The Constellation

The Monthly Newsletter of Strathmillan School

OCT 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM



We recognized Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Strathmillan. However, our plans to take steps towards reconciliation will last all year and form a central school goal. Ms. Mason distributed resources for learning in classrooms for Orange Shirt Day, and Ms. Richardson organized a Rock Painting project for students to reflect and learn that will continue all week.

We've also been paying attention to Indigenous language. At our most recent staff meeting, we learned the correct pronunciation of the Michif word TAANISHI (pronounced "Tawn Sheh"), which is a standard greeting that functions like "hello." Learning and using these words and others is important in Manitoba given that we are the birthplace of the Red River Métis.



Much appreciation to the staff at the Transportation department for helping students learn bus safety. Students need to understand how to be safe on the bus for everyday transportation or occasional field trips.

This year is surely an odd one in that there are a total of only 191 school days. Last year there were 196. Because our school year does not start until after our later-than-usual Labour Day, the school year is a week shorter. September has flown by! In October we'll have no school on Thanksgiving (Monday, Oct. 12), on Friday, Oct. 23 (MTS PD Day), and Wednesday, Oct. 28 (Inservice / Civic Election).

Warren Nickerson (Principal) and Kellie Straub (VP/Guidance)

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – OCTOBER UPDATES

October is here, and we are excited! We've floated lots of fun ideas for enhancing the school year. Come out and join in the planning and organizing of awesome events and initiatives for the school community!

PAC Meetings

All meetings will be held in the Strathmillan School Library. All are welcome.

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

Grade 5 Farewell

Calling all Grade 5 families! We will be forming a "Grade 5 Farewell" Committee at our October meeting. If you are interested in participating in the planning and/or running of the Grade 5 farewell festivities, please come to our meeting. If you would like more information, please send us an email.

Fun Lunch Updates

Our next Fun Lunch will be on Thursday, October 29 from Wayback Burger. Orders must be placed by Saturday, October 24. To order, go to Healthy Hunger — School Lunch Program

Upcoming Fun Lunch Dates:

- Thursday, October 29 - Wayback Burger (Order Cut-Off Saturday, Oct. 24)
- Thursday, November 26 - Place TBD (Order Cut-off Saturday, Nov. 21)

To keep up to date on all PAC activities & fundraisers, please follow us on Instagram **@strathparentcouncil**



Strathmillan PAC - ARCHIE'S PIZZA FUNDRAISER



We are excited to start our first 2026-2027 school year fundraiser! Archie's Pizza, based in Starbuck, Manitoba, creates high-quality frozen pizzas using Bothwell mozzarella cheese and its own cured and smoked meat toppings. This year, Archie's has added BBQ Chicken to its ordering menu. For more information on the products, please visit: www.archiesmeats.com

What are we fundraising for?

We will be fundraising for Strathmillan Music Night and potentially another community-oriented event. We love bringing families together for food and fun.

Orders due: Wednesday, November 4th @ 4:00 pm

Order Forms and Funds are due together; late orders or payments cannot be accepted.

Paper Order Forms must be submitted to the classroom teacher or the office.

Payments can be e-transferred to strathcommcouncil@gmail.com with your **child's name and classroom number** in the notes.

Pick Up - Wednesday, November 18th 3:45pm

PIZZANDAS	
$ 8.00	BBQ CHICKEN
$ 8.00	PEPPERONI/BACON
$ 8.00	HAWAIIAN (ham/pineapple)
$ 8.00	MEAT LOVERS
$ 8.00	ENCHANTED GARDEN
ASSORTED	
$12.00	Nalaway Cheddar Perogies (2kg bag)
$10.00	Archie's Kielbasa (Ham Garlic Sausage) 450g
$ 9.00	Archie's Farmer Sausage (450 g)
$ 8.00	Archie's Pep Stix (6/pkg)
$ 8.00	NEW! Archie's Honey Garlic Stix (6/pkg)
$10.00	12" Pizza Screen
PIZZAS	
$14.00	12" BBQ Chicken (NEW!)
$14.00	12" Pepperoni/Bacon
$14.00	12" Cheese Lovers
$14.00	12" Double Pepperoni
$14.00	12" Pepperoni/Mushroom
$14.00	12" Vegetarian (mush,tom,onion/peppers)
$14.00	12" Hawaiian (Ham/Pineapple)
$14.00	12" Deluxe (pep/mush/bacon/onions/peppers)
$14.00	12" Meat Lovers (pep/salami/kielbasa/ham/bacon)
$14.00	12" Favourite (pep/mush/ham/bacon)
GLUTEN FREE MENU	
$14.00	10" Cheese Lovers
$14.00	10" Hawaiian (ham/pineapple)
$14.00	10" Double Pepperoni
$14.00	10" Favourite (pep/mush/ham/bacon)
$14.00	10" Meat Lovers (pep/salami/kielbasa/ham/bacon)

Thank you for your continued support!

Jenn Romanoff, *Parent Council President*

Amanda Christian, *Parent Council Vice President*

New Teachers



Ms. Clendenan Hello Strathmillan Stars!

My name is Mel Clendenan and I'm the new literacy support & resource teacher here at Strathmillan. I am joining St James after 13 years in Seven Oaks School Division where I worked as a support teacher, early and middle years teacher, and even music teacher!

I am so excited to be joining the amazing team here at Strathmillan, supporting your child in literacy and beyond. Outside school, I am a mom to two kiddos, am caring for two chihuahuas, and am an avid reader and baker. Please feel free to connect with me if you have any questions about your child's literacy and learning.

Ms. Rishi- Room 1, Grade 3



My name is Mannat Rishi, and I am the Grade 3 teacher in the afternoons. I am excited to be joining Strathmillan School - it is a special school, and I am thrilled to become a part of it.

After graduating from U of M with a Bachelor of Education, I had the opportunity to teach at Acadia Junior High in Pembina Trails.

In my spare time, I enjoy trying out new recipes, spending time with my friends and family, and travelling. This past summer, I experienced Italy, challenging my physical endurance at every peak of the Dolomites.

It's been wonderful getting to know the students and my fellow teachers, and I can't wait to grow closer as a team.

Ms. Shapera – Music Teacher Hello Strathmillan Community! I'm the new music teacher. I'm coming from teaching band at Isaac Newton School, where I supported students across a range of instruments and skill levels. Before that, I taught early years music, choir, and other subjects for three years in Sunrise School Division.

I'm excited to create an inclusive, supportive classroom here where students will feel comfortable taking risks and learning at their pace. My aim is to develop a music program that creates a positive, engaging environment for students.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mr. McKenzie and Ms. Orsulak

September has seen a busy start to the school year in the gym. Students have been working on establishing routines and playing cooperative games to make Physical Education classes fun and inclusive for everyone.

This year we had 47 dedicated Cross-Country Running runners taking part in lunchtime practices and mini-meets after school. Next, students will take on the 1.25km Divisional Run at Assiniboine Park on **October 1st**. All students have been running hard, have shown improvement, and are having a great time!

October will bring the start of our lunchtime Intramural programming. Grade 3 students will have intramurals on Friday's while the grade 4 and 5 students will be on Monday's and Wednesday's. Surveys are being conducted to figure out what the activities will be!

Students are encouraged to check out the brand-new PE Calendar in the gymnasium hallway. The calendar will give students an up-to-date look at all co-curricular activities happening in the gym for the entire month and make things easy to follow.



Terry Fox
Community Walk

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

AFTERNOON ASSEMBLY AND WALK/RUN

Literacy Support – Ms. Clendenan

Acadience Reading Screener– what parents need to know

Last year, Strathmillan School tried out a new reading assessment. Teachers checked in one-on-one with students to understand whether they had the expected literacy skills. Now that we have piloted the reading test, this year all grades 1 – 3 students will be assessed again and results of the screening will be communicated on the report card.

What *skills* do we associate with grade-level performance for foundational literacy skills? Acadience Reading assesses whether students are aware of letter sounds, whether they can read out loud with accuracy and fluency, and whether they understand what they're reading.

Beginning of Grade 1	**Beginning of Grade 2**
A child who is meeting grade-level expectations by the beginning of grade 1 can usually: • Look at the word **"sun"** and tell you it starts with the**/s/** sound. • Hear the sounds**/d/ /o/ /g/** and blend them together to say **"dog."** • Tell you that **"cat"** and **"hat"** rhyme. • Break the word **"map"** into the sounds **/m/ /a/ /p/**. • Quickly identify most letters of the alphabet and say their sounds. • Read simple words such as **cat, sit, hop, log, and bug**. • Read some common words automatically, such as **the, I, a, is, and to**. • Follow the words on a page from left to right while reading. **Example** If you point to the word **"pig,"** your child might say, "That's **/p/ /i/ /g/... pig!**" without needing much help.	A child who is meeting grade-level expectations by beginning of grade 2 can usually: • Read words by putting letter sounds together. For example, knowing that **"cow"** is made up of the sounds **/c/ + /ow/**. • Read words with blends such as **stop, frog,** and **clap**. • Read words with common spelling patterns such as **ship, rain, boat, and tree**. • Read many common words automatically without sounding them out. • Read a simple book aloud smoothly rather than stopping at every word. • Notice when something doesn't sound right and try again. • Tell you what happened in a story after reading it. • Predict what a character might do next and explain why. **Example** While reading a book, your child might come to the word **"train"** and say, "I know **'ai'** says the long A sound, so that word is **train**."


EVERY CHILD MATTERS
SOUTHERN CHIEFS' ORGANIZATION INC.
6TH ANNUAL
ORANGE SHIRT DAY
HEALING WALK AND POW WOW
HOSTED ON THE NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION
Opening Ceremony at 9:30 am, Oodena Circle, The Forks
Healing Walk to Canada Life Centre
Grand Entry at 1 pm
SEPTEMBER 30, 2026
WINNIPEG, TREATY ONE TERRITORY
FREE EVENT OPEN TO EVERYONE

Winter Warmth Drive



Dear Families,

With Winnipeg's winter just around the corner, our **Grade 5 Leadership Team** is kicking off a "Winter Warmth Drive" this October! We are combining **SOCKTOBER** and **MITTENS FOR MITCH** into one simple collection.

We want to make sure people in our city stay warm this season, and we need your help filling our bins.

What we are collecting:

- **Brand new** socks
- **Brand new** mittens, gloves, winter hats, and scarves

Where to drop them:
Students can drop items into the Winter Warmth bins at the school's main entrance.

When:
All through the month of October.

The last day to drop off items is Friday, October 30th. Thank you for helping our Grade 5 Leadership Team make a real difference in our community!

Sincerely,

The Grade 5 Leadership Team & Mrs. S. Steuart

Halloween

Each year Strathmillan hosts a Halloween parade. We invite students to bring costumes to school on October 30. While Kindergarten AM students can wear their costumes to school, other students will change into their costumes *after* lunch.



Safe costumes are best, ones without masks that obstruct the face or any unsafe accessories, such as weapons or sharp objects. Costumes should be respectful and avoid cultural stereotypes. Make sure costumes are not too scary.

The costume parade in the gym will begin at 1:30 P.M. Each classroom takes a turn to parade around the outside of the gym. After the costume parade, students return to classrooms for Halloween celebrations.

MFRC Open House

The MFRC invites you, your family, and your friends to join us for an evening of connection, discovery, and family fun at our MFRC Open House!

October 7, Wednesday | 1700 – 1900; 102 Comet Street

What to expect :

- Meet the MFRC team and explore what we offer
- Connect with community partners and learn about the available resources
- Take part in family-friendly activities for all ages
- Create a home fire escape plan with the 17 Wing Fire Department and check out the fire truck and the smoke trailer
- Enjoy light refreshments, take-home information, and giveaways

Everyone is welcome! Registration is encouraged and helps us plan for the event. Please register by October 5 using the following link:

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/Fk4zQNjxd9

OCTOBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Consider contributing to **SOCKTOBER** and **MITTENS for MITCH**. Collection bin in the front hallway.			Oct 1| Day 5 • Divisional Cross Country Running Meet – Assiniboine Park	Oct. 2 | Day 6 • Mobile Vision Clinic • Terry Fox School Run	**3**
4	5 | Day 1 • Reading Screening begins	6 | Day 2 • Early Dismissal (Staff meeting) • Strathmillan PAC Meeting 6 PM (Library)	7 | Day 3	8 | Day 4	9 | Day 5	**10**
11	12 Thanksgiving  (No School)	13 | Day 6 •	14 | Day 1 • Fall Photo Day 	15 | Day 2	16 | Day 3	**17**
18	19 | Day 4	20 | Day 5 • Early Dismissal	21 | Day 6	22| Day 1 • Soccer Game: @ Athlone	23 | Day 2 • MTS PD Day (No School) • CUT OFF for Fun Lunch Orders (Oct 24)	**24**
25	26 | Day 3	27 | Day 4	28 | Day 5 • Inservice (no school) • Municipal Election	29 | Day 6 • FUN LUNCH (Wayback Burger) • Soccer Game: @ Bannatyne	30 | Day 1 • Halloween Parade (1:30 PM)	**31**