



Great Schools for  
Growing and Learning

St. James-Assiniboia School Division

Fall Issue 2018

# CONTACT



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The newly-formed St. James Collegiate and George Waters Middle School Peaceful Village group with team lead Surafel Kuchem at the program grand opening held on October 2.

## The Peaceful Village Program moves into SJASD

A new program opens its doors in SJASD to help enhance the overall success of students, particularly those who are new to Canada.

The Peaceful Village Program launched in 2009 as an educational process facilitated by the Manitoba School Improvement Program (MSIP). The program offers academic, social and financial support, as well as unique opportunities to help support students, especially youth who are new to Canada, in school communities across Winnipeg. There are currently more than 600 youth and their families participating in the program at five village locations across the city. Four villages are located within Winnipeg schools and one village runs out of a community site.

On October 2, The Peaceful Village Program opened its sixth and newest location inside George Waters Middle School (GWMS) and St. James Collegiate (SJCI). The grand opening event saw a gratifying turn out of more than 120 students, staff, family and community members gather inside the GWMS gym. The evening offered information about the program, presentations from students at other sites, live entertainment, food and music. The entertainment demonstrated a celebrated aspect of the program called "Passion Projects." The projects allow village members to participate in different hobbies and activities to explore their interests in a welcoming setting. While this marks the first Peaceful Village Program to open in SJASD, many are already excited and beginning to invest in the program.

"I am very excited about The Peaceful Village program opening up at our school," said St. James Collegiate Principal Ms. Steffler. "We have always known that strong partnerships with students, their families and our community make us a better school. Becoming a "village" beyond the school day will allow us to further support our amazing newcomer students and their families."

The village is open to all students who can benefit from the program as it helps grow new friendships, provides academic support and creates a strong sense of belonging among those involved. This is especially the case for newcomer students who the program was designed to support. The Peaceful Village program provides English as an Additional language (EAL) training, one-on-one or group tutoring, as well as a space for people with like experiences to connect and thrive.

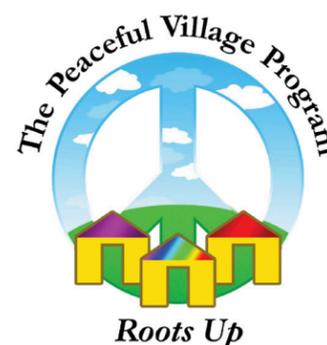
"It is important for students to work with staff who have had similar experiences and can guide them in their experiences as newcomers to Canada," said St. James Collegiate EAL support teacher Ms. Spafford.

The Peaceful Village team leader for the SJASD site is Surafel Kuchem. Surafel came to Canada in 2005 from Ethiopia to attend high school in Winnipeg. He is now an experienced educator who has been teaching math, science and EAL in the classroom for the past three years. Surafel has spent many hours assisting newcomer youth in after-school programs across the city. Our Division is thrilled to welcome him, alongside two support staff and additional volunteers into our school community.

"After school hours are very critical hours for getting students engaged in important, productive activities," said Surafel. "It seems like they were waiting for a space like this where they could make friends and feel they belong."

At the grand opening event, GWMS Principal Mr. Valentim shared how he is already hearing students around the school refer to the program as "Our" village. Within the first two weeks, as it launched on September 19, the program saw more than 60 students participate over the course of two days. A great number of students have also signed up to be peer mentors and volunteers in an effort to be part of the village.

The program runs on Wednesdays and Thursdays after school from 4:00-7:00 p.m. and all are welcome to attend. The Peaceful Village is open to students from other schools in SJASD as well, based on student interest or need. In only a couple of weeks, the program is already well underway with passion projects, active learning and room to explore new ideas. Thank you to everyone who contributed to helping launch this program in our Division and a special thank you to The Peaceful Village Program Director Daniel Swaka for his dedication and leadership. We look forward to seeing where our village will lead us in the future.



## A Message from the Chief Superintendent



Brett Lough, Chief Superintendent

Each year, with the advent of the new school year, those of us involved in the public education system are provided with the opportunity to renew our commitment to providing the best possible learning experiences for the children in our community. As we continue to strive to provide a meaningful, safe and caring environment in order that all students are well prepared to be responsible and productive citizens, the St. James-Assiniboia School Board and staff will continue to provide opportunities to engage our students, their families and the community in the public school experience. The watchwords in education continue to be inclusion and collaboration and our collective commitment to the actions behind these concepts will be critical for the future successes of our children.

To this end, our Division will continue to remain focused on ensuring each of our school sites are respectful workplaces, where all those who enter our buildings are treated with dignity and respect. When disagreements arise, treating each other in a civil manner is certainly the path to better understanding each other's point of view, and more importantly provides a model for the way in which we want future generations to behave in an increasingly diverse world.

We will continue to celebrate our community's diversity through our ongoing work in addressing the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, our support of our gender diverse population, finding ways to reach out to those families that are newcomers to our Division/country, as well as continuing our efforts to make our facilities more accessible and accommodating. The Division will continue to provide the necessary leadership throughout the system that respects the diversity of our community and organization.

In support of the aforementioned work, we will be introducing two programs that will further support, promote and celebrate safe, inclusive places in our Division. Beginning in 2018, the Peaceful Village Program will be offered at St. James Collegiate and George Waters Middle School. The Peaceful Village is an ideal, a location, and an educational process where school and community members work in solidarity to enrich the lives of all members of the 'village.' The creation of the program comes from our belief that the school shares much of the responsibility for the continuous renewal of the community in which it is situated. As well, all staff will receive professional development in the Commit to Kids Program, sponsored by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. This program ensures that our organization and all staff members are well versed in creating safe environments for the children we serve. There will be more information to follow on both of these programs.

Heading into the new school year, we remain confident that our staff will continue to embrace a culture of inclusion and collaboration as critical components of St. James-Assiniboia School Division's ongoing pursuit of providing a quality, engaging education for all students who enter our schools.

*Brett Lough, Chief Superintendent*

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## Pedalling into the new school year at Brooklands

In 2014, Educational Assistant Mrs. Suzuki spearheaded a movement to collect bike donations from the community for Brooklands School. Four years later, the school has amassed a fleet of over 70 bikes through generous donations from family and friends. Physical Education (P.E.) teacher Mrs. Lamoureux is a certified Bike Champion who also teaches road safety. Each year, P.E. classes are spent outside riding bikes in September, May and June at Brooklands School. Last year more than 20 students learned to ride a bike during P.E. class and this year, only a month into school, students are already making great progress.

"I started out on a scooter and then I worked my way up to a glider," explained Grade 3 student Alex R. "Yesterday I was riding a glider and then told Mrs. Lamoureux I want to try a two-wheeler."

Alex says riding a two-wheeler for the first time went really well and he couldn't wait to tell his mom about it after school.

Each student in the school has a specific bike and helmet number posted on the wall inside the gym. This allows students to walk in, reference their class list and then go grab their gear right away. Often student leaders will help their classmates select the bike that is right for them, based on whether their feet can touch the ground, as well as their level of experience and size them for a helmet. These same student leaders also lend a

hand in the school yard.

Rahaf K., a Grade 4 student who came to Canada from Syria in Grade 1, said she already knew how to ride a bike really well when she came to the school. Her dad taught her how to ride at an early age and after being involved in the bike program for a couple years, she is now confident assisting others.

"I was a helper yesterday," said Rahaf.

"I taught some people how to ride scooters so they wouldn't fall off and I just saw a couple people who needed some help and I just had to go up to them."

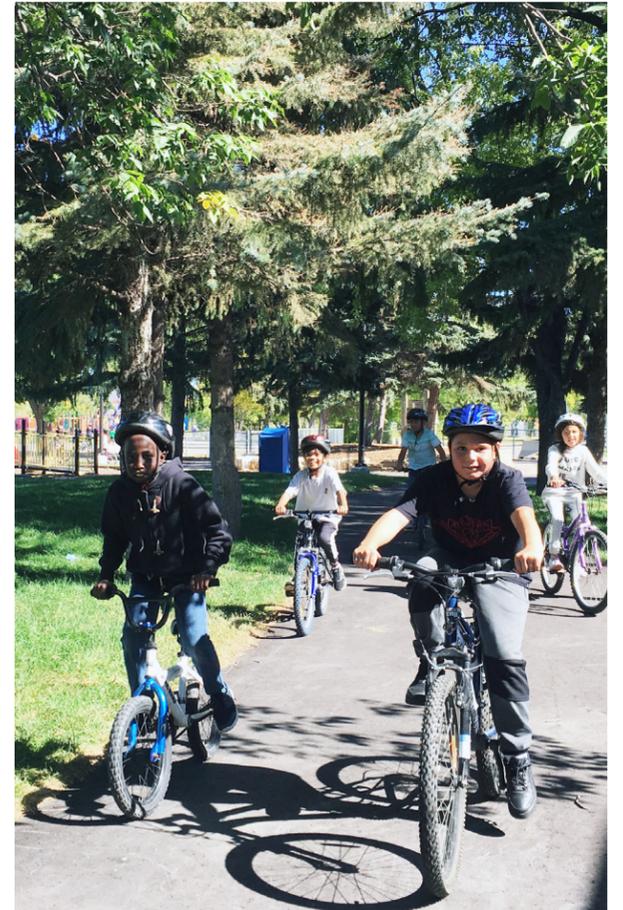
Rahaf's leadership skills evolved into her being a 2018 Terry Fox Student Leader as well.

While riding and leadership skills are great components of the program, passionate students are also gaining hands-on experience fixing bikes. Brooklands School is a host for the W.R.E.N.C.H. education program, which is run by Educational Assistant Mr. Scouten. The eight-week evening course held at the school offers students the opportunity to learn how to maintain and repair the bikes in the fleet or their own bikes. Each year, a dozen Grade 4 and 5 students participate in the program.

"I know how to fix the chain on a bike, how to tighten brakes and lots of other things," said W.R.E.N.C.H. participant/Grade 5 student Lulu L.

Lulu explained how he enjoys riding a bike at school as he doesn't have a bike to ride at home right now after outgrowing his old one. He mentioned one of his favourite school bike activities is Splash Day. Splash Day is one of several special bike events held annually at Brooklands, along with bike obstacle courses and fruit smoothie Bike Blender Day. On Splash Day, students ride around the school yard, pedalling through sprinklers and getting sprayed with water guns squirted by school staff and volunteers. Mrs. Lamoureux says it is always a fun day for all students and staff involved.

The bike program at Brooklands School aligns with a larger school-wide initiative to promote and support active and healthy lifestyles. During



The students of Room 16 at Brooklands School enjoying a September ride.

P.E. class, students often ride two laps as a group around the school yard, which equates to a distance of one kilometre. The program raises the heart rates of students and also teaches the basics of road safety to help them feel more confident biking to school or outside of school. Brooklands School annually participates in the Green Action Centre's "Bike, Walk, Roll" program, which helps track and celebrate active and healthy ways to get to school. Thank you to everyone in the community who has donated bikes over the past four years to help the program reach the heights it has today. An extended thank you as well to all staff members who help organize, maintain and lead the bike fleet!



Grade 4 student Halle G. helping fit Grade 1 student Leen A. for a helmet.

## October is International Walk to School Month

International Walk to School Month, otherwise known as Walktober, gives children, parents, school teachers and community leaders an opportunity to be part of a global initiative to celebrate the many benefits of walking to school. We encourage our students to take safe routes to school, travel with friends or family members and remain alert on the roads.

## Gators zone in on numeracy, literacy and the power of positive thinking

The staff team at Golden Gate Middle School is busy setting the stage for a year of continuous improvement and student growth.

In our classrooms, teachers put best practices for literacy and numeracy instruction into action. To support our literacy goals for students, all classrooms are working to create well-stocked libraries with diverse texts, including Indigenous and Holocaust perspectives. We believe student literacy and numeracy skills extend beyond the English language arts or mathematics classrooms and continue to work with students on making connections across all subject areas. Through collaboration, our school team developed improvement implementation plans where, in some cases the plan has been ongoing, and in others, the plans are new this year.

"Every Gator Reads" is an initiative that began last year to create opportunities for students to read on a daily basis. Each day after lunch, students read a book of their choice within their multi-age homeroom classes. Students provide input and share their interests to help build the selections available in each classroom library. Throughout the course of the year, students are able to participate in a variety of literacy activities including book talks, book speed dating, book reviews and much more.

At Golden Gate, staff are also working to create



Students Willow M., Adam H., and Holly C-L. working to solve the "Problem of the Week."

## Lazers enter Year 2 of Sources of Strength

Lincoln Middle School recognizes the need for a network of supports to help students manage adversity and different stressors. Even students who flourish in the school environment experience situations that challenge their ability to cope.

Each school in SJASD is equipped with a team of staff trained to target social-emotional and relationship supports for students. This team includes guidance counsellors, classroom teachers, administrators and Division-based clinicians. In the 2017-18 school year, Lincoln introduced an additional support by launching the Sources of Strength (SoS) project. Sources of Strength focuses on building peer connections to encourage help-seeking behaviours in times of distress and to discourage negative peer interactions. By developing strong connections with peer mentors and adult advisors, students are drawn into the positive aspects of the school's culture. They also have access to people in their school community who can point them in a direction for formal support if they are in distress. These supports and connections are valued by both staff and students.

Mrs. Mercier, the school guidance counsellor, feels SoS is greatly beneficial to the school.

"We are able to identify students who need help more often because our peer leaders have been trained to recognize help-seeking behaviours and make the appropriate connections for resources and assistance," said Mrs. Mercier.

Two teachers who served as SoS advisors also felt strongly about the impacts of project.

"The positive interconnections SoS fosters help build a strong engaged school community," said teacher advisor Mr. Briggs. "The benefits go beyond our school to the wider community."

Advisor Ms. Mott said the program provides students with a peer social network, which is very important for all individuals, especially youth. She also notes how SoS helps build resiliency among-



Golden Gate students indulging in "Every Gator Reads," a daily reading session held every day after lunch.

a strong culture of numeracy, school-wide. To promote this goal, the school has introduced a new display wall labelled "Problem of the Week." The board stands out with famous quotes and a central location in the main hallway to help draw students into the challenge. The Problem of the Week is a math equation accessible and suitable for all students and staff in the school. Participants work to solve a problem and submit their solution in a drop box. On the following Monday, student achievements are celebrated on morning announcements. Students will be encouraged to think like mathematicians and have five days to submit their answers. The school's numeracy committee has taken an active role in the selection of the problem-solving tasks to be inclusive of many learners.

In addition to the improvement of literacy and numeracy skills, Golden Gate is working to help students be inclusive, accepting and channel the

power of positive thinking. This year at Golden Gate we are about to embark on a school-wide implementation of the ACCEPTS strategy, introduced by Dr. Jennifer Katz to all Division staff on the first day of school. This is a temporary strategy used to give oneself a chance to calm down, gain perspective and escape a negative thinking cycle. At Golden Gate, we believe it is important for students to have the opportunity to have conversations about their beliefs and behaviors. ACCEPTS refers to temporarily distracting an individual from the source of distress and allowing students to demonstrate self-regulation to achieve a positive outcome. Ask your child about their ACCEPTS bookmark and what each letter means to them....it will be a self-regulation tool we will be referring to often throughout the school year.

Submitted by Golden Gate Team Leaders and Vice Principal Mrs. Cordova



From the left: SoS teacher advisor Ms. Mott, Morena, Noah, Nathan, Mikayla, Beck and guidance counsellor Mrs. Mercier.

students as they have supports they can rely on when facing adversity.

Staff are not the only ones recognizing the shift SoS has brought into the school. Students never have to feel as though they are alone and are recommending other middle schools implement the program.

Grade 8 student Nathan M. said, "There is always someone there for you and that is what SoS is all about."

Grade 8 peer Mikayla L. feels SoS should be brought forward not only in high schools, but in middle schools as well.

"I know if I personally wasn't comfortable talking to an adult about an issue, then being able to talk to my fellow peers would make me feel more comfortable," said Mikayla.

Grade 8 peer mentor Morena P. agrees with her classmates and says so many people are going through a rough time during middle school and it's

really important to know that people are there for you to look up to them or go to if you need them.

While Grade 8 student Beck M. feels SoS helps address mental health issues, he also is happy to be contributing to his school environment in such a positive, meaningful way.

"It is a great program that should be offered at every middle school and high school in Winnipeg," shared Noah S. "It is helpful for kids who are struggling and offers them a chance to talk to someone their own age."

More than 26 peer mentors supported students last year, and 21 of those mentors moved on to continue their role in high school. In the second year of SoS at Lincoln Middle School, the team is confident the program will continue to grow, as additional peer mentors will be nominated by staff members to act as a connection between struggling peers and adult supports within the school.

Submitted by the SoS team at Lincoln Middle School



# THANK YOU TO ALL!

Each year hundreds of individuals and corporations assist St. James-Assiniboia School Division in different areas and activities. We would like to thank the following sponsors and supporters for working with us during the 2017-2018 school year and helping our students benefit from strong learning partnerships in the community.

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 Headingley Library  
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 Healthy Start for Mom and Me  
 Heritage Park Children's Center - Jameswood School  
 Heritage Park Children's Daycare - Heritage School  
 Hilmar Venture  
 Immanuel Pentecostal Church  
 Infinity Development Group  
 Islamic Social Services Association  
 Jump Rope For Heart - Heart and Stroke Foundation  
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 Kid City  
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 Pratt's Wholesale  
 Project Echo Inc.  
 Pure Essence Spa Salon  
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 Safe Teen  
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 Safeway  
 Sage Garden Greenhouses  
 Salvation Army Thrift Store  
 Samborski Environmental Ltd  
 Save on Foods  
 Scholastic Books  
 Sets on Corydon  
 Shoppers Drug Mart  
 Sigfusson Daycare  
 Siloam Mission  
 Silver Scissors  
 Singletons Hair Co.  
 Skills Manitoba Canada  
 Sobeyes  
 Society for Manitobans with Disabilities  
 Special Olympics Manitoba  
 Sport Chek  
 St James Canucks  
 St. Amant  
 St. James Art Club & Historical Museum of St. James - Assiniboia  
 St. James Cafeteria Management  
 St. James Continuing Education  
 St. James Electric  
 St. James Lanes  
 St. James Legion Branch #4  
 St. James-Assiniboia Public Library  
 St. John Ambulance Training Centre  
 St. John's Music  
 Stevenson-Britannia Adult Literacy Program  
 Sturgeon Creek Automotive and Machine Co.  
 Sturgeon Creek Retirement Home  
 Subway Restaurant  
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 YM-YWCA  
 Yoga Public  
 Youth Employment Services  
 Zoological Society of Manitoba

## Golden Gate hosts “The Amazing Race Canada”

On September 25, all Grade 6 classes at Golden Gate Middle School embarked on their first in-school journey of “The Amazing Race Canada.”

To kick off the race, students heard the words, “On your mark, get set, go!” They quickly ripped open their envelopes, just like on “The Amazing Race” reality show, and discovered their route information for their team. Each team, made up of three or four students, branched off to a different Canadian province or territory to begin their first challenge.

“All the groups are random in between classes so they are working with kids they don’t normally work with,” explained teacher Mrs. Walpole. “This creates community building and team building within the whole Grade 6 class.”

The tasks incorporated all subject areas, pieces of French, math, science and physical education, but placed a heavy emphasis on learning the Grade 6 social studies curriculum.

“It was really fun, we got to move around the school and learn lots about Canada,” said Grade 6 student Max M.



Max said he learned a lot about the Canadian Pacific Railway, such as how long it took to build and how many people were involved.

As students travelled through different areas of the school, completing challenges with their teammates, they also realized their individual strengths as learners.

Grade 6 participant Sophia W. said her friend Taylor was so good at remembering details and



facts. While Sophia said she contributed to a challenge by being able to unscramble words quickly.

This is the first time Golden Gate has carried out an “Amazing Race” challenge and the inaugural exercise went quite well. As it was a challenging race, only one team finished in the allotted time with minutes to spare. That being said, all of the students engaged in solving many difficult questions and collectively gained a greater appreciation for different regions of Canada. The project stemmed from a team collaboration between Ms. Blair, Ms. Vendramelli and Mrs. Walpole in an effort to create a fun, dynamic learning experience for their students. Several other staff members also contributed by helping schedule and supervise the students and a group of 15 Grade 7 students volunteered to run the stations during the event.

“It was nice to see the Grade 7’s take an opportunity to be leaders within the school and highlight the different things they learned last year and reiterate that to the Grade 6’s,” said Ms. Vendramelli.

Due to the success of the event, the race is already being tweaked and modified to run again next year.

## Take Our Kids to Work Day, Nov. 14

*“The program supports career development by helping students connect school, the world of work, and their own futures.” - The Learning Partnership*

Take our Kids to Work Day is an annual Canada-wide event where Grade 9 students enter the workforce for one day to gain experience, as well as insight, into future career possibilities. A family member, friend, relative or local volunteer hosts a student at their place of work and introduces them to that specific job environment. This year’s Take our Kids to Work Day is being held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018.

Thank you to all of our local employers. We appreciate your cooperation and support on this important day. We hope all of our Grade 9 students enjoy their experience this year and are able to take away something valuable from the day. For more information, or if employers would like to register for Take Our Kids to Work Day, please visit: <http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca/>

## Forum for Young Canadians welcomes Michayla

Grade 11 Westwood Collegiate student Michayla C. is travelling to Canada’s capital to experience a learning opportunity of her dreams.

Over the summer, Michayla found herself browsing through the Parliament of Canada website in search of provincial or local summer job offerings. While doing so, an advertisement for the Forum for Young Canadians caught her eye.

The Forum for Young Canadians is a week-long educational program aimed at developing leadership skills in Canadians aged 15 to 19. The forum is an opportunity for students from across Canada to grow their knowledge of government, democracy and citizenship, as well as meet various leaders in the Canadian public sphere.

Michayla submitted her Curriculum Vitae along with a letter of motivation outlining her desire to attend. Soon after, she learned her application had been accepted and that she would be flying to Ottawa the week of October 21-26 to experience Canadian politics firsthand. She shared the exciting news with her art teacher, Ms. Teichroew, who supported her in the application process, and is now actively preparing for the experience.

“I am extremely interested in politics so being able to go to Parliament Hill and meet the senators and the people who decide our day-to-day politics and debate all these bills is a lifetime dream of mine,” said Michayla. “Especially to be in Parliament and getting to go to the Supreme Court.”

Michayla is enrolled in the Grade 12 global issues class at Westwood, which follows daily politics, and also studies IB history. She keeps up with global news by following different media outlets on her phone and watching the nightly news. She is also a mem-

ber of the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) group at the school and is anticipating sharing what she learns with her peers upon her return.

“It’s really important for me to take back information and my experience to the GSA and different programs in my school and classes,” said Michayla.

With the forum quickly approaching, Michayla is ready to be a voice for youth in our country and make the most out of this opportunity. On behalf of SJASD, we wish her a fantastic experience in Ottawa.



Westwood Collegiate student Michayla C. is preparing to attend the Forum for Young Canadians in Ottawa.



## Election Day 2018

The City of Winnipeg Municipal and School Board Election Day is October 24, 2018. School boards are elected in our province to carry out the planning and delivery of educational services within geographic regions known as school divisions. In St. James-Assiniboia School Division, our community elects a total of nine School Board Trustees to represent three different wards in our Division including: the King Edward/Deer Lodge Ward, the Silver Heights/Booth Ward and the Kirkfield/St. Charles Ward.

For more information on the upcoming election, including candidate information and voting details, please visit <https://winnipeg.ca/clerks/election/election2018>

## October is National Principals' Month!

The Learning Partnership announced the month of October as National Principals' Month!

Our principals make a tremendous difference in all of our schools and we wish to thank them for the exceptional work they do! To nominate a principal to be honoured as one of Canada’s Outstanding Principals, visit [www.thelearningpartnership.ca](http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca).

The hashtag for the initiative across Canada is #OutstandingPrincipals. Let’s share our stories!

## Coming Events for 2018/19

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

**Tuesday, October 16**  
Early Dismissal

**Friday, October 19**  
Inservice: No School  
MTS PD Day

**Wednesday, October 24**  
School Trustee Elections  
Jameswood Fall Awards, 11 a.m.

**Thursday, October 25**  
College Sturgeon Heights Collegiate  
Fall Awards, 2:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 6**  
Early Dismissal  
Inaugural School Board Meeting  
7:00 p.m., 2574 Portage Avenue  
Public Welcome

**Thursday, November 8**  
Divisional Choirs Fall Concert, 7:00 p.m.  
Westwood Community Church

Visit our Divisional Calendar at [www.sjasd.ca](http://www.sjasd.ca) for additional details on Division/school events.

## Athlone students present special gift to Residential School Survivors

At the end of the 2017-18 school year, Divisional Indigenous Education Teacher Richelle Scott and Grade 3 teacher Mrs. Krahn-Matias teamed up to offer an in-depth residential schools unit at Athlone School.

All Grade 3 students at Athlone School received the instruction as an entire class. Throughout the unit, the students engaged in a number of cross-curricular activities, storytelling sessions and group projects. Richelle began by sharing pictures, events and stories of relatives, friends and members of the larger community who were forced to attend residential schools. Hearing stories and seeing photographs of people and events helped students develop an understanding and an appreciation for Indigenous culture, human rights, and the sorrow that residential schools caused.

Each visit began with Richelle playing a traditional song on her drum, which the children always requested. The Grade 3 class became familiar with the meaning of the songs, the type of situations the song might be used in, and after a few visits, happily joined in and sang together.

As the unit evolved, many Indigenous students in the class offered to share their spirit names, the meaning of their names, and individual backgrounds or stories. Some students were already aware of the residential schools system as they had grandparents or great grandparents who had been forced to attend. Together, the students learned about and reflected on how difficult this experience must have been for their family member and others in the community.

The *Treaty Tales Trilogy* written by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, is an example of some of the literature the students read on the topic, including many other picture books centred on Indigenous culture and human rights. The class also made comparisons between their school, Athlone, and residential schools, identifying many key elements such as learning environment, rules, supports and family involvement. They also covered the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

At the end of the unit, students brainstormed with both teachers on what reconciliation means, what it looks like, and what they could do as an act of reconciliation. Students were extremely moved by what they learned and understood that the heartache and hurt created by residential schools is still present in our communities today. They were deeply empathetic to what Indigenous children and families had endured and wanted to be part of the mending and healing process. Their level of understanding and insight became evident



Grade 3 students at Athlone School engaging in an outdoor ceremony as part of the residential schools unit. The students completed their studies by donating a special book to residential school survivors and planting a butterfly garden in their honour.

in the letters they opted to write. A few anonymous student excerpts are listed below:

"It was wrong to take children away from their families and rob them of their culture."

"If I was there I would have been terrified and cried for my family."

"I feel terrible because our government made residential school to try to get rid of Indigenous culture."

"You never got the freedom to be a child...I will always celebrate Indigenous culture and never let anyone do something like residential school again."

"I can't be away from my parents for one night. You had to be away from your parents for a year."

"I am unbearably heartbroken for what you went through."

After the letters had been completed and illustrated, they were laminated and bound together to create a book. The book was brought to the permanent circle and rock memorial for residential school survivors located at The Forks, just outside the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The book was left in a large Ziploc bag to protect their work from the outdoor elements. Richelle used social media to invite survivors to go to The Forks and read the book the Grade 3 class had created for them. The students also painted colourful rocks with words of inspiration etched into them, such as hope, love, freedom, and respect. Gramma Shingoose, a well-known community member who attended residential schools, responded on social media after she went to pick up her rock and said, "All I can feel is warmth and love from the rock."



Nature is another important aspect of Indigenous culture in which the class covered throughout the unit. The students learned about taking care of the earth, protecting the land and water and not taking or using more than one needs to survive. As an additional act of reconciliation, the students opted to plant a butterfly garden. The garden serves as a reminder that while our country has made mistakes in the past, there is always an opportunity to evolve and grow from our history. Just as a caterpillar transitions to a butterfly, we could all be part of a positive change to celebrate culture and be a loud voice when human rights are being violated. The garden is planted in front of Athlone School with seven new plants to attract butterflies. A plaque is also being made to recognize that the garden was planted to honour the survivors of residential schools.

The positive and meaningful impact of the residential schools unit cannot be overstated. The students now recognize the many injustices Indigenous families endured and know that further healing needs to be done. Under their watch, this violation of human rights will not be repeated. Submitted by Athlone teacher Mrs. Krahn-Matias

## "Every Child Matters" brought to the forefront at Buchanan School

This year, Orange Shirt Day was declared as Sunday, September 30. This led to schools across our Division honouring the initiative a little early, much like the efforts made this year at Buchanan School.

Orange Shirt Day is held annually to reflect and raise awareness about the residential school system, as well as to honour residential school survivors. The important day grew out of Phyllis' Webstad's account of losing her new orange shirt on her first day of school at the Mission. Since 2013, the day has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools alive. Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and community agencies to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. As a step toward the Truth and Reconciliation Call To Action, Buchanan School held an Orange Shirt Day assembly on September 28, 2018.

"Our goal is to create awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools through Orange Shirt Day activities," shared the school organizers.

All students and staff wore an orange shirt to the assembly which shared the message, "Every child matters." The shirts were designed with those three words in the seven different Indigenous languages of the people who signed Treaty One. Community members were asked to help with writing this phrase in their language. Prior to the assembly, students took part in educational lessons to better understand the meaning behind Orange Shirt Day.

"It is about supporting all of the people that had to leave their moms and dads and families and they got their clothing taken away and they had to cut their hair," said Grade 2 student Breanna E. "They probably felt really, really bad because they missed their mom and dad and family."

The assembly began with drumming by Cory Campbell and an introduction by Assistant Superintendent Ms. Cost. A class video was created and shared to showcase student voice whereby students responded to the question, "What does reconciliation mean to you?" This allowed students to connect with their peers and learn from one another. Orange ribbon was fashioned into brace-



lets and the older students printed "Every Child Matters" on the ribbons as they distributed them to guests at the assembly. The Buchanan School gym was filled with students, special guests, family and community members. After a poetry reading and group song, the assembly concluded with everyone dancing the round dance.

As the year progresses, Buchanan students will understand more about the true history of Canada. A quote shared by Wab Kinew at the Youth

Forum last year, "When we fail to learn Indigenous history, we miss out on Canada's history." As further learning about Truth and Reconciliation occurs this year, students will have many opportunities to learn more about Indigenous culture and customs and wear their orange shirts. A special thank you to students Ava R. and Krista A. for hosting as emcees at this year's assembly. Submitted by the Buchanan Indigenous Committee

# CONGRATULATIONS

## Jimnies recognized for Global Citizenship Efforts

Two student groups from St. James Collegiate are leading the way in global citizenship.

In the 2017-18 school year, St. James Collegiate students Paolo R. and Aaleigha C. collaborated to raise the profile of sexual harassment issues by creating a hallway installation centred on the #metoo movement. The project showcased how widespread the issue is and encouraged others to learn more about the topic.

Fellow students Kira E. and Nicole R. opted to research and share information about sustainable lifestyles and waste reduction. Their project highlighted environmentally friendly alternatives to meet daily needs and encouraged others to take steps to help build a more sustainable future. Both projects caught the attention of the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC), and were selected to receive two of four 2018 MCIC Outstanding Take Action Awards.

Each year, the Manitoba Council for Interna-

tional Cooperation (MCIC) presents four awards to young global citizens across the province who are enrolled in the Global Issues: Citizenship and Sustainability course. The MCIC believes successful international development work goes hand-in-hand with efforts to build understanding of international issues within Manitoba. The steps taken on behalf of these students to create dialogue around diverse global issues and empower others to become involved earned each project an Outstanding Take Action Award. The award is comprised of a \$250 cash prize, a certificate and a public recognition at a graduation ceremony.

On June 12, all four Grade 12 students, as well as Global Issues teacher Ms. Tuchscherer, attended the MCIC's annual general meeting to receive their honourable recognitions. Congratulations to both groups on all of their hard work, and thank you to Ms. Tuchscherer who provided continuous support and guidance.



From the left: St. James Collegiate students Aaleigha C., Nicole R., Kira E. and Paolo R.



The SJASD Children's Concert Choir at a local performance during the 2017-18 choral season.

## Children's Choir earns 2nd at National Festival

The St. James-Assiniboia Children's Concert Choir performed at ChoralFest Manitoba and at the Winnipeg Music Festival in the 2017-2018 choral season. At the 100th Annual Winnipeg Music Festival, the choir earned a prestigious bursary, the Winnipeg Mennonite Children's Choir Alumni Golden Era Bursary selected for artistry, as well as an adjudicator recommendation for advancement to the 2018 National Music Festival, Class 107 Margaret Wharton.

SJASD Children's Concert Choir Director, Ms. Heather Neufeld, submitted a recording of the group's performance at the Winnipeg Music Festival to the National Music Festival in July of 2018. Soon after, she received news that the submission had earned 2nd place in Class 107 Margaret Wharton. The Children's Concert choir is made up of 66 singers in Grades 5 and 6 across the Division who practice once a week for an hour and a half. The group's hard work paid off as this is the first time this choir has placed at Nationals, and we are exceptionally proud of each choralist for their part in earning this national recognition.

"The Children's Choir singers and families are thrilled with our achievement and recognition at the National level," shared Director Ms. Heather Neufeld. "This is a huge honour, and we're so proud to represent St. James-Assiniboia on the national stage."

## Warrior named CTV's Sports Star of the Week



Kate W. in the Westwood Collegiate gym upon being told she is CTV's Sports Star of the Week.

Grade 10 Westwood Collegiate student Kate W. plays flag football, volleyball, hockey and works to maintain an 86% average. Her commitment to football, passion to excel in athletics and positive attitude all factored in to her being named CTV's Sports Star of the Week. Kate received the recognition the last of week of September, 2018.

"My family has been a really big influence on me," said Kate. "My dad is a football coach and he introduced me to the sport. He's coached me every year I played except for two."

Kate started playing flag football when she was seven years old. Now at age 15, she spent the summer playing quarter back for Team Manitoba. During the summer season, the team competed at the U16 Regional Flag Football Championship in Regina and finished third.

"It's a really cool experience being able to throw for my team," said Kate. "The thrill of throwing a touchdown is honestly the best feeling."

CTV's Sport Star of the Week honours athletes from across Manitoba and we wish to congratulate Kate on this outstanding recognition. Best of luck playing in the winter season!

## SJASD Torchbearer for 2019 Canada Games

Grade 9 Westwood Collegiate student Rylan B. is one of 100 inspiring Canadians who will be carrying the torch at the 2019 Canada Winter Games. Rylan will be attending the Games as a member of Team Manitoba competing in Wheelchair Basketball.

The 2019 Canada Games are taking place in Red Deer and central Alberta from February 15 to March 3. The event will welcome more than 3,600 athletes, managers and coaches from across the country, as well as over 20,000 visitors. The torchbearers have an integral role in igniting the spirit of the Games and were selected for their outstanding contributions to sport, youth and community. They will be carrying the Roly McLenahan torch in the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay.

"I'm pretty excited about it," said Rylan B. "I've only been to one tournament and I've never been to anything this big so I'm not really sure what to expect."

Rylan imagines he will be pushing his sports wheelchair a specific distance, carrying the torch on the back, and then will present it to the next person. He is happy to accept the role and is also looking forward to the competition.

"We are the youngest team playing in the Canada Games," said Rylan, who will be 15 in January.

Rylan began playing wheelchair basketball two years ago through the Manitoba Wheelchair Sport Association. He quickly advanced to the high performance program, which involves practicing three times a week for two hours. This program led him to attend Junior Nationals and now, the Canada Games. We are proud of Rylan for being selected to be a torchbearer this year and on behalf of SJASD, we wish him the best of luck competing at the Winter Games!

Rylan B.



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



@st.james\_assiniboiasd  
@St.JamesAssiniboiaSchoolDivision  
[www.sjasd.ca](http://www.sjasd.ca)

# “Lights of The North” Show mesmerizes audiences across SJASD

An exchange of wide-eyed gazes, “oohs” and “aahs” and roars of laughter kicked off the new school year at many schools in SJASD. The “Lights of the North” acrobatic show began touring a number of early years schools in SJASD after first performing on September 12 at Brooklands School. The show is a combination of acrobatics, balancing acts, traditional dances, crafts and magic all rolled into one. The display exposed students to the connection between physical literacy and arts education, emphasizing

their learning to real life. The special performance came to the Division through a personal connection and after a single show, sparked the interest of many schools. Student audiences could not believe their eyes when they saw male and female acrobats using all parts of their bodies to support intricate partner lifts and build artistically beautiful human structures, demonstrating tremendous flexibility and strength. While all acts had an air of wonder and amazement, such as the impressive vase balancing demon-

stration, it was the face mask changing act that left students scratching their heads. The “Lights of The North” is the largest lantern light festival in Canada and is located at the Red River Exhibition Park. Winnipeg is the first Canadian City to host the festival, which offers 50 main attractions including the acrobatic show. The event celebrates the Canada-China Year of Tourism and the 30th anniversary of Winnipeg-Chengdu Sister City.

A big thank you to all of the Lights of the North performers for visiting our schools and demonstrating to students the incredible impacts of physical skill and performing arts.



Two male performers balancing on a metal stand on one arm as they rotate and maneuver their bodies into various challenging positions and holds.



The face mask changing act delivered at Brooklands School.



Handstand splits above four female acrobats as part of the “Lights of the North” acrobatic performance.

## Pre-School programming already in motion at Phoenix School

For the past three years, Phoenix School in Headingley has been busy implementing pre-school activity programs for young children in the community.

The 2018-2019 school year marks the fourth year of the *Ready, Set, Kindergarten!* program at Phoenix School. Children participate in a variety of activity stations emphasizing literacy skills, numeracy skills, gross motor and fine motor activities in preparation for Kindergarten. The three and four-year-old children enjoy the stations at their own pace alongside their parents. They are encouraged to try as many stations as possible, or repeat as many as they like. This system in previous years has proven to be a great activity for both child and parent.

Another engaging program on the rise at Phoenix school since 2016 is called *Ready, Set, Move!* The program is offered in partnership with Fit Kids Healthy Kids through Sport Manitoba for children ages two to six. All participants get moving and are active for a full hour once a month, utilizing a variety of age-appropriate physical equipment. The children have fun running around, playing and interacting, while simultaneously boosting their movement skills and meeting new children.

The attendance at both programs has steadily increased as more families in the community have become aware of the programs. The first *Ready, Set, Move!* event took place on October 4 at the Phoenix School from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. *Ready, Set, Move!* will continue to be offered at the same time on the first Thursday of each month for the rest of the school year, with the exception of June. As for *Ready, Set, Kindergarten!*, the program will be held on the last Thursday of the month from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. for the rest of the school year, with the exception of December and June. The first event will run Thursday, October 25 and we hope to see you there!



A special thank you to the community for embracing and supporting both of these worthwhile activities for pre-school children. To learn more about either program, please contact Phoenix School by calling (204) 889-5053.

### JUMP START INTO KINDERGARTEN

◦ AN EVENING FOR 4 YEAR OLDS & THEIR FAMILIES ◦

If your child was born in 2014, you and your child are invited to a special evening to learn and play together.

OCTOBER 17, 2018

6:00PM - 7:15PM

STEVENSON SCHOOL

1777 SILVER AVENUE

Rotate through play-based centres that model how to incorporate literacy & numeracy into your play at home.

**REGISTRATION:** <https://jumpstart-oct17.eventbrite.ca> or call Andy McKiel at 204-837-5886 ext#2110

# CONTACT

Contact is published four times per year for friends of the St. James-Assiniboia School Division.

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