



Our Schools

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A musical transformation



Students practise individually prior to a larger group lesson.



A beaming musician holds his new instrument.

King Edward Community School students have been undergoing a remarkable transformation this year as a result of a major afterschool partnership with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

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Photo by Jeff Miller

Eye on learning

This Brock Corydon School student stands by a larger-than-life model of a human eye during the school's Celebration of Learning. The May 30 evening event gave students a chance to showcase their learning from throughout the year to their families with a variety of classroom exhibits and presentations.



Heritage Classroom recreates history
Teacher Darcie Kiene holds up a vintage photo of Isaac Brock in the school's new heritage classroom.

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Around the Division

Argyle film aces B.C. festival

Argyle Alternative High School's film production *Blood Memory* (featured in the December edition of *Our Schools*) was met with great success at the recent Cowichan International Aboriginal Film Festival in B.C.

Cast and crew received honours for Best Film in the festival's Youth FX Film Awards, while Argyle student Kane Kirby won for Best Director. Student Vanessa Morrisseau was also selected as Best Actor.

Religious exercises in schools

The Public Schools Act states that religious exercises are not allowed, except as provided in the act. Section 84(8) of the Public Schools Act states:

"If a petition asking for religious exercises, signed by the parents or guardians of 75 per cent of the pupils in the case of a school having fewer than 80 pupils or by the parents or guardians of at least 60 pupils in the case of a school having an enrolment of 80 or more pupils, is presented to the school board, religious exercises shall be conducted for the children of those parents or guardians in that school year."

For more information, contact your children's school.



Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand, Sisler students and John Perrin, President of the St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg, with the portraits of Louis Riel and Lord Selkirk.

Made in Manitoba

Sisler High School celebrated Manitoba Day early with the unveiling of two outstanding portraits of provincial icons Louis Riel and Lord Selkirk.

With May 12 falling on a Sunday this year, the school celebrated on Friday, May 10, with an unveiling ceremony that was steeped in provincial history. Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand and St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg President John Perrin were invited to discuss the impact of Riel and Selkirk, respectively, on our province, as well as to officially

unveil each painting.

The Riel and Selkirk pieces were both created by Sisler students/alumni: Nicole Shaw painted the Riel portrait, while Haley Hayward and Sonia Bogaert partnered on the Lord Selkirk portrait. Both paintings required several hundred hours of work.

"It took patience," said Nicole, who graduated from Sisler last year. "I wanted to make a realistic portrait of Riel, but I'm personally more of an abstract artist. It was complicated. I wanted to portray both his reality and the imagery of what he wanted for the province, his people and the rest of

Canada."

She added that she felt a kinship to both paintings: "I am a French-speaking Métis myself, and on my father's side I'm also Scottish. So I can connect to both images."

Sisler art teacher Mike Thwaites said historical paintings require tremendous attention to fine detail.

"It does matter how we portray these people," he said. "The details matter, because someone will notice if you have the right tartan or not."

Both portraits will be mounted in the hallways at Sisler for future students, staff and guests to enjoy.

Martin opens Aboriginal Entrepreneurial program at Gordon Bell



A time to celebrate: MMF President David Chartrand (left), Gordon Bell students, The Right Honourable Paul Martin and Division Board Chair Rita Hildahl following the ceremonial signing for the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program at Gordon Bell.

Aboriginal students looking to break into the entrepreneurial world are getting a head start thanks to the launch of the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program (AYEP) at Gordon Bell High School.

Former Prime Minister Paul Martin, Division Board Chair Rita Hildahl,

MLA Kevin Chief, Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand and Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs representative Dennis White Bird visited the school on May 10 for a ceremonial signing.

"The Winnipeg School Division is proud to partner with the Province and the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative to offer the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program for students at Gordon Bell High School," Ms. Hildahl said. "This will provide students with a wide range of classroom instruction that includes: training; mentoring from business owners; the development of business plans and the building of personal skills. These skills will provide students with an opportunity to launch a successful business career."

The two-credit program is already running at Children of the Earth High School and four other Manitoba schools, along with other sites nationwide.

"We are pleased that Gordon Bell High School has introduced this program into its curriculum," Mr. Martin said. "Aboriginal Canadians are the fastest-growing segment of our population and will be key drivers of Canada's economy. AYEP will help ensure that Aboriginal students at Gordon Bell have the skills and experience they need to fully participate in our growing economy, to enjoy greater economic self-reliance and a better quality of life."

Gordon Bell students—who have already been taking the program for several months—praised its step-by-step approach and mentorship component.

"This is an awesome program, it gives us many more opportunities to learn about business, rather than just reading about it on the Internet," said Grade 11 student Kristin Fiddler. "They actually bring people in so you can see how they run their businesses—and that can give you ideas."

Prior to the signing, Mr. Martin personally spoke with each student enrolled in the program.

Safety first!

After being observed and judged by Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) officers while on duty for their communities, the Division's top safety patrol teams were officially recognized in two separate ceremonies.

The WPS held its 38th annual School Safety Patrol Awards at the Winnipeg Convention Centre on May 24. **George V, Inkster, Montrose** and **Victoria-Albert** schools were honoured as the top teams in their respective districts, while Montrose also earned first-place citywide.

Robertson School student Mackenzie Taylor was also presented with the 2013 Louise Staples Award for being the most efficient patrol captain. Ms. Staples was a teacher at Greenway School who helped to start school safety patrols in Winnipeg.

The award winning teams were also recognized in a special Division ceremony held at Tec Voc High School in June.

Here are the Division's top district patrol teams for 2013:

Photo unavailable for website



Inkster School—first place, North District



Montrose School—first place, South District; first, city wide



Ecole Victoria-Albert School—first place, Inner City District



Ecole George V School—first place, Central District

A musical transformation

King Edward Community School students have been undergoing a remarkable transformation this year as a result of a major afterschool partnership with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Thirty Grade 1-3 students have been participating in free daily music lessons and art exploration as part of the Sistema music program. The program, based on a successful model established in Venezuela over three decades ago, provides musical instrument lessons and exposure to orchestral music to students who may not have otherwise had such an opportunity.

The program is funded through the Winnipeg School Division, the WSO, the Winnipeg Foundation and private donors such as Gail Loewen.

"A key part of the program is the intensity of time—students are here every day from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.," said teacher Heidi Poetker. "We've become like a second family...we take on a mentoring role not just

with music, but with every day life. It's neat to see how the kids are bonding, it makes it all worthwhile."

Students spent the early months of the program growing as artists and learning about how to care for a musical instrument; students were formally presented with violins, violas and cellos in a special ceremony in January. The ceremony even had children take a special pledge—the start of a long bond between student and instrument.

"By the time the instruments get to the students' hands, they are so well prepared," said string teacher Andrew Morican. "These instruments require persistent application, rather than just picking them up once a week. The students have a chance to achieve a very high standard of ability and specialization on an instrument that is very rare."

The long-term program will continue to teach students and present them with further opportunities as they develop as young musicians; more students are added to the

program each successive year.

"The long term goal is that you are eventually going to see a whole symphony of Inner City students from Grade 1 up to Grade 12," Ms. Poetker said.

Students have blossomed since receiving their instruments four months ago.

"Regardless of where the students have come from, they are all at a point where they can play now, which is a pretty amazing feat in itself," Ms. Poetker said. "They can all put their fingers on the strings and play the songs. They have quite a repertoire of music already, like Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" and even some movie and video game themes, which they'll be playing in our June concert."

"The program is going above and beyond expectations. We have students who are so confident with their instruments that they are becoming leaders and helping to mentor the other students."

Grade 3 student Tokunda Kissu

has been learning to play the violin through the program; she said this is the first instrument she's learned how to play.

"I like coming here to play my instrument and learn new songs," she said. "If you're playing the violin, you have to make sure you don't press the strings too hard or it will sound funny."

She added she's been able to play songs with her family as well.

"My brothers and sisters play instruments too, like the guitar and piano. We all play together," she said, with pride. "I'm the first person in my family to learn the violin."

Out of the 30 students this year, only one student has chosen not to return for next year, which speaks volumes as to the popularity of the program among its young participants.

"That's a testimony in and of itself—the kids all want to come back and their families want them to be involved as well," Ms. Poetker said.

Mothers' tales

Photo unavailable for website.

Story and photo by Gilbert Gregory

Eighteen immigrant women have preserved their memories for future generations by publishing a book entitled *Letters to Our Children, the Memories, Challenges & Dreams of Mothers New to Canada*. The women's letters describe their life in their countries of origin, why they moved to Canada and their hopes for their families in their new country.

Three of the women who contributed to the book have children at École Victoria-Albert School; the mothers visited the school to read their letters to students on April 11.

Moolweh Bright was born in war-torn Burma and spent much of her life living in a Thai refugee camp before coming to Canada in 2010. Two of her children, Priskila and Thayga, attend Victoria-Albert while Rejuna goes to Hugh John Macdonald and Niglay has yet to start school.

"I'm very excited and it improves my English," Moolweh said about having her letter published in the book. "My children will read it and know what our life was like before we came to Canada."

English-as-an-additional language and support teacher Donna Hardman said the book will help students learn about their own history.

"I think it's a chance for kids in our school to learn how things were in their countries and why they came to Canada," she said. "We only know the bits of stories they give us. It gives perspective and background on the places they are coming from and the experiences they've had. I would hope that other kids that see the book in the library would go home and ask their parents about their stories and learn more about the countries they come from."



These students show the masks they crafted for their Flex class's Mi-Carême celebration.

Celebrating our true masks

Grade 7/8 Flex students at Elmwood High School put their inner thoughts and feelings on the outside during a recent in-depth study of masks.

This spring, teacher Chantelle Cotton and her students examined masks in several different cultures, past and present.

"We studied the use of masks in cultures like Greek and Aboriginal cultures," said student Lakeisha Moreno. "Canadian Aboriginals used masks to celebrate important spirit animals, while Greeks would use masks for funeral ceremonies."

Thanks to an ArtSmarts grant, students were able to work with local artist Parminder Obhi and art teacher Briony Haig to create their own masks that reflected their true personalities.

"I'm a loud and happy person, so my mask has a big mouth," said student Brigitte Begas. "We tried to take ideas from the masks in the other cultures we studied and make something

of our own."

"Ms. Obhi taught us about exaggeration and getting out of our comfort zone, using bigger features on the masks to show who we really are," Lakeisha added.

As a finale, students held a Mi-Carême-style celebration in the school library on April 2. The event was based on the European/French-Canadian Mid-Lent tradition where people would dress up and visit neighbours and ask for treats. Today it is celebrated in a few Acadian communities in Canada. Other Elmwood students were invited to attend and guess the creators of each mask.

Ms. Cotton was inspired to start the project after learning about the Mi-Carême celebration.

"I wanted to take that festival and tie it to many different cultures," she said. "Students took their own cultures and embedded them with new cultures with their masks—which is kind of what we do when we come to Canada."

BISON BOOK CLUB



Photo by Jeff Miller

University of Manitoba Bison Football Club player Connor Gudziunas shares a laugh with students during École Victoria-Albert School's recent Sports Reader Day. The day was part of the school's annual March Into Reading, a month-long reading celebration.

Mr. Gudziunas was joined by other Bison teammates. The players thrilled students with their positive energy and their message about the importance of reading in their lives.

The Day of Pink



At Meadows West School, Keith Macpherson sang about “the power of one” to make a difference in the world, whether it comes to standing up to bullying or solving other world issues.



Photo courtesy of Pinkham School

It just so happens that pink is one of Pinkham School’s favourite colours...as evident by this sea of pink.



Taking the Pink Day Pledge at Meadows West.



Photo by Jeff Miller

Proud to be Pink: Fort Rouge School’s students and staff donned pink and took a school-wide anti-bullying pledge during a morning assembly. “At Fort Rouge, kindness is a verb,” said Principal Leslie Maxwell-Joseph. “It is a call to action. We encourage and applaud our students who daily stand up for others, say ‘no’ to bullying behaviour, and make positive contributions to peace and respect through their intentional acts of kindness, caring and compassion.”

On April 10, students across the Division donned pink clothing and pledged to stand up to bullying as part of the national Day of Pink campaign.

The day was inspired by a grassroots campaign in Central Kings Rural High School in Nova Scotia several years ago. Students Travis Price and David Shepherd convinced 50 other students to wear pink after a student was bullied for wearing a similar coloured shirt the first day of school. Since then, the Canadian Red Cross has officially adopted the event to promote it on a national scale, encouraging positive behavior and tolerance in all walks of life.

At Meadows West School, students traced their handprints and affixed them to a giant banner that encouraged everyone to stand up to bullying. Students also took an anti-bullying pledge during an assembly that also featured pop sensation Keith Macpherson, who performed his song “The One”—which is about how one person can stand up and

make a difference in the world.

“With the pledge, you are making a commitment that you are not going to be a bully, you are not going to be a bystander and you are going to speak up for others that need it,” said Meadows West student Mimi Aiello. “By all of the handprints on our banner, you can see all the people that are taking this pledge and are making this school a better place.”

Greenway School held a full week of activities based around the event, including visits by local Red Cross representatives, who delivered bullying presentations to all grade levels. Student council and Grade 5/6 leadership students gave anti-bullying messages in a series of public address announcements, as well as promoting activities taking place through the week. Every classroom also created a display for an anti-bullying gallery walk—many of which featured pledge sheets that students could sign to support a positive, bully-free school environment.

“With the gallery walk, the stu-



Bullying stops here: Greenway students sign the pledge as part of their school’s Day of Pink Gallery Walk.

dents created bulletin boards that provide a lot of amazing perspectives on the issue,” said Principal Barb Myron. “The whole school has embraced this. As a positive behaviour school, we talk about these issues all of the time.”

Student Bella Amorim said the

school also uses the Seven Sacred Teachings as a way to learn about how to treat others: “We do an assembly about a different teaching every month—like respect, courage or honesty—and talk about what they mean, and how you should treat others.”

The mind's menagerie



Wallace Edwards shows Luxton students some of his work during his recent visit for Canadian Children's Book Week.

Wallace Edwards has been honing his artistic skills since childhood, learning how to accurately depict animals, humans and scenery with colour, light and shadow.

But when he dons his writer's cap, he's able to break the rules.

The Governor-General Award-winning author/illustrator, who is well-known for putting animals in absurd settings and situations in books like *Alphabeasts*, *Monkey Business*, *Uncle Wally's Old Brown Shoe* and *The Painted Circus*, recently visited Luxton and Queenston Schools as part of Canadian Children's Book Week.

"I always fluctuate from being completely wild and being conservative and hyper-realistic. I just try to find what works," the author/illustrator told *Our Schools*. "Drawing is like music. You can never learn it all...the more you know about it, the further the horizon line keeps moving. You never get to the end of it."

As with past Canadian Children's Book Weeks, teacher-librarian Ellen Donogh and her students created a festival-like atmosphere for the event, with plenty of author/student interaction, book prizes and more. Mr. Edwards captivated his audience with his spur-of-the-moment renditions of fanciful animals based on students' suggestions.

"He was combining animals like a moose, shark, snake, eagle and squid to make new animals," said Grade 3 student Brent Mowat.

One of Mr. Edwards's upcoming projects, for Orca Books, is based on his composite animals.

"It's based loosely on my experiences travelling around to schools over the past seven years, where the kids will make these suggestions for different combinations of animals...everywhere I go, people ask if I'll ever put them into a book," he said, adding that he has another book, *Once Upon A Line* coming out from Pajama Press.

When students asked Mr. Wallace what his favourite animal was, he couldn't narrow it down. "I don't really have a favourite animal in particular, I have lots of favourites. I do like cats and dinosaurs. A lot of my favourite animals don't even exist anymore."

Mr. Edwards is also known to hide pictures of animals in his water-coloured pages—*Monkey Business* has monkeys hidden throughout.

Brent said he enjoyed these fine details in Mr. Edwards' drawings: "I really like puzzle books where you have to find stuff in the pages."



Grosvenor teacher Karen Pellaers and a student show off a fanciful mall cake that Brianna created with student Stefanie Martin.

Cakes for a cause

A Grade 5 class at Grosvenor School explored the artistry and science of baking for a recent humanitarian fundraiser dubbed "Cakes for a Cause."

Teacher Karen Pellaers and her students baked, decorated and sold cakes in support of Rice Raiser, a Hunger Response International campaign that provides rice and other food bank essentials to the needy on both the local and global level.

Last year's event raised over \$1,000 for the organization; this year's efforts went even further, amassing over \$1,239.

Students were responsible for baking their own cakes at home and bringing them to school to be iced and decorated.

"One of the reasons we did this was that the Winnipeg Art Gallery is featuring the 100 Masters right now, so the students are learning about a different artist every week," Ms. Pellaers said. "We've been learning this week about Wayne Thiebaud, who is considered sort of a pop artist...he did work based around bakery casing and cakes, where the paint actually looks like icing."

Inspired by Thiebaud's work, students designed their own layered cakes with 3D shapes and baked their ideas into existence.

Students Brianna Sullivan and Stefanie Martin designed a cake that resembled a colourful mall, using edible paper to realize their vision.

"We've got a mannequin covered in icing and a bunch of stores around the bottom layer, and the second floor is a theme park," Brianna said.

She added that she was happy that their work was helping to raise money for a good cause: "Sometimes when adults don't have time to help out, us kids can do it."



Spring celebration

Students dye Easter Eggs together during Brock Corydon School's Spring Celebration. Students from different age levels partnered together to enjoy craft and food stations throughout the school; each station examined spring-time traditions from cultures from around the world, including Hebrew traditions.

Celebrating student volunteers



Photos and story by Gilbert Gregory
This Grant Park student polishes the pews at Westworth United Church.

Grade 9 students get the boulevards in shape in the Grant Park community.

Grant Park students share volunteer spirit

Approximately 1,200 Students from Grant Park High School pitched in and made Winnipeg a better place during the school's annual Day of Service, May 16.

The Day of Service is a longstanding Pirate tradition; the day is held to celebrate the spirit of volunteerism and to help make the community a better place.

"Part of it is students get to give back to the community in which they live," said guidance counsellor Phyllis Hidichuk. "We're educating them on the value of volunteerism for themselves and the people they help. The people who participate really enjoy it."

Students enjoyed the opportunity to make a difference in the community.

"I'm having fun. It's always nice to help people out," said Jacqueline Silva-

Nault, who was among students polishing pews at Westworth United Church while others helped with yard work on the church's grounds.

The church was by no means alone in benefitting from the students' generous donation of their time and energy.

Students picked up litter, swept and raked at numerous locations that included Assiniboine Park, Omand's Creek and the Grant Park neighborhood, while others polished and painted at local businesses and daycares.

Elsewhere, students donated their time to help out at charities such as Winnipeg Harvest, the Winnipeg Humane Society and more. The friendly Pirates also visited nearby elementary schools such as Harrow and École J.B. Mitchell to share their time with younger students, as well as working with seniors at Poseidon Care Home.

Never too young to change the world

The Board of Trustees recently recognized the efforts of four young humanitarians who represented the Division at a Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA) award ceremony.

Andrew Apuya, Atticus McIlraith, Lana Tennenhouse and Ramona Harper were selected as Region 6 nominees in the MSBA's annual Student Citizenship Awards. Ramona, who attends Strathcona School, was ultimately selected as the 2013 winner for the region at the March awards ceremony.

At Strathcona, Ramona is an active member of the WE Day club, Girls' Club, the Community Garden Club, school patrols, violin, art club and a Seven Sacred Teachings group. In the community, Ramona is involved with a weekly community support rally called Meet Me at the Bell Tower and has also started a book collection to send back to family members at St. Theresa Point First Nation.

"I got hooked on volunteering because it's so much fun. It makes me feel happy inside," Ramona said. "When I was in Grade 1, I realized I didn't have anything to do, and I was getting chubby from being inside. I decided to go outside and do something."

Meanwhile, Atticus has been mak-

ing a difference at École J.B. Mitchell School. He's an active member of the school's American Sign Language club, working with deaf and hard-of-hearing students, and also participates in fair trade activities and fundraising for many charities. Atticus also works hard through his church to raise money for earthquake torn Haiti; he even created his own website for the cause, which raised over \$1,000.

"I just wanted to donate to help them rebuild," he said. "They've had lots of disasters there."

Andrew is a model Grade 12 student at Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute, serving on student council, grad committee and performing with the school's dance group. On top of his school activities, he volunteers his time generously at the Health Sciences Centre, and in his church's choir and Sunday School.

"It gives you a good feeling to volunteer...and it connects you more to the community," Andrew said.

At Grant Park High School, Lana is known both as an exceptional academic and a vital participant in the school community through senior jazz and concert band, debate team, social justice committee and volunteering at the Fair Trade Coffee Kiosk. In her spare time, Lana volun-

Photo unavailable for website.

teers extensively with CancerCare Manitoba.

"Volunteering opens you up to new experiences," Lana said. "It's a way of giving back to the community and showing that you are thankful for

what you have."

On April 15, all four students came to Administration Building No. 1 with their family, friends and school administrators to be formally recognized by the Board of Trustees.

Enough for All, Water, water everywhere...

Water is all around us, but not everyone in the world enjoys the same quality or quantity of water that most Canadians enjoy; a class of Weston School students discovered this during a major Education for Sustainable Development project.

Teacher Danya Jaworsky and her Grade 4/5 students undertook an inquiry and action-based ESD project based around water issues this school year.

Students integrated the topic of water into Language Arts, math, social studies and science. For example, in science, students studied water conservation and took part in hands-on labs about acidity, filtration, oil spills and different types of clean-water systems used throughout the world. Culturally, students examined the importance of water to Aboriginal peoples, and had Elder David Courchene visit to discuss traditional teachings with students.

Students also examined the access to water issues affecting people across the planet. Connecting to this year's WE Day/Free the Children campaign for clean water, Weston students held their own school-wide campaign "Pennies for Water." Students collected pennies which will in turn be used by Free the Children to provide clean water for individuals in both Africa and in a Northern Manitoba community.

"It's sad that some people in



Learning about the many issues affecting water purity and access around the world in their inquiry and action-based project.

Manitoba don't have clean water," said student Natalie Duguid. "That's why we're collecting the pennies...we're helping another place to get clean water so they don't get sick."

Another important component of the project was a learning relationship students established with Sagkeeng First Nation. The Weston and Sagkeeng students became e-Pen pals, and the Weston class was able to

visit the First Nation, with students comparing and contrasting their two communities using Venn Diagrams, photography and other methods. Students learned about the water drum from a local Elder, and are also sharing what they've learned in their water project with the Sagkeeng students.

"It's good to learn about cultures other than just our own," Natalie said.

The Weston water project was

made possible through the Division's Education for Sustainable Development grant, as well as a grant from Learning for a Sustainable Future.

"Ms. Jaworsky was really able to link the ESD with the curriculum, and integrate the Aboriginal and multicultural elements to create some special experiences for the students," said Principal Gayle Alex. "It's provided so many active levels of engagement and learning."

Exercising to school... the best way to travel

If the air around École George V School seems a bit cleaner and the students a bit fitter, it's probably a result of the second annual Exercise to School Day.

Grade 6 student Kristin Thorne and Grade 5 student Evan Horn were enthusiastic about the May 17 event.

"Exercise to School Day is when we encourage kids to walk or ride their bikes to school or do anything that is active to get to school," said Evan.

Another major part of the day is encouraging students to enjoy the outdoors; the school's student Sustainable Development Team set up a series of activity stations throughout the school yard for students to have fun and get active. Students took part in activities such as ball hockey, running, yoga, ringette and jump the river.

"We get all the kids to go outside and take part in activities," said Kristin, who is captain of the Sustainable Development Team. She said the day also encouraged environmentally friendly ways to travel

to school. "We've studied the Seven Aboriginal Teachings and how to keep the earth clean."

The day also featured an assembly with speakers discussing the importance of staying fit.

One of the speakers was four-time Canadian women's curling champion and one-time world champion Jill Officer, who later instructed students in indoor curling in the school's gym. She told the students of the importance of working hard to reach their goals.

"We never gave up, we always stuck with things," she said after describing some setbacks she experienced in curling. "It taught me a lot in other areas of my life. I want to encourage you guys to never give up on yourselves or anything you believe in or are passionate about."

Education for Sustainable Development teacher Rob Schulz said one of the goals was to give students ideas for things they could do outside.

"It's part of the celebration of



Photo and story by Gilbert Gregory
Canadian curling star Jill Officer visited George V to join students in the celebration of physical activity and sustainable living on Exercise to School Day.

Clean Air Day," Mr. Schulz said. "We wanted to teach them games they could play outside without equipment. We're seeing a lot of positive results being picked up at home."

The day also included a visit by

seven students from Pinayamootang School in Fairford, MB. They were presented with bicycles rebuilt by George V students.

"We're building relationships with other schools," Mr. Schulz said. "I see a lot coming from that."

Forever

Talking about human trafficking

In addition to addressing bullying, students at Elmwood High School used The Day of Pink as a way to introduce discussions about a variety of human rights issues.

Students held a noon-hour (Hoop)2athon—where students shot hoops and played with hula hoops—to rally and share human rights information. The event was held by the student group MARLY (Manitoba Association of Rights and Liberties for Youth), both school student councils and Elmwood's Human Rights Club.

"After our projects and all of the actions we took this year, we held the (Hoop)2athon to raise awareness and show what we've done," said student Soleil Gallego, adding that students shared their messages through videos, posters and discussions with their fellow students.

This year, MARLY students focused both on human trafficking and connecting with seniors in the community. The students held a coffee house earlier in the spring for seniors at BethaniaHaus and Sage House, an outreach organization that helps society's most vulnerable against exploitation. The group donated \$200 to each organization.

Students noted that the senior connection was important, as seniors often fought for many of the human rights Canadians enjoy today. Meanwhile, Soleil said human trafficking is an issue both locally and globally; she noted that the average age of women who were exploited was around 12-14 years of age.

By tying the event in with The Day of Pink and the issue of bullying, organizers were also able to reach students with an issue that affects students daily.

"We wanted to teach people that everyone is unique and should be accepted for who they are," said student Sophia Rivera. "And with this event, a lot of kids were able to come together and just have fun."



Elmwood students with some informational posters created for the school's recent human rights awareness event (Hoop)2athon.

We can sustain this planet

Students at École J.B. Mitchell School are working hard to make the world a better place.

With the guidance of Grade 4 teacher Cynthia Mitchell the school had a mini We-Day/Celebrating Sustainability Conference on May 1.

The conference featured workshops where students learned about topics such as sustainable gardening, fair trade food, recycling and providing clean water in developing countries. Guest speakers such as Jonathan Patterson discussed how students can take action and make changes as international citizens. Jazz musician Steve Kirby told students how he has used music to build bridges with people who don't speak the same language he does. Students also discussed international development via Skype with Pam Nowell, who was speaking with them from Sweden.

The message of sustainability wasn't lost on Grade 6 students Natasha Oberoi and Nolan Desrochers. Natasha and Nolan were Sustainability Ambassadors for the day, greeting guests to the school and thanking them for presenting at the conference.

Natasha said she's been taking the message to her friends: "I've encouraged my friends to be more sustainable by recycling instead of throwing things out. We've learned to really take care of the world and make a difference to help the world. We can buy fair trade items or give food items to Winnipeg Harvest or other food banks."

Nolan said he's doing his part and encourages others to do the same.



Story and photo by Gilbert Gregory
A student works on his soft-drink can tab bracelet during J.B. Mitchell's recent sustainability conference.

"I've been making changes in my lifestyle. I'm recycling more and buying fewer bottled drinks because the plastic doesn't decompose."

Ms. Mitchell said it's important for students to realize they don't have to wait until they're adults to have a positive impact on the world.

"The biggest thing is for the kids to understand you're never too young to make a difference. Students are thinking locally and they're thinking globally. They're thinking about the actions they take and the impact they have."



The green mile

Students and staff at École Garden Grove School brought a greater awareness to issues such as bullying, the environment, climate change, poverty in Manitoba and more during their 2013 Green Week.

The May 6-10 event brought in a variety of guest speakers and activities all aimed at educating for sustainable development. Partners included Child Find Manitoba, Winnipeg Harvest, the Green Action Centre and the Winnipeg Police Service.

One of the many highlights of the week was a Community Bike Ride, which saw a convoy of Garden Grove students don their helmets and take to the local neighbourhood on wheels. WPS Const. Mitch Rochon spoke with students beforehand about bike safety and the importance of helmets—which are also required by law when riding a bicycle in Winnipeg.

Enough for All, Forever

Operation Smile

Every child should have plenty of reasons to smile, but some are not able to because of a variety of medical reasons. Operation Smile is an international charity that brings together medical professionals and volunteers to provide safe reconstructive surgery and medical care for children born with facial issues such as cleft lip and cleft palate.

In May, Inkster School's student Sustainability Team partnered with Angel Bhathal—a Miss Universe Canada contestant and Kelvin High School alumnus—to hold a used toy and book sale in support of the charity. Inkster students, staff and families donated the items for the sale.

Prior to the May 8 event, Ms. Bhathal visited the school to talk about the charity.

"Operation Smile is providing these children with life-changing surgeries," Ms. Bhathal said; she added

that along with supporting the cause, she also hoped to inspire young people to make a difference in the world.

"Just by the amount of toys and books these children have brought in today, it's really touching to see how much they want to help and make a difference."

As a WE School in Action, Inkster has focused both on global and local humanitarianism. Teacher and Education for Sustainable Development coordinator Annelie Reimer said the toy sale touched different pillars of ESD.

"This is a global action that has a social impact in terms of sustainability, and there's also an economic benefit for the children in poverty who are getting the surgeries. On a local perspective, all of the books and toys have been donated by our own students. They are reusing and repurposing old items. So it's a big win all the way around."

Inkster Sustainability Team students with Kelvin alumni and Miss Universe Canada contestant Angel Bhathal at Inkster's recent toy sale.



Inkster students talk sustainability



Story and photo by Gilbert Gregory
Students learn about composting during Inkster's Sustainability Conference.

The environment is getting a helping hand thanks to the students at Inkster School, which held its third annual Education for Sustainable Development Conference, April 23.

Organized by the school's Student Sustainability Team, the morning consisted of activities and workshops on topics such as waste management, fair trade, the food cycle, sustainable energy and development through music. The activities were presented by Division staff, students and visitors from outside the Division.

Sustainability team members Josée Pineault, Adrianna Tavares and Raffy Maramag, all Grade 6 students, were excited about the conference, the positive impact they were having on the community and sharing what they know.

"It's really cool that everyone gets to learn about what we're doing," said Josée. "My favourite part is listening to the speakers. It's really cool hearing what they have to say."

"In our daily lives the little things we do make such a big difference," said Adrianna. "We're gardening at school and composting."

"We have recycling bins in every classroom," added Raffy.

Inkster's Education for Sustainable Development teacher, Annelie Reimer, said the lessons learned at the conference reached beyond the schoolyard.

"If we are not living sustainably, what are we living for?" Ms. Reimer asked. "Hopefully students will come away with a deeper understanding that what we do at Inkster School

with regard to gardening and composting has a wider connection to the community."

The afternoon featured a mini-We Day celebration with speeches addressing issues such as the envi-

ronment and bullying. Local musician Keith Macpherson spoke about his experiences in Africa and performed his song "The One," with the students of Inkster singing along.



Pennies for clean water

Students and staff at Champlain School were busy this spring collecting pennies for Free the Children's We Create Change Penny Drive.

Targeting countries in Africa, the campaign's goal is to provide a lifetime of clean water for one person for every 2,500 pennies collected. Champlain students are learning that having access to clean water is not something to be taken for granted; the reality is that more than one billion people live without access to clean drinking water.

The school's Middle Years Student Council—MY Voice—initially hoped to raise 10,000 pennies during their drive. But at the end of the two week collection, the school had raised over 60,000 pennies, which will provide a lifetime of clean water for 24 people.

Celebrating Aboriginal Languages

Once on the brink of being lost forever, Canada's first languages are finding new generations of speakers in Winnipeg School Division classrooms through the Aboriginal Languages Program.

Schools participating in Cree and Ojibwe language instruction recently met up at R.B. Russell Vocational High School for the second annual Celebrating Aboriginal Languages Festival, held on May 10.

Students from Dufferin, Children of the Earth, Isaac Newton, Hugh John Macdonald, Niji Mahkwa, Ralph Brown, Shaughnessy Park, Strathcona, Wii Wabigooni and William Whyte Community schools—who ranged from Nursery to Grade 12—made presentations to demonstrate their growth in Aboriginal languages.

"This is showing the community how the students are incorporating the language through all the subject areas," said Aboriginal Education Consultant and AAA Support Teacher Geraldine Whitford. "For example, we had Ralph Brown students doing place value in Ojibwe. You can see that the students are growing and are becoming more confident."

Students from Strathcona School made a presentation on the different parts of the buffalo.

"Our class showed the different

parts of the buffalo in Ojibwe and said how they were used," said student Julian Peters. "The bladder, owiiskwe, was used to make a bag they could drink water out of, and the stomach, omisat, was used for cooking pots."

Julian added that his family, which has Ojibwe roots, has been happy to see him learning the language: "It feels good. I'm learning to speak my own language."

Strathcona teacher Elaine Mayham frequently uses field trips and nature experiences to explore the language with her students. Her class has done winter animal tracking at Birds Hill Park, as well as trips to the Living Prairie Museum and the Assiniboine Forest.

"If the students don't make real life connections with the language, they are not going to retain it," Ms. Mayham said. "Our students are going home and sharing these experiences and the language with their families."

Educators and Elders such as Florence Paynter, Ellen Cook, Byron Beardy, Levinia Brown and Wanda Baker also presented throughout the day, discussing the importance of teaching Aboriginal languages in schools. These guest speakers also introduced other languages to the event, such as Oji-Cree and Inuktitut.



Strathcona students identify different animal tracks during a classroom Ojibwe exercise.

"Students and staff are seeing the diversity in the languages," said Marsha Missyabit, who also works as an Aboriginal Education Consultant and AAA Support Teacher with the Division. "When we look at Aboriginal people, it's not just 'oh, they speak Aboriginal.' The students see there's so much diversity in the different languages and cultures."

Classroom teachers have benefited from the guidance of Ojibwe Language Consultant Sophie Boulanger and Cree Language

Consultant Rudy Okemaw, while more in-depth Cree and Ojibwe language instruction is also available for teachers in spring sessions. Ms. Missyabit and Ms. Whitford are always seeking out new print resources, DVDs and other language materials for use in the classroom, to encourage teachers to take the languages across the curriculum.

"With the Winnipeg School Division, the goal is to sustain the language over the long term," Ms. Whitford said.



Photo by Jeff Miller

We are Family

Students at Meadows West School demonstrated their vast talents in dance, music, visual art and more at the school's annual dance collective event We Are Family.

The charitable May 2 event was held as a fundraiser for Winnipeg Harvest and Free the Children.

Among the many highlights was a special guest appearance by singer/songwriter Keith Macpherson, who performed with students he had been collaborating with through songwriting workshops.

Multicultural Mosaic



Photo and story by Gilbert Gregory

Gordon Bell students entertain the Mosaic crowd with some Nepali dancing.

The Gordon Bell High School community celebrated its approximately 60 different cultures with Multicultural Mosaic 2013 on April 24.

Held in the afternoon for students and in the evening for the community-at-large, audiences were treated to songs performed by the school's choirs and senior band, Nepali, Aboriginal, African and hip-hop dancing, drumming by the Peaceful Village Drummers and an international fashion show featuring students wearing traditional outfits from their families' countries of origin.

Grade 12 students Justin Ambay and Alba Sawatsky were the

masters of ceremonies for the show.

"The show was held to show the diversity in our school," Justin said. "We can learn more about the different cultures and understand each other."

"It's a good way to show how we are all different, but we all go to the same school and we go to the same classes," added Alba.

English-as-an-Additional Language teacher Jill Stefanyshyn helped oversee the production of Multicultural Mosaic 2013.

"It shows how proud the students are of their culture," Ms. Stefanyshyn said. "By performing and showing their talents, it helps bring them together."

Committed, caring staff



Kristina Stawski and Lorraine Ilagan.



Lee Van Cauwenberghe.

Stories and photos by Gilbert Gregory

High praise for DMCI partnership

When a student with limited or no English language skills walks through the doors at Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute for the first time, they are put in the very capable hands of the school's English-as-an-Additional-Language team.

Thanks to the success of the program, Kristina Stawski, guidance counsellor and head of the EAL department, and Lorraine Ilagan, intake and resource coordinator and a Grade 9 and 10 teacher, received the Team Collaboration Award at the Manitoba Celebration of Excellence in Teaching Awards.

Like most educators who receive such honours, winning an award for doing their jobs was the furthest thing from Ms. Stawski's and Ms. Ilagan's minds.

"We're still in shock," Ms. Ilagan said. "We do our jobs and we love it, it's a bonus. When our kids are successful, that's the satisfaction."

DMCI's EAL team was nominated for the award by community support worker Perla Javate, who noted how students have quickly adapted as a result of their interaction with the program.

Ms. Stawski and Ms. Ilagan are quick to acknowledge the efforts of DMCI's staff at a school in which half of the approximately 1,200 students come from homes where English is not the primary language and a quarter of them are enrolled in EAL classes.

"It's a team effort," Ms. Stawski said. "The teachers we have in our department are dedicated. It's all about the kids. The teachers are concerned about doing what is best for the students."

Ms. Stawski also praised former principal Gilles Beaumont for his unwavering support of the program.

"We had an amazing administration that supported us 100 per cent and let us do what we needed to do," she said.

This isn't the first time Ms. Stawski and Ms. Ilagan have worked together. Ms. Stawski was Ms. Ilagan's advisor when she was DMCI's student president in 1992-93. "She still my mentor," Ms. Ilagan said.

Province honours innovative Stanley Knowles teacher

When it comes to creating an innovative learning environment, École Stanley Knowles School has one of the best in Grade 8 math and science teacher Lee Van Cauwenberghe, a 2013 recipient of the Manitoba Celebration of Excellence in Teaching Award.

At first Mr. Van Cauwenberghe had trouble believing he was even being considered for such an honour.

"When I first heard my principal was nominating me, I thought he was kidding," Mr. Van Cauwenberghe said. "To get it was the greatest honour of my career so far. It was an award for doing something I love to do. It's overwhelming."

Mr. Van Cauwenberghe is humble when discussing the award, preferring to spread the credit around.

"I work with a really good team," he said of his colleagues at Stanley Knowles. "The strong team we have here is the reason (I won the award)."

Mr. Van Cauwenberghe's students also acknowledged their teacher's accomplishments, giving him a cheer and a standing ovation when they found out about the award.

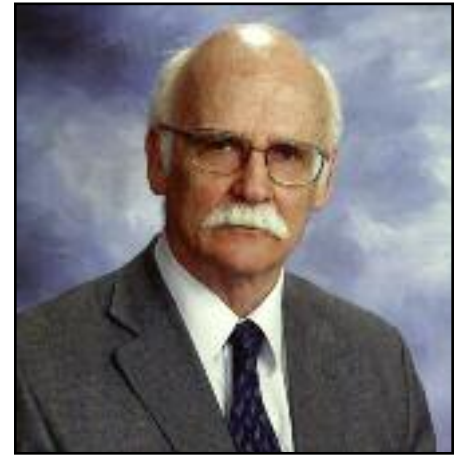
Using grant money from Manitoba Scientists in the classroom, Mr. Van Cauwenberghe has developed a unit on robotics and what he called a 'CSI unit' in which students learned about the techniques used by police in investigating crime scenes. He even had the head of the forensics unit at the Winnipeg Police Service speak to his students about the techniques they use. A registered nurse also visited his classroom to give the students a hands-on lesson in determining their blood types.

These unique experiences created an environment where students were eager to tackle new challenges as a team.

"It helped with their problem solving and group work," Mr. Van Cauwenberghe said. "The more you can get students to work collaboratively, the more you can get out of them."



Rhonda Morrissette.



George Heshka. File photo

Provincial honour for WAEC teacher-librarian

As plain as the words on this page, Rhonda Morrissette is an outstanding educator.

"It doesn't matter what you read, so long as you read," Ms. Morrissette said.

Ms. Morrissette was recently honoured with the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literacy—Leader in Literacy for her work as the teacher-librarian at the Winnipeg Adult Education Centre (WAEC). She was recognized for, among other things, creating the family literacy collection in the WAEC's library, chairing the family literacy fair and being part of the team which established the download library, a resource that gives students around-the-clock digital access to educational material through their computers.

The family literacy collection provides WAEC students with a resource that allows them to introduce their children to reading.

"It's a way for our students to gain confidence, joy and stamina in reading that's required in almost all sectors of society," Ms. Morrissette said. "Reading with your family is a way to develop life-long reading habits in a fun way."

While receiving the Lieutenant Governor's award is an honour, seeing the results of her work is what means the most to Ms. Morrissette.

"I was walking by our circle garden and I saw a mom and child together reading a book from our family literacy collection, that was the most rewarding moment," she said.

Ms. Morrissette was quick to cred-

it her dedicated colleagues who have contributed to the success of WAEC's literacy programs.

"Teacher-librarians work with all the staff and it feels odd to be singled out when all the staff have contributed to an environment conducive to learning," she said.

Sisler's Heshka enters the Order

You can add Member of the Order of Manitoba and Doctor of Letters to the long list of accomplishments and accolades afforded George Heshka, Principal of Sisler High School.

In the past year, Mr. Heshka has also received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal for community service and he was No. 7 on radio personality Ace Burpee's list of most fascinating Manitobans.

"Go figure," said Mr. Heshka, who has been principal of Sisler since 1980. "The whole thing was a surprise."

Mr. Heshka knows he couldn't have accomplished things such as building Sisler into a school that was named one of Canada's best by Maclean's Magazine if he hadn't been surrounded by outstanding people throughout his career.

"The awards are recognition of work done by others," he said. "There are too many to mention and many of the names have been lost in the mists of time. I want them to be recognized for their work on all different levels. I have to recognize them, they've done yeoman's service."

Continued
see Staff page 14

Students, staff volunteers shine at Yes I Can!

Thirteen outstanding individuals were recognized for their achievements in the advancement of inclusion at the 2013 Yes I Can! Awards. This year's award ceremony was held at the Victoria Inn on Feb. 21.

The awards, which were presented by the Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children, recognized both youth and adults across a broad slate of categories.

David Livingstone Community School's **Sylvia Armenti** was one of three Division staff members who were presented with Educational Assistant of the Year Awards for 2013. Ms. Armenti has been major support to FASD students in the school's Bridges program since 2003, helping the school to become a global FASD resource. With a combination of nurturing, patience and celebrating successes along the way, Ms. Armenti has made lasting connections with her students.

Prairie Rose School's **Carlos Borges** is well known among his fellow students and staff for his meticulously detailed drawings. Carlos uses his artwork to communicate what he knows, observes and learns, and he completes many of his assignments through drawing rather than writing or speaking. Carlos received an Art Award for his remarkable talents.

Whether she's learning new letters on the Braille writer or learning her daily environment through the use of her cane, Sister MacNamara School's **Shauna Chief-Parker** is a highly-deserving Technology Award winner. A major reason for Shauna's successes is that she always sets new goals, building confidence each and every day.

Churchill High School's **Lana Christensen** was another Educational Assistant of the Year for 2013. Ms. Christensen's past experience as a geriatric nurse, foster parent and working at St. Amant Centre has proven invaluable for her current role as a gentle-yet-encouraging presence in the lives of her students. She has worked as an EA since 1992 and hasn't looked back.

Elmwood High School's **Brittney Daniels** has made significant gains in her mobility in the past two years, earning a 2013 Transition Award as a result. She is now involved in all phys. ed. activities, such as soccer-baseball, British Bulldog, floor hockey and more. Brittney is now propelling herself forward in her wheelchair in the classroom and can power herself for full hallway lengths on her adapted bike.

Trent Fraser was recognized in the School and Community Activities category for his extracurricular efforts at Shaughnessy Park School. The RIGHT program student demonstrates confidence, leadership and a willingness to take on new challenges in Pow Wow Club, Art Club, Guitar Club, Basketball, Soccer and a community boxing program, among many others.

Working with hearing challenged students at École J.B. Mitchell School, **Robyn Friesen's** commitment and outstanding work earned her an Educational Assistant of the Year Award. Known for going above and beyond for her students, these qualities were recently demonstrated when Ms. Friesen marshaled support and resources for a family that lost everything in a house fire. The EA set an example of what generosity and empathy is all about.

Longtime volunteer **Jim MacKay** and his canine co-workers have proven to be tremendously popular in Greenway School's Adaptive Skills and Autism Programs. The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers —Digby, Phlirt and Piper—visit regularly through the PALS (Pets and Learning in Schools); the dogs were trained through the St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dog Program. By keeping students calm and relaxed, the dogs facilitate learning and teach communication and empathy. Mr. MacKay was presented with a Certificate of Recognition at the award ceremony for his many years of service.

Saffi Kamara earned an Arts Award after making tremendous growth in her music therapy classes at Elmwood High School. Music is a constant companion now for this hard working student, whether it's during community outings, work experience, physical education or other life skills programming. She is now even singing and recording her voice for others to enjoy.

AJ Morrissette has become a well-known face at Mulvey School, which says a lot about why he won a Self-Advocacy Award this year. Working through the Coach Program, AJ has made significant gains academically and socially, resulting in his participation in a general classroom setting. By sharing his gift of generosity with others, AJ has bettered both himself and the Mulvey community.

With his award in the Self-Advocacy category, **Logan Shannacappo** was Shaughnessy Park's second Yes I Can winner. While attending Isaac Newton School, Logan created a PowerPoint presentation about his learning abilities and his strategies to overcome challenges. Those skills have enabled him to become an important part of his new environment at Shaughnessy Park.

David Livingstone's **Phoenix Southwind Lyons** was recognized in the

Academics category. Phoenix is an enthusiastic participant in classroom activities, a frequent contributor to small and large group discussions, and an independent worker who will turn to print and technology to find the answers to many of his own questions.

Grant Park High School's **Samuel Wolch** was another Divisional winner in the Self-Advocacy category, thanks to his caring and empathetic ways at Grant Park and his previous school, Montrose. Whether he's simply spreading his contagious laugh or his passion for justice for all, Samuel has become a better advocate for himself, sharing his own learning strengths and needs.

Photos unavailable for website.

Grant Park students make big splash at investment competition



Art intersection: This Cecil Rhodes student checks out some of the brilliant artwork on display in her school's gymnasium.

Art for all

Cecil Rhodes School students let their artistic sides shine at the school's recent Community Pancake Breakfast and Art Show, which was held in May.

The third annual culinary/cultural event had every student from Nursery to Grade 9 showcasing their artwork in a colourful gallery walk in the school's gymnasium; families and community members were invited to tour the exhibit and enjoy a nice sit-down breakfast afterwards in the school's multipurpose room.

"This event is just a way for the whole school to come together to celebrate the arts, as well as celebrating our community," said Grade 6 teacher Meghan Clements. "Teachers and students have been saving artwork from throughout the year so students could have an original piece to

submit to this event."

Grade 6 student Lilian Talabis submitted a bright calligraphy collage that played on the word imagination.

"I like drawing because you get to show your feelings...and no drawing is wrong," she said, adding that she was impressed with her fellow students' work. "There are some very original paintings and drawings, they've put a lot of imagination into their artwork."

Guidance counsellor Jón Olafson said the event was a way to engage the community.

"It's a great chance for the students to connect and have fun with their families, classmates and teachers," he said. "We'll also have the art on display for tonight, when we'll be having Weston School students visiting. Their students that will be joining us for junior high will have a chance to see some of the great things happening at Cecil Rhodes School."

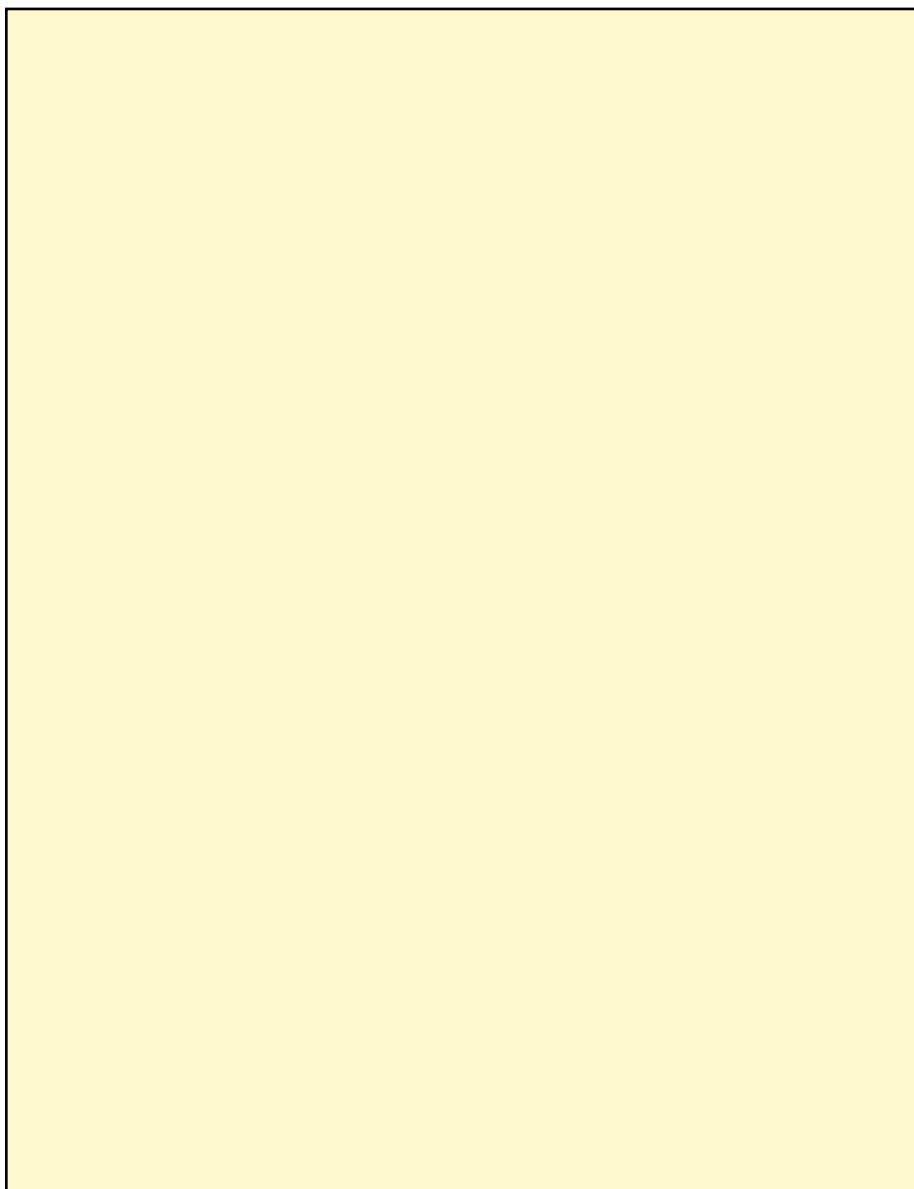


Photo unavailable for website.

A pair of Grant Park High School students made their mark at the recent Manitoba High School Investment Competition.

Connor Wielgosz and Reegan McCheyne captured second place overall, as well as first place in the trade show presentation format, with their business plan for PuraSplash. The water vending machine concept has users either refilling their own bottles or buying compostable plastic bottles at the point of purchase.

"Our idea started by looking at ways to eliminate the over consumption of plastic water bottles," Connor said. "We ended up with a machine that could fill these water bottles and we also secured exclusive rights to compostable water bottles from another company, Clearline Technologies."

The vending machine—which already has a working prototype—also allows for other consumer options.

"We have products in our machine, Aquashots, that allow you to customize your water the way you want," Reegan said. "For example, you could add a vitamin shot, a two hour energy shot and make it taste like cherry. You are creating your own drink...you can even give it a name if you want."

The May 2/3 competition, which took place at the University of Manitoba's Asper School of

Business, had students pitching their concepts in a trade show competition, an elevator pitch, a logo competition and a comprehensive business plan competition. While neither Connor nor Reegan had ever taken any business courses, they were able to draw upon their experience from performing drama at Grant Park and debating.

"It fits in perfectly with being able to get in front of a crowd and saying what's on your mind," Connor said. "You have to be able to captivate the audience and get them interested in what you are saying."

The success at the competition was the culmination of over five months of work, from researching numbers, meeting with suppliers, securing a prototype machine and even researching issues such as bacteria growth.

Guidance counsellor Karen Knight, teacher Mark Golub and career advisor Carmelie Capiendo, who served as advisors on the project, were thrilled with the students' success at the competition.

"People just loved Connor and Reegan's concept, and they have already established a stage presence from all of these other experiences at Grant Park," Ms. Knight said. "It was a joy to watch everything culminate at this competition."

To read more about Connor and Reegan's product, visit www.purasplash.com.

STAFF

Continued from page 12

As recognition for Mr. Heshka's accomplishments pile up, he remains humble and enthusiastic, whether he is recalling his days as an inner-city activist with Sister Geraldine MacNamara or looking to future projects at Sisler—such as the continuation of the videoconferencing program which partners with school divisions across the province.

"I've loved every minute of it," he said. "We're doing a lot of amazing things and we continue to do so."

And just because he has an honorary doctorate, Sisler students won't be expected to call their principal Dr. Heshka.

"Hey you' will suffice. Nothing is going to change," he said. "I'll add some letters to (the end of) my name. I'm not one to stand on ceremony."

Young scientists shine

The Winnipeg Schools' Science Fair has settled in nicely at its new home on the University of Manitoba's Health Sciences Centre campus. For the second straight year, the fair showcased student projects for an enthusiastic audience of university students, doctors, nurses and other spectators at Brodie Centre.

Among the many strong projects at the April 17 event were these major award-winning students:

Queenston School's **Terry Barber** won the Fair's Most Outstanding Elementary Award for his project "Producing Ethanol Bio-fuel from Plant Waste."

The Sisler High School tandem of **Winnica Beltrano and Philip Kawalec** received the Intermediate Platinum Award for "The Search for Antioxidants."

École secondaire Kelvin High School's **Dareen El-Sayed's** project "The Anti-Diabetic Activity of Rosemary Through its Inhibition of α -Glucosidase" drew major attention with the Most Outstanding Senior Award, the Science Innovator and Manitoba Health Research Council Awards and a well-earned berth at Canada Wide Science Fair.

Wynonna Mendoza and Allie Skwarchuk (École River Heights School) won the Junior Platinum Award for "How do chemicals affect the growth of algae?" The project also earned the duo the Junior Sustainable Development Challenge Award.

École J.B. Mitchell's **Arusha Raban** received the Elementary Platinum Award for her project on Handwashing.

Grant Park High School's **Amanda Wong** earned the Most Outstanding Intermediate Award—and a spot at the Canada Wide Science Fair—for her project "Can the Big Five Personality Factors Predict Belbin's Team Roles?"

Mackenzie Wong (Grant Park) drew the judges' attention in the Junior category for his project "Can a Galvanometer be converted into a sub-milligram balance?" He won the Most Outstanding Junior Award and a berth at the Canada Wide Science Fair as a result.

Other award winners included:

Owen Gillespie, Churchill: Junior Manitoba Hydro Energy and You Award for "Creating Electricity from Water."

Emily Green, Queenston: Elementary Sustainable Development Challenge, Manitoba Hydro Energy and You, and the Science Innovator Awards for "What's Cooking?"

Josh Levesque, Grant Park: Junior Manitoba Health Research Council Award.

Conor McGovern and Cameron Roe, River Heights: Junior Science Innovator Award for "Simulation du Ski de fond."

Keisha Mendoza, Sisler: Senior Manitoba Hydro Energy and You Award, Senior Sustainable Development Challenge Award for "An A'peeling Way to Filter Water: The Banana Peel Water Filter."

Michelle Simba, Sisler: Intermediate Sustainable Development Challenge Award, Science Innovator Award for "Eco Insulate."

Branden Spado, Churchill: Intermediate Manitoba Hydro Energy and You Award for "Saving Energy is a 'Bright' Idea."

Photos unavailable for website.

DMCI rededicates Memorial Alcove



Photo by Jeff Miller.

DMCI Alumni President Doug Sargeant speaks during the ceremony.



Photo by Jeff Miller.

DMCI choir students past and present perform a rendition of the old standard "I'll Be Seeing You."

In a school steeped in history, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute's Memorial Alcove remains a centerpiece.

The alcove features the names of 2,425 DMCI students who enlisted in the First and Second World Wars; their names are preserved on scrolls and bronze plaques, while an original Leo Mol stained glass window serves as a tribute to their sacrifices. Two-hundred-and-five DMCI students died in WWII alone.

On April 23, the school reopened and rededicated the alcove after a two-year restoration that included

new flooring, display cases and a backlight for the Leo Mol piece. DMCI alumni and Veterans Affairs Canada generously donated to fund the project.

Trustee Cathy Collins, Chief Superintendent Pauline Clarke, Superintendent of Schools-Central Celia Caetano-Gomes, as well as representatives from Royal Canadian Legion Branch #1, Veterans Affairs Canada and the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada were on hand for the Colour Party and piper ceremony, joining DMCI alumni, staff and students.

WELCOME TO R.B. RUSSELL!



When R.B. Russell Vocational High School opens its doors each year for its annual April open house, you can count on the students and staff in the school's Hairstyling Program to be leading the charge as hosts.



Photo by Jeff Miller

A Queenston student addresses the crowd at Queenston School, while Principal Wade Gregg, Premier Greg Selinger, MLA Kerri Irvin-Ross and Board Chair Rita Hildahl look on.

Queenston gym moves closer to reality

It's been a long road, but the journey is almost complete for the students, staff and community members seeking a new gymnasium for Queenston School.

Premier Greg Selinger, Housing and Community Development Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross and Board Chair Rita Hildahl were at the school on April 23 to announce provincial investments in community centres, arenas and playgrounds—including a \$50,000 funding commitment to Queenston's own Sheilah Sweatman Gymnasium.

Also on the list of dignitaries: Grade 5 student Roxy McFadden, who also took the podium to represent her fellow students.

"I told everyone how excited we all were about getting a new gym...and that it wasn't just a gym for our school, it's a gym for the whole community," Roxy said. "Everyone here likes phys. ed., and this is going to be good for the community too."

The gymnasium is already receiving a \$300,000 funding commitment from the Public Schools Finance Board, while the school and commu-

nity has also raised an additional \$300,000 to build a larger facility that will upgrade the gym from elementary school size to a community-use sized facility that is some 800 sq. ft. larger.

The gym, which is expected to open in 2014, is named after a neighbourhood hero who died while aiding in a search and rescue mission in B.C. in 2011.

"Sheilah Sweatman was a former River Heights community member and her parents still live in the community," said Principal Wade Gregg. "For 29 years, she was a tremendous athlete and a community member. It just made sense to name this facility after her."

Mr. Gregg was quick to credit the school's gymnasium committee for pushing the project towards completion.

"The Queenston School Gym Committee deserves all credits for this happening. They've been working hard for many years on this," he said. "This facility will be a game changer for the community. From the beginning, the intent was to involve the community, and have the gym be available to more community members on evenings and weekends."

A sobering message

Students at Grant Park High School received a sobering message when they were visited by Mothers Against Drunk Driving Canada on May 3.

The presentation featured a speech by MADD Canada's outreach field representative Chaouki Hamka and a short film dramatizing the tragic consequences of impaired driving. The film included testimonials from people who have lost family members due to crashes caused by impaired driving.

Grade 9 student Kurtis McKinnon was moved by the story told by a teenager who was in the car with his grandmother when a drunk driver crossed the dotted line and took her life.

"It would crush me too, if I saw my grandmother killed in a crash like that," Kurtis said. "This presentation was a great way to prevent people from impaired driving. If I did see someone who was impaired and wanted to drive, I would stop them. I'd call them a taxi or get someone else to drive them home. I just wouldn't let them drive."



Story and photo by Gilbert Gregory
Chaouki Hamka, Outreach Field Representative for MADD Canada, speaks with students at Grant Park.

Mr. Hamka made sure the students knew the consequences of impaired driving could happen to anyone, whether they are the driver, the victim or the friends and family of the victim.

"The biggest thing is that they know they are not invincible," Mr. Hamka said. "Impaired driving can happen to them and their families."

He said students must realize they can make a difference when it comes to preventing impaired driving: "They have the courage and the ability to end impaired driving by making good decisions and helping others make good decisions."

Surgery streamed live to Sisler High School and 1,200 students across Manitoba

Geography was not a factor as students from Sisler High School and 1,200 students scattered across Manitoba were able to get a closer look inside a patient's knee during a minimally invasive surgery streamed live online from the Pan Am Clinic.

As a surgeon reconstructed a ligament in a patient's knee, students at Sisler High School were able to interact with the operating room. During the one hour procedure, students posed questions in front of HD video conferencing equipment, where their image was transmitted to the surgeons in the OR. Students watching online from across the province forwarded questions to Sisler via Twitter or a secure chat board, where their questions were relayed to the surgical team.

"This will make the first time in Canada students will study an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury and watch a live reconstruction surgery streamed directly into their classrooms," shared Pan Am Clinic Chief Operating Officer Wayne Hildahl.



A Sisler High School student stands in front of video conferencing equipment while asking the surgeon a medical question.

As a big proponent for digital education, Sisler High School Principal George Heshka made the push for adapting the curriculum to allow learning to evolve within the ever-changing world of technology.

"Three years ago Sisler High School had a vision of moving towards evolving the traditional

classroom," said Mr. Heshka. "The foundation of this vision is to create opportunities for 21st century learners by providing them with real educational experiences through the use of cutting edge technology such as HD video conferencing, Bring Your Own Device (BYOD), inverted cross-curricular pedagogy, and the

use of the Frontier School Division protected bridge, which allows multi-site video conferencing such as this interactive surgery with the Pan Am Clinic."

The project was a partnership that included Sisler High School, the Pan Am Clinic, Frontier School Division and the WRHA.

Funding to support COTE medical program



Story and photo by Gilbert Gregory

This student demonstrates how a shoulder is scoped with Children and Youth Opportunities Minister Kevin Chief (left) and Premier Greg Selinger.

Students from Children of the Earth School have brighter futures thanks to the Bright Futures Fund, which provides financial support to the Medical Careers Exploration program.

The program gives students from Children of the Earth High School the opportunity to explore different medical careers through observation and hands-on experience at the Pan-Am Clinic, Health Sciences Centre and Grace Hospital.

Students in the program were at the Pan-Am Clinic, April 29, for a funding announcement by Premier Greg Selinger, Children and Youth Opportunities Minister Kevin Chief and Dr. Wayne Hildahl, chief operating officer of the clinic. A total of \$4.3 million is being invested into the Bright Futures Fund to support community-based organizations and programs that offer mentorship and career exploration opportunities to

junior and senior high students, such as the Medical Careers Exploration program.

"I joined the program because I always knew I wanted to be in the medical field," said Grade 12 student Colten Pratt. "It's been amazing. I hope everyone in the future has as great an experience as I have."

Colten, who wants to be a paramedic, said the knowledge and experience he and his schoolmates have gained in the program will give them a huge advantage when they begin their post-secondary education.

Children of the Earth principal Chris Goring said the benefits of the program can be seen throughout the school community.

"The students in the program go on to be some of our brightest academic achievers," Mr. Goring said. "When it comes to citizenship and promoting the school in the community, they can be counted on to step up."

Taste of success just as sweet at French spelling bee

Story and photo by Gilbert Gregory

The promise of prizes was all students needed to get excited about Collège Churchill's Épellation abeille d'avril (April spelling bee).

"Knowing there's a spelling bee and a chance to win prizes adds to the excitement of learning and pushed us harder to learn new words," said Tekla Cunningham, who won the Grade 8 competition for correctly spelling *actualisier*.

Other winners were Alana Ramshaw, who won the Grade 9-10 competition with *aléatoire* and Grade 7 winner Jane Marie Cegayle, one of four students from École Stanley Knowles School who took part in the spelling bee. Jane Marie's winning word was *allergie*.

The spelling bee was the idea of library-technician Evan Comstock; he said taking part was beneficial to all students, but especially those who hadn't been in French Immersion throughout their academic careers.

"For the younger students and the ones in late immersion, it unlocks the realization that they know the words and have the vocabulary and it gives them the confidence to continue in French Immersion," Mr. Comstock said.

Every student who took part in the spelling bee received a prize provided by its sponsors, La Verendrye Bowling Lanes, Société franco-manitobain, Conseil Jeunesse, CBC Radio Canada, la Boutique du Livres, Librairie à la Page Bookstore and Conseil de Développement Économique des Municipalités Bilingues du Manitoba.

Photo unavailable for website.

Around the world in a day



Photo by Jeff Miller

Shaughnessy Park School students were among the many students traveling the world at their school's April 25 Multicultural Night. The evening gave students a chance to share and celebrate their diversity with families and friends, as well as a forum to present their research into other cultures and countries (such as Greece) through gallery walks and displays.



Photo by Don Baxter

Fort Rouge students feeling fit and fine at the finish line.

Fit year round

It was a long, hard winter, but phys. ed. teachers across the Division are always finding ways to encourage students to stay active and fit year round.

One program that has met with great success is an Inner City cross country skiing program, which was started nine years ago by the late Chris McCubbins, a retired nursery teacher from David Livingstone Community School, in conjunction with the Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba. The Inner City Kids' Ski Program has since been renamed the Chris McCubbins School Ski Program in honour of the teacher's efforts.

"Chris started the program because he thought that it was very important for inner city children to have opportunities to participate in outdoor activities that they could continue for a lifetime," said Fort Rouge School phys. ed. teacher Don Baxter, who was one of the teachers Mr. McCubbins enlisted to help deliver yearly cross-country clinics for students from five schools.

Today, the program has expanded to include students from David Livingstone, Fort Rouge, Isaac Brock, John M. King, Lord Roberts, Norquay, Wellington and William Whyte Community schools. Students are trained in two-day sessions at two sites, the Windsor Park Nordic Centre and The Forks.

Every February, the CCSAM hosts The Great Get Off Your Butt and Ski Corporate Challenge to raise funds and equipment donations for the school program. For the past two years, Mr. Baxter has made a point of bringing his students to the Windsor Park Nordic Centre to take part in the event alongside the corporate participants.

"I thought that it was important to have some children participate in the Corporate Challenge so that the sponsoring companies could see how well the children have learned to ski and that their donations were well used," Mr. Baxter said.

At this February's event, the Fort Rouge students demonstrated their new prowess in skate-skiing—which helped them set a record 45 laps at the event.

For more information on the annual Great Get Off Your Butt and Ski Corporate Challenge event, visit www.getoffyourbuttandski.com and the Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba at www.ccsam.ca.

The Pied Piper



This École Laura Secord School student plays the Pied Piper in her school's recent production of *Rats!* The play was the final production for music specialist Larry Weckwerth, who is retiring in June after many years of leading the school's choir and countless musical productions.

X-ray anatomy



Champlain teacher Veronique Bedard with students and one of their class's almost-invisible anatomy models.

A Grade 5 class at Champlain School recently created an x-ray exhibit in their classroom as part of a study of the systems comprising the human body.

Teacher Veronique Bedard's students spent over a month studying the human body in science class before creating life-sized models for each system.

"We studied all five systems—there's the muscular, nervous, respiratory, circulatory, digestive and skeletal systems," said student Joshua Reis.

As a finale to their studies, students created see-through models to showcase each system in detail; students used packing tape to create the invisible bodies.

"We did each one in pieces. We

would roll packing tape on the outside of a person, with the unsticky side against them, then another layer sticky side. Then Ms. Bedard would cut the tape off," said student Ayla Reis. "It turned out really well."

The students were considering the idea of hosting other classrooms to tour their anatomy exhibit.

Ms. Bedard said she was impressed with her students' efforts.

"They knew this project was coming and they really made sure they studied and knew their body systems," Ms. Bedard said. "They would be putting the head on a model and saying 'make sure we have enough room in the neck to put in a trachea.'"

Isaac Brock at 100



Principal Sherry Anderson with a special overseas correspondence from Guernsey—the birthplace of Sir Isaac Brock.



Isaac Brock alumnus Elsie Hignell (née Evans, centre) in her old Room 12 classroom, with current teacher Susan Bryant and students.



Student emcees chat with the crowd during Isaac Brock's 100th anniversary Spring Concert.

Isaac Brock School's students, staff and alumni rang in 100 years at their storied building with an anniversary to remember.

Festivities started on May 23 with a spring concert that had students showcasing their talents in music and dance for alumni, families and community members. The school held an open house on May 25, along with a sold-out wine and cheese. For a finale, the anniversary wrapped up with a dinner and dance on May 25 at the Canada Inns Polo Park.

Visiting alumni enjoyed the opportunity to visit classrooms and see just how much their school had changed over the years. While there were many changes, like SMARTboards and computers in the classrooms, there was still much to stir old memories in those hallowed halls.

"This used to be my Grade 5 room," remarked alumnus Elsie Hignell (née Evans) as she toured Room 12. "It looks different...we had rows of seats instead of groups of desks. And the classes were very large, 42 students in a class was not unusual at the time. But the stairwells in the school look the same and the front entrance of the school, I swear it's the same tile, steps and doors."

Ms. Hignell, who attended the school from 1937 to 1946, said her strongest memory is being in the Isaac Brock gymnasium when the Second World War was declared.

"We had a Great Assembly of students and parents in the gym," she said. "There was a balcony in the gym in those days. I remember singing 'Land of Hope and Glory.' Even as a seven-year-old, I knew this was a somber time...although we never thought (The Allied Forces) would be beaten. We thought we would win. But a lot of us lost people. I had friends who lost fathers...that was sobering."

She still stays in touch with many of her former classmates: "I think I'll remember that camaraderie with the students the most. I worked on Daniel McIntyre's reunion a few years ago, so wild horses couldn't keep me away from this one."

For current students and staff, the anniversary offered the opportunity to explore the past 100 years as a school, a community and in world events. The recent addition of the Division's Heritage Classroom at Isaac Brock provided another way for students to reflect on history, providing a tactile experience and artifacts to augment their research through vintage documents, photographs, books and online information.

"The Heritage Room was open for tours and the alumni committee did a lot of work preparing pictures, past yearbooks and memorabilia for everyone," said Principal Sherry Anderson. "Our students have worked extremely hard throughout the year. There was a lot of in-depth

research and students were really able to connect to history."

Isaac Brock School was originally built in 1913, taking its name after Sir Isaac Brock (1769-1812), the British Army officer and hero from the War of 1812.

A last minute overseas correspondence brought the anniversary full circle. Just a day prior to the festivities, the school received formal greetings from the Island of Guernsey—birthplace to Sir Isaac Brock.

"Thank you for sustaining the memory of Sir Isaac Brock, and his part in securing the future for Canada to grow as a free and independent nation," wrote Air Marshal Peter Walker CB CBE, Lieutenant

Governor and Command in Chief of the Island of Guernsey and its Dependencies.

The school has framed the letter and will keep it with its many other Isaac Brock photos and artifacts.

Grade 9 student Aldrin Cuisia said he felt honoured to be attending the school in its 100th year: "I've been here since Grade 1 and it's a pretty special place. Without school, you aren't going anywhere in life. You have to educate yourself."

Student Abigail Cerdon said she thought Isaac Brock would continue to be a major part of its community: "This school is important. It brings people closer together and we're sharing education with others."

History comes to life at Isaac Brock

Isaac Brock School officially opened the doors to its new Heritage Classroom recently, offering students a chance to immerse themselves in history.

In addition to providing an artifact-rich time capsule from the turn of the 19th Century, the heritage classroom is a space where students can take part in hands-on activities such as writing with a quill pen, chalkboard spelling bees and more.

"This is certainly a school that is already rich in history and literature. This classroom not only enhances the Social Studies curriculum...students can come here for a variety of subject areas," said teacher Darcie Kiene, who came to Isaac Brock to help the classroom relocate from École LaVérendrye. "It's really a place where the children can reflect on a previous time."

The move was prompted to make room for an additional Grade 3 class at LaVérendrye; the Division's Building Department was a major partner in the relocation project. Carpenter Rob Hill even repurposed old floorboards from the LaVérendrye classroom to create

vintage bookshelves for the new location.

"It's in keeping with the spirit of back in the day, when they wanted to use existing materials and be as frugal as they could," Ms. Kiene said. "The Building Department was great. They found a way to respectfully move all of these artifacts to the new space."

The classroom's opening came with perfect timing, as Isaac Brock was also celebrating its centennial in May. Many of the historical items discovered during the centennial have found a home in the heritage classroom.

"We found things like photos and these two relief maps in the attic of this building—so we were really happy to get some of the items specific to Isaac Brock up in this classroom," Ms. Kiene said.

Student Caitlin Badillo said she was impressed with the heritage classroom: "It's so unique to have this classroom come here in our 100th year. This classroom is so different from the ones we have now...you feel like you are traveling in time."

The colours of our world

Among the many classroom achievements the students in Sister MacNamara School's Room 206 have attained this year, they can add another to the list: being published authors.

Teacher Lauren Bogan's Grade 3/4 students officially released their book *Sometimes I Feel Colourful!* in April, at a special ceremony in the school library amidst family and friends.

In the book, students use colours to describe their various emotions.

Ms. Bogan said students were inspired after studying Dr. Seuss in class.

"They read *My Many Colored Days* among many other books, and they really enjoyed it and started talking about a possible project."

Students started writing about colours and how different colours made them feel.

"I wrote about turquoise, which has a calm and welcoming feeling," said student Malaihka Siemens. "Sometimes I feel turquoise...like when I read a book at my grandma's place."

Students also created photographs and digital artwork for the book with the guidance of art teacher Brenna Bacchus.

"Working with Brenna we were really able to incorporate technology as well," Ms. Bogan said. "The students took photographs around the school to represent the colours and the feelings they wrote about."



Sister MacNamara student reads a selection from Room 206's new book *Sometimes I Feel Colourful!*

Every student was given a copy of the book to keep in their home libraries.

"We know these books will be cherished and read many times in the years to come," Ms. Bogan said. "The students are extremely proud—they've worked really hard and are building self esteem."

Natasha Sinclair said her classmates spent a lot of time practicing to read their book aloud at the official launch, but the effort was definitely worth it: "Not everybody gets to make a book...so this feels good."



These students stand in front of their completed mural at R.B. Russell.

New mural takes flight at R.B.

The main hallway at R.B. Russell Vocational High School has been revitalized thanks to a powerful new mural that captures the school's essence in colour and imagery.

Junior LAC teacher and project liaison Shawn Sigurdson said the school's Aboriginal Committee was considering ways to add more visual cultural elements at R.B. Russell. Having a background in art, Mr. Sigurdson suggested doing a mural; he announced the idea at a monthly assembly and began looking for student volunteers. Twelve students signed up for the project and began a focus group to decide upon a final image.

"I posed the question 'How can we represent the community of R.B. Russell in both a traditional and modern sensibility?'" Mr. Sigurdson said. "We sketched out ideas on a white board and I asked if every student could come up with their own interpretation."

The final image incorporates cultural imagery with programs such as Horticulture and Landscaping and Music Technology.

"We tried to represent all the different shops at the school, and we used the four medicine wheel colours to represent all the different races here," said student Shania Murdock. "I think the mural looks good...I think it's awesome that people will be seeing our artwork for years to come."

Students spent many lunch hours and after school sessions painting the mural. A core group of four students—Shania, Jesse Bercier, Amber Murdock and Brandi Murdock-Thomas—saw the project through to completion.

"In the end, four students stuck it out and I am very pleased and grateful for their commitments," Mr. Sigurdson said.

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BOARD BRIEFS

Appointments from June 3, 2013 Board Meeting:

- Terri Rodrigues-Warner was appointed to the position of Principal at Fort Rouge School, effective September 3, 2013.
- Leslie Last was appointed to the position of Principal at Norquay School, effective September 3, 2013.



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