



Great Schools for
Growing and Learning

St. James-Assiniboia School Division

Summer Issue 2017

CONTACT



SJASD earns 10 medals at Skills Competitions

Page 4



Voyageur celebrates Arbor Day and Canada's 150th

Page 6



1st SJASD Grad Pow Wow

Page 7

www.sjasd.ca



"We are all Hawks" A new chapter at Hedges Middle School

It was a year of transition as two schools with their own cultures, history and programs came together to create a thriving school. The 2016-17 school year saw what happens when Knights come together with Hawks. The majority of the staff and students of Ness Middle School joined the staff and students of Hedges Middle School to create something special.

One year ago, we were two distinct schools with a great deal of school spirit. We were each facing the challenges that come with declining enrolment impacting our capacity to deliver diverse programming – from sports and arts to other extracurricular clubs - which larger enrolments enjoy.

The opportunity to bring together the very best of each of us under one roof and to do so seamlessly has meant a better and more dynamic educational experience for staff and students alike.

"I really liked that all my friends joined me when I moved to Hedges and yet I immediately made many new friends," shared Grade 7 student Kylie A. "I feel that I have more choices than ever now that our two

schools have come together."

The greatest challenge was in letting go of how we previously identified – whether it be as a Ness Knight or as Hedges Hawk - and embrace our new and shared identity as an all new Hedges Hawks with a wider wing span.

"Having taught at Ness for over 10 years, it's amazing just how much we identify with the schools we teach at," mentioned Hedges Teacher and school play co-director Leanne Stuart. "Once we learned to let go of the past and embrace this new year, we saw the many rewards that come with amalgamation including new opportunities to partner with other talented and creative educators and draw upon the resources of a larger school such as the Hedges Theatre."

We are stronger together. We bring out the best in one another and we are enriched by our diversity and the coming together of our two histories. Above all, from this year forward, we are thrilled to say that we are all Hawks.

Submitted by Teacher Mr. Coates

2017-2018 BUDGET SUMMARY

Provincial Funding

- St. James-Assiniboia received a (2%) cut in Provincial Funding after five consecutive years of 0% increases

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

- St. James-Assiniboia 13.111 (2017)
- St. James-Assiniboia 12.415 (2016)
- Metro Average 14.034 (2017)

Property Assessment

- St. James-Assiniboia 2017 Portioned Assessment increased by 0.79%
- Metro Average 2017 Portioned Assessment increased by 1.31%

Gross Operating Reserve

- \$3,118,407 or 2.88% of 2017/18 operating expenditures (Provincial Government guideline is 4%)

Average Home Value

- \$267,600 (2017)
- \$266,600 (2016)

School Taxes on Average Home

- School Tax Increase 5.61% (\$83.82 or \$6.99 per month)

Operating Expenditures

- Operating expenditures \$108,289,892 (2017)
- Increase of \$2,377,384 or 2.24%
- Many of the Operating Expenditures have offsetting revenues

Major Initiatives

- 5-Year Plan for the repairs/renovations of school buildings (\$11.5 million)
- 5-Year Plan for Technology Network upgrades and replacement (\$8.6 million)

Administrative Costs

- Administrative costs are 3.13% (the Provincial Government guideline is 3.50%)

For additional information, please visit our website at www.sjasd.ca

(BUDGET continued on next page)

2017-2018 BUDGET

Comments from the Chair 2017/2018 Budget



A combination of declining provincial support (-2%), increasing enrollment, rising salary costs, greater student support needs, and slow property assessment growth made the 2017/2018 budget deliberations very challenging.

In 2017, the local autonomy of the Board of Trustees has enabled all programs to be maintained while continuing to offer the second lowest taxation rate in Metro Winnipeg. A public budget meeting was held on March 2, 2017 where the Board of Trustees presented the 2017/2018 Draft Budget and received input. A budget survey was provided at this public budget meeting and on the School Division website. Results from the budget survey indicated that 83% of respondents rated the School Division as Very Good or Good at managing taxpayers' dollars.

The 2017 /2018 Budget represented an equitable balance between the priorities of educational requirements for our students and fiscal responsibility for our stakeholders. As the provincial government reviews education funding it will 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 efficient manner.

Chair of the Board of Trustees, Craig McGregor

1.0 BUDGET GOALS

The St. James-Assiniboia School Division (SJASD) has incorporated the following Budget Goals in determining the 2017/2018 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 Legislation on Workplace Safety and Health
- 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 1, 2017 by Minister of Education and Training Ian Wishart indicated a provincial increase of 1.00%. 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
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%
6 Year Total	12.05%	(-1.70%)
6 Year Average	2.01%	(-0.28%)

The 2017/2018 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 2016/2017, the SJASD received Provincial Funding of \$7,387 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 has decreased from 72.95% in 1985 to 53.01% in 2017.

If the current trend continues, Provincial support could decline to only 50% in a few years.

The Provincial support declined in 2017 despite SJASD maintaining the Operating Expenditure increase to a marginal 2.24%.

If the 2017/2018 Provincial Support had been maintained at the same levels as 2016/2017, SJASD would have received \$59,995,345. However, Provincial support decreased from 54.85% to 53.01%, resulting in a shortfall of \$2,015,649.

Budget Year	Provincial Support 54.85%	Actual Provincial Support 53.01%	1 Year 2017/2018 Shortfall
2017/2018	\$59,995,345	\$57,979,696	\$2,015,649

• Tax Incentive Grant (TIG)

The Tax Incentive Grant was discontinued in 2012. In 2017, SJASD will continue to receive the 2011 TIG of \$3,480,523.

• Property Assessment

The 2017 Property Assessment reflects assessed values as determined by the City of Winnipeg. Reassessment occurs every two years.

Portioned Assessment for 2017 has increased by 0.79%.

	2017	2016	Increase	%
City of Winnipeg	\$4,146,570,863	\$4,114,128,346	\$32,442,517	0.79%

In 2017, SJASD has a portioned assessment increase of 0.79%, which is significantly lower than the Metro Average increase in Portioned Assessment of 1.31%.

Other Metro School Divisions are able to provide a smaller increase to their mill rate because their property assessment is rising at a faster rate than SJASD. For example, Pembina Trails School Division Portioned Assessment (as at March 3, 2017) increased by 2.90%.

• 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 one 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 43.75% of the Total Operating Revenue.

Despite receiving a (2%) provincial funding cut, slower growth in portioned assessment, and experiencing significant expenditure requirements, SJASD continues to be committed to maintaining a low mill rate. The metro mill rate average for 2017 is 14.034 mills. The 2017 SJASD mill rate will increase to 13.111 mills.

Tax Year	Constant House Value	Portioned Assessment of House 45%	Education Mill Rate	Education Property Tax
2017	\$267,600	\$120,420	13.111	\$1,578.83
2016	\$267,600	\$120,420	12.415	\$1,495.01
Difference	0	0	0.696	\$83.82

The average home in SJASD will incur a 2017 education tax increase of \$83.82 or \$6.99 per month or 5.61%.

• 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 (see Table B).

The Education Property Tax is substantially reduced by the Education Property Tax Credit of \$700.

2017-2018 BUDGET

• Education Property Tax Credit (EPTC)

The Education Property Tax Credit reduces the Education Property Tax paid by the homeowner and is provided by the Province of Manitoba.

In 2017/2018, the EPTC (\$12,937,685) is deemed a provincial revenue source. Homeowners will receive an EPTC of \$700 on their 2017 property tax bill.

• Gross Operating Reserve

The 2017/2018 Operating Reserve will be drawn down by (\$171,015) to balance the budget.

The SJASD is projecting a June 30, 2018 Gross Operating Reserve of \$3,118,407 or 2.88% of operating expenditures.

The Provincial Guideline is 4% of operating expenditures.

• Administration Costs

The SJASD 2017/2018 Administration Costs are \$3,426,298 or 3.13%. The Provincial Guideline is 3.50%.

• Operational Challenges

- In 2017/2018, the Division faces significant challenges such as:
- 1) No Provincial Funding increases (0.00%) for five consecutive years
 - 2) A Provincial Funding decrease of 2.00% in 2017/2018
 - 3) Projected increased enrolment of 695 students over the next 5 years
 - 4) Slow Growth in Portioned Assessment
 - 5) Aging School Building Repairs (\$11,500,000 – five years)
 - 6) Aging Technology Network Upgrades (\$8,600,000 – five years)
 - 7) Salary Settlements
 - 8) Salary Increments
 - 9) Additional Substitute Costs
 - 10) Benefit Costs (ex. Maternity, Parental Leaves)
 - 11) Rising Service Costs
 - 12) Significant Student Special Placement Costs (\$880,000)
 - 13) Government Regulations (ex. Accessibility)
 - 14) A new block Provincial Allocation formula for Exceptional Student funding

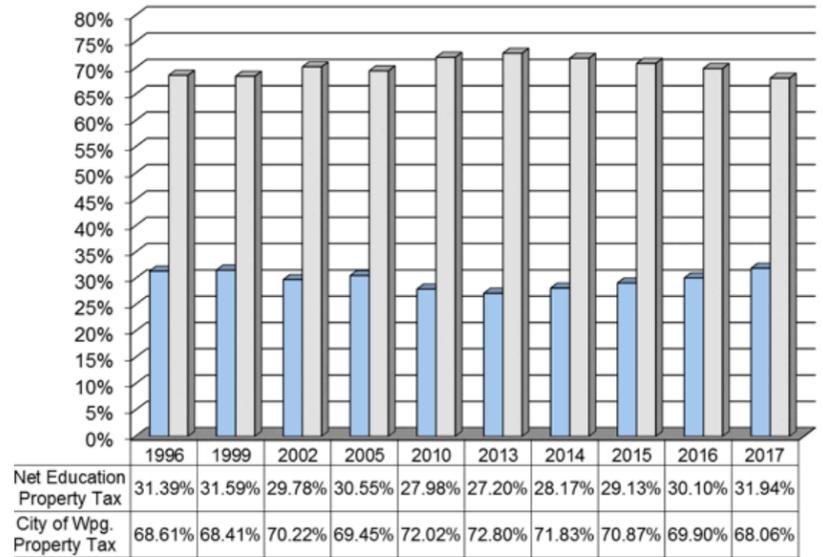
• Expenditure Budget

For the 2017/2018 school year, the SJASD has an operating expenditure budget of \$108,289,892, which is a 2.24% increase from the 2016/2017 budget of \$105,912,508.

Many of the expenditures have offsetting revenues.

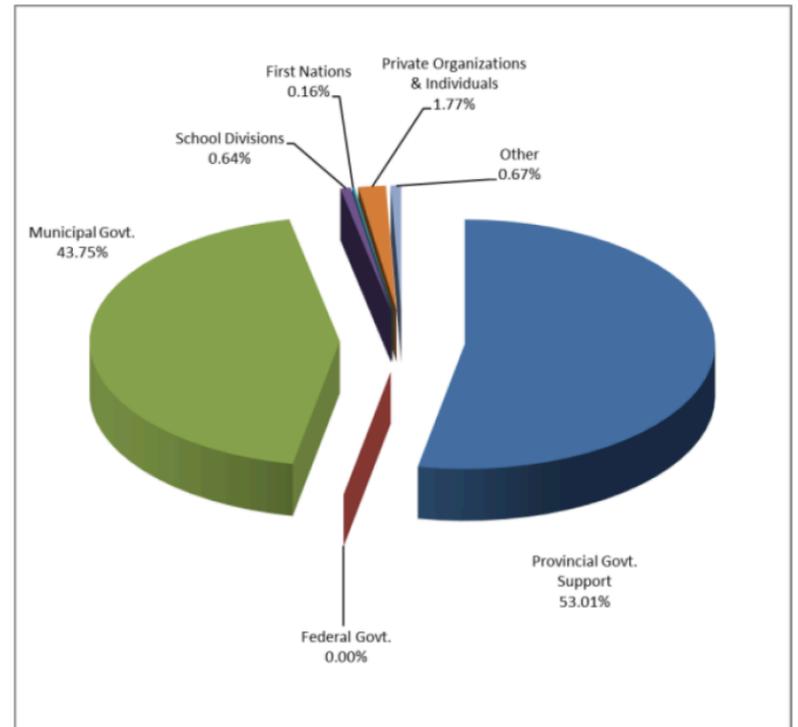
- 1) K - 3 Class Size \$1,202,884
- 2) International Education \$1,170,000
- 3) Continuing Education \$530,000
- 4) Leased Space \$418,585
- 5) Community Schools \$100,000
- 6) Career Development \$75,000

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



Operating Revenue Budget

2017/2018

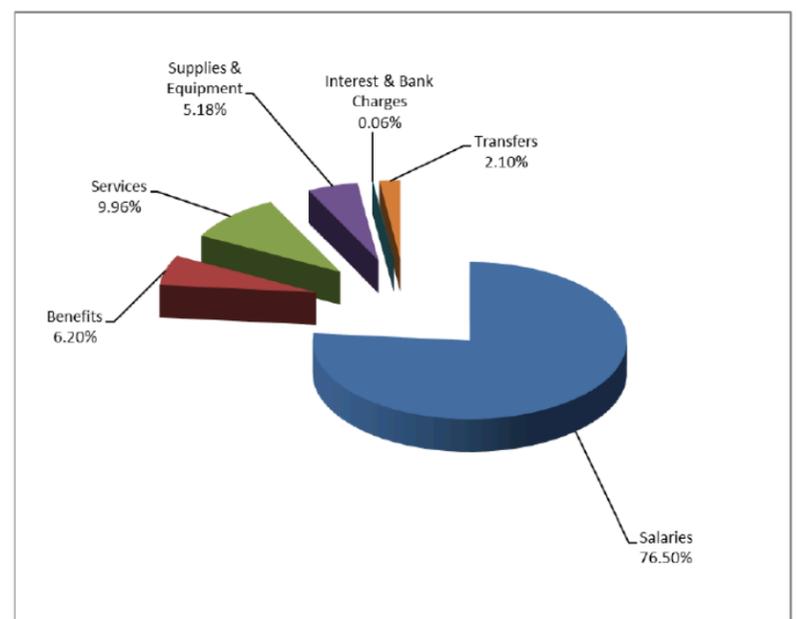


2017/2018 OPERATING REVENUE

		% OF TOTAL
Provincial Govt. Support	\$57,979,696	53.01%
Federal Govt.	\$0	0.00%
Municipal Govt.	\$47,852,773	43.75%
School Divisions	\$704,460	0.64%
First Nations	\$175,000	0.16%
Private Organizations & Individuals	\$1,938,242	1.77%
Other	\$730,585	0.67%
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$109,380,756	100.00%

Operating Expenditure Budget

2017/2018 by Object



2017/2018 OPERATING EXPENDITURES

		% OF TOTAL
Salaries	\$82,843,250	76.50%
Benefits	\$6,711,094	6.20%
Services	\$10,783,609	9.96%
Supplies & Equipment	\$5,614,109	5.18%
Interest & Bank Charges	\$67,700	0.06%
Transfers	\$2,270,130	2.10%
TOTAL OPERATING	\$108,289,892	100.00%

TABLE A

Comparison of Education Tax Costs in Metro Winnipeg 2017 (Based on a home valued at \$267,600)

School Division	2017 (Mill Rate)	2017 (Education Tax)	2017 (MEPTCA*)	2017 (Net Education Tax)
St. James-Assiniboia	13.111	\$1,579	(\$700)	\$879
Seven Oaks	16.126	\$1,942	(\$700)	\$1,242
Winnipeg	15.012	\$1,808	(\$700)	\$1,108
River East-Transcona	13.354	\$1,608	(\$700)	\$908
Louis Riel	13.252	\$1,596	(\$700)	\$896
Pembina Trails	12.427	\$1,496	(\$700)	\$796
Metro Average (excluding SJASD)	14.034	\$1,690	(\$700)	\$990

In St. James-Assiniboia, a homeowner assessed at \$267,600 paid \$111 less in Net Education Tax than the Metro City of Winnipeg average.

* MEPTCA – Manitoba Education Property Tax Credit

2017 Property Tax Bill

An average home in St. James-Assiniboia in 2017 was assessed at \$267,600. An example of the 2017 property tax bill for the average home is detailed below.

Table B

2017 Tax Bill

Status Code	Class	Portion	Assessed Value	Portioned Assessment
Taxable	Residential	45.0	\$267,600	\$120,420
Tax				
City of Winnipeg Tax	\$	1,873	68.06%	
Net Education Tax	\$	879	31.94%	
Total Taxes	\$	2,752	100.00%	

A frontage levy of \$300 is assumed in the example.

Programming "PiperBots" in Robotics at John Taylor Collegiate

Student engineers at John Taylor Collegiate are busy creating intelligent robots through experimentation with the LEGO® Mindstorms® platforms!



The student-made robots coming out of robotics class are "intelligent" enough to draw shapes, navigate any maze and follow a randomized path. The Grade 9 students are gaining problem-solving and beginner programming skills through their design projects in a fun, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) environment.

"I would rate this class a 11/10," said Grade 9 student Phil I. "This is a very enjoyable class with lots of projects to challenge you and really test your problem solving and team work abilities."

First, the students use the concepts of basic movement to create robots capable of drawing shapes and writing letters. After mastering this

skill, the students are taught an array of different sensors a Mindstorms® robot can use to detect aspects of its environment. Using the Touch and Ultrasonic/Infrared sensors, the students laboured to design a robot that could navigate any maze provided.

While Phil described the Maze Navigator Project as very tough and troublesome, he also said, "it felt so great when I was able to build and program a robot that successfully navigated the maze using a touch and ultrasonic sensor."

The students went on to incorporate Light/Colour sensors as well, which enabled their robots to follow a path made from black electrical tape. For the remainder of the course, the class is working towards designing their



own Robo-Dragsters using the Sound sensors to participate in a drag racing competition. The student teams will then propose a final design project to summarize their learning throughout the course.

"I would really recommend this course to anybody who enjoys problem-solving and programming robots," said Phil.

Submitted by Teacher Mr. Hardman

SJASD students shine at Prov. and Nat'l Skills Competitions

On April 13, more than 500 students from across the province gathered at Red River College to compete in the 20th Annual Skills Manitoba Competition.

Students from Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate (CSHC), St. James Collegiate and Westwood Collegiate represented St. James-Assiniboia School Division at Skills Manitoba 2017. While some students went for the experience and did not compete, others achieved personal bests and earned themselves a spot on the provincial podium.

At the event, all of our students demonstrated talent, creativity and passion in their respective fields, as well as the ability to work well under pressure. With 42 skilled trades and technology contests spanning six industry sectors, our students competed in the following categories: Baking, Cooking, Electrical Installation, Graphic Design, Hairstyling, Job Skill Demonstration, Photography, Public Speaking and Website Development.

The philosophy of the Skills Competition, according to the Skills Manitoba website is to "reward students for excellence, directly involve industry in evaluating student performance, and keep training

programs relevant to employers' needs."

A total of eight students in our Division medalled in their respective categories, all of whom attend CSHC, bringing home three golds, two silver and three bronze medals.

Our three gold medal finalists, Jose I. (Electrical Installation), Emily V. (Job Skill Demonstration) and Emma L. (Public Speaking) went on to compete at the Skills Canada National Competition, which was held in Winnipeg on May 31 to June 3 at the RBC Convention Centre. Skills Canada is the only national, multi-trade and technology competition for students and apprentices in the country and our students did an exceptional job performing at the event. Our Division is very proud of these three students for qualifying for Nationals and would like to extend a special congratulations to Jose I., who earned gold in Electrical Installation and Emily V., who received silver in Job Skill Demonstration.

To all of the students who participated in Skills Manitoba and Skills Canada this year, amazing job and we can't wait to see where these skills lead you in the future!



Three CSHC students move on to compete at Skills Canada Nationals. From the left: Emily V., Emma L., and Jose I.

2017 Skills Manitoba Medalists

-  **Gold**
Jose Inoc, Electrical Installation, Emily Villaneava, Job Skill Demonstration, Emma Lewis, Public Speaking
-  **Silver**
Liam Sherlow, Photography, Peter Mierau, Website Development
-  **Bronze**
Madison Milot, Graphic Design, Aaron McLachlan, Baking, Aimee Souka, Public Speaking



Mentors and more at Young Women's Conference

As part of our Division's ongoing Grade 5-12 Career Development initiative to educate students about career choices, 54 female students in Grade 8 in SJASD participated in the 2017 Young Women's Conference.

The conference, hosted by Skills Manitoba, was held on April 13 at Red River College. Four middle schools represented our Division at the event: Bruce Middle School, Ness Middle School, Hedges Middle School and Lincoln Middle School. The field trip to Red River College was one of many career-related activities planned this year in our schools and proved to be a great experience.

At the conference, students received a tour of Red River College and were introduced to a female trade mentor at each table. As the day went on, students had the opportunity to try out a number of hands-on, trade-related activities and ex-

ercises in the afternoon. While 10 students from Lincoln Middle School attended, a few offered to share their thoughts about on conference.

"I personally like the machines," said Grade 8 student Lianne K. "They let us try all of them, which made it interesting and fun to do. I liked how they didn't take a lot of time to explain and let us learn hands-on."

"One of my favorite parts of the conference was learning how to lay bricks in the Masonry workshop," said participant Morgan P. "I found it very interesting and neat to practice this hands-on activity."

"I really liked doing the 3-way circuit because I learned that there are certain tools to attach and bend wires," said Lincoln student Julie J. "The best part was the lightbulb turning on when the last connection was made."

Submitted by Teacher Ms. Doerksen

Coming Events for 2017/18 School Year

Wednesday, August 23

All schools in SJASD will be open with secretarial staff in attendance.

Tuesday, August 29

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

Monday, September 4

Labour Day: No School

Tuesday, September 5

Inservice: No School

Wednesday, September 6

Early and Middle Years Triad Conferences

Thursday, September 7

Early and Middle Years Triad Conferences

Friday, September 8

Early and Middle Years
First Day of Classes

Tuesday, September 12

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

Notice of Parent Meetings

St. James-Assiniboia schools will hold Annual Meetings to establish a Parent Council or a 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! Please contact your school for the date and time of the meeting.



On May 11, the aviation students at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate ventured out to St. Andrews Airport for their favourite annual field trip. The students in the aviation program spend the day touring the St. Andrews Control Tower and Harv's Air facility, flying a flight simulator, sitting in on ground briefings and best of all, experiencing flight firsthand, many for the first time. Each student is encouraged to go up for a discovery flight to experience what flying a plane is really like. They sit in the pilot's seat and learn how to climb, turn, speed-up and descend with their flight instructor. One of the more experienced flyers in this year's class, Sayge T., took off and landed the plane by herself for the first time. Others went up for the first time and you could feel the adrenaline and excitement beaming off them when they landed. A huge thank you to Harv's Air, Aviation teacher Mr. Vodopivec and the air traffic controllers at St. Andrews Tower for making this day such a rich educational experience for all. As an added bonus, Sturgeon Heights Principal Mr. Pelletier and Assistant Superintendent Mr. Wake joined the day as well, engaging with students and also going up for a discovery flight!

The Gourd Rattle Project: Integrating Aboriginal Culture Through Art and Music

In the 2016/17 school year, Buchanan School embarked on a school-wide project that drew generous participation from our wider community. This project supported many curricular outcomes in subjects such as social studies, music, science and visual art. The project is called The Gourd Rattle Project.



Since its inception in the spring of 2016, members of our neighbourhood and school community participated in growing gourds in their backyards, followed by picking them and laying them out for months to dry. Once the gourds were dried, countless volunteers scrubbed and gutted the gourds for the students to use.

Every student in Kindergarten to Grade 5 was given a gourd to paint. They began by mapping out their designs on paper, and transferring them to the gourd with paint in the four colours of the medicine wheel. Students were given demonstrations of a variety of art techniques, including using elastic bands to create an interesting pattern, drawing animals from The Seven Teachings and creating point art. Once the students painted their gourds, they had the opportunity to give their gourd a voice by filling it with different sound-making materials. Finishing touches were put on the gourds with beads, feathers and leather.

The students learned about the use of rattles in Aboriginal communities within Manitoba, Canada and

the world. They also watched performances by Aboriginal musicians using gourd rattles to accompany their music.

The Buchanan students celebrated their work at a school-wide Rattle Celebration on February 23. At this event, students played their gourd rattles as one as they sang "All One People" by Saskatchewan singer/songwriter Joseph Naytowpow, followed by "Today I'm Gonna Try And Change the World" by Johnny Reid. Manitoba musician Cory Campbell opened the event with a welcome song and accompanied us on the drum as we sang. The celebration focused on the theme of reconciliation. With the idea that getting to know one another is an important step in reconciliation, each classroom wrote a letter introducing themselves to the school and community.

On May 17, the Buchanan School choir was invited to perform at the Manitoba Legislative Building as part of Music in Our Schools Month. Students encored their performance of "All One People" and "Today I'm Gonna Try and Change the World,"



accompanied by their gourd rattles. These choir students will also be working with Cory Campbell this spring to create an original song to be played with their rattles.

The Gourd Rattle Project led to students incurring a deeper, more meaningful understanding of Aboriginal culture, music and what it means to reconcile with members of our school, community and country. Submitted by Teacher Miss Queen

Mending Broken Relationships

A Truth and Reconciliation Project

Jameswood Alternative School has been on a year-long journey exploring Truth and Reconciliation. The students have been learning about Canada's history and the broken relationships between settlers and Indigenous people. In an effort to create a physical symbol of their learning, reflective of their commitment to reconciliation, Jameswood Alternative School began The Blanket Project.

Jameswood Guidance Counsellor Ms. Ansloos came up with the idea for The Blanket Project after she mended a blanket to honour a local Indigenous woman who passed away. She received an overwhelmingly positive reaction to her work and decided to team up with Jameswood Principal Mr. Miller and Indigenous Education Teacher Mrs. Waters to help bring the concept to Jameswood.

Using Hudson Bay blankets as symbols of Canada, students worked through our country's difficult history by tearing and ripping blankets to tangibly show breaches in relationships. Indigenous Education Teacher Mrs. Waters presented six teachings focussing specifically on these relationships in the areas of government, education, community, family, health and youth. Students then embarked on the challenging task of mending these blankets in a beautiful and meaningful way as a symbolic act of reconciliation. The process had



From the left: Mrs. Waters, Mr. Miller, Ms. Ansloos, Trustee Chegus, Chief Superintendent Mr. Lough, Trustee Lethbridge, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Wake, Trustee Smukowich (Vice Chair) and Trustee Hume.

such a tremendous impact on the students and staff involved, they desired to share the project with all of the Senior Years schools in our Division.

On May 23, Jameswood Alternative School held a Blanket Ceremony to celebrate their learning. A mended blanket was presented to a representative from each high school in SJASD, including: Principal Mr. Dueck, Westwood Collegiate; Principal Ms. Steffler, St. James Collegiate; Principal Mr. Pelletier, Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate; Vice Principal Mrs. Kent and Guidance Counsellor Ms. Grant, John Taylor Collegiate; and lastly, Chief Superintendent Mr. Lough and Assistant Superintendent Mr. Wake, School Board Office. As seen above, the ceremony was also attended by four School Board Trustees

including: Trustee Bruce Chegus, Trustee Sandy Lethbridge, Trustee Ed Hume and Vice Chair of the Board Cheryl Smukowich. The blankets will be on display in all five respective locations for students, staff and the community to view. Jameswood Alternative School also donated one blanket to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The Blanket Project is one example of the important steps our Division is taking to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action and we would like to commend the Jameswood school community for being leaders in this national initiative.

Dream Catcher Team at JT

In its third year of growth at John Taylor Collegiate, we are very proud of the accomplishments of our Dream Catcher Team. This team of staff and students has been busy building knowledge, awareness, and respect for learning about Indigenous culture. Meetings were held twice a month from October–March and the following themes were explored through a wide variety of activities:

- Health and wellness (SpiritFusion, smudging, medicine wheel teachings)
- Celebration of history and culture (Festival du Voyageur, cultural workshop at St. Norbert Behavioral Health Centre, Elder visit – Stanley Kipling, attending graduation pow wows and including the Honour Song into our graduation ceremonies)
- Social justice (tour of Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Human Rights Conference)
- Academic and career success (study skills and exam preparation, Hanwakan Whitecloud visit and presentation, career and Post-Secondary Preparation)
- Building relationships and making connections among students, staff and community
- Rec and Read mentorship with University of Manitoba and Buchanan School

We are looking forward to many more years of learning with this active, thoughtful and inclusive group!

Submitted by Vice Principal Mrs. Kent

Buchanan explores Wampum Belts

The multi-age students in Rooms 1 and 9 at Buchanan School invited Ms. Renee McGurry from the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba to teach them about treaties and wampum belts.

The original wampum belt, made from beads of sea shells, tells stories of important events of the First Nations people. There are many kinds of wampum belts and each one records important events through patterns and colours. The wampum belt represents agreements and promises lasting "as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and rivers flow," in other words, forever. The Wampum Belt is not to be worn, but rather given as a gesture of respect, thanks or understanding at a celebration.

With careful thought of pattern and colours to represent meaning and tell a story, the students created their own wampum belts using beads. Room 9 created a Lego wall, displayed in the school's library, to display their Lego wampum belts. The goal and inspiration for the school's Lego wampum belt wall is to have students continue building the wampum belt by working together as a school community for pride, peace and unity. The boys and girls are holding hands in friendship. The circles represent the world where everyone is equal.

Submitted by Teacher Mrs. Calheiros



Can you help?

If you have any extra Lego bricks at home that are not being used, the students at Buchanan School would greatly appreciate any size of a Lego donation. A donation of Lego bricks would help to provide creative and innovative experiences for more students! To arrange pick up, please call Sandra at (204) 888-0680 or they can be dropped off at Buchanan School, 815 Buchanan Blvd. Your support is greatly appreciated!

New water fountains at École Bannatyne

A group of citizenship-minded and visionary students from École Bannatyne's Student Voice Team paid it forward to their school community this past year. The students will be leaving behind a legacy in the form of access to fresh drinking water for all future students as they move onto middle school next fall.

Near the start of the school year, three students from M Dvorak's Grade 5 classroom, Sydney, Sofia and Jaelynn, discovered the water fountain on the second floor was dated and could not be used to refill water bottles. Inside École Bannatyne, three classrooms were recently re-opened due to increased enrollment. Before this past year, the rooms on the second floor hadn't been used in over 20 years.

In their own words, Sydney, Sofia and Jaelynn put together the write up below to share the steps they took to gain new school water fountains.

At the beginning of the year, we noticed that we weren't able to fill up our water bottles using our water fountains, which meant that we

weren't drinking enough water every day. We went home and talked to our parents and together we came up with the idea to install a water-bottle filling station at École Bannatyne, so that everyone could stay hydrated.

We wrote a proposal to our Principal, Mme Boyko, explaining why we thought we needed the station and how much it would cost. Mme Boyko loved the idea and supported the work we had already done. She also suggested we ask some friends to help with the project and we named ourselves H2O Inc.

Next, Mme Boyko helped us bring the proposal forward to our School Division's Maintenance Department. At about this same time, we also discovered one of our Dad's company could donate a water-bottle filling station at no cost! We were so excited when we realized our plan was actually going to happen and we were going to make a change for everyone in our school!

For the next few months, we worked together and created to-do lists for who would be responsible for what.



Finally, we decided that since we were lucky enough to have something like this happen, including a Dance-A-Thon Fundraiser and the sale of re-usable water bottles for all students, we should figure out a way to pay it forward to help someone else in our community. We are so happy our efforts raised \$160.26 to be donated to an organization that helps kids with disabilities and also works towards finding cures for diseases! The Children's Rehabilitation Foundation is really important to one of us, so we suggested that any money raised go towards their organization.

We sold the re-usable water bottles because it would make sense for every student at Bannatyne to have their own water bottle and also to prevent students from bringing disposable water bottles to school.

In conclusion, it is our last year at École Bannatyne and the two, new water bottle filling stations will be installed during the summer. We won't get to use the station, but we are still really happy our idea was a success because we know many students to come will enjoy using the stations!"
Submitted by H2O Inc. and Principal Mme Boyko



Regal Celebration Maple to ring in Canada's 150th

As we look back on the schools we attended in our younger years, certain events stand out above the rest. Arbor Day 2017 will likely be one of those memories for the students at Voyageur School.

Each spring, the City of Winnipeg Urban Forestry Branch sponsors a school in Winnipeg to celebrate Arbor Day. Voyageur School applied in writing for this opportunity and was selected to host this special event. To follow, the school received more exciting news when Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba Janice Filmon expressed a desire to join their Arbor Day celebration.

On May 31, the entire school gathered on the front lawn of the school, alongside parents, community members and local dignitaries, to participate in a two-part Arbor Day tree planting ceremony and celebration. While the first tree to be planted, a Siberian Larch, represented Arbor Day 2017, the second, a Regal Celebration Maple, symbolized a sustainable way to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of

Canada.

The Regal Celebration Maple is a special tree variety combining western maple trees and maples in Eastern Canada. It was developed over two decades by Jeffries Nurseries in Portage La Prairie. This day marked the first Regal Celebration Maple tree planting in Manitoba in 2017.

The students enjoyed presentations from Manitoba Lt.- Gov. Janice Filmon, City Councillor Mr. Morantz, Chief Superintendent Mr. Lough and City Forester Ms. Barwinsky. Also, Grade 4 student Bennett B. (pictured on front page) was recognized as the winner of the Arbor Day t-shirt design contest. Her design was featured on all of the t-shirts at the Arbor Day in the Park event, held on June 3 at St. Vital Park. The ceremony capped off with a Tree Song sung by the student body and led by Indigenous Education Teacher Ms. Scott. The two trees are now planted on the front lawn at Voyageur, which will be a beautiful addition to the school's 50th anniversary celebrations coming up in May 2018.

Story Paddle Auction supports Water Solutions in Canada

Buchanan School embarked on a school-wide project called "Water Is Everyone's Responsibility."

As many communities in Canada are faced with shortages of clean drinking water, Buchanan students are learning about this crisis and taking action. Throughout this learning project, they are also gaining a greater appreciation for access to clean drinking water and how it should not be taken for granted.

Friends, family and community members have been involved in this endeavour and have shared their artistic talents and inspirational messages and quotes on wooden Story Paddles. Each paddle is unique in design, as is the story behind it! The Story Paddles are now on sale at Buchanan School. All profits from the sale will be donated to WaterAid Canada and the Lake Winnipeg Foundation.

To place a bid on a paddle, or to see the paddles available for auction, visit www.buchanan.sjssd.net.
Submitted by the Buchanan School Aboriginal Academic Achievement Committee



Congratulations Graduates!



Class of
2017

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

Pipers soak up Canadian History in Quebec and Ontario

A group of JTC students went on an exciting adventure this spring with Mr. Bruce and Mrs. Kent to Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa! The tour started in Montreal where the group was able to visit old Montreal, enjoy authentic French-Canadian cuisine, and of course, shop along the infamous St Catherine's street.

The group travelled to Quebec City where once again traditional fare and festivities were enjoyed. Old Quebec provided a glimpse of what one of the oldest streets in Canada looks like, as well as some significant historical sites that shaped our nation. The students were treated to an evening at a traditional sugar shack, where they indulged in more traditional cuisine such as pea soup, maple syrup, crepes, ham, maple syrup, and did I mention maple syrup? Some students even got up to play the spoons and dance!

Finally, the group ended the tour in the nation's capital, Ottawa. Among the many visits and tours in Ottawa, most notable were the Parliament of Canada, the National Art Gallery and the Canadian War Museum. Throughout the trip, our students learned about the history of Canada, its impact in the world, and picked up some French along the way!

Submitted by Teacher Mr. Bruce



CONGRATULATIONS

Special invite to Univ. of Waterloo

Every February, thousands of students across Canada write in the national mathematics contests from the University of Waterloo. This year, due to her outstanding achievement on Fermat, the national Grade 11 mathematics contest, John Taylor Collegiate student (Malinda) Linhui Huang was invited to attend the University of Waterloo's Invitational Mathematics Workshop at the end of May.

It is a prestigious honour to be invited to meet and work with members of the Faculty of Mathematics at the University of Waterloo. Malinda was really excited when she found out about the opportunity and eager to participate in the week-long workshop. She said there were a total of 61 participants there from all across the country, including three from outside Canada.

"We did a lot of math problem problems, listened to the lectures and then did some math games," explained Malinda. "I had fun and met a lot of smart people."

At the event, she made new friends from across the country with whom she hopes to keep in touch with and felt motivated by the other participants involved. It encouraged her to continue to work hard at her studies in both math and science — her two favourite subjects. Congratulations, Malinda!



From the left: Mr. Bychuk, Mrs. Orloff, Principal Mrs. Palmer and Minister of Sustainable Development Cathy Cox.

Excellence in Sustainability

On May 10, three staff members from Strathmillan School attended the Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Awards at the Manitoba Legislative Building. Strathmillan School received an honourable mention in the category of Education for Sustainability recognizing the school's commitment to water stewardship. The nomination for the award came from the school's local charity partner, the Lake Winnipeg Foundation. During the 2015/2016 school year, Strathmillan School selected "Water" as their educational theme and embarked on school-wide journey to explore and understand the issues facing our local waters. With a strong focus on sustainable development via water stewardship, the school carried out lesson plans, fundraising campaigns and extra-curricular activities to engage the entire school. Congratulations to Strathmillan School on all of your hard work!

Westwood earns prestigious nods at Musicfest Canada



Westwood Collegiate earned exceptional honours at Musicfest Canada 2017 in Niagara Falls. The Senior Jazz Ensemble earned Gold and bass player Carter L. received the Honour Award, recognizing him as the top player of their performance. The Vocal Jazz Polysonix group earned Silver and Carter K. received the Honour Award. Lastly, Aidan Clarke received an incredible honour as he was presented the Outstanding Canadian Drummer Award for 2017 from Pearl Drums Canada. The award is paired with a complimentary drum set from Pearl Drums. Congratulations to the students and staff who did a fantastic job of representing SJASD at Musicfest Canada this year!

Warriors finish 1st in 2017 Manitoba Envirothon

On May 25-27, a total of 19 teams competed in the Manitoba Envirothon at the International Peace Garden. The competition, hosted by the Manitoba Forestry Association, boasted the theme of "Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship." The team from Westwood Collegiate, consisting of (from the left) students Sean T., Chase H., Luke R., Jarrid B., Alison M. and teacher advisor Mr. Shoemsmith, did exceptionally well at the event.

On the first day, the group participated in 15 Trail Test stations where they answered a series of questions on core topics such as: soils and land use, native plants, wildlife, forestry and water ecology. Mr. Shoemsmith says the students studied all of the material on their own as an extra-curricular activity. The following day, the students delivered an oral presentation in front of a panel of judges sharing their proposed solutions to an environmental challenge related to soil and water conservation. The Westwood Collegiate team received first place in the 2017 Manitoba Envirothon, followed closely by last year's winners, Grant Park High School. Our students will be moving on to attend the NCF-Envirothon, North America's largest high school environmental education competition, in Maryland the last week of July. We wish this Westwood group the best of luck and a great trip this summer!



Photo credit: Larry de March

A fantastic turnout at the 1st SJASD Grad Pow Wow

There wasn't an empty seat in the house at St. James Collegiate on June 1 as the community came out in numbers to support the 1st annual SJASD Graduation Pow Wow.

The graduation pow wow was an important step in St. James-Assiniboia School Division. Lead organizer, Indigenous Education Teacher Mrs. Waters explains, "It was a beautiful community event held to honour and celebrate the accomplishments of our Indigenous graduates, and serves as an inspiration for our younger students."

On the day of, a total of 35 self-declared Indigenous students donned their graduation robes in the Grand Entry procession. The graduating Indigenous students represented all five senior years schools in our Division.

As members of the community travelled from all across the province to attend, countless volunteers brought the celebration to life. The community of dancers in full regalia flashed beautiful and bright colours as they moved across the gymnasium floor. The drumming circles were full of participants who carried the Pow Wow through each step of the evening.

After the starting pipe ceremony, there was a community feast and student performances from three of our elementary schools: Buchanan School, Brooklands School and École Assiniboine. Then, the Grand Entry procession saw the Eagle Staff, flag carriers, Elders, veterans, honoured guests, dancers and graduates make their way to the centre of the gymnasium for an opening blessing. Chief Superintendent Mr. Lough and St. James Collegiate Principal Ms.



Steffler brought greetings on behalf of the school division and welcomed everyone to the Pow Wow. President of the St. James Scholarship Foundation Mr. Alexander followed by announcing a new scholarship award called The Indigenous Leadership Award. This award will be presented for the first time to a deserving student in SJASD at a graduation ceremony this June in the amount of \$1,000.

As graduates were called up one-by-one, they were gifted with a certificate, a tassel for their graduation cap in the four colours of the medicine wheel, and a medicine bag. After all of the students had been recognized, the graduates stood in a semi circle in the centre of the gym as everyone came up to shake their hands, hug and congratulate them. Thank you to the volunteers and sponsors who made this event possible and we are already looking forward to the SJASD Grad Pow Wow 2018!

SJCI invited to launch Special Olympics Awareness Week

On June 1, the Special Olympics team at St. James Collegiate was celebrated at the Manitoba Legislative Building. Students and staff were invited to attend a special barbecue lunch on the grounds with Members of the Legislative Assembly. The St. James Collegiate team represented student athletes for a Minister's statement celebrating Special Olympics Week (the second week of June each year). As well, the SJCI team was recognized in a member's statement by MLA Scott Johnston, for their accomplishments in their first year with Manitoba Special Olympics. Congratulations, Jimmies!



Four SJASD finalists break down energy at the 56th Canada-Wide Science Fair

While four students in our Division qualified for the 2017 Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF) with four very different projects, a common theme prevailed — energy!

“What if you could make energy while you walk?” asked Grade 8 Bruce Middle School student Tharindu K. with his project “Energy Harnessing Backpack.” Meanwhile, fellow Grade 8 Bruce student Rowan N. researched alternative energy and examined the efficiency of agrofuels and fossil fuels with her project “Is That ‘Oil’ You’ve Got?”

Our youngest CWSF participant this year came from Lincoln Middle School, Grade 7 student Sameer B. He aimed to discover more about solar energy and find out why it is referred to as “the future of energy.”

Lastly, returning CWSF participant Grade 9 Collège Sturgeon Heights

Collegiate student Noah D., researched if the material of a baseball bat would affect the amount of energy transferred to a baseball.

These four students were chosen to represent our Division at the CWSF based on their outstanding achievement at the 51st Divisional Science Fair, held on April 5. The students all continued to research and grow their projects in preparation for the national fair, which took place May 14-20 at the University of Regina. The CWSF featured 400 projects selected from 25,000 regional science fair participants from across the country.

All four students did an exceptional job presenting and defending their projects at the event. A special congratulations to Tharindu and Noah who both earned bronze medals in their respective categories, Junior and Intermediate, and also received



From the left: School Board Vice Chair Cheryl Smukowich, School Board Chair Craig McGregor, finalist Rowan N., finalist Noah D., finalist Tharindu K., finalist Sameer B. and Trustee Sandy Lethbridge.

\$1,000 entrance scholarships to Western University. Great job to all

four participants and best of luck in your future science endeavours!

The writing is on the wall, window, and desk at Linwood

At Linwood School, one of our school goals this year has been to work with our students in their ability to persevere in problem solving and show an increased appreciation for the role making mistakes plays in learning. To quote Jo Boaler, “If kids are not making mistakes – if they’re not struggling – we’re limiting their brain growth.”

One of the ways we have been working on this goal as a school, is by using non-permanent markers on various surfaces. This encourages risk taking. The students aren’t afraid to try a strategy or attempt an idea when they know it can easily be erased, adjusted and they can just try again.

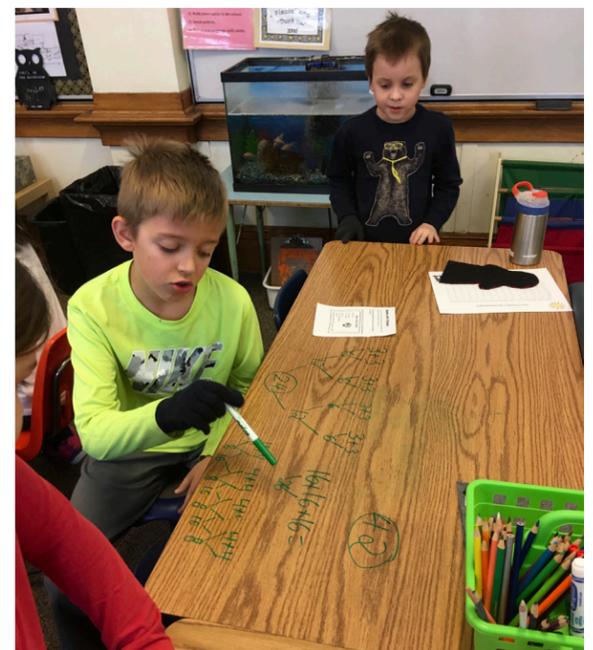
The students have enjoyed being able to work through math problems while writing on their desks, windows and cling on sheets hung throughout the classroom. When discussing the process with students in one of our Grade 2/3 classes, Jalen said one reason he likes it is, “It erases easily!” Zti added that, “If you make a mistake you can just erase it and



restart.” Rhianna said, “Everyone makes mistakes” and Zti jumped in again saying, “Yah, you learn from your mistakes!”

When problem solving with these tools, students collaborate to solve difficult problems, persevering together, making mistakes, erasing, trying again and growing their brains!

Submitted by Teacher Mrs. Jensen



Radio Hosts are all the rave at Ecole Browning

Grade 1 students in Mme Rothwell’s class at Ecole Robert Browning had the pleasure of welcoming Ace Burpee, Chrissy Troy and Lloyd the intern from Hot 103 into their classroom.

This fantastic team of radio hosts stopped by Ecole Robert Browning on March 22 to celebrate reading, learning and plain old fun. Not only did we teach them one of our favourite songs about bubble gum and have a Q & A activity, but we also chanted ‘mix it, fizz it, love it’ as they added the final ingredient to our Special Radio Punch we invented just for them. Special Radio Punch is a mix of blended frozen strawberries, pineapple, scoops of ice-cream and 7-up of course! In preparation for our visitors, we spent time collaborating in small groups to brainstorm ideas of what should be in our special drink for Ace, Chrissy and LTI.

Room 5 students also prepared one question each that they wanted to ask. We used our math skills to ensure we had an equal number of questions for all three of our guests. All students in room 5 practised their public speaking skills when they stood to ask their question. Regan’s question: “Ace, did you catch a leprechaun on St. Patrick’s Day” was reportedly the favourite question of the visit. We enjoyed a lunch including boiled hot dogs, puffed wheat squares and rippled chips (just a few of Aces’ favourites).

To say thank you for their visit we selected, edited and compiled the photos and videos taken during the visit to create a digital thank you card using Animoto. This visit from local celebrities gave our Grade 1 students the opportunity to practice many skills including math, reading, writing, presenting and using technology. We had many laughs with Ace, Chrissy and LTI and hope to welcome them back again soon!

Submitted by Teacher Mme Rothwell

Online Summer School

July 4 to July 28, 2017

Registration is now OPEN. Click the Registration button at the top of the page and fill in your form!

www.informnet.mb.ca



Why Online Summer School?

- Summer school may not be available in your local area.
- Summer employment may not be possible with structured summer school hours.
- Online summer school can be accessed from cottages or vacation areas throughout the world.

How much does it cost?

- Each online summer school course costs \$200

Need more information?

- Contact your school counsellor or school administrator
- Visit our website: <http://www.informnet.mb.ca/summer.html>

Our success belongs to you!

Thank You!

The St. James-Assiniboia School Division Board of Trustees is proud to say “thank you” to our dedicated students and teachers for their accomplishments during the past year. We also wish to recognize the contributions and support given by the administration, support staff, clinicians, maintenance/custodial staff, bus drivers, volunteers, and the many businesses working in cooperation with the Division.



CONTACT

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

Jen Cameron, Editor
St. James-Assiniboia School Division
 2574 Portage Avenue
 Winnipeg, MB R3J 0H8
 Tel: (204) 888-7951