



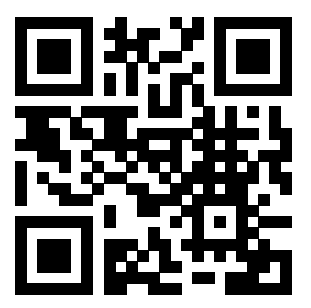
WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

OUR SCHOOLS

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WONDERS OF SCIENCE

YOUNG SCIENTISTS PUT THEIR WORK IN THE SPOTLIGHT AT THE 45TH ANNUAL WINNIPEG SCHOOLS SCIENCE FAIR

FULL STORY ON PAGE 5



STUDENTS CELEBRATE CANADA AT THE ANNUAL RED RIVER HERITAGE FAIR

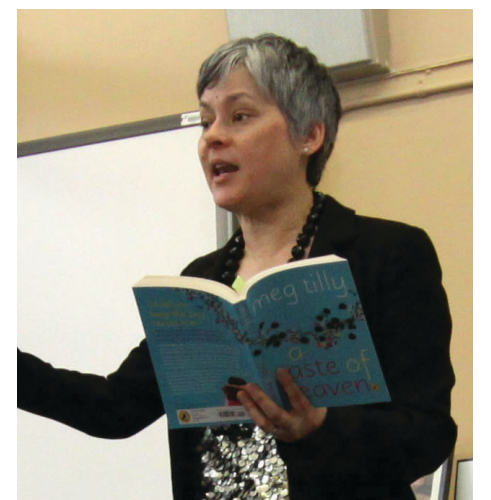
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WHY WE WEAR PINK

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AUTHOR/ACTRESS MEG TILLY VISITS KING EDWARD AND LUXTON SCHOOLS

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100 AND GOING STRONG

Earl Grey School just turned 100 and the school community is as vital as ever.

The school celebrated its centennial with a tea and guided tours on Friday, May 15. Alumni continued the celebration into the weekend with a wine and cheese event and a dinner/dance at the Canad Inns Polo Park.

All three events attracted a large turnout, much to the delight of organizers who spent years putting everything together.

“We’re very pleased with the response,” said Principal Gail Singer. “It’s fun to see former staff members and students, some who have come in from far and wide to take part in the 100th.”

Built in 1914, Earl Grey School was named after Canada’s ninth Governor General, Albert Henry George Grey. In acknowledgement of those roots, organizers brought in another famous Earl Grey namesake—The Grey Cup—for the weekend’s festivities.

Student Julia Birnie was one of many who helped put on the tea ceremony in the school’s gymnasium. Students were an important aspect of the celebration.

“We’ve been making a lot of the art that’s all around the gym, and we’ve also been practicing how to pour tea and coffee,” she said. “We’ve also practiced with our choir and handbells so we could perform on stage as well.”

For those in attendance, the 100th was a chance to share memories.

Carmen Fredborg was part of the first all-girls program at the school while attending as a student in the mid-90s.

“It was different, we felt pretty important to be part of that,” Ms. Fredborg said. “We were all on the same page. Boys are a little more immature at that age, but we all felt like we were more mature.”

Jo-Anne Perrin attended the school both as a student and a staff member. Ms. Perrin spent her junior high years at the school from 1960-63, and later joined the school as an educational assistant from 1990 to 2009. While there were big changes in the interim—for example, the addition of a new gymnasium—some things never changed.

“It’s always been a real community school. During school and after school, this was where you spent all of your time,” Ms. Perrin said.

For more information on Earl Grey’s centennial, visit www.earlgrey100.ca.



Ruth Kettner (left), who attended Earl Grey 1929 to 1938, and Beverly Snead (1934-1941) cut the cake with an Earl Grey student.



An Earl Grey student pours tea for alumni Ivy and Clark Hicks. Mrs. Hicks attended the school from 1939-48, while Mr. Hicks attended briefly in 1948. It was long enough to meet the love of his life. “We met here at the community club and we stuck together,” Mr. Hicks said.



SMOOTH RIDE

On May 7, students at École Laura Secord School took part in a ‘Bike Blend’ workshop put on by Green Action Centre.

The teacher of each class climbed atop a special stationary bicycle. When the students were questioned about what they noticed about this bike, their hands shot up immediately to exclaim that this bike had a smoothie blender strapped to the back!

They were excited to learn that this bike uses no electricity to activate the power in the blender—all that is required is the physical power of the person pedaling on the bike. Teachers pedaled for up to a minute, blending a mix of coconut milk and frozen berries served to each student in a compostable cup (yes, the cups were made of plant matter!)

This made for a very healthy and refreshing snack in the middle of the school day. Students and teachers at Laura Secord were very welcoming and grateful to the team from Green Action Centre for taking time to make environmentally-friendly choices look fun.

Photo and story by Jasper Evans, Tec Voc Photography

BY THE NUMBERS

STUDENTS MAKE GAINS IN MATHEMATICS WITH TECHNOLOGY

Winnipeg School Division (WSD) students are making gains in mathematics thanks in part to an interactive technology tool that adjusts to each student's learning.

WSD Grades 1-2 students have been working with DreamBox, an online mathematics software program, for the last few years. Students use the online program 20 minutes or more daily.

DreamBox provides strategic, visual lessons for students, adapting the learning experience based on the input of each user. The software, which is used on tablets and other devices, supplements instruction in the classroom.

"DreamBox is one component, along with classroom drills, strategies, problem solving, group work and individualized instruction," said Pinkham School Principal Val Mowez. "But we've seen huge gains using this tool."

At the beginning of the year, 26 Pinkham Grade 1 students had reached end of year outcomes; as of April, 83 students had met those same outcomes. In addition, 41 students are now working on Grade 2 outcomes, a jump from nine students at the start of the school year.

Much of that success comes from the differentiated learning DreamBox provides, whether students are working on addition, subtraction, comparing, ordering, subitizing or other concepts.

"DreamBox responds to the time it takes a student to answer a question, as well as the number of errors they make, and then scaffolds the next question to meet their needs. It's a responsive and interactive program," said Amie Johnston, a WSD Assessment and Instructional Support Teacher.

Pinkham teachers Courtney Burns, Nazma Garcia and Amanda Cardoso have all noted success in their classrooms with the software. One of the classrooms, Room 217, recently won an award for completing an average of five or more lessons during the DreamBox Learning Math Challenge.

"There's been a definite high level of engagement right from the beginning of



the year," Ms. Cardoso said. "Every student is in a different stage of development and working on their own learning goals. The nice thing about it is that teachers can go on the program and can see what curriculum levels their students have completed. It helps to validate what the student knows, because you can see what the student is accomplishing in their activities and lessons."

Students are also able to use the

software at home. Every morning before school, Pinkham also hosts a DreamBox Club in the library, where students who may not have internet access at home can work with the program outside of the classroom.

"Sometimes I use it at home or I use it at school," said student Jordan. "I've learned multiplication, fractions and decimals."

Student Qisha is already grasping concepts well beyond her years: "I like

the program because every time you pass a level, you move higher and you can learn more. You can increase your learning by getting strategies and thinking in your mind about math."

Student Scott is currently working in Grade 3 math.

"Sometimes I still need help and I'll press the help button," Scott said. "The most important thing we need to do is learn and listen."



Local writer Ellen Peterson works with Luxton students during a recent workshop.

WRITING WITH SCISSORS

Students in Grades 4 to 6 at Luxton School had the opportunity to sharpen their writing and poetry skills in a workshop called Writing with Scissors.

"The main idea is to keep focused and keep your pencil moving all the time," said Ellen Peterson, a local writer, and the workshop facilitator.

"Sometimes it's the students who don't know they're interested in it who need to try it the most," Ms. Peterson said. "To be able to be free and express yourself on a piece of paper is good for anybody."

The workshop began with students continuously writing to a series of prompted questions. The students were then given a pair of scissors to cut out their favourite words and rearrange them on a new page to create a poem.

"This is creative writing, not like writing

a test or a history essay," Ms. Peterson told students. "This is your writing, and you are free to do it your way."

Ellen Donogh, teacher-librarian at Luxton School, feels writing is an empowering form of self-expression.

"They have so many ways to express themselves, but they need to know the power of a word," Ms. Donogh said. "When they read it, it's powerful, but when it's their own word, it's way more meaningful."

Student Brenda LeClair likes to use writing to showcase her ideas.

"My favourite part of writing is being creative and to show my ideas," she said. "I think it's important to share stories and ideas, and to be creative."

STORY BY KRISTYN HOWELL

YOUTH ON PATROL

Congratulations to the students and schools who were selected as the winners of the 2015 School Patrol Awards.

Members of the Winnipeg Police Service chose the award-winning schools based on the performance of their patrol teams while on duty this school year. Here are this year's winning school patrol teams:

Central District

- 1st – École Laura Secord School
- 2nd – Clifton School
- 3rd – École George V School

Inner City District

- 1st – École Victoria-Albert School
- 2nd – Fort Rouge School
- 3rd – Norquay School

North District

- 1st – Inkster School
- 2nd – École Lansdowne
- 3rd – Tyndall Park Community School

South District

- 1st – Queenston School
- 2nd – Rockwood School
- 3rd – Montrose School



Photo by Vanessa Lewis, Tec Voc Photography

Victoria-Albert School Patrols.



Photo by Jasper Evans, Tec Voc Photography

Laura Secord School Patrols.



Inkster School Patrols.



Photo by Maya Pavez, Tec Voc Photography

Queenston School Patrols

ENVIROTECH AWARD FOR ARGYLE

Argyle Alternative High School has won \$25,000 in new technology through Staples Canada's Superpower Your School contest.

The school was among ten national winners in the contest, which had hundreds of entries. Schools highlighted their environmental and sustainable development initiatives for a chance to win. Argyle's award was announced at a special surprise assembly on April 7.

Argyle won its prize on the strength of its award-winning environmental initiatives and video integration program. Students pick an environmentally relevant topic and create educational videos.

"We're showing and not just telling people how to improve the environment and address social problems," said student Montana MacLeod.

"We've been using video and digital media to encourage our community to go green," said student Zach Mayham-Mousseau, who added that the students' latest video project is on Manitoba watersheds.

Argyle students' past work has been recognized by the Manitoba Water Conservation contest, Manitoba Crazy Composting Video contest and both the Manitoba and the Canadian Councils for

International Cooperation.

Past video topics included numerous habitat restoration projects throughout North America, rainforests of South America and B.C., the integration of the Aboriginal seven teachings into environmental work and new approaches to eco-responsibility.

Students have plenty of material to work with at Argyle, with sustainable development projects such as a wind turbine/solar panel (which was the first standalone unit installed at a school in Manitoba) and an outdoor education classroom.

"Over the past 10 years, the staff and students at Argyle have worked really hard on a number of environmental initiatives," said Principal Pat Graham. "The goal was always to create a calm, environmentally-friendly space for our students and our community, while teaching and learning about global environmental issues."

With the new technology, students will be able to accelerate their ability to produce high quality videos, make Skype video conferencing calls to other environmental experts from around the world and mentor a new generation of students who'll expand and promote sustainable practices in their community.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

WONDERS OF SCIENCE

Young scientists put their work in the spotlight at the 45th annual Winnipeg Schools Science Fair, held April 15 at the University of Manitoba's Health Sciences Centre campus.

Award winning entries were announced in a special ceremony on Saturday, April 18. Here are the major awards from this year's fair:

SENIOR CATEGORY

Philip Kawalec—Sisler; Platinum Senior Award for "Creating an Iron Filter with the Use of Banana Peels." Project also won the senior WSSF Sustainable Development Challenge Award.

Dennis Drewnik—Sisler; Most Outstanding Senior Award for "Identification of Essential Plant Defense Response Genes in Arabidopsis-Sclerotinia Pathosystem." Project also won the senior Mathematics and Statistics Innovator Award and was selected to attend the Canada Wide Science Fair.

Amanda Wong—Grant Park; "3D Scanning with the Microsoft Kinect" Manitoba Hydro Energy and You Award, Science Innovator Award.

INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY

Mac Wong—Grant Park; Platinum Intermediate Award for "A model for calculating optimal PC replacement times." Project also won intermediate WSSF Sustainable Development Challenge Award, Mathematics and Statistics Innovator Award.

YaWen Huang—Grant Park; Most Outstanding Intermediate Award for "The Effects of Stroke-Like Oxidative Stress on the Insulin Pathway. Project also selected to attend the Canada Wide Science Fair.

Shogun Laczko—Kelvin; "Faraday's Law of Efficiency?" won intermediate Manitoba Hydro Energy and You Award, Science Innovator Award.

Rayan Roy—Kelvin; "Mathematical Modelling to Predict the Population Growth." Mathematics and Statistics Innovator Award.

JUNIOR CATEGORY

Evan Chan, Graham Irwin—Grant Park School; Platinum Junior Award for "Managing Greenhouse Gas Exchange in a Constructed Wetland Model." Also won the junior Science Innovator Award.

Shelan Emre—River Heights School; Most Outstanding Junior Award for "Hot House." Also won the Manitoba Hydro Energy and You Award and selected to attend the Canada Wide Science Fair.

Aeden Loschiavo, Isaac Thomson—River Heights; "L'eau à Caburant." Junior WSSF Sustainable Development Challenge Award.

Jakob McKenna—Grant Park; "e. coli blackout." Winner of the junior Mathematics and Statistics Innovation Award, Rina Ganguly Mathematics and Statistics Innovation Application in Health Sciences Award.

ELEMENTARY CATEGORY

Joshua Rice, Hayden Perlov – Brock Corydon; Most Outstanding Elementary Award for "The Power of Peace."

Magnus Kurbis-Jacques—J.B. Mitchell; Platinum Elementary Award for "How does the shape of a skyscraper effect wind flow?"

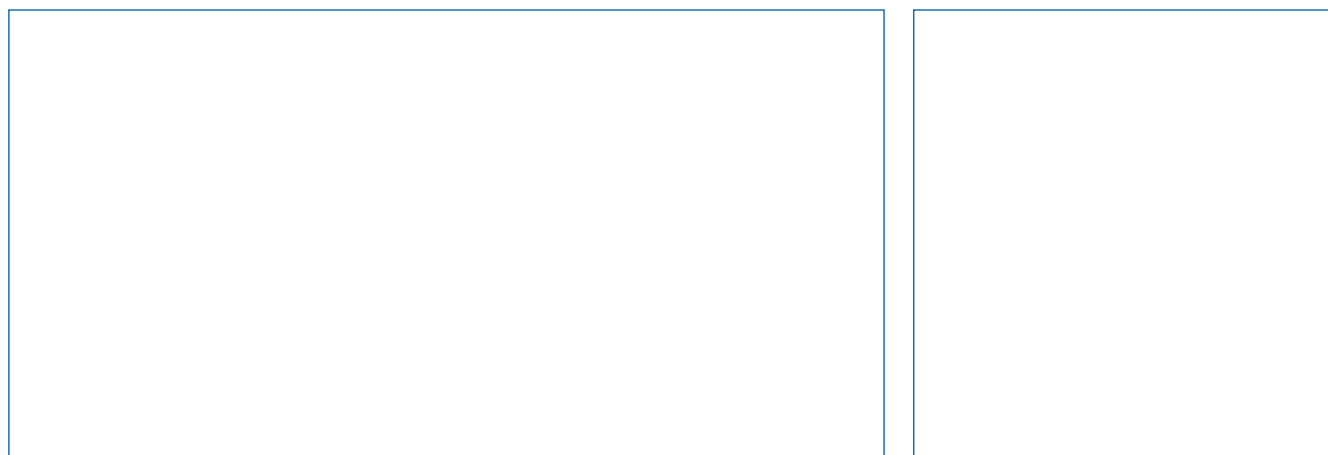
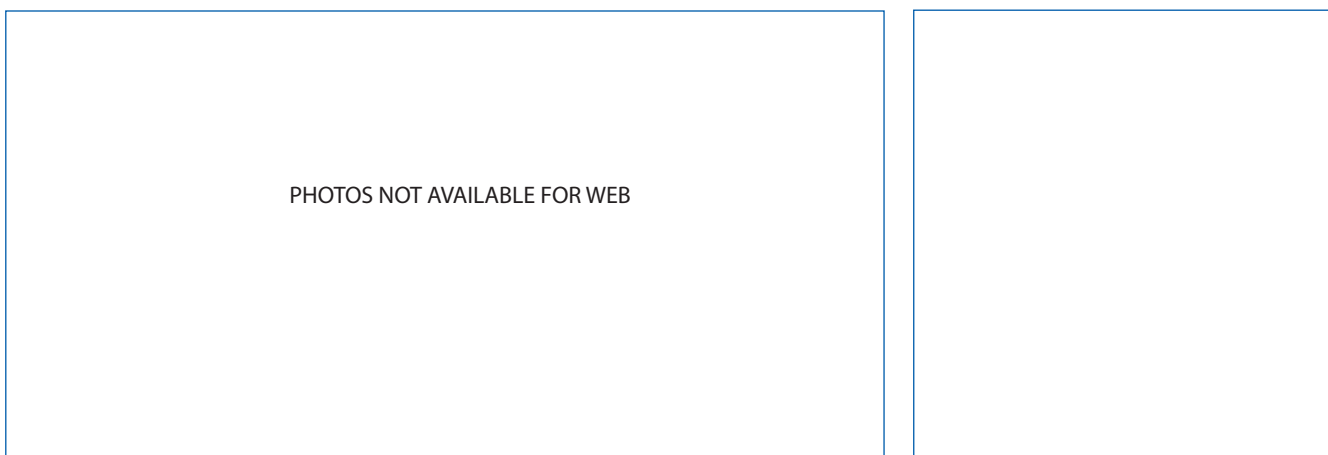
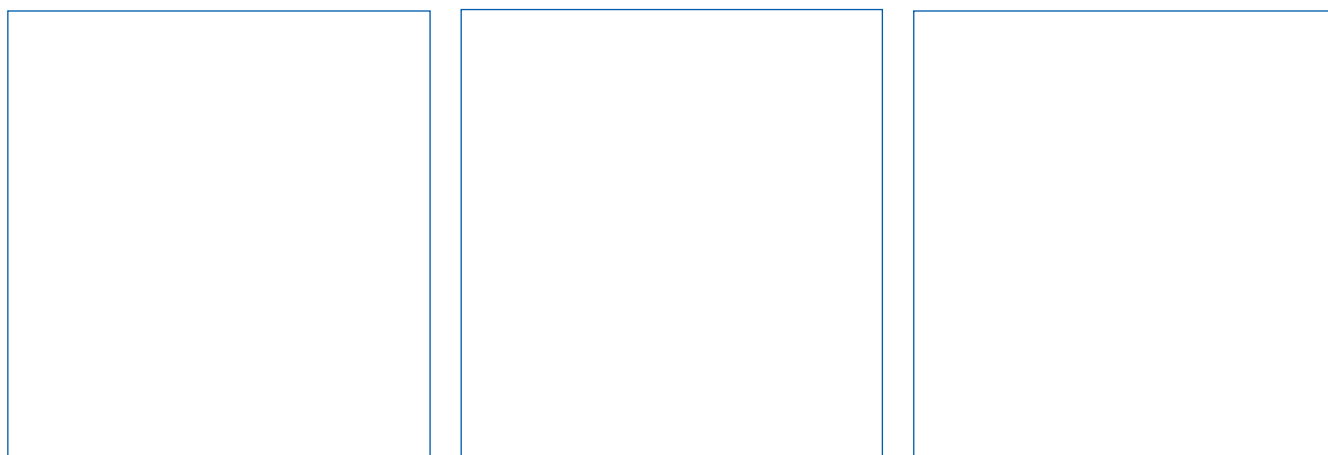
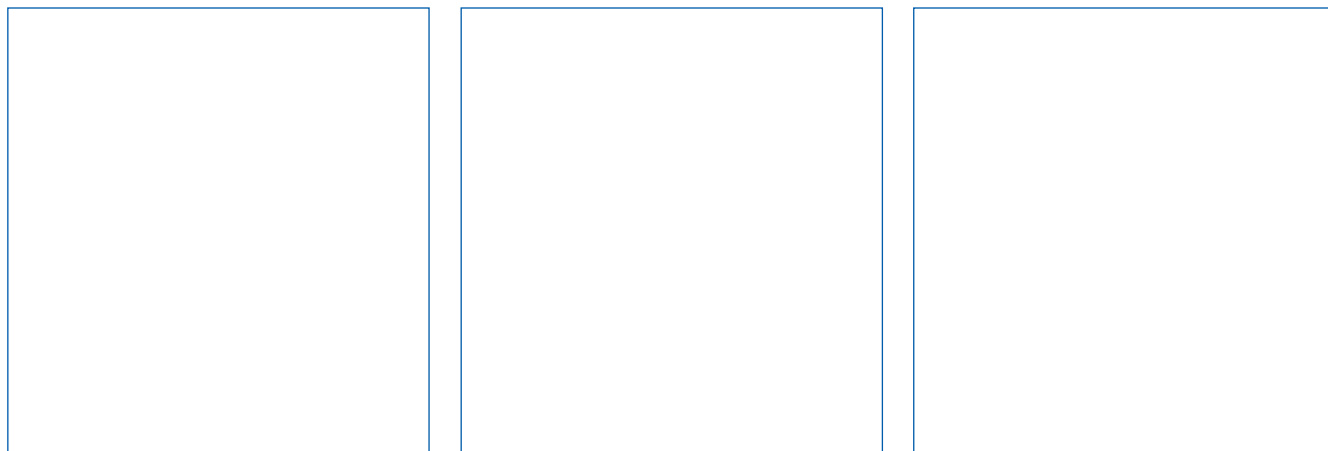
Brock Barber—Queenston; "Micro Bio Electricity." Elementary WSSF Sustainable Development Challenge Award.

Mischa Bruning-Haid, Tal Pastel—Brock Corydon; "Mighty Magnets." Manitoba Hydro Energy and You Award.

Graydon Strachan—Robert H. Smith; "Artificial Muscle." Science Innovator Award

Kenneth Marquez, Dan Arjomundi—J.B. Mitchell; "Optical Illusions" Mathematics and Statistics Innovation Award.

Ashley Nfon—J.B. Mitchell; "Colour Choices and Perception" Mathematics and Statistics Innovation Award.



PHOTOS NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

Missing: Amanda Wong, Shogun Laczko, Mischa Bruning-Haid and Tal Pastel, Graydon Strachan, Kenneth Marquez and Dan Arjomundi, Ashley Nfon.

MUCH TO SHARE

R.B. Russell Vocational High School shared the talents of its students with the community during its annual open house.

The April 23 event also displayed the many educational programs available to students and the community.

“This year we did something different and combined our open house with our Celebration of Learning and our Job Fair,” said math teacher and co-organizer Stefan Doerksen. “We’ve brought in resources from the community and potential employers to join us today.”

Students and staff from local schools

were also invited to take part in the event.

“We’re seeing former students—it’s nice to connect and see that they are having their own families,” Mr. Doerksen said. “Hopefully those kids will connect with us as well.”

A student from R.B. Russell’s Metal Works program poses with the custom drift trike that was entered into the latest World of Wheels; the bike won first place in the special interest motorized category.



BELIEF IN YOURSELF

Ovide Mercredi visited students at General Wolfe School on May 1 to talk about leadership and responsibility. A lawyer by trade, Mr. Mercredi was the national chief for the Assembly of First Nations from 1991-1997; currently, he is Manitoba NDP President.

“In today’s reality, it’s very important that you know who you are,” said Mr. Mercredi. “If you don’t know who you are, someone will lead you by the nose and take you around, take you places you don’t want to be.”

Mr. Mercredi also talked to students about the importance of an education and believing in yourself.

“You have to have an education because without an education, there is no job,” said Mr. Mercredi. “It also means you have to have a vision, a belief in yourself of what you want to become.”

Mario Cueto, the Native Studies teacher at General Wolfe School, feels

it’s important to give students access to positive Aboriginal role models, like Ovide Mercredi.

“The thing that got me is the negative stuff that’s been done to the Native people doesn’t make them who they are,” said Mr. Cueto. “They need to rise above that and that’s why I need to bring people like [Mr. Mercredi] into the school to talk about it.”

Alyssa Delos Santos and Emma Missyabit enjoyed listening to Mr. Mercredi’s words.

“It was touching when he shared his stories with us,” said Alyssa. “I liked when he shared his stories about what he was like when he was a little kid and the hardest challenges he faced to get to where he is today.”

“It was a real honour to be able to listen to him speak and to teach us the ways of life,” said Emma. “He made me very proud to be Anishinaabe.”

STORY BY KRISTYN HOWELL

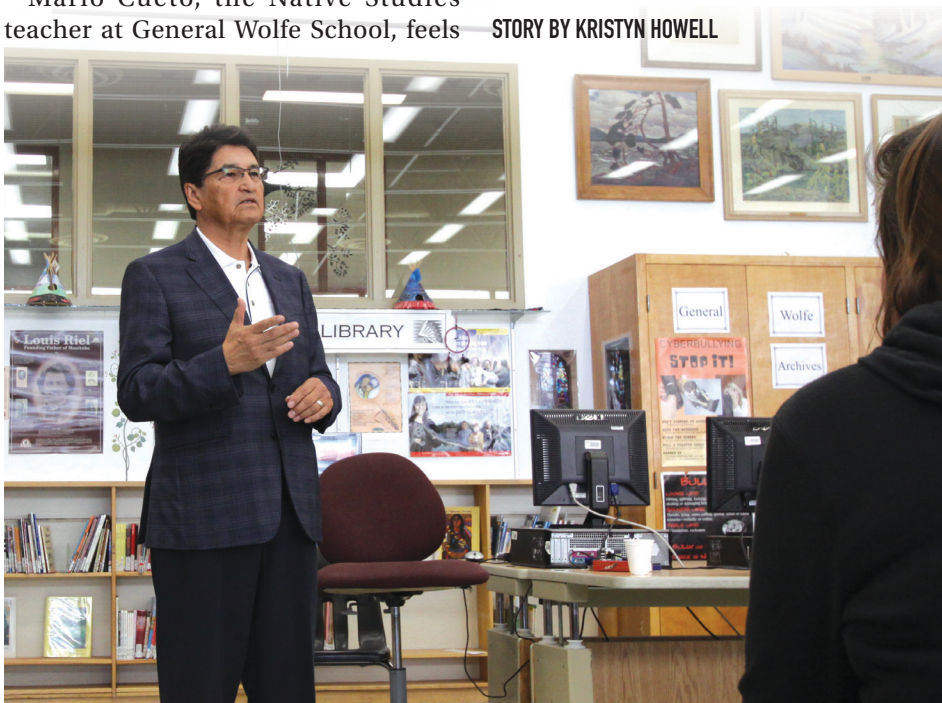


Photo by Maya Pavez, Tec Voc Photography

AN UPBEAT MOMENT

A King Edward Community School student receives a new drum kit from the Upbeat Drums for Kids program. The student, who has been learning music through the Sistema music program, received his drums from Barry Lovegrove, who runs the Upbeat program. Upbeat has given 39 drum kits to young percussionists over the past four years.

A SHARED HERITAGE

Hundreds of Manitoban students celebrated the history and heritage of Canada at the annual Red River Heritage Fair.

The May 7 event, which took place at the University of Winnipeg's Duckworth Centre, combined students' heritage projects, historical workshops and games for a lively exploration of the past.

Prairie Rose School students Bailee Bertossa and Samantha Johnson made their debut appearance at the event.

"It's a wonderful experience, it's very new to us," Bailee said. "We just love to make projects and show everybody our work."

Bailee and Samantha chose to study the life and achievements of Nelly McClung for their project. McClung was one of the most important figures in the women's suffrage movement in Canada.

"She's known as a Canadian hero and we wanted to know more," Samantha said. "She fought for women's rights."

R.B. Russell Vocational High School student Kristen Soldat focused on the origins of National Aboriginal Day in Canada. The nationwide celebration of first nations culture began in 1996.

"I chose National Aboriginal Day because I'm Aboriginal and mostly everyone in my school is too...Inuit, Métis and Native people can celebrate their heritage and their culture on that day," Kristen said.

She added that she was gaining more confidence as a presenter at the fair.

"I'm pretty excited just to be here. My first presentation to judges, I was kind of nervous, but after that I calmed down and knew what I was doing."

RICH IN HISTORY

History is anything but past business for St. John's High School teacher Marie Zorniak.

The veteran teacher brings history to life for her students at her day job while also dedicating countless volunteer hours outside of work to share her passion for Canada's heritage.

Ms. Zorniak is one of the key organizers for the annual Red River Heritage Fair.

"Every year I learn something new at the fair," said Ms. Zorniak, who has volunteered with the fair for 22 years. She is quick to credit the efforts of the volunteer committee for making the event possible. "Every year when we get together and plan the fair, we want to put together an amazing learning day for students."

Ms. Zorniak is also president of the Manitoba Social Science Teachers' Association, as well as chairing the Manitoba Living History Society. Part of the allure of living history is reenacting past ways of life—such as following the trail routes of soldiers in the War of 1812, cooking, camping and living without modern conveniences.

"It transcends history and textbooks when you actually live it. It really puts into perspective how people lived without all that we have now...and how they survived and thrived."

The Manitoba Living History Society is currently gearing up for Canada's 150th birthday in 2017.

"We're having a flurry of research and historic clothing design so we can provide ambience and assist with events relating to Canada's 150th."



WSD RED RIVER HERITAGE FAIR WINNERS

MAY 7, 2015

KGS Award – Science / Technology

Atticus McIlraith, J. B. Mitchell

Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame and Museum – Sports Award

Dylan Conway, Niji Mahkwa

Dalnavert/Manitoba Historical Society – Manitoba Project

Maxene Setosta, Sacré-Coeur

St Boniface Museum - French Language/Culture Award

Sivrel Manalo, Sacré-Coeur

Gwen Marasigan, Sacré-Coeur

ACE Aboriginal Circle of Educators - Aboriginal content award

Corday Bailey, Prairie Rose

Relocate Reggie the Red River Heritage Fair Buffalo – Art Award

Ron Amrom, J. B. Mitchell

Tisha Mohamed, Sargent Park

Impact of Faith Award

Jenna Seyidoglu, Grant Park

Madelyn Timmins/ Havana

Anderson, Machray

Parks Canada Award

Christine Advincula, Sargent Park

Treaty Relations – TRCM

Johanna Whiteside, Machray

Hudson's Bay Company – Explorer Award

Waverley Leduc, J.B. Mitchell

ManACE Technology Award

Carter Persoage, Sargent Park

Red River Heritage Fair Awards of Excellence

Atticus McIlraith, J.B. Mitchell

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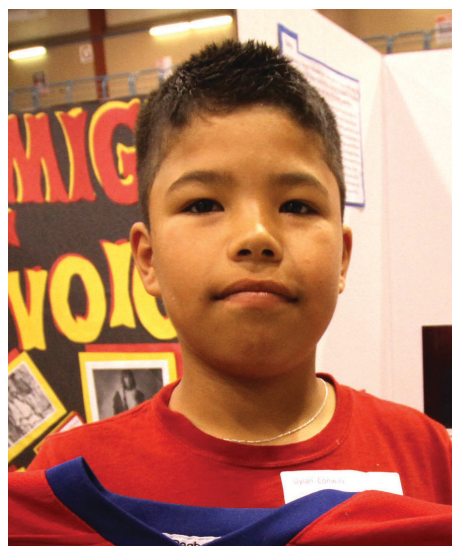
When it comes to Canada's history, Ms. Zorniak believes that it is essential in forming the identity of future generations.

"The adage that you have to know where you've come from to know where you are going really holds true."

Earlier this year, Ms. Zorniak was presented with Heritage Winnipeg's 2015 Distinguished Service Award for her ongoing volunteer contributions to the Red River Heritage Fair.

"It's nice to be acknowledged by my peers in the historical community," she said. "It really is very special."

For more information on the Red River Heritage Fair, visit www.redriverheritage.ca.



LOST DREAMS

Sometimes the simplest of questions can have the most complicated answers; for Argyle Alternative High School student Aries Bickell, it led to a major project on Canada's missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

One day in class, Aries asked teacher Michele Rybuck about a mural on the Portage underpass near Polo Park. The Tom Andrich mural featured portraits of several Aboriginal women.

From Ms. Rybuck, Aries learned the mural is a tribute to 10 Manitoban Aboriginal women who were missing or murdered.

Aries began researching the issue and found some surprising statistics. Of the over 1,200 missing and murdered Aboriginal women across Canada, 88 per cent were mothers. Only 53 per cent of the cases have been solved to date.

"These women all had somewhere to go, a family who wanted them to come home," Aries said.

While statistics offer little comfort, Aries felt it was important to mark the lost lives of these women. She decided on a project comprised of 80 small dream catchers.

"Everyone knows dream catchers to be for dreams, but I wanted to put a twist on it to represent that the murdered and missing had their dreams stolen and taken away from them," Aries said.

The dream catcher collage features four different colours: white, which stands for

the north and elderly women; red, which represents the south and youth; black for the west and adults; and yellow for the east and infants. The art project took almost four months to complete.

Aries hopes the project will bring attention to an ongoing issue that affects so many lives.

"It hits home when people jump to assumptions about who these women were," she said. "The stereotype is that that they were all known to be prostitutes but it is not true...I want to make people more aware and understanding about who these women were."

Both Ariel and Ms. Rybuck feel that more is needed to be done to pursue the unsolved cases, as well as examining why they happened in the first place.

"We need a common strategy to deal with this or at least to start investigating these issues," Ms. Rybuck said. "These women shouldn't be forgotten."

THE PEDAL POWER MOVEMENT

The wheels are in motion at Gordon Bell High School with the opening of a new on-site bike repair shop.

GEARS (Gordon Bell Engineering Academic Resources for Students) officially opened its doors on May 5.

EARN-A-BIKE PROGRAM POPULAR

Staff from The WRENCH—a local charity that seeks to create stronger, healthier communities by removing barriers to building, repairing and maintaining bicycles—helped to set up the new shop. That assistance included providing bike frames and parts, as well as the expertise to start the school's first Earn-A-Bike program.

"We're happy to do this for any school," said The WRENCH's John Anderson at the official opening.

The Earn-A-Bike program has students working on their own bike every Tuesday over a six-week period. Next year, the school plans to offer students a credit option course in bike repair.

"Some of these students are coming here and picking up a wrench or a hammer for the first time in their lives," said Kevin Banks, who will be teaching the bike course next year. "If a kid enjoys what they're doing in here, this is a great opportunity for them to take these skills and move into potential careers, like auto-mechanics or aviation mechanics. It opens a door to a trade."

Mr. Banks noted that students were already enthusiastic about devoting their spare time to work on their bikes. Amongst those eager young mechanics was Jasleen Sekhon.

"I think we'll learn lots of skills," Jasleen

said. "If anything happens to my bike at home, I'll know how to fix it."

Vice-Principal Samuel Jerema said guidance counsellor Warren Bend initially approached him with the bike shop idea in late November.

"We started asking questions and learning as much as we could to see how we could make this work," Mr. Jerema said.

MODELED AFTER HUGH JOHN MACDONALD PROGRAM

Part of their research included a visit to Hugh John Macdonald School, which has seen successes through a similar bike shop program.

"We're modeling after their program," Mr. Jerema said.

Along with the credit course starting next year, the school also hopes to add the bike shop to the Grade 7 and 8 practical arts rotation.

"This opens up a whole world of possibilities for students," Mr. Jerema said "They're getting hands on experience with specialized tools, and being able to maintain and repair a bike is a life skill that they'll always have."

Mr. Jerema noted that the bike program ties into many key concepts: learning a trade, healthy active living, environmentally conscious commuting, and building an awareness of how we manage our resources.

Most of the bikes and parts used in the program would have otherwise ended up in a landfill.

"Do we throw things out, or do we fix it and repair it? Just because something is broken, doesn't mean that it's trash," Mr. Jerema said.



OUTSHINE 2015

Students and educators from Winnipeg School Division's many Gay-Straight Alliances met with kindred spirits from across Canada for the second annual OUTShine Conference.

Participants at the May 15-17 event discussed issues such as LGBTQ inclusion in schools, as well as creating and sustaining Gay-Straight Alliances (GSA) at the school level.

The Egale Canada Human Rights Trust coordinated the event, with assistance from the Rainbow Resource Centre and the Louis Riel, Seven Oaks and Winnipeg School Divisions.

"Teachers and students are all working together toward that common goal... creating spaces where all students are safe, regardless of their identity," said Tec Voc High School teacher and conference volunteer Tannys Moffatt. "We want students to know that they have support no matter what."

Approximately 200 students and 100 adult educators and chaperones attended the event.

"I think it was life-changing for everyone who was there," said Kelvin High School teacher and conference volunteer Cindy Mitterndorfer.

Ms. Mitterndorfer and Ms. Moffatt were among the educators who served as ambassadors for the conference, leading student "family groups" comprised of youth from across Canada. The intent was for students to have networking opportunities and to learn more from students in other regions.

"It was great to meet all these different people who I normally wouldn't get to know otherwise," said Kelvin High School student Kayla Lemire-Dawson.

Students started to see that the challenges they face are the same, whether they are living in Winnipeg, Windsor, Saskatoon or New Brunswick.

Through the power of networking,



Photo by Jasper Evans, Tec Toc Photography

whether it is at conferences like OUTShine or through technology and social media, GSAs (and indeed all LGBTQ students) no longer have to live in isolation. They can share ideas, successes and inspiration.

"Once you have those trailblazers, it can be easier for other groups to follow in that path...they don't have to reinvent the wheel," Ms. Moffatt said. "It's not always a clear-cut template, because the education systems can be so different... but there's a lot more support there for the students and the teachers leading these projects."

Kelvin High School has had a GSA in one form or another since 1996.

"It's evolved over the years to become a very vibrant part of Kelvin," Ms. Mitterndorfer said.

GSAs play an important role at the school level, building awareness and supporting safe environments for LGBTQ students. While the situation has

improved over the years, there is always work to be done.

"Lots of people don't feel comfortable yet, they're still transphobic or homophobic...they're still trying to get a general understanding," said Kelvin student Jewell Zaballero.

Many of the workshops focused on how to build understanding in communities.

Kelvin student Amanda Arzate attended a workshop hosted by Chris Studer entitled "Create a GSA Campaign." Mr. Studer started the Get Real education campaign with four other students at the University of Western Ontario. Since starting in 2011, Get Real has since expanded to 16 campuses.

"Chris Studer was put down for creating this campaign against homophobia and transphobia," Amanda said. "To just hear his story and learn how a lot of people from his university came together to understand and support him was kind of nice."

While much of the focus of the conference was on the challenges

and issues facing LGBTQ students and staff, organizers also wanted the event to be a celebration of LGBTQ and Allied experiences. A major part of the conference was the prom, held on Saturday night at the Victoria Inn.

"The idea was to have a social event where these kids can go and be themselves, without any of the pressures, constraints or judgments that they may have at their home schools," Ms. Moffatt said.

"One of the participants said their most memorable moment was having the first slow dance of their life," Ms. Mitterndorfer said.

Organizers are planning a third conference, which will take place in Windsor, Ontario in 2017.

"My biggest hope for the students is that they'll come away from the conference feeling more confident and comfortable with themselves and who they are," Ms. Moffatt said. "They can be who they want to be."

READ ALL ABOUT IT

RALPH BROWN STUDENTS COLLECTED 755 BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS IN UKRAINE

Students at Ralph Brown School have collected 755 English books for various schools in Ukraine that are supported by "Project Liubov-Love" (PLL), a Canadian based NGO that assists needy children/youth and institutions in Ukraine.

The idea was presented to Principal Randy Routledge in the spring of 2015 when he was contacted by Roman Yereniuk, Project Co-ordinator for PLL. Routledge readily accepted the challenge and the idea of collecting the books was turned over to the school's Social Action Committee consisting of approximately 30 students in Grades 5 and 6. Their work was coordinated by teacher Kristin Grey and guidance counsellor Sara Tarrant.

The books are slated for the libraries of 12 schools in various regions of Ukraine (about 60-70 books per school), to supplement the reading material for students studying English as an additional

language. Yereniuk mentioned that in Ukraine many schools teach English as an additional language but are always short of enrichment readers so that children can enhance their reading skills.

"This will be a major addition to their school libraries," said Yereniuk.

The students of Ralph Brown made the presentation on May 14 and were very happy with their accomplishments and revelled that at the beginning, they never thought they could collect so many books. One student added it was very easy to get good quality books and that just about everyone in the school donated several.

Ralph Brown School is located in Winnipeg's North End and has 240 students from K-8. It houses the Ukrainian English Bilingual program for 71 students and also provides a major Aboriginal education focus.



Photo and files courtesy of Ralph Brown

Principal Randy Routledge (far left), seven students of the Social Action Committee and Teacher Ms Kristin Grey (back row on the right) with the boxes of donated books.

"I am proud of the work of the social action committee and the many students (along with their parents) that donated books," said Principal Randy Routledge. "This was certainly a project of 'sharing' and social action with the schools and youth of another country." Students of the Ukrainian Bilingual Program also provided art embossed book marks for the youth in Ukraine.

The books were crated and sent out in late May and will arrive before school is out for the summer. Each parcel contained a letter, requesting a response from the receiving schools and students.

Yereniuk pointed out, "It will be interesting to hear about the reaction of Ukraine's schools to the gifts of love from Ralph Brown School and who knows this may become a truly sharing project!"



OUR MOSAIC

STORY BY KRISTYN HOWELL

Students at Gordon Bell High School explored a variety of different cultures during their recent Multicultural Mosaic. The April 30 event celebrated the school's culturally diverse student body.

Students were encouraged to dress in their culture's traditional outfits for the day, and some performed in front of their school in the afternoon.

"I think it's important that we recognize that we're not all the same, but we can all get along well," said teacher Jen Stefanyshyn. "[The students are] pretty happy when the teachers and staff recognizes them for their culture."

Grade 7 to 12 students from 17 different cultural groups performed a variety of traditional dances and songs in the afternoon performance, and students from over 23 groups performed in the

evening performance for school trustees and Peaceful Village groups.

"I performed the Tinikling and the candle dance from the Philippines. It was fun, but the crowd didn't really scare me because I'm in the Chilean pavilion at Folklorama," said Grade 8 student Starr Thiebaut.

Gordon Bell High School hosts the celebration every two years.

"Every second year we try and celebrate the diversity of the school by putting on a performance to come and see the talent our students have and how proud they are of their culture," Ms. Stefanyshyn said.

The second last performance of each show is a fashion show where students can model their traditional cultural dress.

"A lot of them participate [in the fashion show]. They walk pretty proud when they have their cultural clothing on," Ms. Stefanyshyn said.

LOUD AND PROUD AND DELIVERING A CLEAR MESSAGE FOR THE COMMUNITY

STORY AND PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

On the first Friday in May, King Edward School students from Nursery to Grade 6 took to the streets with a message: at King Edward they say "No" to bullying.

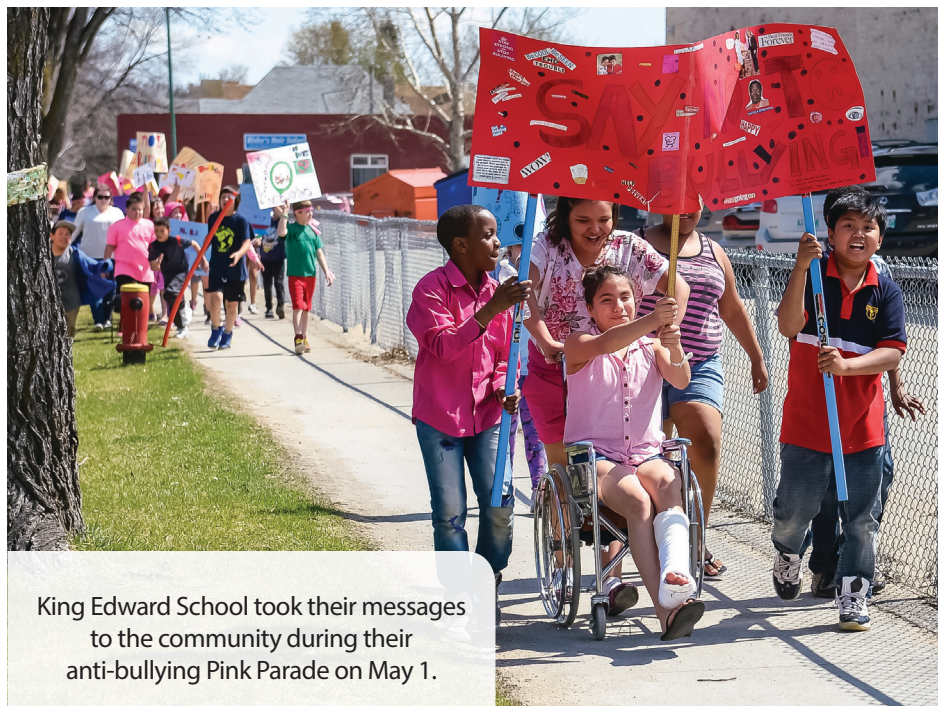
After a brief gathering on the playground, where each grade held up their posters for the other students to see, students and staff headed out on Selkirk Avenue, down Arlington Street to deliver their message.

As the students made their way around the school they were greeted with horn honks and cheers from passing motorists; the students responded by chanting even louder and waving their posters with great pride.

"Since the beginning of April, students and teachers have been working hard on deciding what message the students wanted to put on their poster. The teachers helped the students to gather their thoughts but once the project got going it was totally driven by the students," said Leah Pagé, a Grade 4/5 teacher and one of the march organizers.

Students took part in daily games of Be Kind Bingo, a game that encouraged positive behavior.

"The bingo cards had a specific behavior



King Edward School took their messages to the community during their anti-bullying Pink Parade on May 1.

to achieve, such as picking up litter and putting it into the recycling, introducing a new student to a friend, smiling at someone in the hallway, solving a problem without passing judgment on someone and the free space on the bingo card is

left open for the students to set their own goals," said Ms. Pagé.

The posters from the Pink Parade were displayed throughout the school to remind the students every day to be kind to each other and to stand up to bullying.

ART FROM THE HEART

Students from 17 inner city schools took to the stage as part of the second annual Arts in the Heart of the City on April 30, performing a variety of art forms including dancing, singing, pow wow demonstrations and hand drumming. The festival showcased over 450 Inner City District students and their learning through the creative arts.

Emmilia Boyes and her fellow William Whyte Community School students performed a medley of fiddle tunes.

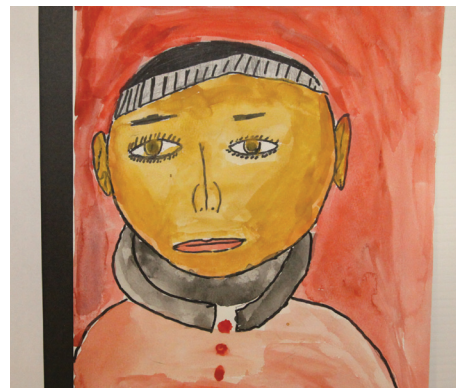
"I like playing the violin because learning and memorizing the notes helps your brain in school," Emmilia said. "It's fun when you get the notes, but it's not fun when you get the squeaky notes."

Learning in the arts has numerous spin-off benefits.

"The arts is a powerful vehicle for

learning," said Jennifer Cox, an Inner City District Consultant with the Winnipeg School Division. "Arts education increases literacy and numeracy skills; promotes overall academic achievement; increases engagement; and encourages risk-taking and self-expression."

The Winnipeg School Division encourages learning through the arts with programs like Engaging Fusion, which connects professional artists in Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts with teachers and students in inner city schools; the Inner City Student Art Conference, which brings together hundreds of artistic Grades 4-6 students to collaborate in creating astounding works of visual art; and the Creative Connections Conference, which challenges teachers across all subject areas and grade levels to see



creativity as valuable and transformative in student success.

"We believe that art enhances our students' ability to communicate. It awakens a passion and allows them to use their imagination. The arts influence student achievement in a powerful way because it transforms the curriculum and engages learners," said Karin Seiler, Superintendent - Inner City District.

MAMAWITAN!

STORY BY KRISTYN HOWELL

Students from Nursery to Grade 6 at Machray School came together to highlight Aboriginal culture and learning during their learning fair, *Mamawitan*.

"*Mamawitan* means to come together," said Machray School Principal Gordon Armstrong. "We wanted to celebrate the learning that has been happening in classrooms around Aboriginal and Treaty education."

Over the past few months, students have been working on projects on the topics of cultural identity, treaty education, legends, and storytelling. The learning fair was an opportunity for students to showcase their learning and their work for their parents and families. Students also participated in traditional Aboriginal teachings.

"We have some cultural teachings... for girls it's the water teachings, for the boys it's the fire teaching," said Mr. Armstrong. "For language activities, we have storytelling with the planetarium."

The learning fair included an opening ceremony, Aboriginal teachings from Elders, storytelling, music, dancing, and a lunchtime feast with students and their family members.

Parents also came together at *Mamawitan*; they were given the opportunity to attend info sessions from the Urban Circle Training Centre and the Eagle Urban Transition Centre.

Mr. Armstrong and a committee of staff spent a day exploring the different aspects of Aboriginal education to implement into the classrooms after a professional development seminar on Treaty Education.

"We started making plans, and asking ourselves, 'how can we implement this in the classroom?' and 'how can we make this happen with our kids?'" said Mr. Armstrong.

Mamawitan is a day that allows students to bring their families into their learning, as well as explore the life in the shoes of others, and staff at Machray are learning as much as their students.

"It allows us to look at education and the history of our country through an Aboriginal perspective," said Mr. Armstrong. "We are learning as much from our students and from our families as they are learning from us."



GROWING TOGETHER

The sowing season is here, and R.B. Russell Vocational High School is opening its gardens to the community-at-large.

Teacher Louise Shachtay and students in the school's Horticulture and Sustainable Education Program are busy prepping their outdoor gardens for the summer growing season.

On Thursday nights, a parent group tends to the garden, and other R.B. Russell neighbours are invited to join in.

"Anyone is welcome to enjoy and help take care of this garden," Ms. Shachtay said, while working with students on several garden boxes in the school's courtyard. "We have all this beautiful space and we want to share it."

The garden is being grown with a sustainable and chemical-free approach.

"We're planting with garden mix soil and we're vermicomposting as well—it's like black gold," Ms. Shachtay said.

Vermicomposting uses worms to compost vegetable and food waste, creating an organic and nutrient-rich fertilizer.

Local elementary schools, like Niji Mahkwa and William Whyte, have dropped by to help with the planting.

R.B. Russell student Mitchell Campbell said it was easy to get the younger students engaged in the gardening process: "The kids love it, they like doing hands-on things."

For Mitchell, horticulture is more than a career path.

"When you look at how much we use and take from the land, I want to give back and take care of it," Mitchell said.



ONCE FROM THE TOP

The voices of the Winnipeg School Division Honour Choir rehearse at the Portage Avenue Church. Students worked with guest conductor Andrea Wicha for their May 12 concert.

Photo by Vanessa Lewis, Tec Voc Photography

SMART FOOD

Students at Isaac Newton School are getting a healthy energy boost with a snack program designed to bring more servings of fruit and vegetables into students' diets.

The school has partnered with the Child Nutrition Council, which is funding a healthy snack program at Isaac Newton.

"We've done mid-morning snacks in the past with students," said Principal Ryan Hughes. "We've informally polled our teachers and they noticed a significant difference in terms of the kids' focus and concentration level in those later parts of the morning after their snacks."

Students are helping to prepare the snacks, served at 10:30 a.m. three times a week. The school has found creative ways to present the snacks, such as salad bars and fruit salads.

"We brought in traditional fresh fruits and vegetables as a start, but have also brought in foods that are bit more exotic that students may not have had a chance to try, like star fruit, kiwi and tarot root. It was a new experience for everybody."

The school also makes fruit and veggie snacks available to its athletic teams before games and practices.

"It's been really successful so far," Mr. Hughes said. "We'll get kids coming up and asking us 'What's for snack today?'"



Isaac Newton student prepares a mixed grapes treat for snack time.



FACING REALITY

This year's Tyndall Park Community School drama production, *The Reality of Things*, was written and performed by a group of enthusiastic young performers. Rehearsals for the production began in January but these committed students in Grades 5 and 6 attended Drama Club all year. Starting in September, the 20 or so students met at lunch hour and after school under the guidance of Ms. Klassen and Mrs. Groot.

The show was a collection of short scenes, each one pertaining to the idea of reality. This meant that scenes dealt with a variety of ideas and issues; from reality television and optical illusions to more serious topics such as grief, bullying and internet safety.

Photo and story by Maya Pavez, Tec Voc Photography

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Board Chair Mark Wasyliw presents certificates of recognition.



Winnipeg School Division's Board of Trustees recently held a special board meeting to honour and recognize this year's nominees for the Manitoba School Boards Association awards. Students were recognized as nominees for either the Premier Award for School Board Innovation or the Student Citizenship Award.

Sisler High School's **Network and Cyber Security Academy of Canada** was the board's selected nominee for the Premier Award for School Board Innovation.

The first of its kind in Canada, the academy is aligned with Service Canada's National Occupation Code to produce trained Computer Network Technicians and Information Systems Analysts specializing in cyber security. Students have opportunity to achieve dual credit with both Red River College and the University of Winnipeg. Along with a certificate of commendation, the board also gave Sisler High School representatives a \$200 donation toward the academy's growth.

Whitney Anderson of Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute was one of several nominees for the Student Citizenship Awards. Along with serving as student council vice-president at DMCI, Whitney also supports the community through her church, Winnipeg Harvest and Siloam Mission. She is a leader who encourages growth and self-confidence in others.

Grant Park High School student **Aleanna Mark** embodies the volunteer spirit. She spends many hours volunteering with Grant Park's Special Education and Life Skills programs. In the community, she teaches dance with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, volunteers in soup kitchens and supports the St. Andrews United Church's efforts to improve schools in Guatemala.

Mulvey School's **Xarah Cariou** strives to make the world a better place. She organized a winter clothing drive that netted over 500 items for the Siloam Mission. Along with two other students, she also opened a classroom store to raise funds for Free the Children; all of the products were hand-made. Xarah has also volunteered for Winnipeg Harvest, the Winnipeg Human Society, the Christmas Cheer Board and more.



Bea Basaran has focused on human rights during her years at Andrew Mynarski VC School. Bea has helped organize Anti-Bullying Weeks, holiday food hampers, Human Rights Week, the We are Silent Campaign and more. She also volunteers regularly with Winnipeg Harvest, St. John Cantius Church and a local senior care facility.

Bea was ultimately selected as the 2015 Student Citizenship Award winner for Winnipeg School Division.

Lord Nelson School's Empowerment Group is made up of six students who believe that one empowered person can lead to a million people being empowered. The group adopted a small village in Kenya, raising funds for a water pump, a small school, nutrition and 16 goats. Elsewhere, the group gathered food and clothing for Winnipeg Harvest, and helped organize an Empty Bowls fundraiser at their school.



TEC VOC WELL REPRESENTED AT SKILLS CANADA

STORY BY SHELBE CARLOS

On April 9, 39 students from Tec Voc High School competed in the 18th Annual Skills Manitoba Competition in various Skilled and Technical trades hoping to win gold and move on to Nationals.

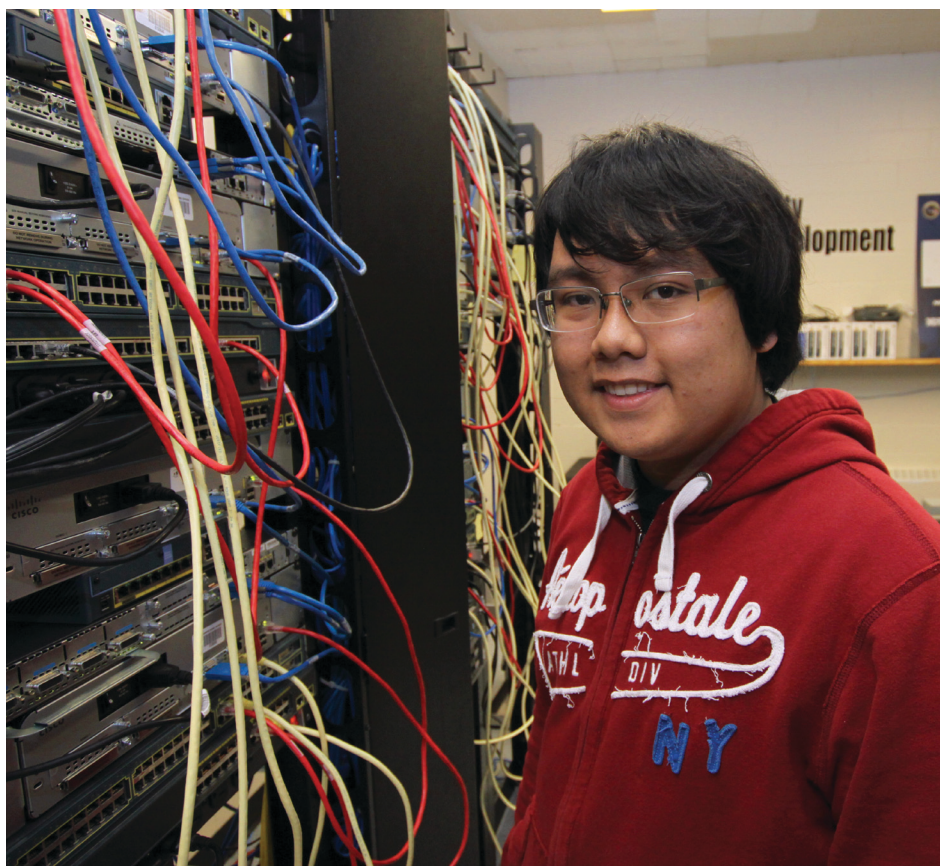
A total of 17 of our students received a medal at the event. This is a one-day event, where students are able to show off their skills in over 40 different trades. The event was created to bring awareness to students that the Skilled Trades and Technology sectors are viable career options.

A total of 432 competitors, both from secondary and post secondary educational institutions took part. Sixty of those students went on to represent Manitoba at the 21st Annual Skills Canada National Competition in Saskatoon from May 27-30. Of those 60 students, six attend Tec Voc High School.

Justin Chernetski and Ian Milne competed in TV and Video Production. Chernetski found his experience at the provincial competition to be eye opening. "Some obstacles we faced are that when we got there, the pressure was on. Obviously when practicing at school you have a little more leeway, you could talk to teachers and we were open to use our surroundings. When we got to the Red River competition, we weren't able to use some areas, we were only given a certain amount of time to work as well, and so we kind of needed to improvise."

Allyn Santos earned a gold in her Architectural Technology and Design field. "Skills is beneficial to me because it helped me choose the career I want to get into." Santos says she is now planning to attend University of Manitoba to take the Architecture course for her career path.

Nicole Bouchard, a National Technical Committee member for the TV and Video Production Competitions truly believes



that Skills is beneficial.

"The big purpose of Skills is to show the transitioning of school to work for the students, it gives them a taste of what the real world is like in practical situations." Bouchard adds, "The projects, and the challenges are designed to be as close as to what they can expect in a work place situation. I think that Skills is truly beneficial because it validates what the students already knows and what they have learned."

Along with Chernetski, Milne and Santos, the other students that represented Tec Voc at the nationals were: Ajay Adhar and Breanne Thomas-Shersty in Robotics and Vanessa Lewis in Post secondary Photography.



Photo by Brian Meslas

SKILLS CANADA NATIONAL WINNERS

Here are WSD students who finished with medals at the annual Skills Canada National competition, May 27-30 in Saskatoon, SK.

2D Character Computer Animation

Rain Cahigas, Sarah Mohammed, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute—Silver

IT Network Systems Admin (Secondary)

Jarren Mercado, Sisler High School—Silver

Photography (Post-Secondary)

Vanessa Lewis, Tec Voc High School—Bronze

TV and Video Production (2) (Secondary)

Justin Chernetski and Ian Milne, Tec Voc High School—Gold



Photo by Maya Pavez

AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER

BY JUSTIN CHERNETSKI AND IAN MILNE

With the 21st annual Skills Canada competition now concluded, many students have a lot to be proud of. For those who medalled, and even those who didn't, to be able to say that "I was able to represent my province at a national event is incredible." Those who managed to earn a medal in their respective competitions, now have the right to say they are ranked at the top in the skilled trade or technology sector they competed in.

The Skills Canada National Competition is the largest competition for skilled trades in the country. It involves students from secondary and post secondary institutions, from all 13 provinces and territories in 46 competitions. With Skills/Competences Canada, skilled trades have been given a second wind with getting Canada's youth involved into the skilled trades.

Skills Canada's vision is to show youth that you can have a successful career in skilled trades, proving that you don't have to be a doctor or a lawyer to make big bucks, and be happy.

At this year's national competition, held in Saskatoon, May 28-30, Team Manitoba was represented by 60 outstanding competitors. We were able to snag 27 medals in total, 10 gold, 11 silver and 6 bronzes. This ranked us third in the country, behind Alberta's 30 and Ontario's 37.

It truly was amazing when we heard our names called, as the gold medalists in the TV and Video Production competition. It is hard to describe the feeling, as we walked up to the podium to receive our medals. For four years, both of us have been working towards developing our skills in the Broadcasting and Media Arts Program at Tec Voc High

School. To have all our hard work pay off in this way was truly gratifying. Standing up there has boosted our confidence and validated that we have the ability to work in the broadcasting field.

To our surprise, we were also recognized for having the top mark amongst all gold medalists in Manitoba. This saw us awarded a second gold medal for Best in Region. It truly was a great honour not only representing Manitoba in the competition, but also being a part of the great team from Tec Voc High School. Another Tec Voc student also came home with a medal. Vanessa Lewis was awarded a bronze in the post secondary photography competition.

To find out more information on Skills Competences/Canada check out www.skillsCanada.com or www.skillsmanitoba.ca.



The Churchill Bulldogs on the gridiron in WHSFL action. File photo.

WSD COACHES GET A HEAD START

STORY BY KRISTYN HOWELL

The Winnipeg High School Football League (WHSFL) is taking the head out of the game.

Over 80 WHSFL head coaches and assistant coaches, and 30 WHSFL student players attended a Safe Contact Coaching Clinic this spring – a newly created course that will be mandated by Football Canada in 2016.

“It will be a mandated course for all coaches to take, so we thought we’d be proactive and offer it before the mandated ruling came in,” said Dave Bard, Physical Education Consultant for Winnipeg School Division.

Taught by Miles Mac head coach Dave Washnuk, the clinic covered safe practice techniques, and concussion protocols and procedures. The safe practice techniques included safe blocking and tackling, and are designed to take players’ heads out of the hits to limit the number of concussions.

“No longer are we teaching kids to lead with their heads, to tackle with their heads. Part of safe contact is running backs can no longer lower their head and

hit head on,” said WHSFL Commissioner Rick Henkewich. “It was always the old adage, who gets lower wins the battle. Not so much anymore; you can lower your shoulder but you can’t put your head into it anymore.”

Prior to the Safe Contact Coaching Clinic, WHSFL coaches are required to take an online course called “Making Head Way in Football” before they can be fully Safe Contact certified. Both the online course and the clinic teaches coaches to look for possible safety hazards and obstacles to ensure the safety of their student athletes.

“It teaches us to be aware of our surroundings, to take a look at the field, what our possible obstacles are, and what our hazards are,” Henkewich said. “It teaches us as coaches to better position ourselves to watch our drills happen.”

Football Manitoba said the 82 registered coaches was a very positive number.

“The clinic was a huge success. Every one of them is safe contact certified. Next year, we’ll do it again, and we’ll have even more coaches there,” Henkewich said.

ROLE MODELS

Weston School students and staff met the people behind the uniform when members of the Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service (WFPS) visited.

WFPS personnel brought fire trucks, ambulances, paramedic mountain bikes and more for the May 25 event.

Only one school a year is chosen for the special visit; Weston was nominated anonymously for the event.

“This is a chance for our students to learn about different careers and jobs out there, and to know that our emergency responders are our friends and they help us when we need them,” said Principal Gayle Alex.

The visit tied in nicely with the career education that Grade 5 and 6 students have been undertaking this year.

“The builds the awareness that students, throughout their whole learning life, are preparing for a career,” Ms. Alex said.

Grade 5 student Selwyn Gregorio said the visitors explained how they respond to emergencies and administer first aid.

“We got to see how they help people,” he said.

Emergency Media Services Public Education Coordinator Cory Guest said the event was a way to build a positive rapport with students.

“We want to provide a casual, non-threatening environment, so we can gain that trust with the students and they’ll know who we are out in the community,” he said.

In return for an exciting morning, Weston students presented pictures and poems they created for their WFPS visitors.

That wasn’t the end of fun for students; several days later, WFPS personnel sponsored a school-wide trip to the Assiniboine Park Zoo as a special treat.



A Weston student and WFPS firefighter/paramedic Mike Lisowick in one of the fire response vehicles the WFPS brought to the school on May 25.



NEXT STAGE

Students at King Edward Community and Luxton Schools had an energetic start to Canadian Children’s Book Week with a visit from author and Academy Award nominated actress Meg Tilly.

Ms. Tilly visited the schools on May 4 to read from her book *A Taste of Heaven*.

Ms. Tilly took an extended break from acting to raise her family, choosing to focus on another artistic passion: writing. She has already established her writing career with titles such as *Porcupine* and *Behind the Scenes*.

The author still draws upon her acting experience in many ways. During her

live readings, Ms. Tilly gives a set of spirited performances for a broad range of characters. Through both acting and writing, the exploration of characters can be a means of self-discovery.

“Every time you learn about somebody, every time you dive into somebody else’s skin, you learn more about yourself...who you are and what you are capable of,” Ms. Tilly said.

Ms. Tilly started her writing career by writing stories based on her own life.

“I wrote another story, another story... the happy ones and the sad ones, and that became my first book.”

A SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to WSD students and staff who were winners at the Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children's Yes I Can Awards. The following students and staff member were honoured at the 25th annual awards event earlier this year:

Maureen Bosclair, Sister MacNamara School, Certificate of Excellence (Education Assistant);

Gabriel Bonham, Robertson School, Community;

Jerome George, Sister MacNamara School, Technology;

Pamela Ocampo, Lord Selkirk School, Technology;

David Weisz, Greenway School, Academics.



On April 15, Sargent Park School hosted the movie *Girl Rising*; over 150 people attended the premier.

GIRL RISING

TRANSFORMING SOCIETIES THROUGH THE POWER OF STORYTELLING

STORY AND PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

As you entered the gym at Sargent Park School on April 15, you could tell right away that there was something special about to happen. The gym had been transformed into a premiere theatre with tables draped in red and centre pieces that featured facts and photographs of some very special ladies. The photographs on the table were of women who have made a difference in the world such as Mother Teresa and Malala Yousafzai.

Equally important behind the ticket table was a wall full of important ladies who teach and attend Sargent Park School.

Over 150 people made up of staff, students and community members purchased tickets for the movie premier called *Girl Rising*.

The film follows nine unforgettable girls living in the developing world: ordinary girls who confront tremendous challenges and overcome nearly impossible odds to pursue their dreams.

The stories are about the hardships that girls in developing countries face like early marriage, gender-based violence, domestic slavery and sex trafficking.

The film suggests that if you can educate the young girls there is hope for them to break the cycle of poverty and in turn make a difference in the world.

The evening was hosted by students from Sargent Park's Me To We Group, student council, the leadership group and the peace group.

"We are here to watch the premiere of *Girl Rising* and we are collecting donations from ticket sales, a bake sale and a donation bowl. All of the money we raise will be donated to the Girl Rising Fund in hopes of making a change for girls in the world," said Kyla, a Grade 8 student.

A staggering fact that astonished Angel, a Grade 9 student, was that 62 million girls around the world do not attend school.

"I knew that girls in developing countries suffered with poverty but I never could have imagined that it affected that many girls," Angel said. "Instead of just being sad about it we are hoping to make a difference."

If you would like to get involved with the Girl Rising project you can visit the website at www.girlrising.com.

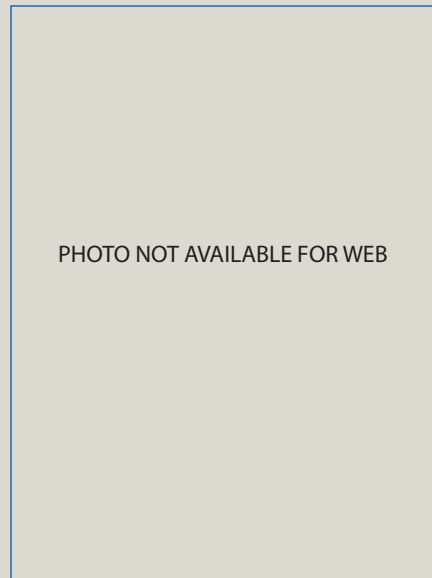


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Photo by Maya Pavez

Gabriel Bonham

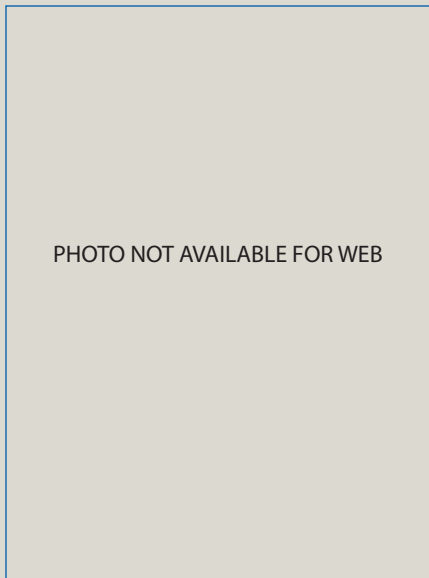


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Photo by Jasper Evans

Jerome George



PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

Photo by Jasper Evans

Pamela Ocampo

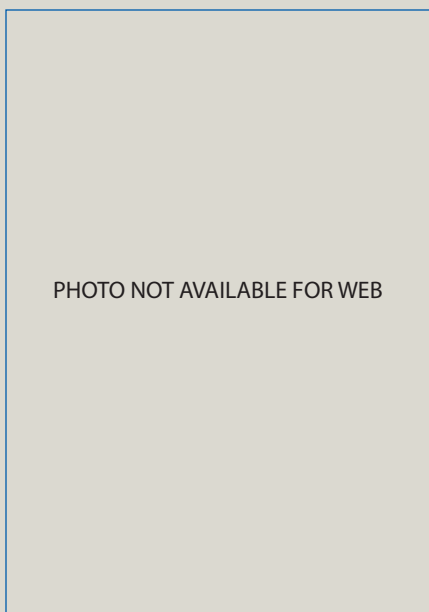


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Photo by Maya Pavez

David Weisz



FUELING THE JETS

Tyndall Park Community School was among many across Winnipeg School Division that cheered on the Jets on the eve of their first playoff series since returning to the city.

Teacher and Jets fanatic Andrea Basaraba turned the excitement into a learning opportunity for her Grade 3 students.

"We're incorporating the Jets into our daily routines. Right now we're doing Jets math, so we're using statistics from the Jets website like goals, assists and total points for addition and subtraction, and we'll also be using that data for bar graphs."

The class also composed cinquain poems based on Jets players. A cinquain is a five-line poem that adheres to a rigid syllabic structure (such as two, four, six, eight and two syllables per line).

While the Jets were eliminated from first-round competition, you can bet Ms. Basaraba and her class will be backing the Jets for the 2015-16 season!



WHY WE WEAR PINK

During the school year, Winnipeg School Division students don pink shirts as a colourful show of support for diversity and empathy for victims of bullying. Some wear the shirts on the International Day of Pink in April, while others celebrate on Pink Shirt Day in February, or on the day of their own school-designated events.

Students at Pinkham School recently took part with their own International Day of Pink challenge.

SRO Constable Garnie McIntyre and Principal Val Mowez made a friendly contest for the occasion: if every Pinkham student and staff member donned pink shirts, Const. McIntyre would shave his beard. If the school didn't meet that

goal, Ms. Mowez would get a nose ring. Students rose to the challenge and the result...Const. McIntyre got a close shave at a morning assembly. For good measure, he also donned a special pink uniform for the event.

He told students that much can be accomplished when everyone joins together. "You're better as a team than you are as one person," Const. McIntyre said. "My advice today is if you guys stick together, participate and watch out for each other, life will be very good."

Ms. Mowez said that the International Day of Pink was a way of showing unity while recognizing and respecting that everyone is different.

"Today is a day to celebrate our diversity"

Grade 4 student Rayden Batson and Grade 8 student Havannah Ballantyne said the roots of the event go back to an anti-bullying campaign Central Kings Rural High School in Nova Scotia started in 2008. Students at the school wore pink shirts as a show of support for a fellow student who had been bullied for wearing a pink shirt.

"We have a day of pink so we can celebrate that day," Rayden said.

Havannah said that having empathy and understanding for others was a way to prevent bullying.

"We can put ourselves in somebody else's shoes," Havannah said. "If you see somebody is hurt, you can ask them why they are hurting."



WHAT A NIGHT!

The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra held a special performance in support of the Sistema program, a free, intensive music instruction for North End and Inner City students.

Performers included Sistema students from King Edward School, conductor Alexander Mickelthwate (below), jazz artist Anna Lisa Kirby, violinist Gregory Lewis, singer Simon Miron, and songwriter Ali Fontaine.

PHOTOS BY JEFF MILLER





PASSPORT TO FAMILY FUN

Lord Nelson School students, staff and families shared an evening of multicultural fun at the school's April 22 Family Night and Potluck.

Attendees tried food from around the world and stamped their passports at game stations. Games included Caribbean dominoes, a Vietnamese Caro game and a chopstick dexterity game.

A special thanks to students from nearby Andrew Mynarsky VC School who served as game masters.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LORD NELSON



REACHING OUT

River Elm School students recently reached out with a humanitarian project to support the Chikomba District in Zimbabwe.

In the fall, Strini Reddy and Elvis Matini of the Canadian Multicultural Disability Centre visited River Elm to show a PowerPoint presentation about the plight of the community. They said access to water was limited, requiring children to haul in water over long distances.

"The River Elm Earth Club members decided to raise funds to help the children of Zimbabwe," said student Ayden Pitt.

The group sold snacks such as pickles and baked goods to help raise money for a well.

Along with the fundraising, the Earth Club held an activity that gave River Elm students an idea of the daily challenges of not having a nearby source of water.

"We got milk bottles and filled them with water, then we let the kids carry them around the school," said student Favour Lawal. "We wanted kids here to see how

the kids in Zimbabwe are using all of their energy to get water to drink and use for everything else."

River Elm presented a cheque of over \$845 to Mr. Reddy and Mr. Matini at a May 22 assembly.

"This is incredible that everyone was able to come together and make such an impact," Mr. Matini said. "What you have done is incredible. I hope you carry on with this enthusiasm, hard work and compassion throughout your entire lives."

Mr. Reddy said the well would allow children to focus on their education, rather than gathering water.

"Once the well is drilled, the biggest beneficiaries are the women and the girls," Mr. Reddy said. "The girls will not have to walk those long distances...they can go to school. You have given them the gift of an education."

The centre will continue to raise funds for the installation of water tanks and an irrigation system for year-round agriculture.

MAKING THE RIGHT MOVES

While chess draws players from all walks of life, it takes special dedication and time to play the game at the international level.

Grant Park High School student Nicolas Denysenko recently travelled to Sochi, Russia to participate in a tournament featuring 500 players from around the globe.

Nicolas, who is a member of chess clubs at Grant Park and the Winnipeg Russian School, spoke with *Our Schools* just prior to his Sochi trip.

Q: How long have you been playing chess?

A: Since I was six. My dad taught me how to play chess.

Q: You also play chess with the Winnipeg Russian School, how do you study the game there?

A: We play games, we analyze games, we look over openings, good moves and bad moves. There are monthly tournaments at the universities too.

Q: How much time do you spend a week playing chess?

A: Roughly 10 to 15 hours per week. I spend about two hours a week on the lessons. Online there are many websites where you can analyze, and I do that three hours a week. And then playing games during free time. Some weeks I play a lot, like on spring break.

Q: How often do you play with Grant

Park's chess club?

A: I come here every lunch hour that I have open!

Q: What is the appeal of chess for you?

A: It's interesting. Especially when somebody beats you, you can look over the game afterwards and see your mistakes and their mistakes, and improve from that. Every new opponent you play, you don't know what they're going to pull out. There are thousands of openings. You just keep learning more and more. It's a game of perpetual learning.

Q: What if you are playing a new player who makes illogical or random moves that defy normal chess strategies? Can that be challenging?

A: It can be. In the game there are general principles that you should follow in the beginning, middle and end. During the beginning you want castle development, control as much of the centre as you want and not move side pawns, that's general stuff. Middle game can get confusing because every position, every game is different. You have to look at their weaknesses and your weaknesses, your upsides and their advantages. You have to look at the board and you have to make the plan; the board tells you the way.

Q: Have you ever been to Russia before?

A: I've never been to Russia before...this was an amazing opportunity that happens

once in a lifetime. You need to know the Russian language though, everything is in Russian.

Q: Do you play computer chess?

A: I used to play a lot but not so much

now. I have a lot of schoolwork and I don't have time for it. I think playing human opponents is more fun because you can see how they react and how long it takes for them to think of a move.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

WATERSHED WATCH

Two Argyle Alternative High School students have earned a second place finish in a contest that enlisted students to help save watersheds.

Zach Mayham and Eric Peebles were honoured in the Caring for Our Watersheds environmental contest; the students and school were presented with \$1,800 in prize money at an April 18 award ceremony. Over 258 projects were submitted.

The students won the award based on a proposal to shoot a series of 10 videos that educate young students on how they can personally help save the watersheds of Manitoba.

“Our plan is to distribute DVDs to elementary schools to help students save the watershed,” Eric said. “We’re telling students that they’re able to do this...it’s

really simple solutions, like not dumping chemicals down drains.”

Oak Hammock Marsh, Ducks Unlimited and Agrium ran the contest.

Officials at Ducks Unlimited were intrigued by the premise and are exploring support for the project in anticipation of an Earth Day 2016 release.

“We were honoured and blown away to be recognized like that,” Zach said.

The students said reaching future generations is the key to saving Manitoba’s watershed.

“If we can inspire students in some way, there’s a chance these watersheds can be saved,” Eric said.

You can view the Argyle students’ proposal video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15Zlj9KJr-Y>.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

PARTNERS IN CAREERS

Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute held a thank-you luncheon in honour of the many mentors who guided students over the school year in a variety of career programs.

Student Chaltu Tesfaye (picture, left) did a work placement in the Orthopedics Department at the Health Sciences Centre, while Colleen Landicho worked with mentors at RBC that included Sandy Bhowani and Kevin Roy.

“I learned a lot about how businesses and banks work,” said Colleen, who plans to go into business administration. “It’s a good way to figure out if you want to continue in that career field or choose something else. Everyone was really nice to me and helpful. They taught me a lot.”

DMCI holds the Career Internship Program Appreciation Luncheon annually.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB



PLENTY OF QUESTIONS FOR CHIEF

Prairie Rose School students had plenty of questions for Winnipeg Police Service Chief Devon Clunis during his May 28 visit to the school.

Chief Clunis dropped in on teacher Carla Simon’s Grade3-4 class to read some books and talk about his life.

One student asked him who his hero was. “Teachers are my heroes,” Chief Clunis said. “If not for teachers, I would never had the chance to become a police officer...because of them, you can become anything you ever want to be.”

He told the story of the time he failed Grade 6. As a Jamaican immigrant, he struggled in school, but a teacher, Mrs. Hanna, came to school an hour early every day to help him work on his subjects.

“After three or four months of her doing that, school became very easy for me. I’ll always remember what she did.”

He said his favourite time during

his law enforcement career was being a school resource officer and working with students.

“I love being a police officer, and I wanted to become one to set an example for other kids,” he said. “Being Chief of Police is hard sometimes. You’re dealing with political and administrative pieces that aren’t as much fun, but that job of being a police officer and making a difference in your community, I really, really love that.”

Chief Clunis said he was struck by two questions Prairie Rose students didn’t ask him—questions that frequently come up when he talks with children.

“No one has asked ‘have you shot anyone,’” he said. “No one has asked ‘can I see your gun.’ That’s pretty cool. You are asking about things that are really important...it shows that your minds are in a different place.”



GOATS R US

Students at Andrew Mynarski VC School pooled their fundraising talents for a special pep rally in support of Free the Children.

The student group Goats R Us, who work with teacher liaison Melissa Fiddler-Valenzuela, initiated the April 17 fundraiser to raise money to purchase goats for families in Africa. The animals offer families a way to sustain themselves in often difficult economies.

The “Goats” enlisted Virgin 103 personality Ace Burpee for an afternoon of games and fun. The event raised a total of \$697 for the Goats R Us cause; in total, the group raised over \$1,673 this year through various fundraising projects.

Photos by Jasper Evans, Tec Voc Photography

THE POWER OF STORYTELLING

Gordon Bell High School and Hugh John Macdonald School students joined 12 other schools for a special project that explored the power of story.

Pathways to Peace was a year-long storytelling project that had students working with storyteller Jamie Oliviero and performer Shawn Kettner. Students worked together to create their own timeless fables and artwork, which were later printed on

colourful banners for posterity.

The project was held in conjunction with the Winnipeg International Storytelling Festival.

The banners were unveiled in an official ceremony at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights on May 8. They remained on display at the museum for the weekend before going on display at their home schools.

Gordon Bell student Isaak Johnston

worked on a story about a village located close to a volcano: "The people on the mountain were mining and they dug too deep...they broke into the lava. It flowed onto the village and they had to stop the lava with their tears."

Isaak said he was thrilled to have his school's stories showcased at the museum. "I think that it's great, it's really an honour. Maybe hundreds of people will

come and see our stories."

Teacher Shane Barchuk said Mr. Oliviero encouraged students to collaborate.

"We had a lot of help from Jamie," Mr. Barchuk said. "He helped us learn about the process of creating a story and telling them. He taught us to appreciate the art form."

Students from Mulvey, Strathcona, Lansdowne and Victoria-Albert also took part in the project.



MYSTERY TOUR BEGINS

Hugh John Macdonald School recently hosted Thompson's Juniper Elementary School for an exciting bike adventure through Winnipeg.

Embracing the idea that "we are all treaty people" the two schools joined together for the learning tour, led by storyteller Tibert le Voyageur and supported by the Winnipeg Police Service.

Tibert shared his gift of storytelling to bring the historical and present day stories of our city to life. The group explored the streets of the Exchange District, St. Boniface, The Forks and the Manitoba Legislative Building. The WRENCH provided bikes and equipment for the visiting students and the Winnipeg Police Service provided a full day honorary and safety escort.

"The purpose of our partnership with Juniper School is to build authentic relationships with each other so we can celebrate our individual and collective identities while building community between students from the north and

south," said Principal Vinh Huynh, Hugh John Macdonald School.

Lucy Mayor, Principal of Juniper School, and Lorie Henderson, Superintendent for the Mystery Lake School Division, accompanied the group of students on their journey.

"This partnership is the beginning of a relationship between students, staff and community members," said Mayor. "We ended the week knowing more about ourselves and the communities we live in as we listened and spoke to each other."

Principal Huynh adds many new friendships and penpals were made during the week long visit.

The three-day visit included a trip to the Winnipeg Art Gallery and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights for the Juniper students.

"I really want to see the Human Rights Museum...I haven't been there before," said Wendy, a Grade 8 Juniper student. "It's a good idea to do this, you get to know more people."

HEALTHY SCHOOLS HONOURING DIVERSITY

Teachers, educational assistants, staff and administrators from Stanley Knowles, Tyndall Park, Champlain, Ralph Brown, Lord Nelson, École River Heights, and École Riverview schools gathered together at Stanley Knowles School to learn a lesson in Cultural Proficiency on April 24. The Cultural Proficiency Journey is a professional development (PD) seminar that provides a framework for building healthy schools that honour diversity.

"It's a tremendous opportunity for there to be a sense of community related to cultural proficiency," said Stanley Knowles Principal Darryl Stevenson.

The purpose of the PD seminar is to provide the tools and the understandings to create an inclusive and instructionally powerful learning environment for all students. The all-day seminar was composed of two parts: a seminar on cultural proficiency in the morning by guest

keynote speaker Kevin Lamoureux, and a series of breakout sessions on various topics related to cultural proficiency in the afternoon.

The 237 teachers, educational assistants, staff and administrators in attendance had the opportunity to choose from 15 breakout sessions that touched on the different aspects of cultural diversity, including empathy, diversity, and awareness.

"I think it's really important that teachers get to choose which session they go to in the afternoon," said Stanley Knowles PD Chair Torrie Vicklund. "That way, they can really choose something that speaks to them and they'll be able to implement it after, as opposed to something that may not be applicable to them or they may already have experience with."

STORY BY KRISTYN HOWELL,
PHOTO BY MAYA PAVEZ. TEC VOC PHOTOGRAPHY





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WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION'S NEW STRUCTURE DIRECTS MORE SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS

Winnipeg School Division (WSD) has announced details of a new leadership structure for the division that will increase direct support to schools. The restructuring comes as a result of a Board of Trustees' budget decision earlier this year to eliminate one superintendent position and remove geographical districts.

"The new leadership structure of Winnipeg School Division responds to ratepayer feedback indicating a top priority for our community is to reduce administration costs and be more efficient," said WSD Board Chair Mark Wasyliw. "I congratulate Chief Superintendent Clarke and her staff for achieving the objective set out by the Board of Trustees and addressing the need to increase support to students, parents and staff in schools."

Building on WSD's culture of collaboration, the new leadership structure will enhance opportunities throughout the division for added innovation in school program initiatives.

"We have many things to be proud of in WSD such as the division's support in the areas of special needs, Aboriginal education, development of numeracy skills and technical vocational programs," said Chief Superintendent Pauline Clarke. "The new structure will allow for even more open lines of communication and idea sharing across the division that will benefit all of our students and staff."

The day-to-day running of schools will continue as established, said Clarke.

NEW STRUCTURE

Pauline Clarke, Chief Superintendent

Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent Education Services, Curriculum and Learning Innovation

Fatima Mota, Superintendent Education Services, Equity, Diversity and Inclusive Education

Karin Seiler, Superintendent, Planning and System Services

Directors reporting to Superintendent Caetano-Gomes:

- **Brad Corbett**, Director, Enrichment and Science
- **Julie Smerchanski**, Director, Assessment and Instruction

Directors reporting to Superintendent Mota:

- **Julie Millar**, Director, Student Services;
- **Rob Riel**, Director, Aboriginal Education and Newcomer Services
- **Chris Rhodes**, Director, Career Education

Directors and departments reporting to Superintendent Sieler:

- **Doug Edmond**, Director, Research, Planning and Technology Services
- Professional Support Services Personnel
- Facilities



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