



Great Schools for
Growing and Learning

CONTACT

St. James-Assiniboia School Division

Spring Issue 2019



Westwood students prepare to host a dance fundraiser **Page 5**



Grade 3 Buchanan student Cassius P. swimming at Centennial Pool with Educational Assistant Ms. Reimer.

New swim program sets students up for success

The new Adapted Swim Program in SJASD is helping students with special needs grow their swimming abilities and accomplish their individual goals in the pool environment.

The program launched on a trial basis in the 2017-18 school year with 15 students participating alongside their educational assistant(s) and local swim instructor, Jodi Hutchison. Additional funding from the school division paired with a grant from Variety Manitoba allowed the program to expand this year. The Adapted Swim Program now offers four sessions every week from October to June involving a total of 60 students in Grades 3 through 12 across the Division. SJASD previously offered a recreational swim program for many years, but the decision to move to an instruction-based model, mirroring the Pembina Trails School Division program, is already

seeing great results and increasing student benefits.

Grade 12 participant Jared M. from John Taylor Collegiate says he took swimming lessons in Grade 9 but didn't get to where he wanted to be.

"This program helped me achieve where I wanted to go in getting my swimming to a higher level," said Jared. "I like that I've strengthened my swimming abilities, am learning new stuff that I didn't know I could do and just the fun of it."

Educational assistant Mr. Reimer, who has been working with Jared for two years, says he's noticing it has become easier for Jared to swim laps in the pool. He says it helps the exercises are aimed at the individual. Instructor Jodi creates an individual lesson plan for each student and updates it on a weekly basis to reflect each student's progress and next steps in the pool. **(Continued on Page 2)**



A snapshot of "I Love to Read" month 2019 **Page 6**



CONGRATULATIONS!

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2019/2020 Budget Summary

Comprehensive Educational Programming and Low School Taxes!

Comprehensive Educational Programming

- Full Day Kindergarten
- Advanced Placement
- International Baccalaureate
- Adapted Swim Program
- Continuing Education

Provincial Funding: For the third consecutive year, St. James-Assiniboia received a cut in Provincial Funding. Overall Provincial Funding as a percentage of Total Operating Revenue has decreased from 72.95% in 1985 to 50.70% in 2019.

Special Requirement

- 2019/2020: 66,820,944
- 2018/2019: \$65,510,729
- Increase: \$1,310,215 or 2% (Provincial Guideline is 2%)

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

- St. James-Assiniboia 13.431(2019)
- St. James-Assiniboia 12.973 (2018)
- Metro Average 14.060 (2018)

Average Home Value

- \$275,100 (2019)

School Taxes on Average Home

- School Tax Increase 3.53%
- School Tax Increase \$56.70 or \$4.73 per month

Operating Expenditures

- Operating expenditures \$109,485,763 (2019)
- Low Increase of \$713,461 or 0.66%
- Many of the Operating Expenditures have offsetting revenues

Enrolment

- September 2018: 8,561
- September 2019: 8,665
- Projected increase of 104 students

Property Assessment

- St. James-Assiniboia 2019 Portioned Assessment increased by 0.27%
- Metro Average 2019 Portioned Assessment increased by 1.62%

Gross Operating Reserve

- \$2,967,967 or 2.7% of 2019/2020 operating expenditures (Provincial Government guideline is 4%)

Major Initiatives

- 5-Year Plan for the repairs/renovations of school buildings - \$12.0 million
- 5-Year Plan for Technology Network upgrades and replacement - \$9.1 million

Administrative Costs

- Administrative costs are 2.68% (the Provincial Government guideline is 2.70%)

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

New swim program continued

Jodi explains how all students begin the program by learning safe water practice, such as entering a pool safely, being aware of their surroundings, not running on a pool deck, etc. Next the students explore the steps of learning to swim, based on their individual abilities, going from blowing bubbles, bobbing or floating, all the way to working on swimming patterns and building endurance.

"I build a lesson plan for each child and instruct the EA's on how to work with their students," said Jodi. "Each student is different, with different goals and different ways they learn."

She shares how those involved with the program have seen amazing developments happen among many students — a big one being when they feel confident to let go of the wall.

"Letting go of the wall is a huge achievement because it shows they are trusting the person they are with and the supplies we are giving them, whether it is a life jacket, a noodle, their EA or their EA and me to protect them."

Jodi has been running the program for eight years now and instructs 180 students throughout the school year. She is a major asset to the growth of the program, but is the first to point out how the program would not be possible without the dedication of the EA's who work with the students each week. Each student in the pool has a minimum of one-on-one contact with their EA, there are also two life guards on duty, the instructor in the pool offering guidance and physiotherapists in attendance for pool side support. Divisional physiotherapists and occupational therapists are closely connected to the program as physiotherapists are at the pool each week and occupational therapists attend sessions once a month. Together,



John Taylor Collegiate student Sam B. working on his individual lesson plan with swim instructor Jodi Hutchison and educational assistant Mr. Bonnell.

they partner with school resource teams to determine which students would benefit the most from the program based on a set criteria.

"One thing we look at is physical skills," said Divisional physiotherapist Ms. Fraser. "Swimming is fantastic for all physical skills like range of motion, muscle strength, endurance, and coordination. Also social skills, like being able to be in the pool with so many other people, listening and taking direction."

Ms. Fraser sees many of the students improving their skills outside of the pool too, which benefit their daily lives, such as in dressing or combing their hair.

The program has evolved to provide students with the tools they need to develop a new life skill, as well as gain confidence in a new learning environment. As students continue to grow their abilities, a future goal is to introduce a swim team

for more advanced swimmers in the program. This may lead to future competitions against students in other divisions. While we celebrate the milestones of this new program and look towards an exciting future, we must also thank the following partners who helped implement the Adapted Swim Program in SJASD. These partners include: Physical Education and Health Coordinator Mr. Ross, the St. James-Assiniboia School Board, Variety Manitoba, all of our EA's and student participants, instructor Jodi Hutchison, Holy Care Transit Ltd., St. James-Assiniboia Centennial Pool and Fitness Centre staff and our Educational Support Team, especially Ms. Fraser, Ms. Ogloza and Mr. Wu.

As one session wraps up and students exit the pool deck, another 15 students prepare to enter the pool and work on their personalized lesson plan in a safe and supportive environment.

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Linwood Leaders in Room 15 counting the number of plastic bags they've received to date.

Linwood Leaders take action to recycle plastic

Each month, a group of 30 students and three staff members, known as the Linwood Leaders, are collaborating to introduce a new sustainable initiative within their school. At the start of the school year, students brainstormed a list of more than 30 ways to help take care of the earth and increase environmental awareness on campus. On January 21, the group decided to launch a school-wide collection of plastic bags, complete with a lofty end goal.

The Linwood Leaders aim to collect 10,000 plastic bags before spring break and recycle them at a local processing plant. The idea is to first recycle plastic bags already in our homes, offices, etc., instead of throwing them out, and then find ways to significantly reduce the plastic we consume.

"We are doing it (the collection) to reuse or recycle the bags and help stop pollution," said Grade 4 Linwood Leader Zti D.

Zti D. and Julie R. shared how the students in Mr. Young's class watched a video on how there is an entire island of garbage in the ocean.

"It had a bunch of plastic bags, garbage, soda cans and plastic bottles," said Zti.

"If you fly to Hawaii, you will fly over it," shared Julie.

Julie mentioned how in a previous year at Linwood, the school collected enough bags during the Bag Up Manitoba campaign, a like initiative ran annually by Take Pride Winnipeg!, to earn a special bench donation. The bench is just one example of how plastic can be recycled into new, useful products. While the ultimate goal is to reduce plastic, recycling these materials can help protect the planet and prevent the growth of build ups such as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

The student leaders are working hard to promote this campaign by pinning up posters around the school and counting their donations on a weekly basis during lunch. They also sign up to take turns reading the current bag total over the morning announcements every Monday. To date, the team has collected over 2,200 bags and counting.

Great job to all who have brought in plastic bag donations and to the Linwood Leaders for organizing this drive. The leaders are led by Mr. Young, Ms. Vincent and Mr. Blake. We can't wait to see what sustainable idea they will take on next!

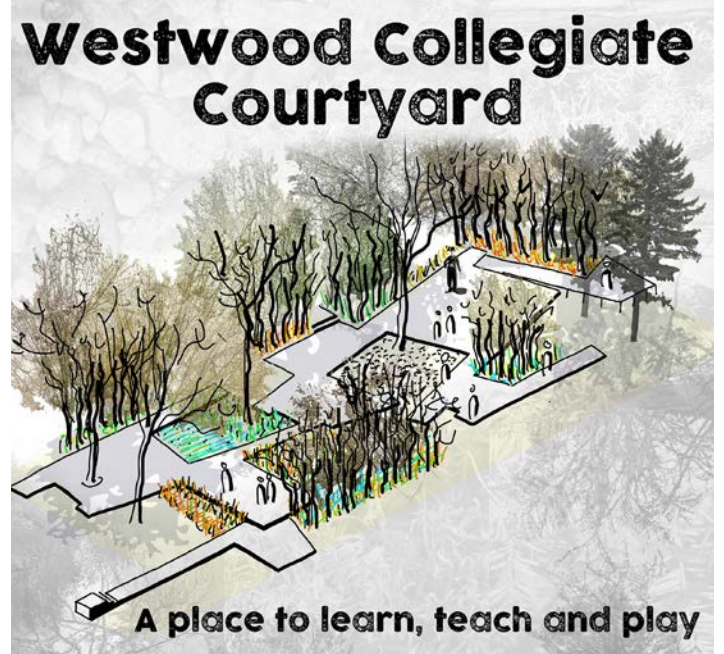
Warriors plan to build new outdoor learning space

Westwood Collegiate is very excited about an upcoming addition: a completely renovated courtyard. This green space at the heart of the building, currently desolate and unused, will be transformed into a beautiful and sustainable courtyard for learning, exploration and play. In keeping with the school's commitment to the performing arts, there will also be an outdoor stage!

This project is being developed in partnership with the School of Architecture at the University of Manitoba. Professors Dietmar Straub and Ana Thurmeyer are working with staff and parents to develop the design, materials and budget. There is also a student committee involved, gaining valuable and relevant skills through an authentic learning experience. All stakeholders are invited to contribute including students, staff, parents and the community.

Would you, your family or business like to be a part of this legacy? On April 8, the school is hosting the For Love of the Arts (FLOTA) performance and on April 9, the Family of Schools concert. During these times, personalized plaques will be available for purchase. These plaques will be displayed proudly in the courtyard space. The projected start date is September 2019. More information still to come. Donations of materials, fundraising ideas, time or money are welcome.

Submitted by Vice Principal Mrs. James





Grade 6 student Erin B. using a loom to knit a scarf.

Calling all crocheters and knitters at Golden Gate

Golden Gate Middle School is excited to launch a Yarn Club, also known as Yarnology, every Wednesday at lunch. Grade 7 student Maya C. wanted to start the club for students to practice their knitting skills, or learn how to knit for the first time, and because "it's fun and you can make friends." With support from Ms. Dirks, Mrs. Nowosad, Mme. Cliteur and Ms. Moskal, the club quickly expanded to include crocheting, loom knitting and pompom making. The team is thankful for the support of the *Healthy Together Now* program, which has helped fund supplies for the club. All items created by the Yarn Club will be donated in time to the Bear Clan Patrol to help Winnipeggers who need a little extra warmth in the winter. Maya said, "The group is going pretty good... mostly beginners are coming." All students and teachers at Golden Gate are welcome to join!



Mme Cliteur teaching Grade 7 student Jeiana G. how to knit.



Our annual SJASD Report to the Community outlines student data, strategic outcomes, ongoing initiatives as well as future planning for our Division. The 2018 report can be found on our Division website at www.sjasd.ca, under Governance. We invite you to take a look at the ongoing initiatives happening in our 2018 Report to the Community.

Giving credit where it's due

This fall, Jameswood Alternative School (JAS) introduced a new activity. Once a month, the school is hosting an informal gathering called a Credit Party to celebrate student achievements within the building.

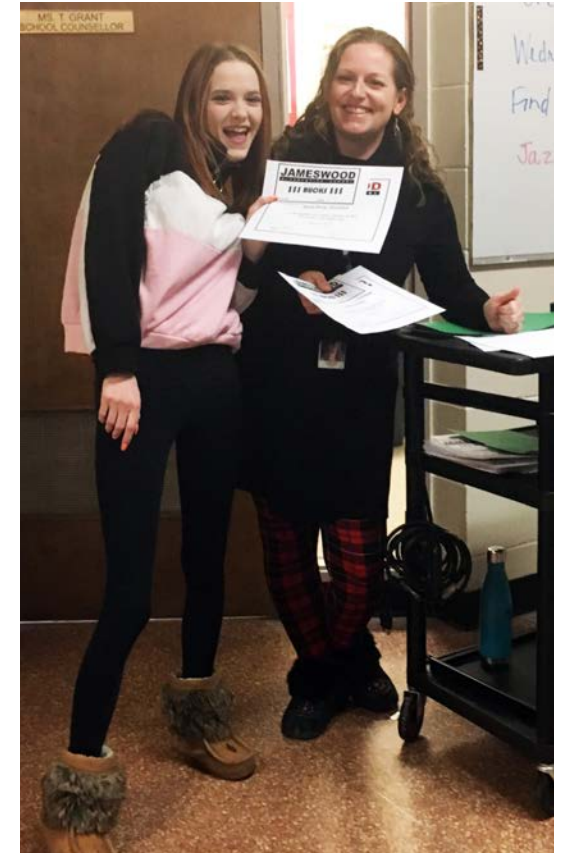
Students who have earned a course credit since the last party receive a certificate of credit completion and a number of "JAS Bucks." These "JAS Bucks" can be used to help purchase school swag such as t-shirts and gym bags.

Since school is about more than solely academic progress, the Credit Party also recognizes students who have demonstrated a successful month at school. This may include students who have displayed a positive attitude towards others or towards their studies, or have shown tremendous dedication putting in their best effort to accomplish a specific goal. This new celebration is strengthening the sense of community at JAS and helping students recognize their individual progress.

"I like that the whole school gets together in a comfortable atmosphere to celebrate our success," said Grade 12 student Cymphany K. "The Credit Parties are fun."

Grade 12 student Macy W. says it is a good way to encourage and motivate other students within the school and clap for one another's achievements.

While this is the first year of Credit Parties at JAS, this initiative may be the beginning of a new school tradition. Submitted by the JAS staff team



Grade 12 student Bree-Anne S. receiving her "Jazzy January" certificate.

Pipers launch inclusive mentorship program for all

All of our students contribute to our school environment to help each other grow and achieve success. Our strengths present opportunities for us to help others, while our weaknesses lay the foundation for us to ask questions, seek support and channel our energy towards accomplishing a specific goal. While some students are strong academically, others excel at the arts or in athletics. Some require physical adaptations for activities at school, while others may have not eaten breakfast that day, or perhaps are seeking guidance to overcome a situation in their lives. We know some Pipers are new to Canada and are busy learning an additional language, while others seem to always be behind the clock and can't make it to class on time. There is so much we can learn from each

other and Pipers across all grades are making the most out of their skillsets to help each other thrive!

John Taylor Collegiate values inclusion for all. The learning environment is an important platform for inclusion to work and be sustained. One example of this is the Piper Café. The café began as a building block adopted from a previous mentorship group in the building. Students with abilities in diverse areas bring their strengths to the group and are supported to create safe and appropriate interactions with their peers. These experiences are designed to be fun, intriguing, educational and accessible for all. We believe true mentorship begins with authentic friendships and meaningful interactions with others. For these reasons, the Piper Café offers events

for all students and staff to attend.

The first event hosted this year was a special effects make-up workshop in connection with Halloween. Students learned how to make scars using latex and paint. In addition, students had opportunities to try face-paint, make a craft, enter a draw, eat treats and more... all the meanwhile interacting with other students. After all, isn't play the ultimate equalizer in relationship building?

As the year progresses, we are seeing dramatic changes in the amount of students taking advantage of the fun opportunities offered by the Piper Café. Friendships and positive interactions are beginning to flourish outside of the classroom and translating back into the classrooms and hallways within the school. Authentic interactions between students are occurring on a more regular basis without adult prompting and teaching staff are getting involved by highlighting their programs and expertise as well.

To provide a more recent example, the Piper Café hosted a Festival du Voyageur event where French and Indigenous cultural perspectives were enjoyed by all. The event offered various entry points for students so they were never pressured to attend a certain station or be somewhere at a certain time. Every station was supported by staff and students and it was open to all without a cost or prior commitment.



Rolling maple syrup sticks during John Taylor Collegiate's Festival du Voyageur event hosted by the Piper Café team.

Currently on the horizon, the JT science department is planning to host an experiment event. Following that, the choir will be assisting in the Karaoke event the students are already excitedly planning!

Imagine, all curriculums designing their courses to include mentorship as a vehicle to achieve student success and prioritize student voice! At John Taylor Collegiate, there is a collective vision that all students can enjoy diverse experiences together and feel included at the same time. The Piper Café is one of the driving forces behind our mentor program and the important work we are doing in building safe and caring educational environments.

Submitted by the Piper Café Committee and Vice Principal Ms. MacCutcheon



The value of layered leadership at Lakewood

When looking at the variety of extra school programs in SJASD, it is apparent we are continually exploring new ways to connect with our students. This list includes activities such as skating, swimming, sports teams, choir, dance, circus arts, chess, coding, photography and many more. In speaking with those involved in these programs, our successful initiatives all seem to share a common thread — leadership and collaboration from all levels.

At Lakewood, a new program speaks loudly to the need for layered leadership. The 2018-19 school year marked a trial year for Lakewood School engaging in the Ski at School program at Windsor Park Nordic Centre. This program is funded by the annual “Get Off Your Butt and Ski Challenge,” where teams compete and raise money to bring this program to Winnipeg schools. Upon receiving the invitation, the initial steps seemed simple. The staff are encouraged to gather a group of seemingly “at risk” students who could benefit from additional programming, collect consent forms and go skiing every Wednesday for six weeks. Of course, there’s a lot more that goes into making these simple efforts become a reality.

It starts with the initiation of a coordinator, who can make connections and gain access to space within a specialized program. This is followed by ensuring permission and financial support from school administration. Then, staff teams look at the adjustments required to accommodate a pro-

gram into daily school schedules. There is a need for all of the teachers involved to be flexible and understanding to introduce this change in routine. And finally, with the support of parent volunteers, students are ready to participate in a memorable educational experience.

In the Ski at School program, students had the opportunity to learn new and challenging physical skills while being immersed in nature. Cross country skiing is a full body workout that can be done at one’s own pace, as well as a chance to embrace our cold winter climate and discover a new life-long activity. The combination of cardiovascular endurance, muscle strengthening and social elements are only some of the benefits students are gaining from the program.

While students’ physical growth became more apparent on the trail each week, staff also noticed a strong development in their character too, such as demonstrating resiliency and determination. Over the course of six weeks, the students fell down, in some cases a lot, but kept getting back up and trying again. With the support of guidance counsellors, educational support staff, parent volunteers, senior leadership and community connections, this program proved to be a high-quality learning experience for those involved. The thread of teamwork and layers of leadership was the primary reason for the great success of this program. Thank you to everyone who helped us to “Get Off Our Butts and Ski” this winter!

Submitted by teacher Mr. Spiers



Lakewood students taking part in the Ski at School program at Windsor Park Nordic Centre.



Celebrating exceptional children at the “Yes I Can” Awards 2019

We are extremely proud of all of our students and staff who received Yes I Can! Awards and Certificates of Recognition at this year’s Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC) Conference. Congratulations! The awards are presented annually to students with exceptionalities who have exhibited outstanding improvement in several different categories or individuals who have made significant contributions to the lives of these students. With six recipients this year in SJASD, we are honoured to recognize each of their stories.



From the left are recipients Ms. Borger, Ms. Kirkland and student Brice S.

Brice S. from Strathmillan School received his award in academics. Brice’s independence, perseverance and academic skills have grown dramatically this past year. He has developed gains in his fine motor abilities and is now able to write stories to share with his family and friends. His social skills and communication with peers has also blossomed as he faces challenges with a huge smile on his face and continually inspires those around him.

Hugo G. at Buchanan School received his award for self-advocacy. Throughout the years, Hugo’s verbal and social skills have improved a tremendous amount to the extent where he is now the one to initiate friendly conversations with friends and teachers alike. He can communicate his feelings, wants and needs to adults and peers and



Student recipient Hugo G.

continues to develop many personal relationships. His friendships have grown inside and outside of school, along with his confidence and self-esteem. Hugo demonstrates the true Yes I Can! spirit!

JJ M., a Grade 1 student at École Robert Browning, received the self-advocacy award. JJ has a shining personality, a wide variety of interests in sports and a great sense of humour. His positive attitude and willingness to try anything are key to his success at school. He participates in football, baseball, hockey and soccer during recess, displaying a strong skillset. JJ tackles tasks in class with determination, perseverance and courage. His teachers see him as resilient and a role model to his classmates.

Ms. Hailley received a certificate of recognition acknowledging her work as an educational assistant, supporting students with cognitive and behavioural challenges. In this capacity, she has worked intensively with one non-verbal student with autism, supported by her collaborative team from school, home, St. Amant and Children’s DISABILITY Services. Trusted wholeheartedly by the student’s parent, Ms. Hailley provided evening/weekend respite to the student and when tragedy struck in June 2018 with the loss of the student’s parent, she stepped forward immediately to become the caregiver. She continues to work tirelessly as an advocate for this young adult including living arrangements, academic plans, medical appointments, as well as assisting the student in grieving the loss of her parent. Through patience and care, Ms. Hailley remains this student’s trusted caregiver and personal advocate.

Ms. Kirkland has been at Strathmillan School for 11 years, first as a kindergarten teacher and more recently teaching Grade 1. She is the recipient of a Certificate of Recognition. Working in collaboration with her Student Services Team, Ms. Kirkland is aware of who would benefit from additional supports like visuals, technology, verbal prompts and gestures. Students in her class are continually engaged in child-friendly learning activities, such as song, play and games, to ensure all students are supported to form connections in their learning. To strengthen the partnerships between school and home, Ms. Kirkland connects with parents through Instagram, meetings, triad conferences and celebrations of success. She also supports teachers at Strathmillan School in her role as a teacher leader, sharing her passion and knowledge in the areas of literacy and numeracy.

Ms. Borger is a major contributor to the field of education, particularly when it comes to supporting children with exceptional needs at the provincial, national and international level. In her leadership roles, she has worked tirelessly to assist



From the left: Ms. Haddouche (EA), JJ M. (student recipient), and Ms. Flynn (Teacher).

children and their families in receiving appropriate educational programming and support. Ms. Borger labours to help all students feel valued and safe, laying the foundation for them to experience success in school. Her approach consistently focused on the strengths of the child and the responsibility to meet their needs. She is a strong advocate for children with exceptional needs in both her professional role and as a volunteer, including holding several portfolios on the Metro and Provincial Student Services Administrators Association of Manitoba. As a leader in school safety in Manitoba, she collaborated with outside associations to establish communication guidelines for Threat/Risk Assessments. She chaired the Metro Threat/Risk Assessment Committee as they established a protocol with the Winnipeg Police Service and helped support training in this area. Ms. Borger was recognized for her leadership in the field of Threat/Risk Assessment by the national association in April of 2015. She has also served as a member of the Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children at the provincial, national and international levels. She is a past-president of MCEC and a past-governor, representing Manitoba on the International Council for Exceptional Children. She is also a past-president of the Canadian Council for Exceptional Children. In addition to her time in CEC governance, Ms. Borger chaired the first MCEC Yes I Can! Awards Committee and then continued to serve as a member of the planning committee for over 25 years. Her long-time commitment to the children and youth of Manitoba and her demonstrated dedication to the field of education, make her a worthy recipient of the MCEC Outstanding Achievement Award in the area of leadership.

Congratulations to all recipients on these honourable recognitions, and for the valued insight and inspiration you bring to our Division.

Bruce presents ReconciliACTION Festival

The Grade 6 students at Bruce Middle School hosted a ReconciliACTION Festival for all students, staff and community members. The purpose of the festival was to raise awareness about Canadian residential schools; with a strong focus on the impact these schools have had within our society, throughout our history up until present day. The students did this to honour their part in the journey towards truth and reconciliation.

The festival took place at the school on December 20 and consisted of a variety of different stations. ReconciliAction was held throughout the entire afternoon, as teachers signed up to come by with their classes. For a

look at the stations, check out the box below.

Prior to the festival, Grade 6 students took action by walking to raise awareness for their cause. Together they walked with a special individual in mind, Chanie Wenjack, a boy who ran away from a residential school and lost his life like thousands of others. Students promoted their ReconciliACTION Festival during the walk using invitational posters and shared them all around the school and the community. During these activities, the Bruce leadership team raised funds for the Circle of Life Thunderbird House, a cultural hub for Winnipeg's Indigenous community.

Submitted by teacher Ms. Downes



ReconciliACTION Festival Stations included:

- 1: **Bannock** - Students prepared bannock for all attendees.
- 2: **Indigenous Crafting with April Waters** - Festival goers could make dream catchers or help make one large dreamcatcher together with all of the attendees! (Now on display in the front entrance of the school)
- 3: **Dancing** - A practiced, Grade 8 Bruce student taught Indigenous dance!
- 4: **Literature & Storytelling** - Sharing of books the students have read and reflected on.
- 5: **Listening** - Hear stories from survivors and other family members who've been affected by residential schools.
- 6: **Chanie's Path on iPads** - Discover Chanie's story through an online interactive map.



Sources of Strength sponsor Yoga for the Cure

Students and staff settle into yoga tree pose to calm their minds and strengthen their bodies in support of CancerCare Manitoba.

The Sources of Strength (SOS) teams at Lincoln Middle School and Westwood Collegiate, made up of adults and student leaders, each hosted yoga classes during the lunch hour to promote mental health within their schools. SOS teams are networks within our schools put in place to help promote mental health, student connections, relationships, strength-building techniques and to support the well-being of students. Westwood Family of Schools SOS leader, Divisional Social Worker Ms. Ross, suggested this event to her teams after connecting with a local instructor who had recently launched a charitable initiative in response to a difficult experience in her life.

Yoga instructor Alisa H. began the initiative *Healing Minds, Healing Bodies - Yoga for the Cure* two years ago after one of her close family members had been diagnosed with cancer. She started offering yoga classes in the community, first at Clear

Lake and then in Winnipeg, donating all proceeds to CancerCare Manitoba.

"I love that this yoga class fit with SOS in terms of spirituality, physical activity, the mental health piece and the generosity aspect," said Ms. Ross. "We are always trying to incorporate new ideas to give students strategies to cope and find tools within themselves to bring calm and peace into their lives."

Together, the Lincoln Middle School and Westwood Collegiate karma classes saw more than 75 students and staff take part. The two events raised \$585.75 for CancerCare Manitoba. The *Healing Minds, Healing Bodies - Yoga for the Cure* initiative has now raised over \$5,000 in two short years. While the fundraising element promotes active citizenship, the classes enjoyed many benefits.

The class consisted of male and female students and staff who challenged themselves to explore new positions and connect with others in a circle setting. The class offered senior years students a chance to relax and clear their minds during exam



week and helped all participants tune in with their breath, thoughts and bodies. A great way to start off the new year and introduce students to a new practice. A special thank you to instructor Alissa H., Ms. Ross and both SOS teams for helping bring this opportunity to our schools.

Westwood Dance students set to host Movement for Movement, April 26

A Fundraiser Showcase for the Movement Centre of Manitoba

No matter what language you speak, who you are, or where you come from, everyone speaks the language of dance.

As part of a student fundraising project, Westwood Collegiate dance advanced students are hosting a showcase called *Movement for Movement* to raise money for the Movement Centre of Manitoba. The centre is a charitable organization committed to improving the physical health of children and adults with physical disabilities. The show will be held on Friday, April 26 at 7 p.m. inside the Westwood Collegiate theatre.



Grade 12 student Julie H. working on her solo for the showcase.

In the dance advanced program at the school, students are grouped into four tribes: Garnet, Peridot, Amethyst, and Topaz. Each tribe participates in fun challenges throughout the school year to earn tribal points. One of the challenges this year is to organize a fundraising event for a local charity of their choice. Students from the Garnet and Peridot tribes brainstormed the idea of hosting the *Movement for Movement* showcase. Westwood Collegiate dance teacher Mr. Toms says he aimed to challenge students to think outside the box.

"There are so many fundraisers going on in our community at any one time," said Mr. Toms. "I wanted the students to come up with something unique and run with it!"

Garnet Tribal prefects Nathaniel M. and Julia H. are excited for the chance to help support this local organization.

"We love to dance and create," said the two. "And there isn't a better feeling than doing what you love and supporting a good cause. Although this is a big, challenging project, we couldn't be having more fun putting this show on."

The Movement Centre of Manitoba is committed to helping people maximize their independence by, much like the dance studio, providing an



Dance advanced students in the Garnet and Peridot tribes preparing to present a student-led showcase in support of the Movement Centre of Manitoba.

encouraging and motivating learning environment. Active problem solving occurs through learning new movements and tasks, allowing the brain to form new connections, which in turn, can lead to physical growth and development.

The upcoming showcase will involve high school students from the dance community in both Charleswood and St. James-Assiniboia, as well as other dance artists from across Winnipeg. *Movement for Movement* will consist

of a variety of dance genres too, such as hip hop, lyrical, African and contemporary. The show will be approximately one hour in length and tickets cost \$10 each. Tickets can be purchased from any performer or at the box office the night of the show. Tickets are rush seating. For more information, please email moving4movement@gmail.com. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. All proceeds go towards the Movement Centre of Manitoba.

I Love to Read Month

This page is a spotlight on "I Love to Read" month in SJASD as our schools partner with community members and organizations to grow student literacy skills and foster a deep love of reading. "I Love to Read" month is celebrated each year in February in SJASD.



"Owls of the World" author swings by Sansome with Rusty the Owl

On February 13, Sansome School hosted a highly anticipated guest as part of "I Love to Read" month. Author, biologist and researcher Dr. James Duncan met with all grade levels to share his writing tips, knowledge of owls, scientific research, and also introduce his special friend, Rusty, to the students.

Rusty is a long-eared female owl approximately four years old. She sat perched in the corner of the music room as students gathered to enjoy the presentation. Dr. Duncan demonstrated how interesting owls are by having students take part in little exercises, such as testing their peripheral vision or seeing how far they can rotate their heads. He said owls can rotate their heads upwards of 270 degrees as they have twice as many bones in their necks as humans

do, totalling 14 bones. Owls also only have one pivot point connecting their neck to their skull allowing their heads to twist further.

Next, the students watched a short video taken by Dr. Duncan using a GoPro capturing owls in their natural habitat. Students learned where owls can be found in our province, such as nesting high up in rotted out trees or abandoned birds nests. The video revisited several nest locations after the eggs had hatched, revealing little baby owls on screen. Dr. Duncan shared what it is like to be a biologist and research animals in the wild, particularly owls, and said it is the best part of his job. Students also learned about the many different types of owls, including Manitoba's provincial bird, the great grey owl.

Before students raised their hands

in a flurry to know more about owls, Rusty had the opportunity to stretch her wings and fly around the room. She always landed on a high up perch to feel safe and have an overview of the room.

Part of being a writer is finding a subject you feel passionate about and sharing new ideas or information on that specific topic. Dr. Duncan certainly has done his research and homework on owls as he is a professor at the University of Winnipeg and Director of the Wildlife Branch of the Government of Manitoba. He is an owl expert, a celebrated author of the book *Owls of the World* and a welcome guest in SJASD. This particular visit tied "I Love to Read" month to scientific concepts as well as writing, and Rusty was a big hit too. Great idea, Sansome!



Peyton brings the Jets to Lakewood

It all started at the end of January, when the amazing students from Team 17 each wrote five reasons why they wanted the Winnipeg Jets to come to our classroom. A few days later, Ms. Rose told us that she had something important to share at the end of the day. The important thing was... the Jets are coming to Lakewood!

Ms. Rose told us who won and the person was... Peyton! Everyone got really excited because we were going to get autographs. Then, on February 4, Dmitry Kulikov and Ben Chiarot came to read to Team 17. We got to ask them questions. For

example: Who is a hero to them? What teams have you played for? Where did you grow up? Why do you like playing hockey? Peyton got a stick signed and an autographed Jets jersey. Everyone had a lot of fun and got two things signed. We also each got six autographed Jets player bookmarks and an autographed copy of the book they read to us. We tasted the victory of winning the contest! We also got hugs!

At the end of all of this, we got a group photo with everyone in the class and the two Winnipeg Jets players.

Written by Peyton and Callin, Team 17



Winnipeg Jets stop by Lakewood School as part of the Reading Takes Flight Program, in honour of "I Love to Read" month.

Facts, Fiction & Friendship

Phoenix School took "I Love to Read" month as an opportunity to promote friendships and build relationships within the building. With the theme of friendship, students and staff got to know each other a little better, starting with their reading preferences. The "We read, too. Can you guess who?" board featured obstructed photos of staff members paired with their favourite books. Students were encouraged to guess which staff member named which book as their favourite! Strengthening school bonds and finding commonalities through literature didn't stop there. The school also hosted a fun and relaxing Read In event on February 21. Students showed up with members of their family in their pjs, along with their favourite stuffed animal to cozy up and flip some pages while lounging in the school gym. This shift in environment, making the school setting feel more like home, celebrated reading in an approachable and encouraging way. These events, bolstered by daily Drop Everything And Read (D.E.A.R.) sessions, along with a series of book battles, ensured students had countless opportunities to explore different genres, reflect on their reading and share their opinions or new found knowledge with others in the building. Great job to Phoenix School on bringing friendship to the forefront this February in connection with "I Love to Read."

Special guests read aloud at Assiniboine

It is impossible to capture all the special guests who visit our schools during "I Love to Read" month, so we are shining a light on one school, one morning, and the fun they had. On February 12, two special guests brought multiple books to life inside various classrooms at École Assiniboine. St. James-Assiniboia Teachers' Association President Mr. McPherson toured several classes, encouraging discussions and literary reflection along the way. Another guest, who just so happened to be a familiar face within the school, custodian Mr. Magian, also read multiple stories aloud to students across different grade levels. The students loved having these guests read to them and shared handmade cards as a symbol of appreciation. Thank you to all guests who made this month extra special within our schools.



CONGRATULATIONS



Divisional Musical Theatre Cast 1 during the morning show on January 31.

Junie B. wows the crowds in SJASD

During the cold snap, between January 26 and February 2, SJASD students delivered warmth, humor and optimism with the production of *Junie B. Jones Jr. The Musical*. Audiences travelled back to the first grade, where new friendships flourish in unlikely places and a beeswax journal captures all of life's exciting adventures. The big kickball tournament puts a lot of pressure on Junie B. as she signs up to provide entertainment during the half time show. At the end of the day, "when life gives you lemons, just make lemonade," and continue to work hard until a task, talent or situation becomes a little easier. The fun, energetic show delighted audiences for eight days with two tremendous casts consisting of 150 students in grades 4 through 8 in SJASD. Congratulations to the cast, crew, volunteers, parents and staff who helped make this production possible. A special nod to Divisional Musical Theatre Director Mrs. Olko on organizing another wonderful show! Thank you as well to Westwood Collegiate for hosting the production again this year.

Jimmies earn Best in Engineering Award

The St. James Collegiate Astro Jimmies group received an impressive award at the 3rd annual High Altitude Balloon (HAB) Symposium. The HAB symposium, held on February 20 at the University of Manitoba, is where schools gather to discuss their high altitude balloon flights, learn and grow from each other, as well as celebrate the achievements of schools from the previous year.

The Astro Jimmies team, led by Ms. Werner and Mr. Kozyra, received the HAB award for Best in Engineering and Design of their payload. The students built the 2018 R2-D2 payload (pictured below) from scratch, and sent it all the way to space and back, carrying HD cameras as well as a tracking beacon. Well done to the Jimmies and best of luck on the balloon launch and flight this year!



Curling Champions at Westwood

Congratulations to the Westwood Collegiate Girls team on bringing home the 2018-2019 WWAC Curling Championship banner. The girls beat the Fort Richmond Centurions on February 12 at their home rink 5-3 to take the first place seat. The girls then moved on to compete in the Provincial tournament in Somerset, held on February 21 to 23. At Provincials, the warriors advanced to the semi finals after besting the Shoal Lake School Sharks and the Neepawa Tigers. Unfortunately, they came up short against the Edward Shreyer Barons in the semi-final, 6-3. Hats off to Ms. Nemetchek, Kathryn, Emily and Jen on their outstanding season!

Huskies win WSHL Banner

Congratulations to the Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate Boys hockey team on winning the first hockey league championship in the history of the school. The Huskies defeated Garden City in the final at the MTS Iceplex, a close game with a score of 5-4, to collect the Platinum Promotions Division 1 Championship Banner. A special nod to Ryan O. on receiving the MVP award for the championship game, and great job to all the Husky players who worked hard during each minute of ice time in the tight final. Congratulations to the coaching team: head coach Mr. Metcalfe, assistant coaches Mr. Watt, Mr. Engel, Mr. Bigourdin and team manager Ms. Hazen. The team then advanced to the Provincial tournament, where they bested both teams in the round robin and won the semi-final game against the Garden Valley Zodiacs, 3-0. In the Provincial Championship game, the Huskies came up short against St. Pauls, losing 3-0, but played hard until the last whistle. Well done, Huskies!



The Circle of Educators honour Mrs. Hoch

Buchanan Principal Mrs. Hoch receives a special recognition at the 13th annual Aboriginal Circle of Educators (ACE) Awards. The banquet was held on February 15 inside the Best Western Plus Airport Hotel in conjunction with the 16th Annual ACE conference.

Mrs. Hoch received the Honouring Our Allies award, presented to individuals who are non-Indigenous and demonstrate a commitment to promoting Indigenous Education initiatives.

"It was an honour to receive this Award from the ACE Committee," shared Mrs. Hoch. "The award truly belongs to the team at Buchanan as well as the elders and Indigenous educators who have supported our journey towards reconciliation."

Mrs. Hoch has been a leader and advocate for Indigenous Education for teachers and students at Buchanan School.

"She has encouraged numerous grants and

ideas that the Indigenous Education Committee has formulated into school-wide projects," shared school counsellor Mrs. Warrenchuk.

Mrs. Hoch continually invites staff to explore professional learning opportunities to become more educated and comfortable teaching Indigenous perspectives in their classrooms. She also invites guest speakers to the school on a regular basis to discuss various topics, including residential schools and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, with both students and staff.

The Indigenous Education Committee says she has helped create an atmosphere that celebrates First Nations Peoples and is welcoming to all students, parents and community members within Buchanan School. Congratulations to Mrs. Hoch for being a leader in this area and for exemplifying the importance of being culturally aware of students and their diverse needs.



Buchanan Principal Mrs. Hoch (pictured left) accepting the Honouring Our Allies Award.

Many student and staff achievements are celebrated in SJASD that are not featured on this page, follow us on social media for more stories:



@st.james_assiniboiasd



@St.JamesAssiniboiaSchoolDivision

Félicitations to all Concours d'Art Oratoire participants in SJASD

On March 5 and 6, SJASD held its annual Concours d'Art Oratoire event at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate (CSHC). Concours d'Art Oratoire is an annual public speaking event sponsored by Canadian Parents for French. The objective is to help students develop effective public speaking skills while simultaneously motivating them to improve their oral skills in a second language.

Students broaden their knowledge and vocabulary as they prepare an informative speech on a topic of their choice. At Concours, students present their speeches in front of audiences and judges within their respective categories, which are based on both their level of French and grade level. The students keep in mind a series of public speaking tips such as eye contact, body language,

voice inflection, memorization and pace of delivery. With many great speeches and presentations this year, we wish to congratulate all of the students who participated in Concours d'Art Oratoire 2019. The first evening showcased our Grades 3 to 6 students and the second night featured our Grades 7 to 12 students. Those who received the highest achievement in their category were

selected to move on to represent SJASD at Provincials. The Manitoba Concours d'Art Oratoire will be held on May 4 at the Université de Saint-Boniface. Twelve of 13 SJASD finalists are pictured below. Best of luck to all students moving on, and a special thank you to all of the students, staff, parents, judges and volunteers for your support, effort and time again this year!



From the top L-R: Joseph D. (Assiniboine), Kyrth T. (Stevenson-Britannia), Cole A. (Bannatyne), and Jessica J. (Golden Gate). Bottom row: Olive D.L. (Assiniboine) and Afnaan A. (Ness).



From the left: Hannah E. (CSHC), Sarah E. (Ness), Agape S. (CSHC), Moussa D. (CSHC), Harry A. (CSHC) and Jada O. (Ness). Baily T. from GWMS is not pictured.

Browning rings in Festival du Voyageur

Hé ho! At École Robert Browning, Festival du Voyageur is a memorable, month-long celebration for all!

Our school launched its annual celebration with a kick-off event for the community on February 7, organized by the school parent council. Families came together to indulge in traditional foods, games, live entertainment, crafts and more.

"The Festival family night was awesome!" said Grade 3 student Oren O. "My favourite part was the jigging and the yummy food!"

Thank you to our dedicated parent council for planning the festivities and also to our community for attending and helping the event be a success.

At the school-wide Festival du Voyageur assembly, held on February 20, students in

Grades 2 and 3 played La Chanson du Voyageur while staff and students sang along. This assembly ushered in the École Robert Browning "Build a Voyageur Week," where students wore an item of voyageur clothing each day of the school week.

"I love dressing up like a voyageur, it's so fun," said Grade 2 student Peyton B. "It's my favourite time of the year."

On the final day, the school community, at this point brimming with petits voyageurs, shared delicious homemade bannock together to cap off another great celebration of French culture and heritage in Canada! At École Robert Browning, students and staff alike love celebrating Festival du Voyageur each February! Until next year, hé ho!

Submitted by Vice Principal Mme Tyler



Pictured from the left are student voyageurs Aubrey S., Charlie W., Torrie R. and Peyton B.

Celebrating heritage at Oak Hammock Marsh

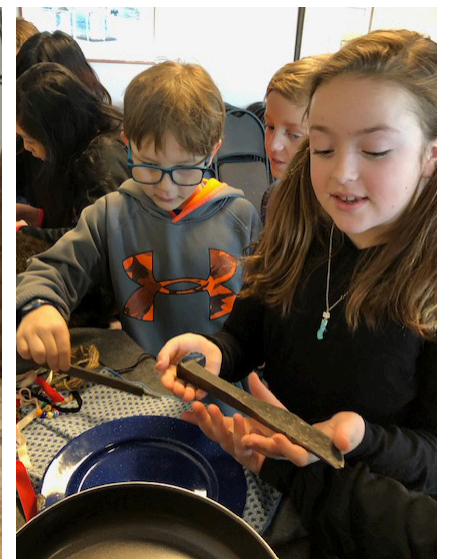
Grade 4 students at École Assiniboine enjoyed a visit to Oak Hammock Marsh on February 25. The activity, sponsored by the École Assiniboine Parent Council, proved to be a great learning experience for all who attended. At the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, students participated in a variety of activities to discover more about voyageurs and their way of life. This included learning about the fur trade, traditional games, and a day in the life of a voyageur. The field trip allowed students to connect and bond as they collaborated to play games and explore, all the while developing a greater appreciation for French culture and history. The students had a number of great reflections to share about their experience at Oak Hammock Marsh, as referenced below:

"I learned that Voyageurs did treaties with the Indigenous Peoples," shared Kinsey P.

"I was on Hudson Bay team for the games and it was tons of fun," expressed Roquelle J. "I really enjoyed the pancake toss and loved the day with my friends."

"The Bison is an animal that teaches us respect and the turtle can help you learn about the phases of the moon," stated Jude K.

Submitted by Principal Mme Melo



Upcoming Events

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

March 25 - 29
Spring Break

April 3
Middle Years Reports
Divisional Science Fair

April 9
School Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
2574 Portage Ave, Public Welcome

April 19
Good Friday, No School

April 23
School Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
2574 Portage Ave, Public Welcome

April 23-24
Divisional Art Exhibition,
Glendale Golf and Country Club

April 24-25
Early Years Speed Stacking Tournament

April 25
Senior Years Reports
Divisional Children's Choir Tour Day

Visit our Divisional Calendar at www.sjasd.ca for additional details on Division/school events.

CONTACT

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

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