018	\$275,100	\$123,795	12.973	\$1,605.99
Difference	\$0	\$0	(0.458)	\$56.70

The homeowner is forecast to receive a \$700 Education Property Tax Credit. The 2019 Net Education Property Tax is \$962.69. The average home in SJASD will incur a 2019 Net Education Tax increase of \$56.70 or \$4.73 per month or 3.53%.

If the Provincial Grants for the Tax Incentive Grant had remained constant, the School Tax increase would have been \$28.48 or 1.77%.

TABLE A
Comparison of Education Tax Costs in Metro Winnipeg 2019
(Based on home valued at \$275,100)

School Division	2019 (Mill Rate)	2019 (Education Tax)	2019 (MEPTCA)	2019 (Net Education Tax)
St.James-Assiniboia	13.431	\$1,663	(\$700)	\$963
Seven Oaks	16.725	\$2,070	(\$700)	\$1,370
Winnipeg	15.130	\$1,873	(\$700)	\$1,173
River East-Transcona	13.436	\$1,663	(\$700)	\$963
Louis Riel	13.681	\$1,694	(\$700)	\$994
Pembina Trails	12.317	\$1,525	(\$700)	\$825
Metro Average (excluding SJASD)	14.258	\$1,765	(\$700)	\$1,065

• 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 2019 is \$275,100. The Net Education Property Tax paid on the average home is \$963 in 2019. It represent only 33.12% of the average homeowner's property tax bill. The remaining 66.88% 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 2019/2020, the EPTC (\$13,023,800) is deemed a provincial revenue source. It is anticipated that homeowners will receive an EPTC of \$700 on their 2019 property tax bill.

• Gross Operating Reserve

The SJASD is projecting a June 30, 2020 Gross Operating Reserve of \$2,967,967 or 2.70% of operating expenditures. The Provincial Guideline is 4% of operating expenditures.

• Administration Costs

The SJASD 2019/2020 Administration Costs are \$2,979,844 or 2.68%. The Provincial Guideline is 2.70%.

• Operational Challenges

In 2019/2020, the Division faces significant challenges such as:

- 1) A Provincial Funding decrease of 0.90% in 2019/2020
- 2) A Provincial Funding decrease of 2.00% in 2018/2019
- 3) Projected increased enrolment of 699 students over the next 5 years
- 4) Aging School Building Repairs (\$12,000,000 – five years)
- 5) Aging Technology Network Upgrades (\$9,092,457 – five years)
- 6) Salary Settlements for Bargaining Units in Year 4 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. Accessibility)
- 12) A block Provincial Allocation formula for Exceptional Student funding

• Expenditure Budget

For the 2019/2020 school year, the SJASD has an operating expenditure budget of \$109,485,763 which is a 0.66% increase from the 2018/2019 budget of \$108,772,302. The Operating Expenditure Budget includes operating expenditure reductions of \$1,303,247. Highlights include:

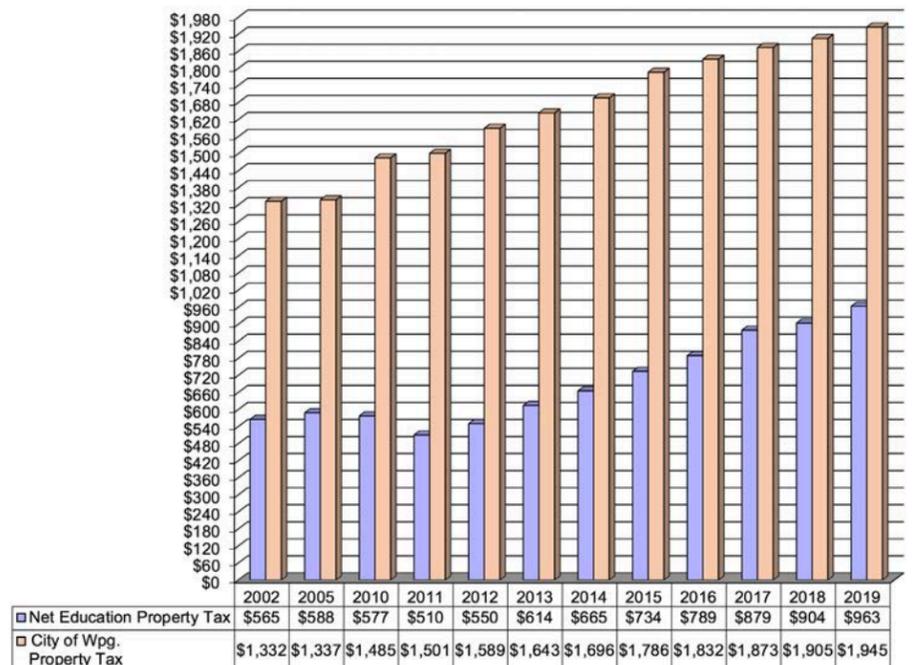
- Pupil Transportation Services \$409,833
- Division Administration \$361,411
- Computer Replacement \$225,953
- Special Placement Services \$100,000

The Division transportation policy has been revised to provide transportation for Kindergarten to Grade 6 students who live more than 1.6 kilometres from their designated school. Previously, transportation was provided for students (K-6) who lived more than 1.0 kilometres.

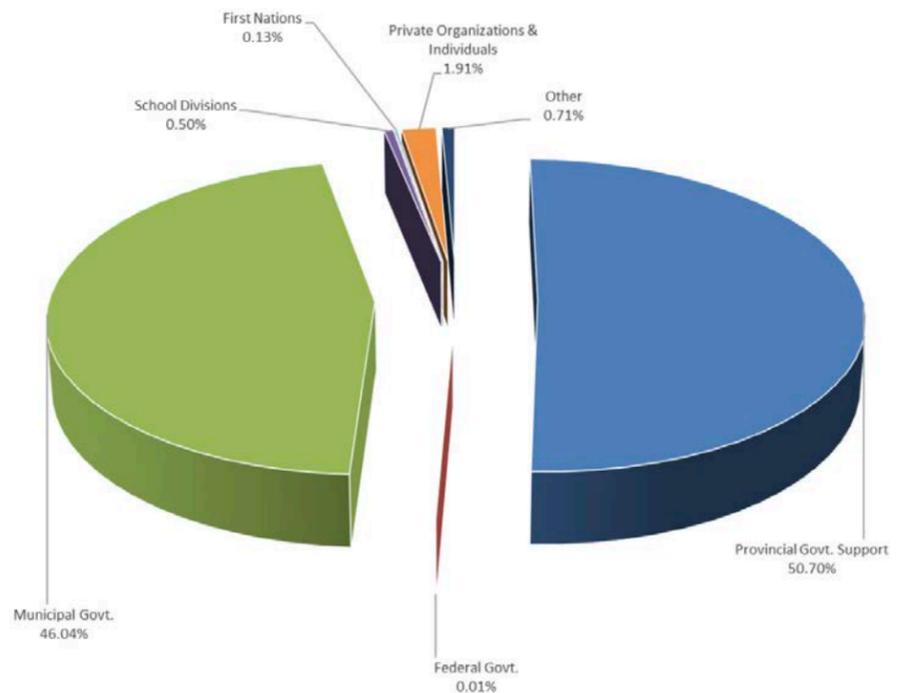
Many of the expenditures have offsetting revenues.

- 1) International Education \$1,384,600
- 2) Early Enhancement (Class Size K-3) \$1,202,884
- 3) Continuing Education \$530,000
- 4) Leased Space \$422,370

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



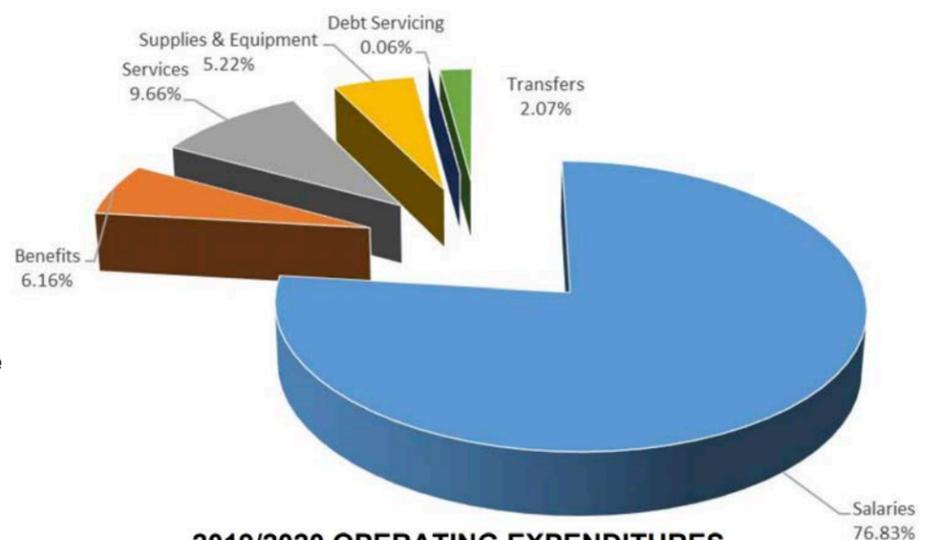
Total Operating Revenue Budget 2019/2020



2019/2020 OPERATING REVENUE

		% OF TOTAL
Provincial Govt. Support	\$56,708,178	50.70%
Federal Govt.	\$9,680	0.01%
Municipal Govt.	\$51,500,361	46.04%
School Divisions	\$563,500	0.50%
First Nations	\$150,000	0.13%
Private Organizations & Individuals	\$2,131,842	1.91%
Other	\$786,370	0.71%
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$111,849,931	100.00%

Operating Expenditures Budget by Object



2019/2020 OPERATING EXPENDITURES

		% OF TOTAL
Salaries	\$84,111,645	76.83%
Benefits	\$6,749,442	6.16%
Services	\$10,576,769	9.66%
Supplies & Equipment	\$5,711,623	5.22%
Debt Servicing	\$69,696	0.06%
Transfers	\$2,266,588	2.07%
TOTAL OPERATING	\$109,485,763	100.00%

For more information, our complete 2019-2020 budget report is available on our website at www.sjasd.ca

Lucy helps lighten the load for students at GWMS

Continued from Page 1

Lucy's certification marked the first step towards gaining an emotional support dog at the school. Upon receiving support from school and divisional administration, followed by approval from the School Board, Lucy began her duty in February of 2019 on a trial basis.

"I visit Lucy every Friday, I'm always booked," said Grade 7 student Janna S. "Lately I've been pretty upset over some things but seeing her at

least once a week really does help."

Janna moved to Canada five years ago and used to have a dog in the Philippines. She isn't able to have a dog at home but believes, along with her mom, that Lucy has helped improve her mental state. Janna isn't alone in that feeling.

"She really helps me with focussing," said Grade 6 student Blake F.

Blakes shares how Lucy helps him transition from one task to the next with greater ease throughout the

school day, allowing him to focus his full attention on each new activity.

"She has helped me with a lot, I can't name everything but she has helped me with a lot," said Blake.

Ms. Orloff has seen breakthroughs occur with many students when Lucy is around. Whether students are reading to Lucy, patting her, or taking her for a walk with Ms. Orloff, she provides a sense of comfort that allows students to open up.

"I've had kids who for most of the

year have been reserved, they will come meet me but won't necessarily tell me why," said Ms. Orloff. "When they are with the dog, they share more about what is bothering them."

Lucy is at the school the last day of every school week, always in the resource room. The excitement of having Lucy on campus only continues to build as she has made strong connections with many students at the school. Thank you to Ms. Orloff for bringing this initiative to SJASD and for monitoring the impact of the program for students.

53rd annual Divisional Science Fair sends students to Fredericton

On April 3, SJASD held its 53rd annual Science Fair at George Waters Middle School/St. James Collegiate. More than 120 projects were on display, all of which were created by students in Grades 3 through 12.

The array of projects covered different branches of science, as students explored areas of interest to them and defended their findings in front of judges. New this year, the Division introduced additional awards for students based on support from the following partnerships: the Assiniboine Park Conservancy, the Science Teachers' Association of Manitoba, Oak Hammock Marsh and the Ted Rogers Innovation Award. These are in addition to longstanding awards sponsored by SJASD, Manitoba Hydro, FortWhyte Alive and Dr. Doug Eyolfson. While many students received special awards and honours for their projects, only four students were selected to move on to represent the Division at the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Fredericton. Thomas G. from Lincoln, Rosemund R. from Westwood, Noah D. and Tharindu K., both from Sturgeon Heights, travelled to the East coast to compete against the top science students in the country. The event was held on May 11 to 17, featuring a total of 400 projects. The students continued to build on their projects leading up



(L-R) Trustee Holly Hunter, students Thomas G., Rosemund R., Noah D., Tharinda K. and Board Chair Cheryl Smukowich.

to the national event and defended their findings in a professional manner. This year, Rosemund received a Bronze Award of Excellence in the senior category for her project, "An Economically Plausible Reduction of Food Wastage in Kenya." Congratulations to all students involved in the

2019 Divisional Science Fair as well as to our four national representatives. A special thank you to Divisional Science Fair Committee members, Mme. Lachance and Mr. Fisher-Smith, for the support they provided as chaperones on the 2019 trip.

A moment with the Governor General of Canada

A group of lucky SJASD students met with the Governor General of Canada over video chat to discuss all topics under the sun, including her time in space.

On May 15, Mrs. Crawshaw's Grade 6 class at Lincoln Middle School engaged in a video chat with Her Excellency Julie Payette. Prior to this opportunity, the class spent weeks researching material and preparing questions to ask during the live chat.

"I am so very proud of my students for all their hard work preparing for this morning," said Mrs. Crawshaw.

At approximately 9:00 a.m., Her Excellency appeared on the projector screen inside the classroom, offering all students a great view for the discussion. Ms. Payette was greeted by 24 enthusiastic students proudly waving miniature Canadian flags. She commended them on their Canadian-themed attire and acknowledged all special guests in attendance.

Students spent the next 20 minutes rotating chairs to be in front of the camera asking the Governor General of Canada one question each, either personal and/or professional. Ms. Payette answered each question with great detail, openness and sincerity. She explained her role as the Governor General, her methods for managing her time, prioritizing her family, the feelings she felt while preparing to go to space and adapting to those conditions and much more. One student asked Ms. Payette what made her want to become the Governor General of Canada and she replied:

"I did not ask to be the Governor General of Canada." said Ms. Payette, who was teaching science in Montreal and taking part in speaking engagements at the time. "But then the Prime Minister of Canada gave me a call. He said to me, 'Would I consider becoming Governor General of Canada?' Even though it was a surprise, it didn't take long for me to say yes because when the Prime Minister of Canada calls you to do something for your country, I think there is only one answer and that answer is yes!"

Prior to being invested as the 29th Governor



General of Canada, Ms. Payette worked as an astronaut for 21 years and flew in two missions to space. She became a well-known leader in the science and technology field, advocating for policy development and change.

Her Excellency told the students it is a privilege to travel across Canada, and to many other countries, to engage with young people like themselves. She encouraged them to discover what they are passionate about and to continue to learn with integrity once they do. Mrs. Crawshaw and her students were grateful for Ms. Payette's inspirational words, informative answers and for the time she took to engage with them on an intimate level.

"This event has definitely been a highlight in my teaching career," said Mrs. Crawshaw. "It is something the students and I will remember forever and it is a meaningful way to learn!"

Mrs. Crawshaw connected with Her Excellency at the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers awards ceremony held in Ottawa in April. She attended the event to see two former students, graduates Devon L. and Jeremy L., receive these prestigious awards for volunteer efforts. At the ceremony, Ms. Payette mentioned that, in her role as Governor General of Canada, she spends time skyping with students from across the country, and the rest was history.



(L-R) SJASD students Aly, Shanaya, Daphne, and Sarah.

SJASD students speak out in Manitoba Education Review

As part of the Manitoba Commission's commitment to consult with a wide range of Manitobans in reviewing our current Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education system, students were asked to share their thoughts. Divisions were invited to identify students in Grades 10 through 12 who were interested in sharing their views on the current system, as well as ideas for the future of education in Manitoba.

Students Aly A., Shanaya M., Daphne C. and Sarah Y. represented SJASD on the student panel. The day was full of engaging activities which allowed students to collaborate while communicating their school experiences, including questions about the biggest challenges faced in achieving success and what was the most helpful in achieving success. Table conversations allowed rural and urban students to connect and communicate their individual educational opportunities. Our students were surprised to learn of the challenges faced by their peers in rural and remote areas of Manitoba, as well as the hurdles kids needed to overcome to graduate. Throughout the day, students shared their perspectives to a digital platform, allowing them to interact online with the entire panel. The ideas recorded online and on the continuum framework will be collated and shared back with Manitoba school divisions. In SJASD, we were grateful for the opportunity for our students to share their voices.

Taking a chance on probability at École Ness

Probability: The often ignored, eternally disregarded step-sister of the Manitoba math curriculum. Often categorized as a "June unit," probability can be one of the most engaging strands of mathematical learning if given the chance.

Through a probability project involving games of chance, Grade 6 students at École Ness were able to reinforce connections between fractions, percentages and ratios, while continuing to develop their conceptual understanding of proportion, number relationships and equivalence. During this process, the students also had a ton of fun!

Leading up to the project, the students played many different games of chance as a whole class. They drew cards, rolled dice, flipped coins and drew items from bags. Through play, they were able to collect data to understand, calculate, and compare theoretical and experimental probability.

In pairs, students then branched off to design their own games of chance. The goal was to design a game capable of making the most money.

First, they determined the theoretical probability of winning their game and expressed it as a fraction, a percentage and a ratio. Then, they used the value to set the price to play and the prize amount for their game. Next came the fun part.

The class invited students from other classrooms to test out and play their games. Each player received \$25 in play money, which could be spent on any games of their choosing. The game-makers recorded the data of games won versus games lost. After each class played, they re-calculated the experimental probability of winning their game, as well as how much money they had made or lost. This allowed us to see that the experimental probability of winning approached the theoretical probability as the number of trials increased.

In the end, the winning student duo made \$250! As for the players, most of them had lost all of their money within ten minutes of playing. In fact, out of 111 players, only six actually won money. As the students could share, that's only about 5%.



Grade 6 students rotating through student-designed probability games with play money.

As an added bonus, many students learned an important life lesson about gambling and the fickle nature of lady luck!

Submitted by teacher Mme Scham

Amir sparks class exploration of Iran

In November, Mrs. Westergard's class welcomed a new classmate, Amir Arsalan Alavi Zadeh. At Strathmillan School, he is known as Amir!

Amir came to Canada from Tehran, the capital city of Iran. He is 10 years old and in Grade 5. Right away, students and staff discovered Amir's love for soccer. At recess, he is never spotted without his soccer ball.

Mrs. Westergard invited Amir to share details about his life in Iran with Team 13. He surprised his homeroom class with a 72-page slideshow, outlining the similarities and differences between Iran and Canada. In Iran there is a tower called the Borgh Milad. Students couldn't believe how similar it looked to the CN Tower!

Did you know the New Year begins on March 21 in Iran? On the Wednesday before the New Year, there is a festival called Charharshanabe Suri, where they celebrate by jumping

over fire. They have a different New Year as they follow the Solar Hijri calendar. Another interesting fact shared by Amir is in Canada, the year is 2019 but in Iran, it is 1397.

Students were surprised to discover some buildings in Iran are made of gold and silver. They also noticed the roofs on buildings were dome-shaped. The class discussed the many different kinds of vegetation and landforms in Iran too, including: deserts, gardens, mountains, forests, plains and jungles.

Learning these new, exciting details about another country inspired Team 13 to recreate the beautiful art displayed on the Persian rugs shown by Amir. The class also opted to learn how to write their names in Farsi.

While writing, students had to learn new letters and how to connect one letter to the next. The real tricky part was writing their names from right to



left, the opposite of how we write in English. It really made the students and Mrs. Westergard think about how challenging it must be for Amir to read and write in English everyday.

Team 13 would like to thank Amir and his family for inspiring the class

to become better learners and to explore a new region of the world. The experience also helped Mrs. Westergard grow her skillset as an educator. Meresi!

Submitted by teacher Mrs. Westergard

Coming Events for the 2019/2020 School Year

Tuesday, August 20

All schools will be open with secretarial staff in attendance.

Tuesday, August 27

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

Monday, September 2

Labour Day: No School

Tuesday, September 3

Inservice: No School

Wednesday/Thursday, September 4 and 5

Early and Middle Years Triad Conferences

Friday, September 6

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.

Speaking up for endangered species lands students at Parliament

Strathmillan School is determined to help save the "King of the North."

During this school year, Mrs. MacLean-Pilat's class and Mrs. Richardson's class teamed up to raise awareness about polar bears and climate change. As climate change is causing polar bears to become increasingly endangered, the group knew they needed to take action on the issue right away. The classes decided to partner with the Assiniboine Park Conservancy Polar Bear Rescue and Care Team, a group of animal care professionals and scientists who are called to action when polar bear cubs are in need of rescue. On the Assiniboine Park Zoo website, it says polar bear cubs under the age of two who are orphaned in the wild will not survive on their own as they must learn critical survival skills from their mother. The students devoted their energy and their studies towards this cause and hosted special fundraisers throughout the year. For example, on March 21 the school hosted a Polar Bear Awareness Walk.

The Polar Bear Awareness Walk raised a total of \$339.50 for the Assiniboine Park Conservancy Team. It also allowed the students to meet zoo mascot, Winston the Polar Bear, who surprised the students at the event as a reward for their hard work. The Grades 2 and 3 students who spearheaded the polar bear campaign enjoyed an intimate ice cream party with Winston after the



walk, with their projects and posters on display around the library. One of the projects that stood out in the school was a life-size drawing of a polar bear in the main hallway. The to scale mural was splashed with interesting facts about polar bears and helpful tips to combat global warming!

The determination and activism of the students and staff at Strathmillan School caught the atten-

tion of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. A team from the school was invited to be acknowledge by MLA Scott Johnston at the Manitoba Legislature on April 10. Students in rooms 38 and 41 shared their message about global warming and polar bears on the grand steps and received praise for their commitment to this environmental issue.

The Faceless Dolls Project in SJASD

John Taylor and St. James Collegiate students collaborate to create a project honouring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) in Manitoba.

The Faceless Dolls Project, conceived by the Native Women's Association of Canada, involved students enrolled in art, current topics and First Nations, Métis and Inuit studies. Teachers Ms. Lough, Mrs. Memka, Ms. Peters and Ms. Tuchscherer helped steer the project at both schools. The Faceless Dolls Project began by hearing two powerful presentations by Bernadette Smith, MLA for Point Douglas, and artist Jaime Black, creator of The REDress Project. All students and staff gathered at the Professional

Staff Development Centre to learn, discuss and reflect as a group. Upon returning to their respective schools, students began researching the life of one missing or murdered Indigenous woman in Manitoba. They each chose three symbolic details about one woman's life to represent on a faceless felt doll using a variety of materials. The dolls are faceless because they represent victims of crime who have been devalued and forgotten by society. These dolls are a way to remember the women and girls, as well as honour their identities and life stories. After constructing the first doll, students created a second doll wearing a red dress, indicating she is either missing or murdered. The dolls will be on display inside each school



John Taylor Collegiate and St. James Collegiate students with artist Jaime Black.

in a two-way frame for both sides to be seen. A special thank you to Ms. Stroppa for organizing the speakers in March and to Mr. Rogers for build-

ing the beautiful birch frames for this important project.

Submitted by teacher Ms. Tuchscherer

Big Life Journals spark self-reflection at Voyageur

Grade 4 and 5 students at Voyageur School are growing their mindsets and their lives through a new journaling project with Big Life Journal.

Big Life Journal is an educational resource that guides children through targeted areas of self-reflection. The high-quality journal consists of a series of quotes, illustrations, stories and questions to prompt students to put on their thinking caps, challenge their perspectives and answer personal questions. The positive dialogue throughout the journal helps students approach the activity, their day and their life with a growth mindset. Growth mindset is an educational focus at Voyageur School, and across SJASD, aiming to help students realize success is not a fixed outcome but the result of hard work, perseverance and a positive attitude.

At Voyageur School, each student has a journal buddy who they meet with on a regular basis to share and extend their thoughts. While the project

has only been in motion since the end of March, students are expressing enjoyment for the activity and becoming increasingly engaged with their journals. When asked to reflect on Big Life Journals, students had much excitement to share.

"I like that it asks you questions that you don't usually think about," said student Kadence M.

Grade 4 student Destiny M. admitted how even though a lot of the questions are hard to answer, she is proud when she is able to complete them.

"It's inspiring being able to share things with others you've never shared before," said Cowan W.

"We learn a lot about each other and the things we have in common," said Logan E.

The Big Life Journal is a growing success at Voyageur School and an exercise staff are excited to pursue in future years.

Submitted by teacher Mrs. MacKay



Students Rowin H. and Haley A. working through their Big Life Journals.

Linwood starts Ojibwa Language Club

Boozhoo! Students in Grade 1 through Grade 5 at Linwood School are growing their knowledge of the Ojibwa language, as members of the Ojibwa Language Sharing Club!

Students are learning Ojibwa vocabulary related to the medicine wheel, animals, colours, numbers and more. They are exploring the language and enjoying cultural experiences to compliment their learning, such as talking circles, traditional song, art and stories. A highlight of the club is being able to meet many special guests who visit the school from within the community.

"We were fortunate to have both family and community members join us to share teachings, lead us

in a smudge, and share stories and special artifacts related to Indigenous culture," said principal Mr. Miller.

All club members are excitedly sharing their new-found knowledge with others every chance they get. The Ojibwa Language Sharing Club is also creating a platform for students to make connections to other languages. When asked why he liked the club, Grade 1 student Sean T.P. stated, "Because I like learning new languages and its fun!"

Zti D. in Grade 4 said "The club is great! I had so much fun and learned different things each time."

When asked if she would like to return to the club next year, she said, "Well, yeah, obviously!"



The Ojibwa Language Sharing Club exploring authentic artifacts as a group.

Students demonstrated enthusiasm across all grade levels. The Kindergarten students also took part near the end of the school year, to round

out Linwood's discovery of culture and language.

Submitted by teacher Ms. Stevenson

New knitters thrive at Crestview

Grades 3, 4, and 5 students at Crestview School are meeting with Mrs. Choboter, Ms. Langelaar and Ms. Millard during lunch twice a week to learn the art of knitting. The Alpha Delta Kappa Beta Sorority generously donated the wool, allowing the club to start in January. Students began knitting by making friendship bracelets, learning to cast on, create the knit stitch and cast off. The club is now working with luxurious, colourful yarns on year-end projects, such as scarves, purses and small blankets. Students have acquired many new skills and are busy planning their projects for next year!

"It's easy once you get the hang of it!" said student Hasan A.

"I like to knit, it calms me," said participant Camryn M.

Submitted by Mrs. Choboter, Ms. Langelaar, and Ms. Millard



Huskies take human rights studies abroad



Over spring break, Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate sent 42 students and seven chaperones to Europe to deepen their understanding of human rights issues. The trip had a strong focus on the Holocaust — before, during and after the Second World War. In Berlin, Warsaw, Krakow and Prague, the group explored the European experience during the Nazi regime era and the Cold War. For many, the most poignant part of the trip was

spending a day at Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps in Poland. For students and teachers alike, the trip provided a rich learning experience, exploring human rights issues in what are now such beautiful places. The behaviour and understanding the students demonstrated on the trip left teachers feeling inspired about the next generation, knowing they will stand up and not be silent.

CONGRATULATIONS

Brooklands teacher earns outstanding award

Ms. Chernecki is recognized with the Outstanding New Teacher Award at the 2019 Manitoba Excellence in Education event. As a third year teacher in SJASD, Ms. Chernecki continues to push the envelope on what it means to care for her students and create a welcoming learning environment for all to thrive. Her classroom boasts the design of a comfortable living space with no assigned seating arrangement, encouraging students to feel at home and relaxed. Ms. Chernecki is heart set on building a strong sense of classroom community, ensuring the students and teachers get to know each other on a personal level to help foster positive relationships at school. With a bulletin board on display featuring photos of her dogs, the students took part in a fun persuasive writing activity dedicated towards her dog, Remi the beagle. "It gave them an audience to write to that is not going to be judgemental," said Ms. Chernecki, about the lighthearted project. "Her students have internalized the core values that they have co-created," shared principal Mr. Ferguson Baird, who teamed up with resource teacher Ms. Zubec to nominate



Ms. Chernicki for the award. Another key focus for Ms. Chernecki is meeting students where they are at, and not where the curriculum expects them to be at, in order to help them grow. Ms. Chernicki is extremely honoured to receive this award and attributes the recognition to the collaborative team and family at Brooklands School.



Heritage Fair honours in SJASD

On May 2, 13 SJASD students attended the 2019 Red River Heritage Fair. Students created projects with a link to the past and defended their research in front of judges. The SJASD ambassadors represented Assiniboine, Crestview, Sansome and Linwood schools. Congratulations to all students who took part in this year's event. Each student received a medal of participation, and a few also earned special recognitions: **Military Award** - Christine, Sansome **Sports Award** - Ashlynn and Jaedyn, Assiniboine **Historical Society Award** - Alex, Linwood **Indigenous Circle of Educators Award** - Alex, Linwood **Parks Canada Award** - Mahina, Sansome **Musée de Saint Boniface Award** - Julia, Assiniboine **Young Citizens Award** - Abdu, Assiniboine



Skills Canada Competition 2019

On May 28 and 29, three students from Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate represented Manitoba at the 2019 Skills Canada Competition in Halifax. Pictured from the left, Wences L., Emma L. and Brayden R. did an exceptional job performing in their respective categories at the trade and technology competition. Brayden earned Silver in Electronics, Wences received Bronze in Cooking and Emma performed in Public Speaking. Congratulations to our students on their achievements this year and also thank you to our three staff chaperones who supported them throughout the experience, Mr. Yakimoski, Mr. Klassen and Ms. Rivard.

Manitoba Concours 2019

The Manitoba Concours d'art Oratoire public speaking competition took place on May 4 at the Université de Saint-Boniface. A total of 12 students represented SJASD at the provincial event by delivering speeches of their choice in their respective categories. At this year's competition, five students earned bronze medals and one student brought home silver. Congratulations to all students who qualified for provincials and a special nod to the following SJASD participants who medalled at the event:

From top to bottom (L-R): Joseph D. (Assiniboine), Olive D.L. (Assiniboine), Jessica J. (Golden Gate), Sarah E. (Ness), Harry A. (CSHC) and Agape S. (CSHC, Silver).



SJASD Visual Art Exhibition

The 2019 Divisional Art Exhibition took place on April 23 and 24 at Glendale Golf and Country Club. The event showcased more than 250 pieces of art created by students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 across SJASD. Each day the event saw a fantastic turnout of students, staff, family, friends and community members. The annual showcase of artistic talent has been a Divisional tradition for 13 years. Thank you to all who attended the exhibition and to the staff and volunteer team who helped set up the room overlooking the river. Great job to all students who entered their artwork and thank you to our arts and vocational teachers for their continued support.



Mannequin head created by St. James Collegiate student Aurora Y.

SAFE Work Manitoba invests in CSHC students

A surprise visit from SAFE Work Manitoba on May 9 at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate (CSHC) recognized the outstanding creative work of two students. High school students from across Manitoba were encouraged to enter the *Norm the Safety Contest*. The contest asked students to create media projects centred on safety and responsibility in the workplace. Students received a helpful toolkit to begin. Two Grade 12 students at CSHC were selected as finalists but did not know if they

had placed in the top three. When SAFE Work Manitoba arrived at the school, the public agency presented the second place prize of \$1,500 to Jaren D. and the third place prize of \$1,000 to Tanner H.M. The agency matched both awards to present the school with the combined amount of \$2,500 to invest in future programming. Great job to Jaren and Tanner, and to graphic arts teacher Mr. Bilous. This is the first year the school has taken part in the contest, and is looking forward to submitting entries next year!



CSHC students Jaren D. and Tanner H.M. receive second and third place in a safety contest offered through SAFE Work Manitoba. Students are pictured with their graphic arts teacher, Mr. Bilous.

Badminton duo earns bronze at Provincials

For the first time, the Manitoba High School Athletic Association hosted a provincial badminton tournament at the Junior Varsity level. The 2019 tournament was held in Winkler on May 3 and 4. A total of 160 teams qualified for the event in the categories of boys and girls singles, boys and girls doubles and mixed doubles. In the mixed doubles category, two Grade 10 students from Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate, Ella R. and Aidan M., finished first in Pool C in the round robin. As they moved onto the semi-finals, they were defeated by Miami in two sets. Competing for third place, the Huskies played Leo Remillard and won the third set, 21-16. Congratulations to Ella and Aidan and to coaches Mr. Janzen Roth and Mr. Vermette.



Grade 10 CSHC students Ella and Aidan. ST. JAMES-ASSINIBOIA SCHOOL DIVISION

A mosaic is worth a thousand words

A combination of talent, teamwork and time bring mosaics to life inside our schools. Mosaics showcase student creativity and reflect educational themes and priorities in SJASD. The latest example is a new installation inside Crestview School.

"It starts with the school picking a theme," explained artist Dimitry Melman. "This one was all about diversity."

Dimitry specializes in painting and creating mosaics. His mosaic masterpieces are featured in many SJASD schools, as well as at City Hall and throughout the city. The latest project stemmed from the Divisional Integrated Arts program, allowing professional artists to share their knowledge and expertise with students.

"There is a specific method that I developed to get all of the kids involved," said Dimitry.

All of the classes met with Dimitry to sketch their ideas for symbols to include in the mosaic. After receiving

hundreds of sketches, Dimitry developed one large sketch, combining the different elements shared by the students.

"If everyone likes it then I cut it into sections and we begin, section by section," said Dimitry.

Students collaborate to follow colour patterns and shapes as they fill the section with multi-coloured tiles. The tiles are ordered from Italy, Spain and Portugal and vary in thickness to offer dimension to the creation.

"The smile was hard because I had to find the right tiles to fit the ends," said Grade 2 student Darius R.

"I did the recycling sign and had to find the exact pieces to do the points of the arrows," explained Grade 3 student Camryn M.

The final design included seven people holding hands to reflect both the seven continents and the seven teachings. The smiles on the people, the six people who were created using one colour of tile, symbolized the six C's of 21st century learning.



On April 9, artist Dimitry Melman guided each class at Crestview School through the process of applying grout to a mosaic. He is pictured with Grade 4/5 students.

The students named the six C's by heart: collaboration, citizenship, creativity, character, critical thinking and communication. Also depicted on the mosaic is the medicine wheel, a recycle symbol, a math problem, a

light bulb, a heart, a multi-coloured hand print and a plant. When asked what the mosaic makes him think about, Darius said, "Caring about other people, caring about nature and taking care of our community."

3rd Annual SJASD Grad Pow Wow

On May 30, SJASD held its 3rd annual Graduation Pow Wow celebration at John Taylor Collegiate. Each year, the event is held at a different high school in SJASD to honour the achievements of graduating Indigenous students across the Division. This year a total of 32 students were celebrated at the event, with representation from all five high schools. Thank you to everyone who attended and showed their support for the event as we saw a turnout of approximately 400 people. A special message was delivered in honour of Elder and Veteran Joseph Meconse, who has supported SJASD Pow Wows each year. Congratulations to all 2019 Pow Wow celebrants!



Alumni returns to share important message with the next generation



On April 25, Tyson Langelaar visited Crestview School to tell the students about his career in speed skating.

He is a Next Gen skater in the National Program. He has achieved gold, silver and bronze medals and has travelled all over the world with his sport. Tyson talked about how hard he practiced and how he dedicated a lot of time to achieving his dream to compete professionally in speed skating.

Tyson is an amazing role model. His visit was inspirational as he encouraged all students at Crestview School to follow their dreams no matter what they decide they are passionate about!

Submitted by a Grade 5 student

Tyson is pictured with his kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Kellie Straub (right), and his mom, Mrs. Langelaar, who has been teaching Kindergarten at Crestview since Tyson started school.

Stars collect cuddles for kids in crisis

Strathmillan students are helping find new homes for their previously-loved stuffed animals.

Grade 4 student Calla P. found out about *Cuddles 4 Kids* from her mom, who works as a social worker. After learning about the non-profit organization, she asked her friends to help her launch a drive at school.

Cuddles 4 Kids was founded in 2013 by 10-year-old Madison V. and her 13-year-old cousin, Cameron H. The students developed a partnership with the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) to provide stuffed animals for children in crisis. For the past six years, the WFPS team have been handing out stuffed animals or "cuddles" to children riding in ambulances or who are in emergency situations. The cuddles are donated by schools who bundle up new or gently-used stuffed animals and

donate them to the program. These cuddles offer comfort and safety during difficult times, and build a network of kindness among youth.

Calla P. teamed up with school peers Liberty J. and Cara L. in March to raise awareness for *Cuddles 4 Kids* at Strathmillan School. These young ambassadors sent home letters, made posters and spoke on morning announcements to encourage students to bring in donations. In three weeks, the school collected more than 400 stuffed animals, which will be donated, cleaned and then presented to children who need a cuddle. *Cuddles 4 Kids* is currently looking for new ways to distribute their donations to help more children receive cuddles when they are in distress. For more information, visit:

@Cuddles4KidsWpg on Facebook.



Grade 4 students Calla P., Liberty J. and Cara L. with the Strathmillan donations.

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