



NEWS RELEASE

WSD Sisler High School students target 700 INSPIRE group sharing the magic of reading

January 18, 2018 (Winnipeg, MB) – Winnipeg School Division (WSD) Sisler High School INSPIRE group has set its highest target ever for a school-wide book drive. INSPIRE (Inter-school Nation to Support and Protect Indigenous Rights and Education) announced today, at an event at Sisler High School, plans to collect over 700 books this year to donate to low income indigenous families. The books will be distributed by Share the Magic Book Program.

“The members of INSPIRE are excited about the challenge we have set for ourselves, and we are also challenging other schools in Winnipeg School Division and the city as a whole, to help improve literacy for children in our city,” says Awab Jelani, Sisler High School student and leader of INSPIRE.

INSPIRE, working under the guidance of teacher Greg Shedden, recent recipient of the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteerism, is asking the 2000 students currently attending Sisler to give generously during January and February, which is I Love to Read Month. Books ranging from books for babies, young children, young adults and adults, fiction and non-fiction alike will be gratefully received. A tally board posted at the front of the school will record donations as they come in.

The public can also donate new or gently used books directly at the school by the office during regular school hours (Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Students and staff can bring books in at any time and they can be dropped off at bins in Rm. 46 or at the front of the school by the office during their lunch break.

Share the Magic President, John Helliard, has pledged that all books raised by INSPIRE will go to Indigenous peoples throughout Manitoba. Helliard says, “It is indeed an honour to work with such a wonderful group of young people, INSPIRE helps me believe a better world is possible, starting right here in Manitoba.”

WSD was established in 1871 and currently has 78 schools, 33,000 students and 6,000 employees. Its purpose is to provide a learning environment that fosters the growth of each student’s potential and provide equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and values necessary for meaningful participation in a global and diverse society.

Share the Magic Book Program is a registered charity which aims to increase literacy levels in low income populations. The Program collects new and gently-used books for give away and community libraries, free of charge, in Manitoba communities that do not have many books. *Share the Magic* gives away books for all ages, from baby books to adult fiction and non-fiction. To date *Share the Magic* has given away 417,000+ books. For more information contact Chris Melnick, Executive Director at: cmelnick@mymts.net or by calling 204 257 0517.

-30-

Media contacts:

Awab Jelani
INSPIRE
Sisler High School
(204) 952-3992

Radean Carter
Senior Information Officer
Winnipeg School Division
(204) 789-0412 or mobile (204) 771-5352