The Constellation

The Monthly Newsletter of Strathmillan School

NOV 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM



As school leaders, we are so fortunate to be part of a community that works together to help children grow and thrive. Featured in this edition of the newsletter are ways that teachers are leading learning, how the parent council are contributing, and how our student leadership team is pitching in.

Enhancing Our School Culture

One of our central school goals is to strengthen our shared identity and purpose. Starting from the beginning of the year, school staff have been co-creating a framework for shared values and positive behaviour. So far, our staff have emphasized the following core values:

- **Kindness**: We care for, include, and support one another.
- **Responsibility**: We take ownership of our choices, learning, and community.
- **Respect**: We value ourselves, others, and our environment.
- **Resilience**: We persevere and remain calm when we face challenges.

We aim to create a school community with a strong sense of belonging and safety. In the next weeks of school, we will be emphasizing *kindness*, encouraging students to imagine and care about how others feel, and to include others in work and play.

Time Change

Manitoba will no longer change its clocks each spring and fall, making daily routines more consistent for families and students. While winter mornings will stay darker a little longer, we'll enjoy more daylight later in the day. Parents may want to allow extra time for safe travel on darker mornings. Our school division is examining ways to enhance safety for patrols and students coming to school.

- Warren Nickerson and Kellie Straub

COMMUNICATING ABOUT ACHIEVEMENT

When students, parents, and teachers share information and stay connected, it creates a strong partnership that helps students grow and achieve their best. Here are some important dates:

- Monday, Nov.16 Conference Manager opens for booking parent conferences.
- Wednesday, Nov. 25 - Report cards will be sent home by email
- Thursday, Nov. 26 - Student-led conferences., 4:20 – 7:20 PM.

Report Cards

Manitoba has mandated province-wide **reading screening** for grades 1, 2, and 3. That means that teachers have checked to see if children are able to read according to appropriate expectations for the beginning of the grade level. On the upcoming report card, those screening test results will be communicated to parents as "met" or "not yet."

Student-led Conferences

Student-led conferences on Nov 26th will be 20 minutes in duration, with a maximum of three families in the classroom, including an opportunity to talk with your child's teacher.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Parents, grandparents and community members are invited to attend our Remembrance Day School Service on **Tuesday, November 10th** starting at 10:45 AM in the gym. All cubs, scouts, brownies, girl guides and in attendance are invited to wear their uniforms for the service.



Our intermediate choirs will sing at the service, grade 5 students will MC, and class representatives will lay wreaths.

Please note that there is no school on Wednesday, November 11 (Remembrance Day) and also no school on Friday, November 13 (Inservice Day).

Note from Mr. Nickerson: As my late father was a Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) veteran, my heart goes out to the families, friends, and fellow soldiers of the PPCLI as they mourn the loss of members who died during a training exercise in Wainwright, Alberta. At Strathmillan, we lowered our flag to express that we hold all those affected by this tragic loss in our thoughts and recognize their service.

MUSIC NEWS – MS. SHAPERA

Students at Strathmillan School are actively engaging in music classes. Our youngest learners are developing their listening skills, practicing steady beats, and building confidence to sing together. Students in grades 3 – 5 are developing their understanding of rhythm and melody, learning music notation, and exploring ideas through song.

Choir

Our primary (grades 1 -2) and intermediate (grades 3-5) choirs are back in action! Students are now hard at work sharing their love of music and working together as a team. The choirs meet Tuesday and Thursday respectively over the lunch hour.

Winter Concert

Starting in November, we begin preparing for our Winter Concerts! Mark your calendar: our talented performers will be showcasing their talents for families on **Tuesday, December 15th**. There will be both a matinee and an evening performance. We hope you'll join us for this special celebration of music, learning, and school spirit! 🎵



PARKING in the NEIGHBOURHOOD

Hello,

My name is Samantha and I'm the owner of Lemon Sugar Bar, a small salon across from Strathmillan school. Some Strathmillan parents are using our very limited customer parking as child pickup spots. This disruption occurs for nearly an hour of each day. We have many elderly clients from the community with mobility issues/wheelchairs and they need these spaces for their safety.

Please let all parents know that the surrounding businesses are not meant for pickup/drop off parking. We will need to enforce towing at their expense for those parents continuing to use these spots.

Samantha

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – NOVEMBER UPDATES

If you are interested in getting involved with PAC, we are looking for some new voices to help us plan and organize a special "literacy" family event in February, our annual Music Night in May and the Grade 5 Farewell. To keep up to date on all PAC activities & fundraisers, please follow us on Instagram **@strathparentcouncil**



PAC Meetings

Upcoming PAC Meetings:
All meetings will be held in the Strathmillan School Library. All are welcome.

- **November Meeting** - Tuesday, November 3, 6:00 pm
- **December Meeting** - Tuesday, December 1, 6:00 pm

Grade 5 Farewell

The Grade 5 Farewell committee is looking for volunteers! We have some big plans and would love to get more input on making this year's event the best ever. If you have a grade 5 student and would like to get involved, please email strathcommcouncil@gmail.com.

Fun Lunch Updates

Our next Fun Lunch will be happening on Thursday, November 26 from Boston Pizza. Orders must be placed by Saturday, November 21.

Upcoming Fun Lunch Dates:

- Thursday, November 26 - Boston Pizza (Order Cut-off Saturday, Nov. 21)
- Thursday, December 17 - iHop (Order Cut-Off Saturday, December 12)

Archie's Pizza Fundraiser

Archie's Pizza paper order forms are due into the office by Wednesday, November 4. If you are submitting cheques, please include it with your paper order! Payments can also be made by transfer to strathcommcouncil@gmail.com. Just a reminder, please include your STUDENT'S name and room number in the comments. You will submit only one payment. Order pickup will take place **Wednesday, November 18**, at the end of the school day in the Mini-Gym. We will have the outside door open.

All orders MUST be picked up. Orders will be listed under your student's name. **We will be there from 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm**. If you need to make alternative arrangements, please send us an email!

All money raised from Fun Lunch and Archie's Pizza will go towards events this year like Music Night. We are also looking forward to establishing a fund for our Strathmillan Staff to access materials and supplies. We have raised $425 from Fun Lunch so far this year! Thanks so much for all your support.

HALLOWEEN FUN AND LEARNING

What great weather we've had in October. On the last day of October, most students played outside with light jackets in bright sunshine. Halloween night was warm for trick or treating.

During Halloween week is full of learning and fun. When I visited Ms. Kirkland's classroom, students were guessing whether objects would sink or float. Would a light pumpkin float? (it did) Would a small rock float? (nope) Would a giant, heavy pumpkin float? (it also floated, although many children thought that it wouldn't). Students in Ms. Thompson's kindergarten class delighted in a story about young witches and also observed that *room* rhymes with *broom*.

After lunch, students donned costumes and met in the gym for a costume parade. Mrs. Staub prepared safety tips and some lame dad jokes, and students had fun showing their costumes.



SUPPORTING LITERACY AT HOME – Ms. Clendenan

This month, you will meet with your child's teacher to review their progress for term one. Following the conversation surrounding literacy screening, you may be wondering how to help your child improve their literacy and become a confident reader and writer.

1. Read Together Regularly

- Take turns reading parts of a book (joint reading).
- Ask open-ended questions before, during, & after reading.
- Connect the story to your child's experiences.
- Use your child's interests to choose books.



2. Use Language Throughout the Day

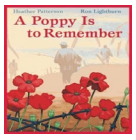
- Talk about everyday experiences.
- Tell stories, describe objects, and discuss new words.
- For multilingual families, speak and read in your home language to strengthen vocabulary and connections to school learning.

3. Build a Print-Rich Environment

- Hang labels and signs around the home.
- Notice and read signs around your neighbourhood (e.g. businesses, road signs)
- Keep age-appropriate books accessible.
- Display different types of print (lists, calendars, notes).

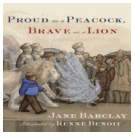
LIBRARY NEWS – Ms. Branco

Titles for Veterans' Week November 5-11, 2026





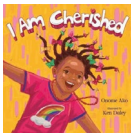


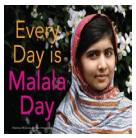


November 20th is **National Child Day** in Canada, which recognizes Canada's commitments under the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**. Click on the QR codes to go directly to our library catalogue.



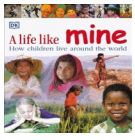


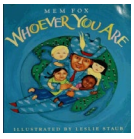












GRADE 5 LEADERSHIP TEAM – "Leading Through Action"

The Grade 5 Leadership Team is learning that leadership is not just about having a title; rather, it is about making positive choices, setting a good example, and taking action to make our school and community a better place. Our first assignment was to explore what it means to be a leader. We each wrote about how we can demonstrate the qualities of a leader in our everyday lives. We displayed our writing in the Library Hallway. Be sure to look for it during parent conferences!

In our first school-wide initiative, the Winter Warmth Drive, we combined Socktober and Mittens for Mitch campaigns into one initiative. We collected socks, mittens, and other winter items to help keep people in our community warm during Winnipeg's cold winter months.

Grade 5 Leadership Team:
Joaquin, Cloud, Breckyn, Lilly, Rowan, Kseniia, Nova, Aiyanna, Korvette, Brielle, Adeleine, Ameira



Thanks to the generosity of our school community, we collected **41 pairs of socks, 14 pairs of mittens, and 6 winter hats**! We are grateful to everyone who donated and helped us make a difference in our community.

Coming Next: Tin for the Bin!

Our next initiative will support Harvest Manitoba. From November 9 to December 4, we will be collecting non-perishable food donations to help Manitobans who are experiencing food insecurity. Some suggested donations include canned fruit and vegetables, canned soup and stew, canned tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, and instant oatmeal. Donations can be dropped off in the Harvest Manitoba bins located by the office at the front entrance. A note with more information about this initiative will be coming home shortly.

We are excited to continue our leadership journey and find new ways to help others. We hope our school community will join us in making our next initiative a success!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Students have settled into the 2026-2027 school year, and PE classes are in full swing as we near the end of October.

This month in Kindergarten Gym, students have been learning how to move safely and respectfully in a shared space. We are practicing important skills such as finding personal space, moving with awareness of others, and stopping and starting on signal. Students are also learning how to listen carefully, follow gym expectations, and participate safely in activities. We are proud of the effort our kindergarten learners are showing as they practice being safe, active, and respectful gym participants!

Grade 1 - 3 students have begun the Basic Movement Skill program by practicing and improving their ball rolling skills. Grade 4 and 5 students are working on their striking skills by learning about the great sport of badminton.

The gym has also been a busy space before school and during lunch hours. Grade 3 Intramural Games runs on Fridays from 12:25-12:55. We alternate between girls one week and boys the next week. So far students have enjoyed playing Secret Squirrel, Dodgeball, Yoshi and Pinguard. Students don't need to sign up; they can just choose to show up on the day.

Team Handball is the lunch hour activity being offered to Grade 4 and 5 classes. Here, students were divided into 8 teams and are participating in a two-conference tournament. Out of the eight teams, four will make the playoff round and compete for the championship at the end of November.

Details for soccer and all other co-curricular activities can be found on the **PE Calendar** outside the gym.

Our second interschool sport is Indoor Soccer. In total, 48 kids signed-up to take part. Practices are held once-a-week in the morning and games with Athlone, Bannatyne and Heritage are set to begin this week. Anyone wishing to take in some fantastic indoor soccer action are invited to come and watch.

Mr. McKenzie, Ms. Orsulak, and Ms. Sveistrup

River East Transcona School Division, in partnership with Shared Health, presents...

Parenting for Prevention

How to Talk with Your Early/Middle Years Child About Substance Use

Substance use prevention starts early, with developmental experiences and family support shaping future choices. Join us virtually to explore how addictive substances affect youth development, how harmful products are marketed to children, and how families can support healthier choices as children grow.

November 19, 2026
12–1 p.m. or
6–7 p.m.

Parents and caregivers with students in any school division are invited to attend.

Scan the QR code to register:

Links to virtual sessions will be emailed after registration.

Presentation delivered by Shared Health Substance Use Counsellors working in RETSD.



River East Transcona School Division
creating student success

Shared health Soins communs Manitoba

STRATHMILLAN SCHOOL CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **PATROL TEAM #3**	2 | Day 2 • Valour Practice (8:30-9:05)	3 | Day 3 • United Practice 8:30-9:05 • Early Dismissal • Strathmillan PAC Meeting 6 PM (Library)	4 | Day 4 • Archie's Pizza order forms due	5 | Day 5 • Photo retake day • Athlone Atoms @ Strathmillan United (4:00-4:45)	6 | Day 6	**7**
8 **PATROL TEAM #4**	9 | Day 1 • Valour Practice 8:30-9:05	10 | Day 2 • United Practice 8:30-9:05 • School Remembrance Day Ceremony 10:45 AM	11 Remembrance Day (No School) 	12 | Day 3 • Strathmillan Valour @ Athlone Atoms 4:00-4:45	13 | Day 4 • Admin Day (no school)	**14**
15 **PATROL TEAM #1**	16 | Day 5 • Valour Practice 8:30-9:05 • Conference Manager opens for booking student-led conferences	17 | Day 6 • United Practice 8:30-9:05 • Early Dismissal	18 | Day 1 • Archie's Pizza order pickup 3:30 – 4:45 PM	19| Day 2 • Strathmillan United @ Heritage Hawks (4:00-4:45)	20 | Day 3 • Fun Lunch Order Cut-off Date (Nov 21)	**21**
22 **PATROL TEAM #2**	23 | Day 4 • Valour Practice 8:30-9:05	24 | Day 5	25 | Day 6 • Valour vs. United (8:30-9:00) • **Report Cards Issued**	26 | Day 1 • FUN LUNCH (Restaurant: Boston Pizza) • **Student-led Conferences**	27 | Day 2 • Soccer Friendship Tournament 12:30 – 2:30 PM	**28**
29 **PATROL TEAM #3**	30 | Day 3	UPCOMING DATES in DECEMBER • Dec. 1Early Dismissal (school ends at 3:07 PM) • Dec. 1 PAC meeting – Strathmillan Library (6 PM) • Dec 12 Fun LUNCH Order Cut-Off Date • Dec. 17 Fun LUNCH - iHop • Dec. 15 Winter Concert • Dec. 18 Last day of school before winter break • Dec. 19 to January 3 – Winter holidays – no school • Jan. 4, 2027 First day back after winter break				