



The Constellation

The Monthly Newsletter of Strathmillan School

FEB
2026

STRATHMILLAN CELEBRATES *LOVE TO READ* MONTH

Our school goals are focused on academic excellence, fostering community, and creating a strong sense of community and belonging at school. What better way to celebrate these goals than by participating in *Love to Read* month in February? We have arranged for multiple guest speakers.

Splendid Guest Speakers!



Cst. Lisa Allison from the Winnipeg Police Service, will read to grade 1 and 2 students on Thursday, **February 5th**. Cst. Allison is our school resource officer, so most students are familiar with her as a regular member of our Strathmillan community.

On **February 9**, Jon Skyrpnyk from Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) will

read Michael Redhead Champagne's book *We Need Everyone* to Grade 4/5s on February 9. MACY represents the rights, interests, and views of children and youth by providing advocacy, conducting independent reviews/investigations, researching systemic issues, and advising government.



Then on
February

18, Strathmillan feature *Hit the Books* 2026, with players from the Winnipeg Blue Bombers football club to promote the importance of literacy by reading aloud to students. On that day, students are invited to wear blue

DOUG EYOLFSON



OVERVIEW

Political Affiliation:
Liberal

Constituency:
Winnipeg West

Province / Territory:
Manitoba

Preferred Language:
English

and gold to school.

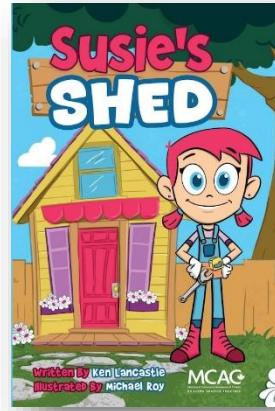
We're hoping that The Honourable Dr. Doug Eyolfson will read to students on **February 19** when members of parliament return to their constituencies for February break. Our people have contacted his people :)

I ❤️ TO READ (continued)

On **February 23**, a volunteer from the Women in Manitoba Trade Contracting Council (WiMTC) will read a book that promotes awareness of trade careers and the important role tradespeople play in our communities. Members from the will visit classrooms or libraries to read the book *Susie's Shed* and lead a short hands-on activity.



Finally, on **February 24**, our member of the legislative assembly (MLA), Logan Oxenham will read to students in the afternoon. Our MLA lives in Kirkfield Park and has been our elected representative in the legislature since 2023.



PINK SHIRT DAY – FEBRUARY 25

Pink Shirt Day will take place on Wednesday, February 25th this year. We invite all students to wear pink on this day to show their support for kindness, inclusion, and standing up against bullying.

Pink Shirt Day began after a group of students chose to support a classmate who was bullied for wearing a pink shirt. Their simple act of kindness grew into an international movement that reminds us all of the power of standing together.

By wearing pink, students promote empathy, respect, and the message that every student deserves to feel safe and valued at school. Thank you for helping us celebrate this important day!



Room 16 Wins Contest in Honour of Mrs. Steuart

When Ezra took the initiative to enter his class, Room 16, into the Domino's *Classroom of the Month* contest, he had no idea what would happen next. But his initiative paid off – they won! Soon after, Radio station CHVN showed up with enough pizza for the whole class!

Ezra's effort says a great deal about the relationships we foster here at Strathmillan. His nomination reflects the positive, caring atmosphere in Room 16, a place where students feel valued, connected, and proud to recognize the people who make their school experience meaningful. When a student publicly celebrates their teacher and classmates, it speaks to something truly special happening in that room.

We're also grateful to CHVN for recognizing classrooms across the city and for spreading such uplifting community spirit. A pizza party is a joyful way to celebrate the sense of belonging that defines our school. Students enjoyed personal pizzas from Domino's along with fun extras generously provided by the station. A big thank-you goes out to Mike Thom and Sylvia St. Cyr for bringing excitement (and delicious food!) to our halls.



During the celebration, Ezra was quick to tell the radio host that he has “the best teacher ever, Mrs. Steuart.” Room 16 students are engaged, connected, and supported, thanks to the strong relationships nurtured each day. As Ezra’s mom shared, “Mrs. Steuart puts her whole heart into teaching the students every day. She looks beyond the assignments and sees the big picture—a future generation of adults.”

Celebrations like this remind us of the power of initiative, community partnerships, and the meaningful bonds formed in our classrooms. Congratulations to Room 16—and thank you, Ezra—for reminding us what belonging looks like.

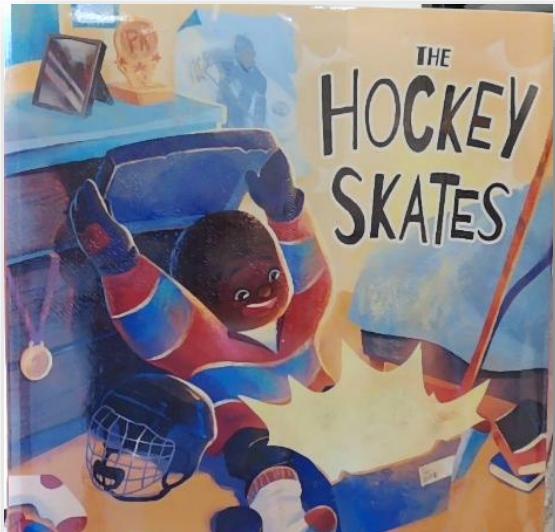
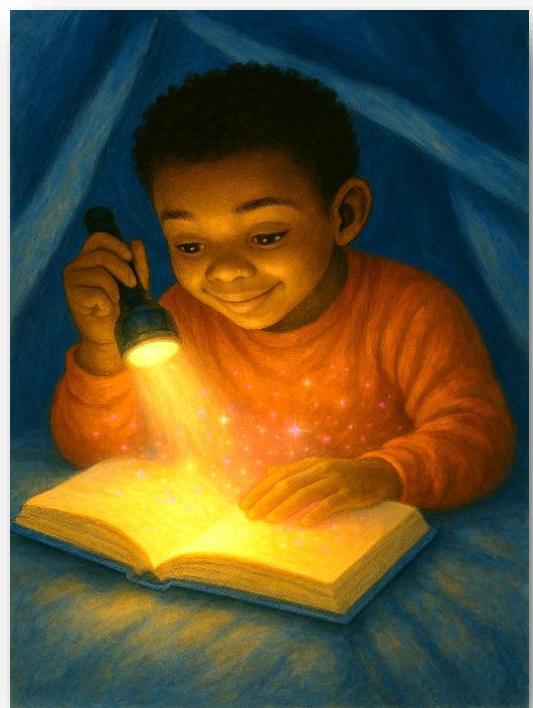
STRATHMILLAN LIBRARY– Ms. Branco

To celebrate I Love to Read Month, every classroom will have a chance to cozy up with a flashlight and enjoy a fun time reading together with our friends. We will have

“Flashlights in the Library” the week of **February 9-13**. Students may bring their own small flashlight on their library day, or they can borrow one from Mrs. Branco for their library period that week. This is only one of the many fun activities planned for I Love to Read Month!



The library will also feature a Guess Who? Contest featuring characters from books. Students will have a chance to view the silhouettes, fill out a contest entry, and enter a draw to win a poster prize.



Subban, Karl and Zeng, Maggie. *The Hockey Skates*.

To recognize and celebrate **Black History Month**, we are reading *The Hockey Skates* by Karl Subban. Karl Subban is a Canadian educator, author, speaker, and well-known hockey dad. *The Hockey Skates* is a storybook inspired by the childhood of P.K. Subban, a former NHL defenseman and the author's son. In this very funny story, little P.K. waits and waits for his hockey skates to arrive so he can play hockey like the hockey heroes he watches on TV. The skates are delivered in the wrong size, and again in the wrong colour. Will the correct skates ever arrive, and will he ever be able to finally play hockey?

P.K. Subban's family immigrated to Canada from the Caribbean in 1970, and P.K. was born in Toronto, Ontario. P.K. Subban played in the NHL from 2009 to 2022 for the Montreal Canadiens, Nashville Predators, and the New Jersey Devils.

P.K. Subban is now a hockey analyst for ESPN.

FEbruary 2026



I LOVE TO READ MONTH!

Sharing Our Stories

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| 1 Read <i>The Rabbit Listened, El Deafo or Other Words for Home.</i> | 2 Complete 3 random acts of kindness. | 3 Create a bookmark that depicts who you are. | 4 Read <i>Chalk</i> by Bill Thomson. | 5 If the book <i>Chalk</i> had words, what would they be? | 6 Create a visual story using photographs. | 7 Visit your local library. |
| 8 Create a playlist of songs that represent who you are. | 9 Read <i>On the Trapline</i> by David A. Robertson. | 10 Ask someone to share their favourite memory with you. | 11 Go on a nature walk and journal using your five senses. | 12 Read aloud to a friend, pet or stuffed animal. | 13 Read <i>/ Like Myself</i> by Karen Beaumont and write down 5 things you love about yourself. | 14 Express your appreciation for someone you care about. |
| 15 Make your favourite recipe and share it with others. | 16 Explore the <i>Kayak Magazine: How Furs Built Canada.</i> | 17 Create a timeline of important events in your life. | 18 Listen to an audiobook, podcast or digital read aloud. | 19 Create a comic strip with a friend. | 20 Read a book published in 2026. | 21 Watch a Pixar short and share your favourite part. |
| 22 Act out or create a puppet show of your favourite story. | 23 Read <i>Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress</i> by Christine Baldacchino. | 24 Create a piece of art showcasing a colour that best represents you. | 25 Create a word search and have someone try to solve it. | 26 Read <i>Hair Love, Starfish or Out of My Mind.</i> | 27 Write about a moment when you felt proud of yourself. | 28 Make a book recommendation to a friend. |

Prepared by: **Reading Council of Greater Winnipeg**
Please visit: <https://rcgw.weebly.com>

STRATHMILLAN PARENT COUNCIL

February Meeting

The next meeting of the Strathmillan PAC is scheduled for 6:00 PM on Tuesday, February 3. The meeting will be held in the conference room (room 17) instead of the library, since the library will be set up for the Kindergarten Information Evening at 7:00 PM. Come out and join us!

Archie's Pizza Fundraiser

Strathmillan Parent Advisory Council (PAC) has announced an upcoming fundraiser to support initiatives such as grounds improvement and grade 5 farewell. Archie's Pizzas are made with Bothwell mozzarella cheese and feature meat products processed in Starbuck, Manitoba. The forms have been sent home already and are due at latest by Wednesday, February 11th. The frozen pizzas will be ready for pick up on Tuesday, February 24, at the end of the school day in the mini-gym.



Grade 5 Farewell Organizing Committee

A separate committee to organize the Grade 5 Farewell has been launched.



MUSIC NEWS – Ms. Dawson

Strathmillan School Choir will be performing the Canadian National Anthem at the Manitoba Moose game on **Friday March 6 @ 7 PM vs Toronto Marlies!** Choir members who are performing can claim one complimentary ticket for the game, family and friends can purchase discounted tickets for only \$22 plus fees!

Ticket Purchase Link: [Strathmillan School Choir](#)

If you have more than 1 student performing in the choir please message sdeasum@tnse.com prior to purchasing your tickets or claiming the choir members ticket.

If 100+ friends and family tickets are ordered each choir member will receive a complimentary Manitoba Moose Toque!

STEPS TO ORDER TICKETS

- 1) Click GET TICKETS
- 2) Click the section you would like to sit in
- 3) Select the number of tickets you require (**including the choir member ticket**) - then click select for the seats you would like.
- 4) Once you have completed adding seats you require to cart - select CONTINUE
- 5) **ORDER SUMMARY** - at this point you will need to enter the discount code: **strathmillan1** to receive the 1 complimentary choir member ticket - please do not enter cc information until you have reviewed cart to ensure price reduction of 1 ticket, correct number of seats & seats selected are together.
- 6) Fill out contact information including the email address that you normally use to access tickets for games or events at Canada Life Centre for the tickets

To manage your tickets for the game please use the new [Official App of the Winnipeg Jets and the Manitoba Moose](#). Once you download the app, sign up for the Jets 360 Rewards Program, then link your Ticketmaster Account in the “More” section of the app. Learn more about Jets 360 [HERE](#). You will be able to load to your wallet on your phone or forward to those that will be attending the game.



GUIDANCE CORNER – Mrs. Straub

Helping Children Stay Safe: Understanding the *Kids in the Know* Program

Parents / guardians and extended family share a common goal: ensuring that children grow up safe, confident, and prepared to navigate the world around them. At Strathmillan, one of our key goals this year is to ensure that we cultivate a safe and healthy school. The *Kids in the Know* program, developed by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, is designed to support that goal by teaching age-appropriate safety strategies in a positive and empowering way.



As guidance counsellor, I go into classrooms and teach key lessons for safety. At its heart, the program helps children build the skills they need to recognize unsafe situations and respond with confidence. It's not about instilling fear—it's about fostering awareness and resilience. Some of the key questions explored in the program include:

- *How do I know if a situation feels safe or unsafe?*
- *What should I do if someone makes me feel uncomfortable?*
- *Who are the trusted adults I can turn to for help?*
- *How can I stand up for myself in a respectful and effective way?*

Through interactive lessons, stories, and discussions, our students will learn practical strategies for handling everyday challenges—whether that's navigating friendships, using technology responsibly, or recognizing when to seek help.

For parents and community members, *Kids in the Know* offers reassurance: children are not left to figure these things out alone. Instead, they are guided step by step, with tools that match their developmental stage. The program also encourages open communication between children and adults, strengthening the bonds of trust that are so essential to safety and well-being.

By working together—parents, teachers, and community members—we can ensure that every child has the knowledge and confidence to make safe choices. The *Kids in the Know* program is one more way we can support them in growing up strong, secure, and ready to thrive.

If you have questions or want additional information, check out the Canadian Centre for Child Protection's Website at [Kids in the Know](https://www.kidsintheknow.ca/en/) (<https://www.kidsintheknow.ca/en/>).

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Root Safety Strategies

Reproducible

1 SHOUT NO!

RUN — TELL Someone

If someone asks you to do something that makes you feel confused, uncomfortable or sad, leave the situation as soon as you can and tell a safe adult about it.

2 KEEP and SPEAK Secrets

KEEP Secrets have endings. They don't hurt or make you feel mixed-up. They have an ending, like a surprise birthday party. SPEAK Secrets do not have an ending. All secrets about touching are SPEAK Secrets. They need to be told to a safe adult.

3 The Buddy System

There is safety in numbers. Bring a buddy with you when you go places.



A

Trust Your INSTINCTS

Your instincts are the feelings inside of you that warn you of danger. Pay attention to your body's alarm.

B

DIGNITY and RESPECT

All people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Everybody is equal regardless of where they come from, or the experiences they have had. You need to recognize your own self-worth and expect to be treated well.

C

If asked to go and your parents don't know, SHOUT NO!

Always ask your parents/guardians before going anywhere. No matter who asks you to go, say "No" if you haven't asked your parents/guardians first. Your parents/guardians must know before you go!

D

If asked to share and your parents aren't aware, SAY NO!

Always ask your parents/guardians before sharing or accepting treats or gifts from someone. Your parents/guardians must be aware before you share online, too!



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Helping families. Protecting children.

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mr. McKenzie and Ms. Orsulak



Ms. Orsulak is enjoying teaching in the newly-renovated mini-gym. The new flooring has transformed the space into a cleaner, safer, and more inviting environment for physical education. Its warm, wood-look finish is complemented by clearly marked badminton lines, hopscotch patterns, and black “squad spots” that help with organization and instruction.

The surface is non-slippery and designed for safe movement, allowing



students to be active with confidence. Overall, the refreshed floor looks great and has created a noticeably improved atmosphere for teaching and learning in the mini-gym.



Strathmillan students kicked off 2026 by taking part in a variety of cooperative games throughout January. These activities challenged students to communicate effectively and work together as a team in order to be successful. Since then, our Grade 2–3 students have moved on to learning the fundamentals of the overhand throw, while our Grade 4–5 students have transitioned into learning circulation volleyball.

Intramurals are also back in full swing! Grade 3 students now have Fridays as their designated day to be active in the gym, and they have been having a blast playing games such as *Wolf's Den*, *Secret Agent Tag*, and *Jungle Gym*. Our Grade 4–5 students have begun competing in the Strathmillan Cup Intramural Ball Hockey Championship, with 10 teams battling it out for the chance to have their picture taken with the trophy. Who has what it takes to be crowned champions?

Interschool basketball is well underway as well, and this year we've had our best turnout ever, with 69 students signing up across three teams. Way to go, Strathmillan! Students have been working hard during morning practices and have shown great improvement in both their skills and their understanding of the game. Games against Athlone, Heritage, and Bannatyne will take place on Thursdays after school—be sure to come out and check out some exciting basketball action. Our season will wrap up with the Friendship Tournament on Friday, February 27.

FEBRUARY 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|-----|
| Feb 1 PATROL SQUAD 3 | 2 Day 1 • Inservice – no school for students | 3 Day 2 • Lakers practice 8:30 – 9:05 AM • Lego Club Rm 25 • Beading Club • Early Dismissal • Strathmillan PAC Meeting – 6 PM • Kindergarten Information Evening 7 PM | 4 Day 3 • Raptors practice 8:30 – 9:05 AM • Lego Club Rm 25 • Games Club (Rm. 3 and 16) | 5 Day 4 • Guest Reader Cst. Allison • Lego Club Rm 25 • Basketball Game: Bannatyne @ Raptors 4:00 – 5:00 PM | 6 Day 5 • Lego Club Rm 25 • Winter Olympics Opening Ceremonies - Assembly 2:30 PM | 7 |
| 8 PATROL SQUAD 4 | 9 Day 6 • Rockets practice 8:30 – 9:05 AM • Guest Reader John Skrypnyk (MACY) • Lego Club Rm 13 • Games Club (Rm. 1) | 10 Day 1 • Lakers practice 8:30 – 9:05 AM • Lego Club Rm 27 • Beading Club • | 11 Day 2 • Raptors practice 8:30 – 9:05 AM • Games Club (Rm. 3 and 16) • Lego Club Rm 27 | 12 Day 3 • Lego Club Rm 27 • Basketball Game: Athlone @ Lakers 4:00 – 5:00 PM | 13 Day 4 • Lego Club Rm 27 • | 14 |
| 15 PATROL SQUAD 1 | 16 • Louis Riel Day – No School | 17 Day 5 • Lakers practice 8:30 – 9:05 AM • Lego Club Rm 38 • Beading Club • Early Dismissal | 18 Day 6 • Raptors practice 8:30 – 9:05 AM • Guest Reader: Wpg Blue Bombers (wear blue) • Games Club (Rm. 3 and 16) • Lego Club Rm 38 | 19 Day 1 • Lego Club Rm 38 • Guest Reader: Hon. Dr. Eyolfson (MP) • Basketball Game: Raptors @ Heritage 4:00 – 5:00 PM | 20 Day 2 | 21 |
| 22 PATROL SQUAD 2 | 23 Day 3 • Rockets practice 8:30 – 9:05 AM • Lego Club Rm 41 • Games Club (Rm. 1) | 24 Day 4 • Lego Club Rm 41 • Guest Reader, Hon. Logan Oxenham, MLA • Beading Club | 25 Day 5 • PINK SHIRT DAY • Rockets practice 8:30 – 9:05 AM • Games Club (Rm. 3 and 16) • Lego Club Rm 41 | 26 Day 6 • Lego Club Rm 41 • Basketball Game: Rockets @ Athlone 4:00 – 5:00 PM | 27 Day 1 • Interschool Basketball Friendship Tournament • Adapted swimming | 28 |

Flashlights in the library

UPCOMING DATES in MARCH

- March 3 Early Dismissal; Strathmillan PAC meeting
- March 3-4 Wpg Music Festival
- March 6 – Choir to sing at Manitoba Moose Game
- March 17 Early Dismissal
- March 20 – Inservice – No School
- March 25 – Report Cards sent home
- March 30 – Apr. 3 – Spring Break (no school)

BOURKEVALE SNOW-LYMPICS!

AT BOURKEVALE CC

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8
10:00-1:00PM**

- * FREE SKI LESSONS
(with a certified ski instructor)
- * FREE SKI, BOOT,
AND POLE RENTALS
- * ADAPTED SKI EQUIPMENT



PLUS

**BIATHLON MB WILL BE DEMONSTRATING
THEIR ELECTRONIC BIATHLON RIFLES**

PAINT CAN CURLING AND PICK-UP SHINNY HOCKEY
ON THE RINK BEGINNING AT 11AM

ALL AGES AND ABILITIES WELCOME
CHILDREN MUST BE ACCCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT



AT THE CANTEEN / SKATE ROOM

- * LIVE MUSIC
- * CHILI AND A BUN LUNCH
- * BUY A HOT CHOCOLATE AND GET A
FREE S'MORES KIT TO ROAST ON
THE OUTDOOR FIRE
- * BORROW SKATES FROM
THE SKATE LIBRARY