



CONTACT

Great Schools for
Growing and Learning

St. James-Assiniboia School Division

Spring Issue 2018



Space Jimmies earn Best Video/
Photography Award **Page 5**



Pipers pack for "Once in a lifetime" mission trip to Ecuador

This year over spring break, a group of 12 students from John Taylor Collegiate are continuing their tradition of demonstrating global citizenship by getting their hands dirty to help grow a rural community in South America.

The JTC team will be travelling to Quito, Ecuador for 10 days from March 23 to April 1 for what is called a ME to WE Service Trip. ME to WE is a family of organizations who work to "empower people to transform local and global communities by shifting from "me" thinking to "we" acting. Students in Grades 9 to 12, as well as one 2017 graduate, are up for the challenge.

This is the second time in three years the Pipers have travelled to Latin America for a service trip and the goal remains the same—to help a community become self-sustaining. According to ME to WE, the pillars needed for a sustainable community are education, clean water, health, alternative income/livelihood and food security. This could translate into students laying bricks for the foundation of a school, digging wells to provide clean water or doing many other hands-on activities to promote sustainable living.

In preparation for the trip, the group met several times to review itineraries, brush up on their Spanish skills and participate in a few team building exercises. The goal was to help students bond before they collaborate on challenging tasks and spend over a week lodging in the Amazon Rainforest together with no air condition-

ing. At a team meeting held on March 6, a few students said this is one of the aspects they are looking forward to most about the trip. Apart from experiencing a new culture and being able to help others, they are excited to form new friendships.

Grade 11 student council member Noelle A. said her brother went on the Nicaragua trip two years ago and told her about the quality relationships he gained from the experience.

"Most of the people in the room I don't know," said Grade 10 participant Mariah N. "I know throughout the trip you are going to need someone to talk to and you are going to form a bond and maybe it will be lifelong."

Mariah has never been on a plane before, let alone three in one day, and can't wait to go on this global trip to leave an impact on someone else's life.

Grade 10 Youth in Philanthropy student Ewan S. said "on this trip we are thinking of others before we think of ourselves and we just have learn to do that all the time." He is looking forward to learning from the people they meet and says it is just a "once in a lifetime opportunity."

JT staff members Ms. Paragg, Mr. Marquart and Mr. Bruce will be travelling with the students to provide support. A few scheduled itinerary stops include a local cacao farm, a jungle hike, a shaman visit and much more. We wish all travellers a safe and inspiring trip and look forward to hearing more details when they return.



Youth Forum at Canada Museum
for Human Rights **Page 6**

www.sjasd.ca

2018/2019 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 second consecutive year, St. James-Assiniboia received a (2%) cut in Provincial Funding. Overall Provincial Funding as a percentage of Total Operating Revenue has decreased from 72.95% in 1985 to 51.78% in 2018.

Special Requirement

- 2018/2019: \$65,510,729
- 2017/2018: \$64,226,205
- Increase: \$1,284,524 or 2% (Provincial Guideline is 2%)

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

- St. James-Assiniboia 12.973 (2018)

- St. James-Assiniboia 13.111 (2017)
- Metro Average 14.034 (2017)

Average Home Value

- \$274,700 (2018)
- School Taxes on Average Home:
- Low School Tax Increase 1.57%
- School Tax Increase \$24.83 or \$2.07 per month

Operating Expenditures

- Operating expenditures \$108,772,302 (2018)
- Low Increase of \$482,410 or 0.45%
- Many of the Operating Expenditures have offsetting revenues
- No cuts were made to programs or services at schools

Enrolment

- September 2017: 8,450
- September 2018: 8,600
- Projected increase of 150 students

Property Assessment

- St. James-Assiniboia 2018 Portioned Assessment increased by 4.74%
- Metro Average 2018 Portioned Assessment increased by 4.92%

Gross Operating Reserve

- \$2,346,737 or 2.16% of 2018/2019 operating expenditures (Provincial Government guideline is 4%)

Major Initiatives

- 5-Year Plan for the repairs/renovations of school buildings - \$11.5 million
- 5-Year Plan for Technology Network upgrades and replacement - \$9.8 million

Administrative Costs

- Administrative costs are 2.99% (the Provincial Government guideline is 3.00%)

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

Indigenous Partnerships elevate learning at Phoenix

Renowned Indigenous soap stone carver and storyteller Michael Many Eagles is a familiar face at Phoenix School.

From February 12-15, Michael Many Eagles shared his talents and expertise with the students at Phoenix School for the second time in two years. Through soap stone carving workshops, he helped students learn the basics of carving and encouraged them to be creative by sculpting a variety of unique figurines.

"He's talented at carving stone and I would like to carve like him!" said Grade 1 student Jessica B.

Michael Many Eagles also joined in supporting the school's year-long topic of instruction centred on water. He used his masterful storytelling skills to bring to life a series of Indigenous Water Stories, highlighting the unique relationship between Indige-

nous people in Canada and water.

Grade 2 student Gavin K. said he liked learning the new Cree words Michael Many Eagles taught them during the sessions. The intermediate grade levels are delving further into the topic of water from an Indigenous perspective with the help of Divisional Indigenous Education Teacher Richelle Scott.

To further complement the work of Micheal Many Eagles and the water study units, the school connected with Star Dome, a mobile planetarium experience for the students. The students engaged in the Sky Stories program, which focuses on sharing and interpreting the First Peoples' stories of the sky.

The Star Dome experience and visit with Michael Many Eagles were both funded by student fees and Parent Council. The school also secured a divisional grant to support the initiative with Michael Many Ea-

Exploring diverse identities at Stevenson-Britannia

Our theme this year at Stevenson Britannia is Diversity. Since September, students and staff have been collaborating to promote and celebrate diversity within our school across all grade levels. As a school community, we've engaged in many initiatives to help students become more self-aware of their own diverse identities, this includes but is not limited to: individual strengths, learning styles, family and cultural backgrounds, as well as building relationships and understanding of themselves and their peers.

At Stevenson, all Grade 3, 4 and 5 classrooms participate in group reading activities called Literature Circles. The most recent round of literature circles focused on diverse identities. Students were given a choice of 12 books to read including picture books, chapter books and audio books. While reading, the students discussed themes and individual

interpretations amongst themselves and worked collaboratively to create connections, predictions and visualizations. Students were encouraged to think critically about the text and ask lots of questions to deepen their comprehension and understanding. After these sessions, writing tasks were completed to pinpoint how each book celebrated diverse identities. Once the students completed their study of a book and the writing task, they could choose another book or join a different group to further grow their literacy skills and knowledge around diverse identities.

"The books have important lessons for our future." said Grade 3 student Yuan S.

At the Grade 4 level, Nolan S. reflected on the experience saying, "It's hard but the further you go on it's easier to break down the book."

And lastly, Jessica J. in Grade 5 said the book she



Students on the floor engaging in a hands-on soap stone carving lesson with Michael Many Eagles.

gles. Thank you to Parent Council, Phoenix families and the school division for supporting this special learning experience for our students and staff.



chose, *One Crazy Summer*, motivated her to want to stick up for other people if someone is unkind or mean. Collectively, Stevenson-Britannia is enjoying this theme of diverse identities as it speaks to our students, our families, and our community. We are all diverse. We are all important. We all belong. Submitted by Stevenson Staff



The Advanced Placement Calculus Group for the class of 2018 at John Taylor Collegiate.

JTC reflects on the impacts of Advanced Placement

The Advanced Placement (AP) program is an internationally recognized curriculum that allows students to pursue university level studies while still in high school. Following completion of the program, students earn their high school credits and, upon successful achievement of course specific exams, have the opportunity to earn credit for first-year university courses.

John Taylor Collegiate (JTC) offers five distinct AP courses - Biology, Chemistry, Calculus, English and Psychology—all of which deliver challenging course content while simultaneously helping students explore, discover and create in areas of interest to them. Six first-year university courses have the potential to be completed while at JTC as the AP English course offers two AP exams in each of the Language and Literature disciplines.

Further to earning university credit, students in AP classes gain vital problem-solving, time management and study skills applicable beyond the high school setting. Students also stand out in the uni-

versity admission process by having AP courses on their transcripts as admissions officers can see students are ready for academic challenges. Students, as well as their families, are continually surprised by the amount of money and time these AP credits have saved them as it earns them university credits without paying post-secondary tuition fees.

"There is a significant amount of data that confirms students who take two or more AP courses are more than twice as likely to complete a four-year university degree than students who do not," referenced in the research note *College Persistence, Graduation, and Remediation* by W. Camara, NY: College Board.

Recent JTC graduates reflected on their high school studies and shared their personal views on the aftermath of the AP program.

"I took all 5 AP courses offered at John Taylor during my Grade 11 and 12 years," said 2017 graduate Colin J. "The work and studying required a lot of time and involvement, but it has been nothing but rewarding. Having already gained knowledge of university level subjects and problem-solving skills, the transition to my first year at university has been very easy. Not only was it more manageable, but with the credits I earned in the AP program (four university courses), it lightened my overall course load and saved me money!"

Khalil Q. graduated in 2016 and said the AP program allowed him to be immersed in university level material but with all the extra resources a high school has to offer. Classmate Shelby B. had a similar reflection of her AP experience saying, "It gave me the opportunity to experience a university level course load, content, and pace of learning in a familiar and individual-focused environment that better equipped me for my university challenges."



Chris H. and Simon H. explore characteristics of cell membranes in AP Biology.

Greenery to grow young minds at Buchanan School

The staff and students at Buchanan School have been working on their green thumbs! Indoor tower gardens have sprung up around the school thanks to a school-wide gardening project.

Tower gardens are vertical, aeroponic growing systems that take up less than three square feet of space. On these towers there is room to grow 20 different plants. The systems are situated on wheels and are easily transported to different areas of the school for everyone to enjoy.

The tower gardens have become a school-wide undertaking with contributions from all members of the school community including students, teachers, administration, custodial staff and educational assistants. In the classroom, the tower gardens are transformed into learning gardens. The gardens are mobile, which allows all classrooms the opportunity to share in the process of growing, tending to and even eating from the gardens.

Students have been given the opportunity to explore concepts in math, science, healthy eating habits, and other areas through this authentic and hands-on learning experience.

Submitted by teacher Ms. Milne



New Climbing Wall is all the rave at Robert Browning

Over the holiday break, École Robert Browning gained a new piece of equipment to further enhance daily physical activity and play.

The Traverse Climbing Wall, installed by a Winnipeg-based company, is 20 feet wide by 8 feet high and is designed to be scaled from side to side. It offers countless climbing wall layouts to accommodate all ages, as well as varying levels of physical ability.

"Every student in Kindergarten through Grade 5 tried it out yesterday at least once and it seemed like there were lots of positives," said Physical Education teacher Mr. Vermeylen after Day 1.



While some of the older students were determined to make it half way, or all the way across the wall, some of the younger students were successful in holding themselves up for a few seconds or travelling from one rock to the next.

"It allows kids to set

their own goals and as they get better at it, we can replace the rocks, add or take away rocks, it is a fluid thing that we can always be changing."

Two Grade 4 students, Chloe O. and Mackenzie M., shared they are excited about the new rock wall at their school. They both admitted it encouraged them to change into their gym clothes a little faster to have their turn on the wall as a warm up before class.

"It's fun, it's fit and it's challenging," said Mackenzie. "It's new too, so a lot of students want to try it."

Mackenzie has tried wall climbing once before at a friend's birthday party and when his turn came at school, he managed to make it across the wall the first two days in a row.

"I want to get faster now," said Mackenzie.

Chloe has enjoyed wall climbing numerous times before, such as at the YMCA, but still found it to be a good challenge and says she thinks it will help to strengthen up more kids in the school.

Physical Education teachers Mr. Vermeylen and Mr. Koester work side by side in the gym and collaborate to keep students as active as possible. They recognize the climbing wall as both an instant activity students can use the moment they walk



into the gym as they wait for their peers to finish changing, and as a tool they can use to "divide and conquer" the space by adding a new station into the mix during class.

As students step or jump down off the wall on only the second day, they are celebrating each other's progress, one climb at a time.

"I think with practice they should all be able to get part way across and we will see how it develops from there," said Mr. Vermeylen.



Ella J. riding her new adaptive bike alongside educational assistant, Mrs. Gillingham.

Celebrating a generous donation at Buchanan School

On February 1, Grade 3 student Ella J. received a special delivery at school. The Buchanan student found out she was the lucky recipient of a new customized bike donated by Freedom Concepts to the Children's Rehabilitation Centre's annual "A Night of Miracles" gala.

The bike was tailored to suit Ella's needs, not to mention her favourite colours, prior to going for her first spin. All of her classmates were excited to check out her new set of wheels and all of the special bells and whistles on the bike. Since the day of the delivery, Ella has been cruising down the hallways at Buchanan School, getting her daily dose of exercise alongside her peers. While Ella is a non-verbal student, her teachers and classmates can tell she is very happy to be riding around on her new, trendy bike. A big thank you to Freedom Concepts for the special build as we know we have one very grateful student in our Division.

Submitted by Buchanan teacher Ms. Cretton



Prioritizing mental health and mindfulness at Hedges

Two Grade 6 classes at Hedges Middle School are enjoying the benefits of yoga and mindfulness during the school day. Guidance counsellor Ms. Dueck is helping both classes introduce the impactful practices.

Since the beginning of November, Room 148 has been engaging in daily mindfulness exercises. Students are practicing meditation during transition times such as after locker break, gym class or practical arts classes. So far, five minutes of mindfulness at the start of the class has increased students' self-regulation and focus. The practice is leaving students, as well as their teachers, feeling more energized and ready to take on their next task.

Down the hall in Room 156, students have been practicing yoga once or twice a week for the past six months. Ms. Dueck introduced the class to a mix of both traditional and non-traditional styles of yoga. The students engage in traditional yoga, where they

don't talk and place a strong focus on their breath. These sessions allow them to practice self-regulation and learn how to "de-stress" their bodies. They also participate in non-quiet sessions, where they play games and rotate through poses like musical chairs. This approach gives students a good start to their day, fueling their bodies with the energy they need to be positive and productive. These classes have also led to the conversation around why relaxation and self-regulation are important for one's mental health.

With two classes exploring these practices, there is also a school-wide Yoga Club offered by Ms. Dueck on Thursday mornings before school open to all students and staff in the building. It is evident students are starting to apply the new concepts they have learned through yoga and meditation to other situations/aspects of their lives, such as when they need to reflect, relax or simply take a deep breath.



Positive mental health is a priority at Hedges Middle School and this is another way to help ensure students have the tools they need to lead happy, healthy and inspired lives.

Submitted by Hedges Middle School Staff

Three official Art Clubs launch at George Waters

Artistic talent is on the rise at George Waters Middle School as Art Clubs flourish at each grade level.

Ms. Bakker, who has been teaching at GWMS for ten years, began teaching art for the first time this year. While there was previously an informal art room drop-in for students every day at lunch, Ms. Bakker and her students came together this year to create an official Art Club. Her aim was for all students in the school to have the opportunity to enjoy art and work collaboratively on creative projects whether they are registered for art class or not.

"I'd say two thirds of the students are ones I don't teach, so it allows me to get to know more of the students in the school," said Mrs. Bakker.

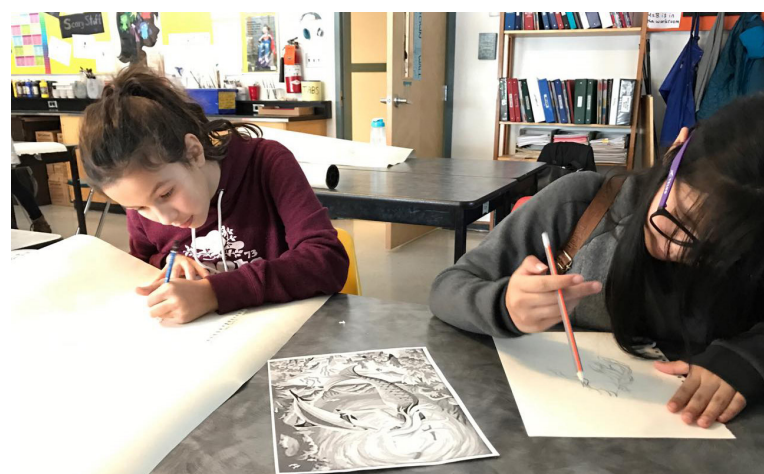
The art club is offered at the Grade 6, 7 and 8 level twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays in rotation during the lunch hour. The students have the option to work on a collaborative, grade level project or create art independently at their own leisure, such as sketch, paint or complete art homework.

"I like that we have a choice of what we do in Art Club," said Grade 7 member Sarah B. "We can choose what we want to draw or if we want to work on the mural (the Grade 7 group project)."

Sarah takes art classes at school and signed up to further improve her skills. On the other hand, GWMS student Krista N. is enrolled in band but has a passion for art as well. She is really enjoying this opportunity to create art during school hours.

"It's quiet and peaceful," said Krista. "I will definitely keep coming."

So far the Art Clubs are attended by approximately 30 students on a regular basis and Ms. Bakker is continually proud of the work being completed. The Art Club projects will be featured near the end of the school year in the school's first Art Show, taking place on Thursday, May 17 at George Waters Mid-



dle School. The Art Show will highlight visual and digital art, band, choir, drama and more. For more information about the show, visit the school website at www.sjasd.ca/school/georgewaters

FEBRUARY IS I LOVE TO READ

This page is a spotlight on "I Love to Read" at the Early Years level in SJASD as we partner with organizations and members of our community to help grow the literacy skills of our students and foster a life-long love of reading.



Lt. Governor shares lessons from Humpty Dumpty

On February 1st, the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, Her Honour the Honourable Janice Filmon read to the students in Room 8 at Phoenix School for "I Love To Read" month. She read the book, "After the Fall" by Dan Santat. It is about how Humpty Dumpty gets put back together and moves forward with his life after his great fall and in turn, faces his greatest fear—heights!

The inspiring book captured the full attention of the boys and girls in Room 8, as did Her Honour's delivery.

"When she read *After The Fall*, she used lots of expressions!" said Phoenix student Brooklyn S.

After attentively listening to the book be

read aloud, the students had the opportunity to ask Her Honour questions. She told the students various details about her job and all the different people she meets in her capacity as Lieutenant Governor. The students experienced the formality of her visit when they were asked to stand when she entered the classroom. The visit concluded with her giving all the boys and girls her special pin associated with the office of the Lieutenant Governor.

"I loved the beautiful pins she gave us," said student Lauren K.

Student Gwyneth L. put it best when she said, "It was special that you came to Phoenix School."



Manitoba Moose Stick to Reading at Voyageur School

To wrap up "I love to Read" month, one lucky class at Voyageur School enjoyed a read and greet session with two Manitoba Moose players.

On February 28 at 1:00 p.m., Manitoba Moose goalie Eric Comrie, 22, and defenseman Peter Stoykewych, 25, received a roar of applause as they entered the library at Voyageur School. Mrs. Cassell's Grade 2 class expressed their excitement for meeting both players and gave them their undivided attention as they read the book *Take Me Out to the Ice Rink*. The class was one of 10 local schools to be selected for this special visit based on an entry in the *Stick to Reading* Contest, submitted by Grade 2 student Kayla S. The *Stick to Reading* program, supported by McNally Robinson Booksellers, is designed to encourage and promote literacy among youth in the community.

"I liked that we got a picture with them, they read, we got books and they signed my best hockey things," said Kayla. "I'm a big fan."

The students prepared a series of questions to ask the players and engaged in casual conversation over topics such as dogs (which they both have), Super Mario, when they like to read in a day, why they

love hockey and what time they go to bed. "They both answered differently but I learned that they read lots and wake up super early," said Kayla.

The students took turns raising their hands to ask questions and then lined up to have their paraphernalia signed. The hour-long visit concluded with each student receiving a goodie bag with a book and book mark, followed by group photos, media interviews and Kayla being presented a Manitoba Moose jersey.

"It was amazing to be here," said Comrie. "The kids were so excited and enthusiastic, their questions were so thought out and you can tell how smart they are!" Comrie said he is also part of the Project 11 program and thinks it is special to be able to come out and share in these experiences with kids. He remembers what a special occasion it was as a kid having someone come visit your class and said "It's just great to be able to give back that same feeling you had when you were a kid."

Kayla's classmates were very thankful towards her for entering the contest to earn this special visit for the class and she said, "I know I will remember it for a very long time!"

"I Love to Read" all year long at Sansome

"I Love to Read" month is always a hit at Sansome School but this year, the energy and excitement has been going strong since September!

At Sansome School, growing a student's ability to select, connect and enjoy a wide variety of literacy is a key component of the instructional planning. Each day, all classrooms are provided with protected common literacy periods. These time allotments encourage student choice, collaboration, and direct reading support, which allows students to think critically and reflect on a daily basis. All staff work together to support these literacy periods and are happy to welcome student volunteers from Westwood Collegiate to further promote a love of reading within their classrooms.

"Our students truly enjoy their reading time with their Westwood partners who do an excellent job of modeling the enjoyment of reading and celebrating the growth in ability of our students," expressed Sansome School Principal Mr. Lizotte.

While Sansome is grateful for the positive influence of the older students, the high school students also benefit from the experience. Westwood students gain leadership skills, develop new relationships with younger members of the community and are one step closer to receiving their high school volunteerism credit.

The Westwood Collegiate students swing by Sansome School every Thursday to connect with their reading buddies and celebrate reading all year round.



Bisons love reading together at Brooklands

This year's "I Love to Read" month marked the second year of a partnership in the Brooklands community.

In February, staff from the Canadian transport company, Bison Transport, visited Brooklands School throughout the month. The school is in the same neighbourhood as the company and conveniently shares the same logo/mascot... the Bison!

The Brooklands students remembered the Bison Transport readers from the previous year and were excited to hear they were coming back again. When they connected at the school, the students couldn't wait to share their favourite books with their Bison buddy, chat with them and dine over a light snack of milk and cookies.

"This partnership allows our students who struggle with reading to share reading with a safe and caring adult," said Principal Ferguson-Baird. "Bison Transport staff have become an anticipated part of these students' week."

Linda Young, Bison Transport VP of HR & People Development said "We feel very fortunate to be invited into a great school like Brooklands where our Bison family can help inspire and empower future generations."

Reading Takes Flight at Strathmillan School

On February 5, Winnipeg Jets players Joel Armia and Matt Hendricks were greeted by a sea of jerseys and posters as they walked into Strath-



millan School. The players engaged in an intimate visit with Room 13 as a student submission was selected from more than 2000 applications. The players read the book "Whiteout - A Winnipeg Jets Story," followed by a Q&A and autograph session. A big thank you to the Winnipeg Jets for selecting Strathmillan School for the Reading Takes Flight opportunity! It was an experience our students won't forget!

Space Jimmies earn Award for Best Video

At the 2nd annual Manitoba High Altitude Balloon (HAB) Symposium, held on February 9 at Bernie Wolfe School, the Balloon Launch club at St. James Collegiate club known as the Space Jimmies received their first award.

This is the first year the HAB symposium has presented awards and the Space Jimmies were honoured to be recognized for the Best Video/Photography. Trixie M. graduated in 2017 and took the lead in creating the video. She edited six hours of balloon launch footage into two and a half minutes, setting it to music and text. She captured the experience from the classroom setting to the launch site to finally the balloon landing and highlighted the tremendous amount of teamwork involved in the project.

Grade 10 Space Jimmie member Lucas B. said when he first saw the

video, he described as heartwarming.

"Everyone was part of the video and you can see how much we were enjoying it," said Lucas.

The video can be found on YouTube under the name Jimmies 2017 HAB.

Over 100 students and staff from across the province attended the symposium and spent the evening connecting over their passion and experiences in The Global Space Balloon Challenge. The project initially began in 2015 when an executive council of physics teachers organized the first balloon launch event with five participating schools, including St. James Collegiate. A total of 10 schools in Manitoba launched high altitude balloons last year and the excitement only continues to grow.

Last year the Jimmies launched their balloon in Langruth near eight



other school groups and it landed in Lowefarm. The balloon reaches over 30,000 metres, is in flight for two hours and goes past the stratosphere. Using micro cameras, it captures pictures of the earth from space.

"This is where the really cool science comes in," said SJCI physics teacher Ms. Werner. "In Grade 10 science there is a unit on weather and they learn about jet streams but we have

never clocked a balloon going over 250 km per hour and that's what our balloon went last year."

This year's launch is tentatively set to take place on April 20 with the help of 25 Space Jimmie members. Stay tuned on this year's launch by following the club @JimmiesSpace on Instagram. Congrats to Trixie (pictured on front page) and to all Space Jimmies!

Bricks of Kindness at Buchanan School

At Buchanan school, Lego is being used to build spectacular creations, both physically and socially. From walls and desks to friendships and new relationships, Lego has evolved to be a multifaceted resource on campus.

Buchanan School received a grant from the Winnipeg Police Service Cool 2Be Kind program in December of 2017 to help grow the school's Lego supply. This led to the construction of several Lego walls in the school, as well as Lego assembled desks. These walls and desks are allowing students to work together on new and interesting surfaces, such as vertically on the walls. The students have taken to these surfaces and are building bridges, as well as friendships, one block at a time. The large-scale Lego projects always underway within the school highlight the notion there is strength in numbers. The students are collaborating with their peers in a productive and supportive way to bring their ideas to life and are learning the value of constructive conversation. Buchanan School currently has a Lego center at the front entrance of the building as well to encourage collaborative play and friendship-building during the lunch hour.

These extra funds from the grant have allowed the school to supply classrooms with additional sets of Lego, which were handed out on February 29 at a Buchanan School assembly by SJASD School Resource Officer Constable Alana. The more Lego in the hands of the students, the greater the benefit is to all involved. Hands-on and collaborative activities in the classrooms are the building blocks to confidence and feelings of success, which has already been evident through the team Lego projects to date. Students can also work on their



Buchanan students receive new Lego kits as part of the Cool 2Be Kind program.

sharing skills, developing plans and putting their ideas into action to build new and exciting structures, worlds, characters and anything they put their minds to. These partnerships between students result in the practice of the specific skills our students need to be successful in their futures, such as creativity, social skills, collaboration, critical thinking and leadership.

Submitted by resource teacher Ms. Riddell and EA Mrs. Stuart

The 2016-17 Report to the Community is available online

Check out our comprehensive summary of the 2016-17 school year in accordance with our Board's planning efforts for the future, our Strategic Plan and student achievements by visiting www.sjasd.ca

Linwood School launches into Makerspace

In the book *Launch*, A.J. Juliani and J. Spencer express how "something happens in students when they define themselves as makers, inventors and creators. They discover powerful skills – problem-solving, critical thinking and imagination – that will help them shape the world's future – our future."

The Linwood Makerspace was developed with this idea in mind to allow students to design, create, problem-solve and share ideas. The mindset of the makerspace is for participants to be able to create something out of nothing using materials provided. A makerspace is an opportunity for hands-on learning and allows students to advance their critical thinking skills.

To get students warmed up to the idea of what a makerspace is, Linwood began with two challenges. First, students were tasked with

building a parachute out of materials of their choice, which would allow a Lego figure to successfully float from the second floor to the main floor of the stairwell. The second challenge required students to design a catapult or sling to propel a rubber spider forward. They also had to incorporate a plan to show how they would increase the height and distance of which the spider travelled.

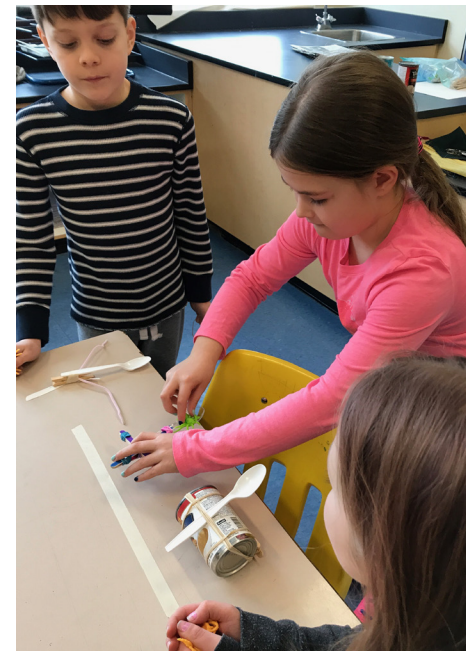
While Grade 3 student Miley P-F. said she likes makerspace because "we get to build things like the catapult," classmates Lucas H. and Jesse T.P. said they like being able to let their creativity out!

During the next few sessions, technology came into the equation. Students were given the opportunity to explore and experiment, in some cases through the use of basic coding



programs, with Spheros and Ozobots. Throughout the entire makerspace session, students actively discussed their ideas and worked together to solve any problems along the way!

Grade 3 Makerspace participants Vlera K. and Vlada G. said "We love



makerspace because you can be creative and build things!"

Submitted by teacher Mrs. Jones

A Groundswell of interest in Guitar Program

John Taylor Collegiate's guitar program is in its third year and on the rise! Launched in 2015, increasing interest levels shown on behalf of the students has recently led to an expansion of the course. John Taylor Collegiate is now pleased to offer both a novice and an advanced guitar class.

The novice guitar class is for students in any grade who have never played guitar. While students enter the class knowing nothing about guitar, they leave the first year knowing how to play numerous chords and songs. They are also able to play ensemble pieces where the students are playing separate written parts. As for students with guitar basics, the advanced class continues where there the Novice class left off.

In the advanced class, students continue to develop their playing technique, fingerstyle, chords, music theory and ability to play by ear. Advanced students are currently playing an ensemble arrangement of "All Star" by Smash Mouth at this year's Winnipeg Music Festival. These classes are very successful and the students are excited with their progress and new abilities.

Submitted by band teacher Mr. Hamilton



COMMUNITY

SJASD Youth Forum flourishes at Human Rights Museum

February 7 marked a cold yet delightful day of learning alongside our peers in SJASD. Four students and one staff champion from each school gathered inside the Canadian Museum for Human Rights to participate in the SJASD Youth Forum. The Youth Forum is a long-standing tradition in our Division, initially brought to life by school principals Mrs. Couch and Mr. Ferguson-Baird. The event is an opportunity for students to participate in rich educational discussions outside the classroom with students from different schools and grade levels. The annual event is augmented by presentations from leading professionals who provide insight on a specific theme each year. Indigenous Education Teacher Mrs. Waters and EAL Support Teacher Mrs. Gluska took the lead in organizing this year's event and exploring the theme "Inclusivity and Social Justice."

After a morning introduction from Assistant Superintendent Ms. Pshelniski, the forum began by highlighting two words: privilege and power. The student body collectively shared their understanding of what the word privilege meant as they dove into a road map exercise. The students could only move ahead on their map if they were in a privileged position with respect to a statement, such as move ahead two spaces if the language you speak at home is spoken in most public places or if you play on a

sports team outside of school. The teams debriefed their thoughts, feelings and ideas after the questions were finished and reflected as a whole on the what they learned from the activity. The conversation arose noting how many of the individual answers in the room were out of one's control or dependent on unearned advantages in our society. This period of self and societal reflection propelled into three diverse presentations from the following key note speakers: Dr. Abdulrehman, Psychologist, Director of Public Mental Health Initiative, Wab Kinew, author of *The Reason You Walk* and Jade Harper, founder and owner at Spirit Fusion.

All three presentations actively involved the student body and touched on relevant topics present within our schools such as leadership, understanding and respecting different cultures, kindness and self-confidence. The presenters shared their personal experiences, recent data and studies, as well as led activities. Mr. Kinew even performed a rap song for the students, highlighting Indigenous leaders throughout history. This concluded the morning portion of the forum.

The afternoon went by quickly. Students explored the exhibits throughout the museum and each school branched off to complete a "CMHR Knowledge Quest." The quest asked them to highlight



From the left: Wab Kinew, Dr. Abdulrehman, Mrs. Gluska and Mrs. Waters.

specific exhibits, people, points of interest and most importantly, ways to put their new-found ideas into practice to promote inclusivity at their schools. Students demonstrated high levels of engagement throughout the day as they sought out conversations with key note speakers, asked for clarification, answered questions and filled out their knowledge quests with many new ideas to bring back to their school communities. Great job to all students and staff. Thank you to the speakers, museum liaisons, coordinators, senior administration and Board of Trustees for supporting and contributing to the success of this year's SJASD Youth Forum!

Seussical the Musical Jr. wows SJASD Community

Hats off to both the talented casts, all of the volunteers behind the scene and Musical Theatre Director Mrs. Olko for delivering yet another fantastic SJASD production. *Seussical the Musical Jr.* entertained community members, families, friends, students and staff throughout the week of January 27 to February 3, transporting audiences into the magical world of Dr. Seuss. The story of Horton the Elephant was brought to life as he tried to protect the community of Whos and save an abandoned egg. The tale became more grand with guest appearances from beloved Seuss characters such as the Cat in the Hat and Mr. Grinch. A total of 160 students in grades 4 through 8 across our Division were involved in the outstanding 2018 productions. Congratulations to all!



Cast 1 during the opening scene of *Seussical the Musical Jr.* presented inside the Westwood Collegiate theatre.

WE Day sparks a match at Lakewood



On October 25, a group of Lakewood students attended Manitoba WE Day. A combination of exciting speakers and presentations filled the students with thoughts of the world around them and they left the arena ready to change the world! Since, the group has been working hard within their school community to raise awareness and funds for specific initiatives beneficial to the local community, our province and our world.

The students at Lakewood are leaders in many ways, such as school patrols, recess equipment managers, volunteer readers and gym helpers. They are members of Student Voice Group, Safe Schools Committee and the WE team. These students have helped with Bag-it Up Manitoba, a book exchange/free library, collecting healthy foods and the Tree of Hope. They are currently planning a Spirit Week, Walk for Water,

Jellybean Tabloid, Cool to be Kind activities and a school-wide Silent Day.

This group has generated in-school sales to help support the WE charity program, such as by selling popcorn and candy canes to raise \$600 to buy goats for communities across the globe. The school also sold lollipop messages on Valentine's Day and donated \$150 to the Children's Hospital. And we can't forget the hot chocolate and moustaches campaign, which raised \$250 for CancerCare Manitoba.

This group has been working tirelessly to make a positive difference in the world around them and with each new idea, poster or project, they are truly becoming the leaders of tomorrow! Keep it up, Lakewood!

Submitted by teachers Mrs. Jimenez and Mrs. Wasilewski

Planning for future careers at Westwood Collegiate

On January 16, Westwood Collegiate hosted its first Career Fair to support all students in the school in planning for the next chapters of their lives.

"We are really excited to have 39 booths and 13 different presenters in the 13 clusters of career cruising here today," said Career Development and Placement teacher Mrs. Rose.

Career Cruising is a website which aids students in learning about different types of careers. They can log in and through our Divisional portal, take a personalized aptitude test to see a list of 40 jobs for them to consider. The jobs are based on their individual answers and the 13 career clusters.

While all students were welcome to tour the booths in the gym and ask questions during the day, Grade 11 students rotated through four 25-minute sessions led by professionals in each field.

Grade 11 student Shanelle D. said "I did not know how much you needed chemistry for. In agriculture,

you need chemistry for almost every single branch."

The students raved about the interesting stories told during the presentations and expressed how all of the presenters were approachable, informed and professional.

The Youth Employment Services also attended the event to share information about interview skills, resume and cover letter writing, as well as display a job board of current openings.

As the afternoon concluded, the conversation around career planning continued into the evening. Family members were invited to enjoy guest speakers and explore many options and resources alongside their children in different rooms throughout the school.

"Coming here, there are a lot more things I didn't know that I could do," said Grade 11 student Matt B. "I think I have a lot more doors I could open for my future."



Westwood Collegiate students at the Robertson College booth picking up additional information.

A big thank you to the Westwood organizing team, including Guidance Counsellor Ms. Bennett, Mrs. Rose, student services, student volunteers and the administration. An extended thank you to all of the local organizations who volunteered their time and expertise to help our students.

CONGRATULATIONS

Concours d'art Oratoire finalists in 2018

The annual SJASD Concours d'art Oratoire competition took place on March 6 and 7 at College Sturgeon Heights Collegiate. The public speaking event, sponsored by Canadian Parents for French, is an opportunity for students to grow their public

speaking abilities, strengthen their second language skills and test their creative writing skills. Each participant prepares a speech on a topic of interest to them and delivers their view points in front of an audience as well as a panel of judges. Congratulations

to all concours participants this year, which included representation from eight schools in our Division. Both the early years and secondary events boasted engaging, well-researched presentations filled with original ideas and excellent use of eye contact/

body language. A total of 12 students received Gold with distinction to move on to represent SJASD at the Provincial level. The Provincial finals are set to take place on May 5 at the Université de Saint-Boniface and we wish our students the best of luck at the event!



Grades 3-6 from the left: Jessica J. and Amjad A. (Stevenson-Britannia), Afnaan A. (Bannatyne), Olive D. (Assiniboine), Zoe D.W. (Bannatyne), and Van L. (Ness).



Grades 7-12 from the left: Ryan H., Moussa D., Emma L. (all from Sturgeon Heights), Meredith R. (Golden Gate), Agape S. (Sturgeon Heights), and not pictured Colton M. (Golden Gate).

Westwood bands bring home the Don Green Award

Three perfect scores from judges, a clean sweep for all Jazz Bands and the prestigious Don Green Award gave Westwood Collegiate many reasons to celebrate after the Optimist Festival this year.

At the 2018 Optimist Band Festival, all seven ensembles from Westwood Collegiate were invited to represent Manitoba at Nationals 2018. The Symphonic Grade 11 and 12 Concert Band received Superior, as well as a perfect score from one of three adjudicators. The four Westwood Collegiate Jazz Bands experienced a clean sweep, all earning Superior. The Senior Jazz earned two perfect scores from both of the adjudicators honouring the 25 students in this advanced category. Lastly, the school was selected to receive the Don Green Award.

The Don Green Award recognizes the top program out of more than 170 participating ensembles. It reflects a combination of exemplary performance, mature on-and-off stage presence, responsiveness to clinics, commitment to the festival through longevity and the overall development of an outstanding band program.



Chair of the Optimist Festival Robert Clark mentioned how Don Green was an active member of the St. James-Assiniboia community. He was part of the Assiniboine Optimist Club, the St. James Chapter, founded the Crestview men's fastball league and Crestview Community Centre, and helped launch the festival 43 years ago in 1975 when only a handful of schools were involved. Westwood Collegiate being one of them.

Westwood Band director Mr. Edwards reflected on the history of the band program at Westwood and attributed the groups recent successes to all those who helped build it.

"It's a circle of inspiration," said Mr. Edwards. "This particular year has clicked something fierce, these guys are self-motivating, self-actualizing, its numeracy and literacy and just everything you could ever want a student to be involved in."

The talent and commitment of the students attributed to the Don Green Award, as did the fact that for 12 years Westwood has been volunteering to clean up after the festival. This involves all hands on deck and approximately six hours of teamwork.

"That's participation and being part of that community," said Clarke. "That went into the decision making as well."



Jaycee R. receiving his award for outstanding athletic achievement.

Two "Yes I Can Awards!" at Strathmillan

The 28th annual Yes I Can! Awards were held on February 22 at the Victoria Inn Convention Centre. The evening is hosted by the Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children to honour the outstanding achievements of children with exceptionalities, as well as the dedicated students and adults who assist in supporting them. At this year's event, two individuals from SJASD received honourable recognitions.

The first "Yes I Can!" Award was received by Grade 2 student Jaycee R. from Strathmillan School for outstanding athletic achievement. While he requires adaptations for almost all school activities, he approaches all tasks with a positive attitude. Jaycee participates fully in his physical education class and is skilled at cycling with his Freedom Concepts bike. Jaycee demonstrates his ability to excel and flourish on a daily basis due to his perseverance and unwavering "Yes I Can" attitude! Congratulations, Jaycee!

The second award of the night was presented to Gail B., educational assistant at Strathmillan School. Gail received a Certificate of Recognition for her outstanding work in assisting and supporting children in the school environment. She has been working with exceptional children for the past 28 years and her impact on the lives of the students she works with is visible every day. Great work and congratulations, Gail!



Gail B. earns Certificate of Recognition at the 2018 "Yes I Can Awards!"

Browning student earns Bronze at MB Games

Grade 5 École Robert Browning student Brynn R. represented the South Region in gymnastics at the 2018 Manitoba Games in Thompson. She qualified to compete in the Pre-Provincial Age 10-11 category after placing first all-around at a competition in Beausejour. She won first on floor, her favourite event, second on bars and third on beam.

"It was insane! They had photographers there, you got to do suit sizing and jacket sizing too."

After enjoying opening ceremonies, Brynn spent a day training to prepare for the competition.

"It went really well, there was just one event that I struggled on which was vault."

Brynn admits she was not expecting it when she was called up to receive bronze for her routine on the balance beam.

"Doing well on beam at the Manitoba Games was so cool," said Brynn. "Everyone had finished their events, so it was just me on the beam and everyone was staring at me. It was so stressful not to fall and on my dismount, I was about to fall but saved myself and did my dismount right."

She said the best part of the Games was meeting new people from across the province and also acknowledged her club, Springers Gymnastics, her coach and the Circus Arts program at her school, for helping her grow as a gymnast and as an athlete. Congratulations, Brynn!



To read more student and staff achievements in SJASD, such as Basketball finals, Manitoba Games results or Divisional Choir performances, follow us on social media or visit our website at:



@st.james_assiniboiasd



@St.JamesAssiniboia SchoolDivision

www.sjasd.ca

Enrichment Day for JT Family of Schools

Hedges Middle School students are being mentored to feel right at home and ready to succeed at their local high school.

Approximately 100 Grade 8 students at Hedges Middle School participated in Enrichment Day at John Taylor Collegiate on February 1. The high school was in the midst of exam week, which meant the halls were empty and the classrooms were quiet. This provided the perfect setting for potential future students to tour the school and discover firsthand the programs and courses available beginning in Grade 9. Prior to the day, the Grade 8 students ranked the top four activities they wished to participate in and were scheduled for two sessions based on their preference list. In most cases, they were slotted their top two picks. The event involved participation from the Piper school community including 24 student volunteers in Grades 9 through 12, as well as the assistance of the entire teaching staff at John Taylor Collegiate.

"I think the enrichment day is an important day to create interaction and build relationships between our feeder schools," said Student Services Resource teacher Ms. Paragg. "It also helps our feeder school community see some of the great programs and options available to them as they start to think about their high school experience."

Students spent the afternoon exploring a variety of programs, such as engaging in a hands-on physics lesson where they engineered a balloon car to speed down the hallway using kinetic energy. Other students passionate about science and math discovered how to program and command Lego Mindstorm® Robots to navigate through mazes and perform specific tasks.



Artistry was also on full display as young Hedges performers had the opportunity to dance their hearts out, improvise in musical theatre, and play alongside the concert band or guitar class. Designers and photographers enjoyed a brief lesson with JTC Photography teacher Mr. Kutcy and were given a field assignment to creatively exhibit their skills. For those students who wished to expend some built up energy, they were able to join in a group workout, or opt for some volleyball and basketball action. Et bon appétite! Les étudiants ont fait et mangé des crêpes avec les mentors français. (A good appetite! Students also made and ate pancakes alongside their French mentors.) So much to do, too little time to do it all!

"I got to see what John Taylor has to offer and what kinds of programs are there," said Grade 8 Hedges student Jhommel P. "It showed me that I shouldn't be afraid in high school."

Enrichment Day is an opportunity to help students transition into Grade 9 with greater confidence and a better idea of which courses they may like to pursue in the future. Grade 8 student Julianna R. said she really liked participating in the different activities and thought it was a good way to explore the school and programs offered at John Taylor Collegiate.



My experience as a student at Jameswood

My first month as a student at Jameswood Alternative School brought a positive change into my life. I felt I belonged.

As a student who struggles with anxiety and depression, it can be very difficult to maintain regular attendance at school. Depression can induce spells of exhaustion making it extremely difficult to get out of bed to face the day. This escalates to falling behind in classes and missing lessons/assignments. At the same time, anxiety surfaces when I have to confront a teacher about the fact that I've fallen behind.

At Jameswood, each student is assigned a teacher advisor. Our advisor routinely checks up on us to make sure all is well in our lives, we feel safe, comfortable and our needs are being met. This gives me a strong feeling of support and allows me to have the confidence to believe in myself as an individual and invest my best self into my schoolwork. My advisor is Ms. Stout. I enjoy our individual conversations because I am able to express my issues openly. I receive concern and care from my advisor. When it is hard to get out of bed, I remember I have a place where I am understood and am able to tackle any anxieties I may be facing that day with the help of my support network at school.

Some of the challenges of living with anxiety/depression include not getting enough sleep, feeling withdrawn or overwhelmed. Jameswood has created a 'De-Stress Lounge' for students who are having those experiences. All students have access to the quiet working space, and may use it as needed both during and outside of class time.

The topic of mental illness is becoming less taboo and it is more widely known that many students suffer from mental illnesses. In many circumstances, mental illness prevents students from leading a "normal" life. Depression makes completing daily tasks feel impossible. I used to feel stupid because I didn't have the motivation to do what everyone around me made look so easy. People who suffer from depression often neglect self-care because they lack self-worth. This can lead to fickle sleep routines and unhealthy habits. My personal struggles with depression cause me to struggle with being an active member of society.

As a student who struggles with anxiety, I value the accommodations put in place at Jameswood. For example, smaller class sizes help because it means fewer people to have to talk to on my bad days, and fewer people to worry about appearing in my irrational thoughts like "everybody is judging me" or "everybody is annoyed by me." Having to face large groups is tremendously stressful for me and trying to combat these things while maintaining focus in class can be very difficult.

At Jameswood there are no in-class presentations or group projects; this is a relief to me because speaking in front of peers sends my body into a panic. If my anxiety was really bad on a day when I had to make a presentation, I would perform poorly on that assignment. I think asking a student with social anxiety to speak publicly is similar to asking a student with a sprained ankle to run laps in the gym.

This June I will graduate from Jameswood. During my time at this school, I've developed strong feelings of self-worth and have grown as an individual. Self-worth and sense of validity lead to confidence and confidence makes way for success. I believe it is important for all students to be given the opportunity to have a voice and be listened to in their school and community environment to help more youth and individuals reach their potential. Imagining that kind of future, which works to minimize feelings of rejection or outcast, brings great joy to my heart and spreads hope within me from my core to my limbs. What do you want the future to look like?

Submitted by a Grade 12 Jameswood student, Brianna R.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

March 26-30
Spring Break

April 3
Early Dismissal

April 4
Middle Years Reports
Divisional Science Fair

April 10
School Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Public Welcome

April 10
Westwood Family of Schools
Concert, 6:00 p.m.

April 17
Early Dismissal
Parenting Today Workshop

April 18-19
Early Years Divisional
Speed Stacks

April 20
Admin/Inservice:
No School

April 22
Divisional Choirs Cabaret
Sturgeon Heights, 7:00 p.m.

April 24
School Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Public Welcome

April 24-25
Divisional Arts Exhibition,
Glendale Golf and Country Club

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

CONTACT



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

Please send your letter to:
Jen Cameron, Editor
St. James-Assiniboia
School Division
2574 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3J 0H8
Tel: (204) 888-7951