

Stevenson School

JUNE 2019, YEAR END NEWSLETTER

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Internet Home Pages

St. James Assiniboia School Division: <https://www.sjasd.ca>
Stevenson website: <https://www.sjasd.ca/school/stevenson>
Stevenson email: <http://stevenson.sjasd.ca>
Twitter/Instagram: @StevensonElem

Dates to Remember

June 24	Gr. 5 Transition Day visiting Middle Schools
June 25	Transition Day at Stevenson: K – 4 students will visit their classrooms for next year.
June 27	Report Cards Distributed at end of school day Celebration of Learning 10:00 a.m. Gym
June 28	Inservice – No School

2019-2020 School Year:

Opening Day Conferences –
Wednesday, Sept. 4 & Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019
First Full Day of Classes - Friday, Sept. 6, 2019
Winter Break – Dec. 23/19-Jan. 3/20
Spring Break – Mar. 23-Mar. 27/20
Last Day of Classes – Thursday, June 29, 2020

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Dear Parents:

Once again, we find ourselves at the end of a school year – an exciting and successful one. It has been a busy year for students and staff, and we commend them on their many accomplishments.

We thank you for your continued support and assistance in being willing members to foster great home-school partnerships. As long as students, teachers and parents are working together, Stevenson School will continue to be a great place for growing and learning.

As this school year draws to a close, we look forward to the changes that will take place in the new school year. Each year brings some changes in personnel, as some staff leave, and others transfer to opportunities at other schools. Please join us in saying goodbye to Mrs. Arellano, Ms Dawyduk, Miss Davis, Miss Lagace, Ms Neufeld, Mrs. Chevrefils, Mrs. C. Mitchell, and Ms Amaral.

As the school year ends, we can't help but think about the upcoming summer vacation. Our wish for you: To those who are leaving us, "May you find happiness and success in your new school community." To our entire community, "May you have a fun and sun -filled summer vacation."

J. Couch
Principal

S. Amaral
Vice-Principal

CHANGES FOR NEXT YEAR:

Each year, we have a few changes in our staff. We have to say goodbye to some and welcome others to our school.

We thank Miss Lagace for her year at our school as our third Kindergarten teacher. She will be moving to Strathmillan School as one of their Kindergarten teachers.

We thank Ms. Neufeld for her 2 years at our school as a Gr. 1 – 5 teacher. She will be moving to Jameswood Alternative School as their Arts/History teacher.

We thank Mrs. Chevrefils for her 5 years with our school as our Psychologist. She will continue as a Psychologist in our school division at different schools.

We thank Mrs. C. Mitchell for her 15 years with our school as our Speech and Language Pathologist. She will continue as an SLP in our school division at different schools.

We thank Ms. Amaral for her 4 years at our school as our Vice Principal. She will be moving to Brooklands School as their Vice Principal.

We thank Mrs. Arellano for her 2 years at our school as an Educational Assistant. She will be moving to Lincoln Middle School as an Educational Assistant.

We thank Ms Dawyduk and Miss Davis for their time as Educational Assistants at our school this year. They were on term positions that ended. We hope to work with them in the future.

We also wish Ms Beazley all the best next year on maternity leave. Mr. Yachison will be the teacher replacing her. We will see you back the following year.

We welcome aboard Mrs. Houssin and Mrs. Frye as Kindergarten teachers; Miss Best as one of our Grade 1/2 Teachers; Mr. Yachison as one of our Grade 3/4/5 teachers; and we welcome back: Miss Griffiths as one of our Grade 1/2 Teachers, Mrs. Havixbeck as one of our Phys. Ed. Teachers, and Mrs. Lowe as our Vice Principal.

Please find listed below the classrooms for the 2019-2020 school year.

Kindergarten Rm 6 -	Mrs. Houssin
Kindergarten Rm 7 -	Mrs. Grant
Kindergarten Rm 8 -	Mrs. Frye
Grade 1/2 Rm 14 -	Mrs. Buchanan/Miss Best
Grade 1/2 Rm 16 -	Mrs. Hardy
Grade 1/2 Rm 17 -	Miss Griffiths
Grade 1/2 Rm 18 -	Mrs. Petsnik
Grade 3/4/5 Rm 3 -	Mr. Yachison
Grade 3/4/5 Rm 4 -	Mr. Trembath
Grade 3/4/5 Rm 5 -	Ms. Kaczmarz
Grade 3/4/5 Rm 9 -	Ms. Gaucher-Hauta
Grade 3/4/5 Rm 11 -	Miss Long
Grade 3/4/5 Rm 12 -	Miss Griffith
Principal -	Ms. Couch
Vice Principal/Res./Guid. -	Mrs. Lowe
Resource/Guidance -	Mrs. Smith
Resource/Guidance -	Ms. Heerah
French (Gr. 1-5), Phys. Ed. -	Mr. Bisesi
Music -	Ms. Rempel
Phys. Ed. -	Mr. McKinnon
Phys. Ed./Kindergarten -	Mrs. Havixbeck
Librarian -	Mr. Wesselius
Secretary -	Mrs. Fraser
Caretaker -	Mr. Rebenque

REFLECTIONS ON OUR YEAR

We have had a year of really great and exciting moments, as well as some very sad, traumatic events in the lives of our families and of our staff. We are very fortunate to have such a caring community to rely upon for support.

We are a very busy school community. Our staff believe in researching the most current teaching practices in order to provide our students with the best start to their formal education. We continue to infuse literacy and numeracy across all other subject areas and provide real life scenarios for students to experience purposeful reading and writing, and to deepen their problem solving skills. Literacy and numeracy are at the core of everything we do. As well, we have overhauled our classrooms to become calmer learning environments.

RECONCILIATION

At Stevenson, we wish to be a part of the solution toward reconciliation in our great country. We believe in learning more about Indigenous cultures, as well as about all of our families' cultures and creating the conditions for learning about each other.

Stevenson School would like to acknowledge that we are on Treaty One land, the traditional territory of the Cree, Anishinaabe and Dakota peoples and the homeland of the Metis nation.

NUTRITION

This year, we were fortunate to receive a grant from the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba, as well as from President's Choice. With these grants, we focused on providing fresh fruit and vegetables to all students every day. It is our hope that children will learn to choose healthy snack options and continue this lifestyle into adulthood. We are very thankful for receiving these grants. We are also very thankful to our neighbourhood store, Save On Foods on St. James St. for providing us with great prices to help make our grant money go further. We have applied for these grants again for next year and hope to continue this nutrition program in the fall.

UDL

We continue to be a hub school in our school division for Universal Design for Learning. The main philosophy of UDL is academic and social inclusion of all our learners. We work hard at designing lessons to meet the needs of all our learners. Other schools in our division and beyond are learning from our school.

CIRCUS ARTS

We have a strong physical education program with many opportunities for students to be active throughout their day at school. This year, Mr. McKinnon continued to implement Circus Arts Instruction into the Physical Education Program, as well as provided extra-curricular time at recess for Gr. 4 and 5 students. We would like to acknowledge the extra time and effort Mr. McKinnon put into all of the practical as well as theoretical studies in the past few years with the National Circus School. We will continue to implement the Circus Arts in the coming years. We are part of a national research study at the Grade 5 level for 2 reasons: To improve the physical literacy skills of our students; To improve the confidence levels of girls in their abilities in physical literacy. We are waiting to see the results from this past year. We will share our data as we learn more.

THE ARTS

We continue to have strong arts programs with several performance opportunities: "Tapping Our Potential" dance group, choirs and various instrumental groups, circus arts, and our annual winter concert and spring Celebration of the Arts. There is a lot of preparation and extra work that goes into working with our students to create strong performances. We acknowledge Ms. Rempel, Ms. Kaczmarz, and Mr. McKinnon for their dedication and time given for the sake of the arts in our community.

WJHA

We believe that students need exposure to many kinds of activities in order to help them begin to establish what they believe in and who they want to become. This year, we have continued to be a part of the Winnipeg Jets Hockey Academy program. We are very thankful to the True North Youth Foundation for providing hockey for some of our students. We have a WJHA committee that meets each year to decide who will enter into the program for Grade 2. For those students not involved in the WJHA, we have Project Thursdays, where we dive into inquiry, physical fitness, and play based learning. If you wish to have more information, please contact the school.

RESTITUTION

This year, we continued teaching our students that it is okay to make mistakes. In fact, we can learn the most from our mistakes. We wish to empower students to recognize when they have made mistakes and figure out how to fix things independently. As adults, we want to protect our children. We need to step back and let our children make mistakes on their own so that they can learn to problem solve and make good choices for themselves.

WELLNESS

We have continued our school-wide focus on wellness this year. We took on "The Daily Mile" challenge where our students and teachers went for a walk every day or participated in a daily workout in order to encourage everyone to develop healthy habits to keep our heart, lungs, and muscles strong. We also took time every day for mindfulness. We learned about different breathing techniques and taking time to calm ourselves to be present in the moment, and honour ourselves for who we are. More recently, we have been doing whole school outdoor yoga to start our day in the morning. We have really enjoyed saying "Good morning, sun!" every day.

We offered a parent information evening on Wellness. We wish to continue to invite you to learn with us. Watch for the invitations next year.

OUTDOOR SCHOOL

We are now in our sixth year of being involved in the Outdoor Challenge. We would like to acknowledge our partners in education, Discovery Children's Centre for leading us in the research and sharing their marvelous Adventure Playground with us. We thank Mrs. Lowe for starting us on our outdoor journey six years ago. We are participating in taking learning outdoors for the sake of being in nature, for teaching the value of playing, as well as to teach our curriculum. It is our intent to be in nature in every season. We will continue to research and expand this program in the coming years.

OUR TIPI

Because of our commitment to learning more about Indigenous culture, we continue to use our tipi as an outdoor classroom, and to further our learning in Indigenous Education. We really enjoy being in it! We ask our whole community to help us to take good care of it in order to have it for many years to come.

NATURE PLAYGROUND

We were very excited that we were able to move forward with our plans for improving our playground three years ago! We wish to provide a more natural space for everyone to play in. After a few years of putting together grant applications, along with our Parent Council, we were finally successful a few years ago in being granted funds through The City of Winnipeg, Community Places, and Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds. We will be trying to apply for more grants next year to continue with tree planting and gardening. We will call together a Playground Committee meeting next fall to plan for more developments.

GARDENING

We also began a gardening project three years ago and continued to expand it this year. Many of our classrooms have participated in planting and are becoming garden champions! Staff and students put in a lot of hard work for our school with planning, planting, and tending to our garden boxes, as well as our garden beds around our school. They look so great! It is so much fun gardening with kids! We will continue to expand our garden next year. Thanks to Parent Council for funding the landscaping of the garden area two years ago. Thanks to Windsor Plywood for donating wood and screws. Thanks to Reimer Soils for donating soil and sand. Thanks to Mr. Jeff Rogers, Woods Teacher at SJCI, for designing our garden boxes, cutting the wood, and building our boxes for us.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We have challenged our students to learn more about leadership and responsibilities. We have students running recess activities, doing announcements, running our assemblies, being buddies with our youngest students, fundraising for local and global causes, and participating in kindness challenges and physical literacy challenges.

DIVERSITY

We continue to teach about the value that all of us bring to this world by being different from one another. We all have special gifts to share with our community. We are so fortunate to have a diverse community. Our school will continue to strive to reach out to families to learn more about cultures and traditions so that we can help everyone to understand each other better and be kind to one another.

CLASSROOMS

For the 2019-2020 school year, we will have 13 classrooms. Our configuration for our classrooms will be: 3 Kindergarten classes, 4 Gr. 1/2 classes, and 6 Gr. 3/4/5 classes. There are many benefits to having multi-age classroom configurations. We want to provide your children with the best contact time with their teachers as possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school.

CELEBRATION OF LEARNING "Everyone Welcome"

Our End of Year Celebration for all grades will take place on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 10:00am in the gym. We say farewell to our Grade 5 students. As well, Memorial Awards and School Board awards will be distributed at this time. All parents are welcome to attend.

LOST & FOUND

We have accumulated a large number of items in our Lost and Found. Please take a few minutes to look through these items and take whatever belongs to your child. Clothing that has not been picked up by the end of June will be donated to a local charity.

REPORT CARDS

Student report cards will be issued at the end of classes on Thursday, June 27th. Please understand that we cannot make exceptions to this. If you are leaving on an early vacation and your child will not be present on Thursday, June 27th, please leave a stamped, self-addressed envelope (8.5 x 11 envelope with two stamps) with Mrs. Fraser in the school office prior to this date and your child's report card will be mailed to you.

MOVING???

Please advise the school if your family is moving away from the Stevenson-Britannia area this summer. This greatly helps with our planning for September.

LUNCH SUPERVISORS

We are in need of more lunch supervisors for next school year. These are paid positions. Please call the school if you are interested.

COMMUNICATION

We appreciate having in-person conversations with parents, as well as phone calls and emails in order to keep in good communication with you. Next year, we will continue to have classroom blogs, Twitter and Instagram feeds, as well as the Remind app for texting you up-coming events. We will only send home a newsletter at the beginning and end of the year. Otherwise, all of our information and events can be found on our website. You will also find a calendar of events on our school website. We will also send home a paper copy of up-coming important dates at the start of the school year.

BI-ANNUAL COMMUNITY SURVEY

This year, we sent out our school survey electronically in order to save on paper use. We appreciate those of you who were able to do the survey and give us valuable feedback. We are always striving to be better. Please email the school if you wish to see the survey results: stevenson@sjasd.ca

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Our school turns 50 in 2020! We will be collecting photos, stories, and treasures from the past during the 2019-2020 school year. If you know anyone who has items of interest, please contact the school. We will send out more information about this next school year. We will have our Anniversary Celebration in the fall of 2020!

FOLLOW US

Division website: www.sjasd.ca
School website: www.sjasd.ca/school/stevenson

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