



# Our Schools

## Filling buckets



## A Project of Heart

Division schools are joining a national commemoration project to honour the victims and survivors of the residential school system. The Project of Heart will consist of 13 major public exhibits across Canada, as well as school based exhibits. Students will create tiles that will comprise the commemorative displays.

See story on page 15

Above: Students at Robertson School are learning that something as simple as kind words can fill a bucket over time.

See story on page 2

### Inside

#### Special Section

Transforming Education:  
Aboriginal Education  
today

Pages 12-15

New den for Grizzlies

Page 3

International prize for  
Tec Voc Aerospace

Page 4

Churchill athletic  
complex opens

Page 9

Adobe honours Sisler

Page 17

## A feast of food and culture



See story on page 17

# Parent Information Evening



A delegation of parents, school administrators, trustees and educators met at Tec Voc High School for the Nov. 29 Parent Information Evening.

The Division's Board of Trustees met with parent councils, educators and administrators from across the Division for a special Parent Information Night held at Tec Voc High School on Nov. 29.

"The Board of Trustees believes that the education of children is a partnership between the home and the school community," said Board Chair Rita Hildahl. "This is why it is so important to create a better understanding and awareness about the educational process for our children."

Those in attendance heard from two guest speakers: longtime educator and educational leader Strini Reddy and Carolyn Duhamel, the Executive Director of the Manitoba School Boards Association.

Mr. Reddy discussed the value of programming that supplements the curriculum, as well as the crucial role parents play in their children's education. Ms. Duhamel examined the challenges of maintaining the required resources for schools in tough economic times, and the importance of partnerships between parents, school communities, school

boards, government and other educational partners in addressing those challenges.

Following the presentations, parents, trustees and administrators broke into smaller round-table discussions. Several parents expressed concern if property taxation was jeopardized—such as losing local decision making on local needs. Others noted the challenge of understanding the complicated budget process.

Tia A. Everitt, a parent council member with École Robert H. Smith School, stressed the importance of promoting grassroots discussions about education and taxation.

"We have to make sure that everyone in the community, especially the parent population base, really understand how important the funds that we get from taxation really are—and how exceptionally special it is in Manitoba that we continue to have it," she said. "I moved here from B.C. two years ago, and the situation there is absolutely dire. I'm from a town where eight schools closed down in the past five years, two are remaining. You can't let that happen here."

## Filling buckets



Robertson students and teacher Kim Bakker with the poster tracking students' kind words.

Kindness can be taught—and students at Robertson School are learning that something as simple as kind words can fill a bucket over time.

Teacher Kim Bakker's Grade 4 students have been writing down positive comments about each other and putting them into the "bucket"—in this case, a poster with pockets to hold each student's messages.

"They say that everyone has an invisible bucket...when you say nice things to somebody, you're filling that bucket," Ms. Bakker said. "When you say things that are mean, you are taking away from their bucket and being a 'bucket dipper.' We try to be bucket fillers in our room and in this school. We practise saying nice things to each other all the time."

Students are not only able to get a boost in confidence and self-esteem when they read the comments from their peers; they are also able to experience the joy of sharing kindness with others. The project was inspired by Carol McCloud's book *Have you Filled a Bucket Today?*

"We made up a list of kind words we can give to each other, like 'you smell pretty' or 'I like

your shoes,'" said student Ashleen Delas Alas. "It feels good when somebody says something nice to you. My favourite thing somebody wrote about me was that I was a great friend."

Prior to Christmas break, students in the classroom received binders full of their classmates' kind comments.

"I've definitely seen a change in the classroom...students are realizing that they should go out of their way to do nice things. This is focusing on positive behavior rather than negative," Ms. Bakker said.

The Fill a Bucket movement, which is expanding school-wide, is one of several positive behavior initiatives taking place at the school. Robertson was among the schools that recently received support for anti-bullying initiatives through the Winnipeg Police Association's Cool 2B Kind program.

Other Division schools receiving support for their anti-bullying efforts included Cecil Rhodes, David Livingstone Community, Elmwood High, Gladstone, Isaac Brock, Kent Road, King Edward Community, Ralph Brown and R.B. Russell Vocational High schools.

## Around the Division

### WSD's 100-YEAR-OLD HERITAGE CLASSROOM HAS MOVED!

The Division's one-of-a-kind classroom museum is now being housed at Isaac Brock School, which is celebrating 100 years of learning this coming spring. Programming is available in both French and English and can be adapted to accommodate all learners.

Those classes interested in making classroom bookings in the new year may contact Darcie Kiene at [dkiene@wsd1.org](mailto:dkiene@wsd1.org) for further information and availability. This experience is open to all WSD students free of charge.

## 43rd Annual Winnipeg Schools' Science Fair

**When:** April 17, 2013

**Where:** Brodie Centre, U of M Bannatyne Campus  
727 McDermot Ave.

**Deadline for project submissions is March 19, 2013.**

# George V celebrates new gymnasium



Cutting the ribbon to officially open the new gym: current George V Principal Manuel Silva, students and former Principal Gisele Mospanchuk.



The Grizzlies have a new den at École George V School, but students will be doing anything but hibernating over the winter months.

The new gymnasium, which is already heavily used by students at the school as well as the community, was officially opened in a special ceremony on Nov. 13.

Guests included Minister of Education Nancy Allan, Board Chair Rita Hildahl, Trustees Mike Babinsky, Cathy Collins and Darlyne Bautista, Chief Superintendent Pauline Clarke, Superintendent of Schools-Central Celia Caetano-Gomes, Rob Obirek of MCM Architects, Ellowyn Nadeau of Stuart

Olson Dominion, Director of Buildings George Heath and PAC representative Robb Massey.

"I'd like to thank the Province of Manitoba for their commitment to investing in infrastructure that supports student learning," Ms. Hildahl said. "I know the students and community will benefit greatly by the new facility and the opportunities that will be provided to develop more healthy lifestyles."

Principal Manuel Silva and other speakers were quick to recognize the tireless efforts of parent councils past and present, as well as the work of former George V Principal Gisele Mospanchuk, for guiding the project to fruition.

"It took the hard work and dedication of many school staff, parents and guardians, students and community members to bring more than two decades of hopes and dreams to a reality," Mr. Silva said. "Tonight, this reality is shared with both the past and current George V communities."

Mr. Massey said the new gymnasium was "the beginning of a lot of great new things for our community and our school."

The gymnasium is part of a 7,000 sq.ft. expansion that also includes accessible elevators and washrooms.

The facility has already been earning rave reviews from students like Katrina Medeiros.

"My favourite part of the new gym is having more space to play volleyball," she said. "You can actually bump the ball without hitting the roof...there's way more space for

dodgeball or other activities."

Ms. Allan said the new addition fit in well with the historical architecture of the storied school.

"George V School was built in 1915 and has had many additions and renovations...but I think this renovation is the most exciting. The design of the gym compliments the historical architecture of the school, so it will fit in nicely with the neighbourhood," she said.

Student Hillery Pham said the school's old gymnasium continues to play an important role at George V.

"Since the old gym wasn't going to be used anymore, we decided to make it into a lunch room," she said, noting that students ate lunch in smaller groups all over the school previously. "It's a lot noisier, but it's better to have 300 students in one spot."

## Educators share knowledge, inspiration at SAGE

Over 700 educators assembled at Elmwood High School and its feeder schools for the Manitoba Physical Education Teachers' Association's annual SAGE (Special Area Group of Educators) Conference.

The Winnipeg School Division hosted this year's event, with Health Education Consultant Nori Korsunsky and Phys. Ed. Consultant Dave Bard serving as co-chairs. The conference offered over 70 professional development workshops in phys. ed. and health—two subjects that are part of the same curriculum in Manitoba.

"We're looking at how all the aspects of health and wellness fit together, and aim for a holistic approach," Ms. Korsunsky said. "The focus of the provincial curriculum is on healthy, active lifestyles for all. You can't do one thing in isolation. People can be physically active but still have a poor diet—and their health won't be optimal."

The conference opened at Elmwood with a keynote speech from the Botterill family—Olympic hockey gold medalist Jennifer and her parents Cal and Doreen. Cal is a noted sports psychologist, while Doreen is an inductee of the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame. The Botterills discussed their approach to

a healthy and active family lifestyle, and how that influenced each member as an athlete. The address tied in well with the conference's "Fit Together" theme.

"Our committee developed the Fit Together theme as a way to incorporate families and the community with what we're doing at the schools," Mr. Bard said. "We're looking at the support that families and the community can provide when people want to achieve high levels of performance, fitness and health. Jennifer did a really good job of tying that together with her speech."

Ms. Korsunsky said when it comes to establishing healthy, active lifestyles, students can benefit from having many role models and positive messages, whether that comes from the home, the school or community.

"If students are hearing the same messages from many different people, it can only advance their knowledge and understanding...it all fits together," she said. "If you don't know what healthy looks like, you won't know how to practise healthy behaviours. If you come from a home where there are unhealthy relationships, unhealthy diets, unhealthy coping, etc...school may be that one place where students learn what health looks like and find that model

and support."

The SAGE workshops were hosted at Elmwood and 13 different nearby schools, including École George V School and its brand new gymnasium. Workshops included topics such as body image, youth smoking cessation, movement education, bike repair programs in schools, healthy eating for busy lifestyles, emergency first aid, the Aboriginal Coaching Manual, Speedminton, injury prevention and many others.

John M. King School phys. ed. teacher Ryan Warkentin took a course on CPR and automatic emergency defibrillators, due to the fact that a device had been installed at his school. He said SAGE was a good opportunity for both professional development and networking with colleagues.

"I personally love it. As phys. ed. teachers, we don't always get an opportunity to meet with our colleagues...you usually only have one or two phys. ed. teachers in a building. It's nice to meet with other specialist teachers to talk about what's current and what other people are doing at their schools. That to me is the value of SAGE."

Mr. Bard and Ms. Korsunsky credited the 19 Division teachers that served on the SAGE committees for helping to ensure the event ran smoothly.



Olympic hockey gold medalist Jennifer Botterill (pictured) and parents Cal and Doreen addressed a packed Elmwood gymnasium about healthy family lifestyles and the fitness and health connection.

"The experience and strength of those committee members really helped with our jobs as co-chairs," they said, while also thanking the administrators at all of the school venues. "Everybody was very accommodating...we got all of the gyms and space we needed to make this happen."

Winnipeg's various school divisions host SAGE every six years on a rotating basis; next year, organizers from several Divisions will work together as Winnipeg hosts the National PHE Canada Conference.

# High praise for Tec Voc Aerospace program



Tec Voc Aerospace Instructor Ray Thomson, students and Instructor Terry Holowaty in the school's state-of-the-art machine shop.

**T**ec Voc High School's Manitoba Aerospace Program continues to draw notice for its ongoing industry partnership after receiving an international honour.

Judges with the International Partnership Network's (IPN) Global Best Awards chose the program as the Americas winner in the category for "Partnerships that inspire young people in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics." The IPN is an organization consisting of Economic Development Offices from many different countries, including the Conference Board of Canada.

Tec Voc Aerospace Coordinator Greg Link recently travelled to Durban, South Africa to present the partnership model and accept the honour on behalf of Tec Voc High School of The Winnipeg School division.

"The conference was a chance to share best practices and effective models with each other," Mr. Link said. "Our partnership with Manitoba Aerospace has been going for 18 years and this is great recognition. We were recognized nationally at the turn of the century by the Conference Board of Canada as a model partnership, and now we've been recognized internationally."

The Tec Voc program includes the Aerospace Technology Program (ATP) for Grade 9-12 students, and the 10-month Aerospace Manufacturing and Maintenance Orientation Program (AMMOP) for 18-30 year olds. The program offers students a high placement

rate within the Aerospace industry.

"This program is designed to provide good technical workers for the aerospace industry," said Principal Gord Crook. "Seventy-five per cent or more of our students, in 16 years, are employed in the industry. People are looking for employment and this is a great industry to work in, with both the small and the large companies."

Tec Voc program staff meets with industry advisors regularly, as well as doing an additional yearly review to ensure the program is meeting the needs of the aerospace sector. Mr. Link also cited the willingness to bring in new partners—such as the province's Technical Vocational Initiative, which provided professional development and new equipment—as a key to success.

AMMOP instructor Ray Thomson, who has been with the program for 16 years, said industry is the driving force behind the program.

"Industry plays a key role in what we're doing here—we're always working to stay current," he said. "For example, with all the new composite parts going into the aircraft industry, we decided several years ago we'd better jump on board...now it's a big part of the program."

Instructor Terry Holowaty, who teaches in the high school side of the program, said students are learning a highly-transferable skill set.

"We cover everything from welding to applicable physics, sheet metal, machining, electrical, engine work...and of course documentation is huge in aviation. They

say if a part weighs a pound, the paperwork weighs 10 pounds," he said.

By providing those marketable skills—and a state-of-the-art machine shop that mirrors industry—the program has attracted students like 17-year-old Riley Guinto, who is in his fourth year of the high-school program.

"I've always been interested in airplanes and I knew this program had a good partnership with companies like Boeing and Bristol Aerospace," said Riley, whose grandfather works with Boeing. "There's lots of hands-on with this program, working with tools and building a lot of skills."

Jazer Maco, 26, enrolled in AMMOP to advance his technical skills after already working several years in the industry.

"When I was working at StandardAero, we had AMMOP students come through and end up with jobs there," he said. "In this program we're really orienting towards maintenance of engines and manufacturing. We're visiting a lot of different aerospace facilities as well, which gives you that drive and excitement. It's motivating...you know that you're in the right program."

## A day made better



**G**ordon Bell High School teacher Kelly Friesen got her Tuesday morning off to a stellar start when she found out that she was one of three Manitoba teachers honoured in Grand & Toy's A Day Made Better campaign.

The campaign seeks to recognize teachers across the country for their daily contributions in the classroom. On Oct. 2, Ms. Friesen and her students were called to a mock assembly—whereupon the teacher was surprised with the award and prize package, which included an ergonomic office chair, electronics and stationary supplies all for the classroom.

Fellow educator Rebecca Decter nominated Ms. Friesen for the award; in her written recommendation, Ms. Decter cited Ms. Friesen as a champion of reading and literacy, as well as human rights.

Pictured here behind Ms. Friesen are Grand & Toy representatives Souparno Majumdar (left), Kim LeBlanc, Rob Ryder, Paul Kernoski, nominating teacher Rebecca Decter and Gordon Bell Principal Arlene Skull.

# Greenway volunteers, canine helpers honoured

When Jim and Margaret MacKay visit Greenway School, students know that the couple's trio of Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers is not far behind.

The amiable dogs—Digby, Phlirt and Piper—are regular visitors to the school as part of the PALS (Pets and Learning in Schools) Program. The dogs were trained through the St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dog Program.

The dogs are trained to interact with students as they are reading. In private reading sessions, students read aloud to an adult, while the dogs will lie beside them and rest their heads on students' laps.

"The dogs are basically there to facilitate learning—they keep the kids relaxed and focused," Mr. MacKay said. "By the first day, the kids and dogs are pretty well bonded already."

Special Education Resource Teacher Cheryl McCallum said students can blossom as readers through the program.

"Some kids are very introverted and shy, and don't like to read aloud—this gives them a venue where no one is judging them," she said. "The dogs are so gentle with the students...it really calms them."

The MacKays and their dogs also visit Weston School on a regular basis.

For their years of working with the program, the MacKays were invited to Winnipeg City Hall on Oct. 15 to



The canine PALS with Greenway students.

receive the Mayor's Senior of the Year Award.

"It's really the dogs that should get the award," Mr. MacKay

laughed.

While the MacKays are quick to credit their dogs, they do appreciate the fact that it was a student,

Shayleen Costello, who nominated them for the award.

"It means a lot to us," Mr. MacKay said.

## Cool 2 Be Kind

Winnipeg Police Association (WPA) President Mike Sutherland (left), students, MLA Kevin Chief and City Councillor Devi Sharma were proud to wear pink at the WPA's Cool 2 Be Kind funding announcement on Nov. 13.

The students accepted a cheque from the WPA on behalf of their own David Livingstone Community School. The Cool 2 Be Kind campaign gave 20 local schools up to \$500 to support their anti-bullying initiatives.

Other Division schools receiving support for their anti-bullying efforts included Cecil Rhodes, Elmwood High, Gladstone, Isaac Brock, Kent Road, King Edward Community, Ralph Brown, R.B. Russell Vocational High and Robertson schools. These schools, through a variety of programs, are promoting kindness and empathy as a positive way to deal with bullying.

At Cecil Rhodes School, for example, there is a Caught You Caring program that recognizes students who demonstrate these qualities; other programs, such as Students for Change and Roots of Empathy, also help spread the word.

In addition to funding support, off-duty Winnipeg Police Service officers have been visiting Winnipeg schools to discuss bullying and the importance of kindness.



Photo by Jeff Miller

# Award-winning academics

The Division's Board of Trustees recently honoured some of the outstanding young academic minds from the 2012 graduating class.

Students and their families joined the board and their former high school administrators on Dec. 17 to be formally recognized for their achievements; each student was a recipient of the prestigious Governor General's Medal or the Division's Post Secondary Scholarship. Students were presented with \$50 book gift certificates during the ceremony at Administration Building No. 1.

Pictured here are: Caryl Ena Chau, St. John's High School (front, left); Ashley Cole, Collège Churchill; Karina Berezanska, Tec Voc High School; Jessica Bondoc, St. John's (second row, left); Paul Lee, Kelvin High School; Jaryl Kawal-Henderson, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute; Kimia Sheikholeslami, Kelvin (third row, left); Kadille Nevado, Tec Voc; Jacky Ng, Sisler High School; Kristen Larson, Argyle Alternative High School (fourth row, left); Mitchell Engen, Churchill High School; Sheyanne Gauthier, R.B. Russell Vocational High School (back row, left); Ryan Sigurdson, Winnipeg Adult Education Centre; and Phuc Dang, Elmwood High School.

Not pictured: Hayley Rice-Lampert, Argyle; Charli Ballantyne and Beverly Pettit, Children of the Earth High School; Grace Wood, Elmwood; Morag Morison and Haley Pauls, Gordon Bell High School; Kara Henrie and Ara Dungca, Grant Park High School; Simion Smith, R.B. Russell; and Doaa Habeeb, WAEC.



# Volunteerism draws mayoral honour

Sheila Milner is a familiar face in the halls of Mulvey School. As a founder of the Laura Milner White Foundation, Ms. Milner has helped build her late daughter's legacy of volunteering into a humanitarian force unto itself, providing enrichment opportunities for students from Mulvey and other Division schools.

Ms. Milner has been a driving force in enabling students to receive private music lessons, as well as creating the Kids in the Kitchen after-school nutrition program. She continues to champion literacy through book drives and other projects.

On Oct. 15, Ms. Milner was presented with one of the Mayor's Senior of the Year Awards, in the Arts category. She was nominated by former Mulvey students Grace Moore and Havanah Soldier.

"It's incredible to be presented with an award for something you love doing," said Ms. Milner, who was a Winnipeg teacher for many years. "It was so very nice to be nominated."

She also praised the many other volunteers who help make the foun-

ation's efforts possible; prior to passing away due to cancer, Laura Milner White had spoken with her friends about volunteering, laying the groundwork for the foundation.

"It started with Laura volunteering with just one family, mentoring two daughters," Ms. Milner said. "She spoke with her friends about making it something bigger."

Today, the foundation provides students with enrichment opportunities that range from dance to camp experiences and more.

Grace Moore, a former Mulvey student who now attends École River Heights School, said students appreciated the work of the foundation's many volunteers.

"If it wasn't for the foundation, I would have never had the chance to play the violin," she said. "Lots of kids wouldn't have had the chance to do all of these activities."

"It's about giving inner city youth opportunities they might not otherwise have," Ms. Milner added. "I keep doing this because I believe in Laura's project and I knew she believed in it."



Right: Sheila Milner is an integral part of the Mulvey School community. Pictured here are support teacher Jennifer Cox, Ms. Milner, a student and Principal Peter Corriea.

# Reading role models

A diverse roster of guest readers joined École Robert H. Smith School for its recent Read-a-thon.

The event, which had students take part in a "stop-drop-and-read" en masse, was designed as a school fundraiser for field trips and other student-related areas.

Students' parents—ranging from a wide variety of occupations and cultures—came to the school to discuss the importance of reading in their lives. The special guests also read books that specifically dealt with the Seven Aboriginal Teachings.

"Everyone should learn about the

Seven Teachings," said Grade 6 student Thomas Pye. "They're about becoming a good person and respecting and loving each other. The whole world can learn from them."

Principal Tom Rossi said the school decided to take a different approach to the annual event this year. "With Aboriginal Education being one of the Division priorities, we wanted today to be a teachable moment based around the Seven Teachings—these are every day values," he said. "So we invited a cross-section of parents and Winnipeggers to come in today and

talk to students about how important these values are."

Mr. Rossi added that by inviting parents from many different occupations, students could see the possibilities of the school-to-work connection.

Parent Paul Essiembre, who is a professional actor, said he enjoyed visiting the school: "To me, this is all part of building a community—getting a sense of who we all are as we live together and help our kids grow and learn."

Building on that community connection—and the theme of sustainable development—students and families also donated gently used books for the local Boys and Girls Club.



Robert H. Smith parent and RCMP Constable Scott Magnus reads to students about courage—one of the Seven Aboriginal Teachings.

# Students, teachers passionate about Science Fair

The Division's annual Science Fair may be months away, but organizers and keen students have already circled April 17, 2013 on their calendars.

That's when the 43rd annual Winnipeg Schools Science Fair takes place at Brodie Centre on the University of Manitoba's Bannatyne Campus. For a select few students—and teachers—the fair is a stop on the road to the Canada-Wide Science Fair.

Brian Burridge, a science/math teacher at St. John's High School, has long been sold on the academic and character-building virtues of the fair for students.

"Science fairs are all about learning by discovery," he said. "It's self-taught and it's very effective. The students are learning about something they have a true interest in—so they tend to do a great job in their investigations."

This year, Mr. Burridge received the Canada-Wide Science Fair's Distinguished Service Award for his longtime contributions to the fairs; since 1985, only two other Winnipeg educators have received the award. The teacher has been part of the country's science fair movement for 34 years, including ten trips to national events.

Like other organizers on the Division's Science Fair committee, Mr. Burridge is excited about returning to the U of M's Bannatyne Campus for the 2013 event.

"We were all just thrilled with the facility," he said. "It's a



Teachers Brian Burridge and Victoria Green with students.

win-win...it's terrific exposure for our students and the U of M has just bent over backwards to accommodate us."

Three Division students—École secondaire Kelvin High School's Daren El-Sayed, Grant Park High School's Amanda Wong and Churchill High School student Heba El Gubtan—advanced from the local science fair to head to Charlottetown for the Canada-Wide fair. Mr. Burridge and Kelvin teacher Victoria Green accompanied the students to the fair as delegates.

Daren's project, "Antibiotic Activity in Oregano" earned the Intermediate Platinum Award in

Winnipeg and a bronze medal/\$1,000 Western University scholarship at Canada-Wide.

She pursued her project after finding that oregano had a high antibiotic response to E. coli bacteria in a previous science fair project.

"I wanted to see what was responsible for this activity and whether it would have activity against other bacteria," she said. "I chose the four most common human infections...I found oregano had antibiotic activity against all four bacteria and I was able to identify two compounds responsible for this activity."

Amanda's project, "Infrared Camera Touch Screens," won the

University of Manitoba Science Innovator Award locally, and also earned a silver medal and a \$2,000 Western University scholarship at Canada-Wide. The project sought to create technology that would turn an ordinary sheet of glass into a touch screen—as an alternative to current touch screens, which draw from a finite supply of rare metals.

"With this idea, you could have scalable screens. You could turn a whole store window into a touch screen," Amanda said.

For both Amanda and Daren, the national fair was an once-in-a-lifetime experience—and not just because of the opportunity to share their projects at a high level of competition. The students had a chance to meet like-minded peers from every province, territory and even other countries, such as Australia and Taiwan.

"You have all of these people that have similar interests. You're all into science and are really motivated to go back into science fair every year. You can talk about almost anything, because you really understand each other," Amanda said.

The students also had plenty of opportunities to see Charlottetown and PEI.

"It was amazing to be able to do science, but at the same time you're having an adventurous trip and meeting so many new people," Daren said.

The deadline for project submissions for the Division's 2013 Science Fair is March 19.

## Novel opens frank discussions about bullying

Grade 7 students at Collège Churchill explored the different roles in the bullying equation during a recent study of the novel *The Beech Nut of Big Water Beach*.

Author Margaret Shaw-MacKinnon visited students for several days in October to help launch the weeks-long study of the book. The novel is about Munro McLean, a boy who seeks refuge from bullies through art. He meets artist Cassandra Beech—labelled "The Beech Nut" by the locals at Big Water Beach—and her grandniece Alison. When bullies begin to target Alison, Munro transforms from a bullying victim to being a bystander.

Following the book's release, Ms. Shaw-MacKinnon worked with educators to develop a study guide and an anti-bullying guide for use in classrooms.

"The kids in this book all take these different roles of bully, bullied and bystander at one time or another," Ms. Shaw-MacKinnon told *Our Schools* in 2009, when the classroom materials were being piloted at R.B. Russell Vocational High School.

Churchill students Cameron Stubbs and Stephen Adamopoulos said the book gave classes a chance to examine the issue of bullying in depth.

"We talked about the different types of bullying...there's physical, verbal and relational, which is like ignoring people or making jokes behind their back," Stephen said. "You're never too old to talk about bullying."

Students also looked at ways to switch from being a passive bystander to making a difference when it comes to bullying.

"You should try to help the victim in any way possible," Cameron said. "You could go get a teacher or speak up and tell the bully to lay off the victim."

Both students said they enjoyed listening to the author read from her novel.



Students with copies of *The Beech Nut of Big Water Beach*.

"I didn't know that we would get to meet the author, I was surprised she came," Cameron said. "She was good at reading and put lots of expression into it."

# Pink power!

Grade 1-4 students at Earl Grey School issued a unified message against bullying with a recent pink t-shirt campaign.

Teacher Catherine Tattersall organized the event, which had students dyeing white t-shirts pink in a symbolic nod to a similar campaign in Nova Scotia's Central Kings Rural High School. Students there staged a pink shirt rally several years ago after a student was bullied for wearing a pink polo shirt.

"My shirt has a bulldog with boxing gloves on it, he's like a bully, and then I have a line going through it," Grade 3 student Ailis Halligan. "On the back it says 'Together we have one

voice, let's use it to stop bullying.' This is a way to say that we are all standing up together against bullying."

Other shirts included the "Caught You Caring" catchphrase, which encourages students to say and do positive things when they interact with others.

Other Pink Day activities included a Winnipeg Police Service presentation on personal safety.

"We're always having discussions about personal safety and how students can resolve conflicts in positive ways," said Principal Gail Singer. "We want students to feel empowered, to feel that they can work together."



## Want to get involved? Work with kids?

Volunteer Opportunities in the Winnipeg School Division



### Who can volunteer?

Anyone over the age of 16 who can invest two hours per week, with a minimum four-month commitment during the school year.

### Here are just some of the many things volunteers do:

- Tutor one child or a small group of children;
- Assist in the school library, computer lab, classroom or with after-school programs such as Cadets, Running & Reading Club or Homework Clubs;
- Participate in parent councils;
- Read to students;
- Mentor at-risk students;
- Supervise field trips or overnight camps;
- Test children's hearing;
- Work with refugee/war affected students;
- Play and cuddle with infants;
- Coach sports, assist with drama or music classes.

### Thinking of volunteering to help kids?

School volunteers positively affect children's lives in many ways: from inspiring them to do better in school to motivating them to be better citizens.



## Needed now!

### Volunteer Tutors for Adult Literacy

- Volunteer tutors are required for 2 to 3 hours a week to assist adult learners with improving their reading, writing and comprehension skills.
- Classes run from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday to Friday and are located at the Winnipeg Adult Education Centre, 700 Elgin.
- Volunteers will assist students either one on one or in a classroom setting under the direction of the classroom teacher.
- Volunteers are also required to tutor students in Basic Math as well as up to Grade 11 Essential Math.
- If you are interested in applying to volunteer or would like more information, please contact one of the Winnipeg School Division Volunteer Services Coordinators.

### How to become a volunteer

Contact one of the volunteer coordinators to schedule an interview:  
phone: 204-474-1513 or 204-453-1748;  
email: volunteerservices@wsd1.org.

## Tec Voc joins FIT roster



The FIT program offers certificate training in four focus areas: business and information analysis, software design, network and systems operations and interactive media.

Tec Voc High School has joined a growing national partnership of schools, educators and IT professionals in a program designed to build Canada's next wave of tech talent.

The Information and Communications Technology Council's Focus on Information Technology (FIT) community provides curriculum for Grade 11 and 12 classrooms designed to meet industry needs. Partners include Google Canada, Cisco Canada, Canada's Association of IT Professionals and a growing roster of schools across Canada; to date, over 2,500 students have been certified through the program.

On Dec. 5, Tec Voc hosted a news conference announcing that Manitoba was joining the FIT community—alongside existing members Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, B.C., Newfoundland and New Brunswick.

Speakers at the event included Division Board of Trustees Chair Rita Hildahl, Manitoba Deputy Minister of Education Gerald Farthing, ICTC vice-president Norman McDevitt, Google Canada's Colin McKay, Cisco Networking Academy's Wadih Zataar, Manitoba Director of Application Management Services Kerry Augustine and Principal Gordon Crook.

"This is an exciting day for Tec Voc and all of the students across the province," Ms. Hildahl said. "You will have access to an Information Technology program designed to develop the skills essential for working in the 21st Century. This program will present students with an opportunity to have a head start on post-secondary education goals by providing you with a foundation of technical, business and interpersonal skills."

Tec Voc student Richard Camara, who is pursuing a career in programming, said the FIT partnership was a chance for students to build their career prospects.

"It's great to be able to get recognized with a national-scale certificate. We already offer the A+ certification, but now there's the FIT certificate, as well as the work experience...it's a great opportunity."



# Churchill athletic complex officially opens

Students, staff and alumni of Churchill High School and Collège Churchill have officially cut the tape and opened the new Bill Madder Outdoor Athletic Complex.

The complex is named in honour of Bill Madder, a respected former Churchill administrator. He served as vice-principal from 1956 to 1962 and then as principal from 1965 until 1980.

Mr. Madder was in attendance at the Sept. 13 opening ceremony, along with speakers that included Winnipeg School Division Board Chair Rita Hildahl, Board Vice-Chair Mark Wasyliw, MP Joyce Bateman, MLA James Allum and City Councillor Jenny Gerbasi.

"I wish to congratulate and thank everyone involved in making this outdoor complex possible: the students, staff, alumni, the community and various levels of government," Ms. Hildahl said. "It is truly amazing to see how this dream to create a brand new athletic complex has become a reality."

The \$375,000 facility includes a new field and drainage system and a soft-surface running track with crumb tire rubber. The field has been realigned to match neighbouring Churchill Drive.

Major contributions from Audrey MacDonald, Churchill alumnus John Loewen, the City of Winnipeg, the

Province of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Foundation, the Children's Heritage Fund, the Manitoba Tire Stewardship and other school alumni boosted fundraising efforts. Vice-Principal Joyce Wong and Collège Churchill Principal Josie Audino heartily thanked the project's many supporters.

Parent council member Betty Cinq-Mars said all of the efforts to build the complex have created a community legacy.

"This will benefit the school and community for years to come," she told students. "A lot of you will end up with children of your own that will use this field."

Background planning and fundraising began in earnest in 2005, following Churchill's 50th anniversary. The school had long needed a field with proper drainage; "mud bowl" football games became a tradition at the school over the years.

"The kids are thrilled to have a great facility like this...it's safe and it drains perfectly," said phys. ed. teacher Brian Loeppky. "The track is already being used by the community, and we're hoping to get our track and field program going as well."

Varsity quarterback Will Reimer said it would be nice to have a home field advantage again.

"We played all of our games on the road last year," he said. "It will be a



Cutting the ribbon to officially open the new Bill Madder Outdoor Athletic Complex.

lot different this year—we'll have more fans coming out and it will be great just having a presence here again. It feels good knowing that we have so many people who care about

this community and this school."

Organizers are now fundraising for the next phase of the project, which will include bleacher seating for spectators.

## Program puts players on the ice



Safeway District Manager Larry Tholl (left, foreground), Dufferin Principal Wayne Wyke, Home Learning Support Worker Rick Boucher, students, Grant Park Store Manager Larry Fortes and staff at the Grant Park Safeway with a \$1,000 cheque for the Dufferin Hockey Academy. Mr. Fortes, who volunteers extensively with Winnipeg community hockey, selected the Dufferin program to receive the donation after he won the Heart of Safeway Volunteer Hero Award.

Approximately 45 boys and girls from Dufferin School are taking to the ice every week as part of the Dufferin Hockey Academy.

The pilot program, which is operated in conjunction with the Freight House Community Centre, has students getting weekly ice time at nearby Pioneer Arena. Organizers hope to provide additional coaching and skill building for students who are currently playing with the Central Flames as part of the Seven Oaks Minor Hockey Association.

Dufferin Home Learning Support Worker Rick Boucher, who also coaches in the program, said students are broken up into three different age groups between five to 10-years-old.

"A lot of these students are just being introduced to hockey," Mr. Boucher said. "Freight House and Dufferin are connecting to help with equipment, registration and ice times, and other issues like transportation. We want to meet the students' needs to

help them play the game. This is building motivation and giving them something positive. It's a character builder."

Grade 6 student Tianna Sumner said she has enjoyed having the chance to lace up and compete.

"I like playing against teams from other communities," said Tianna, who plays centre. "I feel proud to wear a jersey and play on the Flames."

Principal Wayne Wyke said organizers became interested in starting the academy after seeing the impact the sport was having on students.

"The students play games every Sunday, and we noticed Monday mornings that there would be a buzz in the school," Mr. Wyke said. "So we're building on that. This is teaching students how to work together as a team and set goals."

In the future, organizers are hoping to expand the program to include full-day camps, nutritional meals and a larger cohort of students.

## Career connection



Anders Boulanger works his magic with Argyle students.

Photo by Jeff Miller

Students at Argyle Alternative High School heard from entrepreneurs, artists and speakers from many different fields at the school's Dec. 5 Career Day.

Guests included magician and keynote speaker Anders Boulanger, Complex Games president and co-founder Noah Decter-Jackson, TSN journalist Sara Orlesky, Access River East midwife Janet Macaulay, Leah Arnott (an interior designer and owner of Arnott + Associates), Archangel Fireworks president Kelly Guile and more.

The event marked the second year that work education supervisor

Mike Plaetinck and career advisor Robyn Laurie organized the fair.

"Every staff member takes on multiple responsibilities from supervising sessions, directing students to the appropriate rooms to preparing and serving food at lunch. If not for the support of the Argyle staff, our Career Day wouldn't be possible," Mr. Plaetinck said.

He also thanked the day's many presenters: "These individuals took time out from running their companies to give our students insight on how to become successful in their respected fields...and what they are looking for in an employee."

Files courtesy of Argyle

# Purple poetry

Students at Queenston School were treated to a lively poetry reading and workshop courtesy of popular Canadian children's author Sheree Fitch.

Ms. Fitch was brought to Queenston by organizers from Thin Air, the Winnipeg International Writers' Festival in September.

The author's works include *Peek-a-Little Boo*, *Toes On My Nose* and the classic *Mabel Murple*, whose titular heroine is more than a little preoccupied with purple.

Dressed in a brilliant purple shirt for the visit, Ms. Fitch shared her affinity for the colour with Queenston students; also high on her list of favourite things is the love of words. She even spent years trying to come up with just the perfect lines for a poem that used the words "beagle" and "bagel."

"After all these years and all of these books, I still don't find writing easy," said Ms. Fitch, who splits her time living in Nova Scotia and Washington D.C. "It's a challenge that's exciting for me. An empty page is like a big ocean...and I'm going to make something happen with my words."

Ms. Fitch told students that she never expects perfection the first time she puts an idea to paper; she always writes several drafts.

"The next time you're writing something, and the teacher asks you to try it again—she's not just making you do more work. The teacher knows that if you go over it again, your writing will be that much more beautiful and perfect."

Students Carolyn Currie and Emma Monti both cited *Mabel Murple* as their favourite book by the author.

"I like how she strings together words that normally wouldn't go together, but she makes it sound like they belong beside each other," Carolyn said.

"Her poetry is always fun, but she also has a book *If You Could Wear My*



A pleasantly purple-clad Sheree Fitch chats with students at Queenston School.

*Sneakers*, which is about children's rights...poetry is a good way to write about that," Emma added.

The author thanked Thin Air organizers, along with Queenston teacher-librarian Ellen Donogh, for an enjoyable visit.

## Employees stuff a bus in support of Cheer Board



Winnipeg School Division employees held their first Stuff a School Bus campaign on Dec. 12 on behalf of the Christmas Cheer Board.

Non-perishable food items, toys and cash were collected at Administration Buildings No. 1 and 2, Prince Charles Education Resource Centre, the Child Guidance Clinic and the Division's Service Building on Spruce Street for families in need. Pictured above, First Student Canada's Ron Yaworski and Santa load up the bus with presents and food for families (missing: Building Department South District Manager Murray McLenehan).

(Inset) In the spirit of the season, students from Kelvin High School choral program - including Kristen MacDonell (left) and Alison Helmer - joined the trip to provide musical accompaniment.



A parent and her son read a book together at the Teddy Bear Picnic reading party.

## Bears night out

Papa bears, mama bears and baby bears joined together for a night of reading and literacy fun at Lord Nelson School.

School staff, the Division's Volunteer Services Department and Kathy Gerylo, an Area Service Director/Speech Language Pathologist with the Child Guidance Clinic, partnered to host the Nov. 15 event for local families with children one-to-six years of age.

Children and parents enjoyed reading books together, took part in nursery sing-alongs and crafts during the family-focused event, dubbed the Teddy Bear Picnic. Similar events have been scheduled or have already taken place at Carpathia, Cecil Rhodes and Machray schools.

"This evening is all about parents and children having fun together, but

the underlying message is that we want parents to understand how important rhyme is—it's an important literacy skill. We also want them to understand how important reading and talking is," Ms. Gerylo said. "Kids that are good talkers become good readers."

Ms. Gerylo said that even in very early childhood, children should be exposed to books and stories—even as many as 5,000 before the child is old enough to attend school. Families received books to take home following the event.

"We're talking about three books a day, every day, right from birth. Having events like this one is a way to get these simple-but-important messages out."

Parent Rhealyn Mostoles said she enjoyed sharing a night of reading and games with her son Kurt Eric, who is in kindergarten.

"I'm busy a lot of the time, so this is my chance to have a play date with him," she said. "I'm enjoying it, and when I look at my son, I know he's enjoying it too."

# Village author delights students

David J. Smith, author of the celebrated children's book *If the World were a Village*, visited Grosvenor School in November to help set the groundwork for a new inquiry project.

The school has used the book as a starting point for several major inquiry projects in recent years, especially in the areas of local and global citizenship. The projects drew the attention of the author and soon Principal Brad Corbett and staff were discussing a possible visit with Mr. Smith.

The former teacher has seen his book sell almost a million copies in North America, as well as being published in 24 different languages and 26 countries.

"I am, without a doubt, the luckiest Grade 7 teacher that ever lived," Mr. Smith said. "Not only did I make the decision to leave the classroom and have some success with the book, but I'm still able to be in the classroom in so many different places...I visit 150 different schools a year."

Mr. Smith met students at a school-wide assembly before working with classrooms individually on this year's inquiry project—which

focuses on sustainable development on the local front.

"We've defined education for sustainable development as having enough for all, for everyone, forever," Mr. Corbett said. "Teachers are looking for connections to make to the curriculum and the inquiry, and they've shared their thoughts and the students' wonderings and inquiries with David ahead of time. Now he's going into the classrooms to help build on that learning."

One exercise had students seeking out a natural water source relative to their school—the norm in many countries that don't enjoy water on tap.

"If we can reach a point where people in the world can agree that the rights of children are important, that's a huge step—right now, the work is much more basic," Mr. Smith said, noting the millions of children who lack a simple birth certificate to acknowledge their existence.

Grade 6 student Graham Irwin said students appreciated the author's extended visit.

"It's nice to just have him around, but I also feel this will be a great learning experience for all of us," he said.



With a simple exercise using a few chairs, author David J. Smith and Grosvenor students demonstrate the crowded living conditions in other parts of the globe.

## Lord Nelson garden gets green award



Lord Nelson students in the school's award-winning garden.

Lord Nelson School's gardening efforts recently drew the attention of judges in Take Pride Winnipeg's 2012 Winnipeg In Bloom contest.

The garden, which serves as a location to educate about sustainable development, Aboriginal traditions, sciences and other topics, received the Northwest Winnipeg Award for Community Effort.

For students and staff, the garden has become a source of pride at the school, and evidence of what hard work can accomplish.

"This is important to me because the plants are a living community—and it's like that because of all of us helping the plants," said Grade 5 student Michael Cabral. "All classes use the garden to learn about things like different rocks, animal life cycles and types of soil."

"This award means a lot to me because our garden helps the environment," said fellow Grade 5 student Aurora Pilon. "We have been building our garden for seven years now...in the summer I came to the school every day for a drop-in program. I helped weed and water the plants; we also played games in the garden."

A seven-member teacher committee and active parent involvement have helped the garden to thrive over the years. The Lord Nelson student Green Team also helps to look after the garden year-round; members look at their involvement as a way to give back to the neighborhood.

"I want to be a leader in my school and I want to teach others how important it is to take care of our community," said member Jayda Vince.

## An Ottawa encounter

Photo unavailable for website.

A Collège Churchill student recently travelled to the nation's capital to take part in Canada's largest youth forum.

Grade 12 students Jordie Moryl and Daniel Alpium went to Ottawa in October as part of the Encounters with Canada program.

The program brings together over 100 Anglophone and Francophone students from across the country every week during the school year; themes vary from sports to law to science and technology. Students also tour the city and learn more about Canadian institutions and explore potential career options.

Jordie attended during the sports themed week.

"We had the opportunity to not only do a lot of sports, but we also went to places like Parliament Hill and the Museum of Science and Technology," Jordie said. "They tried to give us a mix of sports and what the city had to offer."

During the sports and fitness themed weeks, participants can enjoy sports like Ultimate Frisbee, martial arts, wall-climbing, snowboarding, dragon-boating and a military style boot camp.

"The place we stayed at, the Terry Fox Youth Centre, even had courts for floor hockey and basketball, as well as a beach volleyball court," Jordie said. "The best part of the trip was getting to meet everybody from all across Canada. I made lots of friends and we've been able to keep in touch."

As one of the French-speaking students on the tour, Jordie was able to serve as an intermediary between students of different languages.

"That was a real bonus, because some of the kids from Quebec didn't have strong English, but I could communicate with them in French," Jordie said. "We all wanted to practise our second languages."

"To anybody who gets this opportunity to go to the forum, I'd recommend they take it. You'll always remember it."

# Transforming Education

The Manitoba Association of School Superintendents (MASS) recently issued a position statement on Aboriginal Education entitled *Transforming Manitoba Public Education: A View to the Future*.

It is fitting that Director of Aboriginal Education Val Georges and the Winnipeg School Division's Aboriginal Education team had a role in the writing of the document.

In 2008, Statistics Canada identified Manitoba and Winnipeg as having the largest concentration of Aboriginal people in Canada; much of that population lies within the borders of the Winnipeg School Division. For decades, the Division has been developing programs, teaching materials and other

resources to meet the needs of this rapidly-growing population, and has always been ready to share these resources with other schools, divisions and educators.

All of this past work has built the foundation for the transformation taking place today in the Division.

There are programs designed to connect students to first languages such as Ojibwe and Cree; students are learning more about the role of treaties in the creation of Canada, as well as the legacy of the residential school system. Schools are celebrating and studying the art, cultures and traditions of Canada's first people in many ways.

## Students supporting students

An Elmwood High School student collective is helping Aboriginal students adapt to life and education in Winnipeg.

Elmwood's Aboriginal Youth Leaders run on a student-supporting-students model; the group aims to provide new students with a sense of belonging, cultural awareness, identity, goal setting, networking and an active student voice.

The leadership group is based out of Elmwood's Student Success Initiative classroom; the school is one of several provincial pilot sites for the initiative, which is designed to boost graduation rates by supporting students in a variety of ways.

"For Aboriginal students who are new to the city, they can be so overwhelmed just by being in a building this size," said Student Success teacher Joanne Sabourin. "If you are going to support them, you need to support them from day one."

Leadership students meet weekly for noon hour meals, talks with guest speakers, crafts, group outings and to simply socialize; the young leaders have also organized events such as

Elmwood's well-attended school powwow last spring.

Students from all cultural backgrounds are welcome.

"I'm not Aboriginal, but that's okay because the group isn't about your background," said student Danielle Duchene. "The group is about having a sense of belonging."

Danielle added that the group was a great way to learn more about Aboriginal culture.

For example, student Robin Parisian—who has been a member for three years—has been showing students how to make beaded earrings and bracelets.

Networking is an important part of the leadership group; students are provided with contacts to the wide array of support organizations and services available at both the secondary and post-secondary level.

The leadership students have recently made connections with the community organization Restoring the Sacred; the students have been hired to serve as mentors to new students outside of Elmwood and the Division.



Elmwood students discuss Elmwood's Aboriginal Youth Leaders group with junior high students at the school.

"One of our focuses is to let students know about the resources that are out there," Ms. Sabourin said. "Once these students find a helpful resource, they bring that information home to their families, their cousins and even back home on the reserves."

The leadership students are in the midst of visiting junior high classrooms and creating a pamphlet to spread the word about the group.

"Half of our group is graduating this year, and we want to keep this sustainable," Ms. Sabourin said.

## Shaughnessy students spread the word about treaties

Five Shaughnessy Park School students are helping to spread the word about treaty education after appearing in public awareness commercials.

Students Akaljot Grewal, Tyler Huff, Frank Peltier, Kira Post and Breaa Berens-Hawkins appear in three separate commercials airing on CTV. The Treaty Education Initiative commercials were shot in conjunction with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba.

Ralph Brown School teacher David Costello heard about a casting call for the commercials and passed the word to his sister at Shaughnessy Park—Special Education Resource Teacher Lisa Costello.

"David worked on a pilot project in treaty education that all of the schools will soon be taking part in," Ms. Costello said. "He thought it would be great for Shaughnessy Park students to be involved."

The five students who took part in the commercials are multi-culturally diverse, which is appropriate given the fact that treaty education initiatives are spreading awareness about the importance of the treaties in the creation of the province—and as

such, are of relevance to all Manitobans. Each commercial features students in the classroom, asking questions and offering comments on the treaties.

"It was great for our students to help send that message to the entire province, that treaty education affects everyone," Ms. Costello said. "This helps the students to understand what they'll be learning and how it affects their lives."

Student Akaljot Grewal said students spent five hours on-set, and received professional make-up and hairstyling prior to their performances.

"We felt pretty proud of ourselves—we got DVDs of the commercials so we could take them home and show our families," Akaljot said. "We're going to be studying the treaties more this year...it's important to learn about them because they have a lot to do with our regular lives now."

"We tell the students that a treaty is just like an agreement or promise that you would make with a friend," Ms. Costello said. "We all should benefit from that promise. With the kids, it's amazing how quickly they find how



"We are all treaty people"

unfair things have become and that promises were broken. They know that their houses and their school are where they are because of treaties."

The commercials were screened for a cheering Shaughnessy Park student body during an assembly that

also included Manitoba Treaty Commissioner Jamie Wilson.

"It really got the kids talking to see their friends on television," Ms. Costello said.

To view the public service announcements, visit [www.trcm.ca](http://www.trcm.ca).

# A Project of Heart

The Winnipeg School Division is hosting a major project designed to honour the survivors and victims of the residential school system.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada selected The Project of Heart as a national commemoration project in conjunction with the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation. Schools, youth groups, church and community groups are creating colourful tiles for public exhibits in every province and territory. Students will also create tiles for school-based commemorations.

“The Division will be working with community partners to put together an artistic commemoration,” said Director of Aboriginal Education Val Georges. “We’ll be working with Aboriginal artists and put all of the students’ work together in a display where the general public can see it.”

The project also has students researching and learning about the residential school system and its impact on Aboriginal families, communities and culture; this can include a visit from a residential school survivor.

“Many of our students, in some way, shape or form have been exposed to some of the intergenerational effects of the residential school system, while others have family and relatives who have been affected by residential schools,” Ms. George

said. “It’s important for us to recognize this piece of history and incorporate it into what we do as teachers and learners. It has so many implications for our students.

“By understanding the impact of residential schools and helping our students understand, we are supporting much more positive relations between Aboriginal people and schools. The residential schools were an attempt to use education to completely change a group of people...some people called it cultural genocide. The language and culture were removed, and education was the vehicle for that. So it’s important for educators to be involved in this healing process we’re undertaking now.”

Tyndall Park Community School teacher Joanna Braun was one of many Division educators who were inspired to take part in the project after attending a Dec. 4 workshop at Prince Charles Educational Resource Centre; the keynote speaker was Project of Heart National Coordinator Charlene Bearhead.

“Charlene was so passionate about helping people understand what happened to a lot of Aboriginal families...she really wants to get that knowledge out there,” Ms. Braun said. “That way, we can learn about what happened in the past and move forward to become more peaceful.”

Like many counterparts at other



*After learning more about the residential school system and its impact on Aboriginal people in Canada, students will create colourful tiles in honour of the victims and survivors.*

schools, Ms. Braun will be part of a teaching team that will examine the residential school system in depth—and then present the information in a manner that is accessible to students.

“We’re trying to make the words

understandable to students from four-years-old to 12-years-old,” she said.

Organizers are currently reviewing potential locations for the public exhibit, which will likely be unveiled in the spring or early summer.

## Support teacher named Aboriginal Educator of the Month



*Janice Millar—at her base of operations in Machray School—was the Aboriginal Education Directorate’s Educator of the Month for December. The educator is quick to credit the many Aboriginal consultants and curriculum writers who have worked with the Division over the years for starting the path for the current Aboriginal education team.*

Janice Millar—the Division’s Inner City Aboriginal Education Support Teacher—recently received the Educator of the Month honour from the province’s Aboriginal Education Directorate.

“Aboriginal Education isn’t just for Aboriginal students. It’s very universal,” Mrs. Millar said. “It’s all about identity. ‘Who am I? What is my purpose? Where is my voice, and how do I sound it out in a positive way?’”

Much of Mrs. Millar’s upbringing was about answering those questions—and many more. The educator’s father was a proud Métis from Fannystelle, MB, while her mother was a member of Fisher River First Nation. Growing up, Mrs. Millar would ask relatives, Elders and others about her history and culture.

The answers weren’t always easy to find; the residential school system had created huge divisions between people and their culture.

“Every time someone finally did share a story, I could feel something grow in my heart and in my spirit. It felt good...and growing up in the city, when you went to school, there wasn’t always a lot of feel good moments,” she said.

In many ways, Mrs. Millar’s career has been about helping students make similar connections to their culture and identity. She first joined the Division in 1987 as a volunteer cultural advisor to the young women at Aberdeen School. She would later become an educational assistant and obtain her Bachelor of Education degree and a Post Baccalaureate in Counselling, while working at R.B. Russell Vocational High School.

“This generation now has the most freedom of any indigenous people since the time of contact...people like me have a responsibility to make sure students are being connected to our ancestral ways of teaching and learning.”

Eight years ago, she joined the Division’s new Aboriginal Education Department. Today, as a support teacher in the Inner City District, Mrs. Millar works closely with teachers seeking to integrate Aboriginal education into the curriculum.

“It’s all about the students, they’re at the centre of all the work I do,” Mrs. Millar said. “Children can quite easily find ways to pick each other apart and separate themselves from each other. But when they realize they all have common ground, they all have a story and they all have a right to share that story...that creates a different environment and brings children together.”

Mrs. Millar’s life story is profiled in depth at the Manitoba Education website: [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/aed/publications/educators/educator\\_dec2012.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/aed/publications/educators/educator_dec2012.html).

# Talking about treaties

Teachers from across the Division gathered at Prince Charles Education Resource Centre for the first-ever Treaty Education Project training session.

"We're here today to ensure that future generations know and understand the Canadian treaties," Director of Aboriginal Education Val Georges said to educators at the Dec. 20 session.

While first nations' treaties are covered in the provincial Grade 5-6 social studies curriculum, the Treaty Education Project has been established to provide a deeper understanding for educators and ultimately students. At least one Grade 5 or 6 teacher from each school will take part in three training days this school year; in turn, they will serve as trainers in their schools.

The Division's Aboriginal Education committee has created a teaching kit and support document to provide teachers with resources that are student-friendly and inquiry focused. Plans are in the works to create an additional teaching kit for Grades 1-4 next year.

"We're providing teachers with

materials, supports and the knowledge that will allow them to make treaty education a part of their social studies programs at their schools," Ms. Georges said.

The Treaty Education Project coincides with a Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba public awareness campaign—comprised of television spots, advertisements and other media—to convey the message that "We are All Treaty People." Traditionally, first nations' treaties have rarely been discussed in depth at the school level.

"I grew up in a Métis community that was surrounded by first nation reserves, yet I had no idea what a treaty was," Ms. Georges said. "The first time I can recall ever hearing about treaties when I went to school was in the context of the First World War and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, between Germany and the Allied Forces. Very few of us, whether we're Aboriginal or not, know much about treaties."

As a result, there are many misconceptions about the treaty process; one is that there were no preexisting forms of first nations' governance



Inner City District Aboriginal Education Support Teacher Janice Millar (centre) talks with teachers during a round-table discussion at the first Treaty Education Project training session.

prior to colonial contact. Part of the focus during the first training session was on these early governance models, such as the Anishinabe clan system.

"Prior to Europeans arriving on the shores of North America, there were governance models that existed," Ms. Georges said. "People just didn't run around doing whatever they wanted. They existed in harmony with their environment and one another."

Further sessions will examine topics such as the different perceptions of concepts like gift-giving, the pipe, the pen and sharing the land—and how these influenced the treaty

process.

First nations' treaties were not only a major chapter in Canada's formation; the treaties continue to shape the country today.

"There is a time of change coming, and our students really need to understand that without treaties, we don't have Canada," said Inner City Aboriginal Education Support Teacher Janice Millar. "Historically, that was not taught in schools, but now the time has changed. Now, we need to acknowledge that. It's a journey...there's still lots to do, but I think this is a time of celebration and healing."

# Young readers explore residential schools story



Margaret Pokiak-Fenton reads a passage from *Fatty Legs* to Sister MacNamara and Niji Mahkwa students.

Students from Sister MacNamara and Niji Mahkwa Schools heard the story of one woman's residential school experi-

ences during a recent visit by authors Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton.

*Fatty Legs: A True Story* recounts

Margaret's experiences as an eight-year-old Inuvait girl; she leaves her home and attends a Catholic residential school in Aklavik. She is forced to speak English instead of her traditional language and is not allowed to wear any clothing that had cultural elements; she receives the nickname "Fatty Legs" after having to wear a pair of red stockings.

When Margaret's daughter-in-law Christy heard about the red stockings and other stories about the residential schools, she knew she wanted to get it down on paper.

"I thought 'this is a story I have to write,'" Christy said. "So I begged and begged Margaret to let me do it."

The book balances childhood stories most children can relate to—such as bullying—with the hardships of living in an environment where cultural identity is stripped away.

"The thing that is hard for us to understand is that we usually think of schools as a place of learning," Christy said. "But residential school was much more about making sure children didn't learn. What they didn't want the children to learn was how to live off the land."

The schools not only removed students' connection to the land and their cultural identity, but strained bonds with their parents as well.

"I think one of the worst things that happened at the schools was the

distance that was created between the parents and children," Christy told students. "When Margaret went home, she was ten and no longer spoke her traditional language, and her mother barely spoke English...imagine going home today and not being able to speak to your Mom at all."

She added that because of this disconnection from their families, the students grew up with no role models for parenthood: "When they grew up and had children, they had to figure out how to be a parent without knowing about bedtime stories or other things like that."

Niji Mahkwa student Darnell Mason and Sister MacNamara student Dawn Jack both said it was important to learn about the residential school system.

"My Grandma went to a residential school, but she didn't talk about what happened," Dawn said.

"We've also learned about the residential schools in social studies," Darnell added. "My great-grandma went to one too...I'm glad schools are better now."

Christy and Margaret have written a sequel to *Fatty Legs*, describing Margaret's return to her family: *A Stranger At Home*. A third book, *When I Was Eight*, is aimed at younger readers and will be published in 2013.

# Learning first languages

Students and staff at Lord Roberts School started off the new year by offering students a chance to learn two of Canada's oldest languages.

The school's Aboriginal Languages Program, which is open to students in Grades 4-6, provides students with specialized instruction once a week. The school's current South District Aboriginal Education Support teacher Linda Marynuk will teach Ojibwe, while language support teacher Rudy Okemaw will teach Cree. Students and their families can decide which language to focus on.

So far interest has been high; 39 families, some with Aboriginal backgrounds and some without, have expressed a desire to have their children take part.

"To me, language is a cornerstone of identity," said Ms. Marynuk, who grew up using Ojibwe as her first language. "When kids learn the language, they learn more about their culture. And for the other students, there is that enrichment that comes with learning a language.

"This program brings everyone together as a community, there's that mutual respect. Kids are proud of who they are, and who their friends are. This benefits everybody."

While Aboriginal languages have dwindled due to detrimental government policies—such as the implementation of residential schools in years past—there has been resurgence in recent years.

"The books and resources are always growing," Ms. Marynuk said. "We've been collecting materials to put this program together. We'll start with the basics and move on from there."

Student Maya Anderson, who has Ojibwe roots, said she was looking forward to studying the language.

"I want to learn more about my background," she said. "It's something to be proud of."

Other teachers, including Grade 4/5 teacher Marla Tran, will also be learning alongside their students.

"We're really excited about the program," Ms. Tran said. "This is



Teacher Marla Tran (left), students and South District Aboriginal Education Support teacher Linda Marynuk are looking forward to the launch of the Aboriginal Languages Program at Lord Roberts.

an important way to infuse Aboriginal perspectives into the curriculum; it brings culture into

the school setting and gives students an opportunity they may not have had elsewhere."

## Blood Memory

Photo unavailable for website.

Still courtesy of Argyle Sox Productions.

Argyle Alternative High School's video production program continues to create professional-caliber, culturally-conscious work with the release of its latest film, *Blood Memory*.

Set and filmed in Winnipeg, the movie follows a teen in the child welfare system as she reconnects with her Aboriginal roots; the term "blood memory" refers to a memory that exists at birth, even in the absence of sensory experience.

"It's about a girl, Anna, who is adopted at a young age and later on she goes on a spiritual journey to find herself and her family," said student and lead actress Vanessa Morrisseau. "She goes to a sweat during a school field trip and starts to explore different cultures."

Vanessa said she was easily able to relate to her character.

"Before, I wasn't really into Aboriginal culture, but I guess I used

that as a reference for her character," said Vanessa, who now takes part in sweats and other Aboriginal culture events regularly.

"It was like Vanessa was also on a journey herself," said teacher John Barrett, who guided students during the project alongside educational assistant Dave Berg.

Student director Kane Kirton co-wrote the screenplay with fellow student screenwriters Sam Bear and Maria Cook. Preproduction on the film began last spring, with shooting taking place in May and June. Post-production continued into early November.

The school's video production program has made many award-winning and notable films in the past, including an Aboriginal-casted and reimagined version of John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. The school even obtained official permission from the Steinbeck estate to make the film.

For *Blood Memory*, the student cast and crew mentored with a number of professional Aboriginal artists to help the film take shape. Graphic novelist Dave Robertson held creative writing workshops with students to help generate the script, while Oscar winning singer/songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie consulted with students during the scoring process.

"Throughout the process, the students were learning from professionals," Mr. Barrett said.

The film was screened at the most recent Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival, where it earned Best Student Film and Best Short.

"We were proud at how well the film did at the festival—everyone really seemed to like it," Vanessa said. "I've always wanted to be an actor, and now that I've done this, I'd love to get the chance to do it again."

The filmmakers plan to continue submitting *Blood Memory* to other festivals and television stations to bring the film to new audiences.

### DIVISION CO-HOSTS BSSAP GATHERING

The Winnipeg School Division recently partnered with the Aboriginal Education Directorate to host the 2012 Building Student Success with Aboriginal Parents (BSSAP) Gathering.

The Manitoba government launched the BSSAP program in 2004 to help increase the involvement of Aboriginal parents in education. The program funds school-initiated partnerships and programs that strengthen ties to parents and the community, with the ultimate goal of contributing to the educational successes of Aboriginal students.

This year's gathering, which was held on Oct. 29, offered educators and administrators an opportunity to share the experiences of their school-based parent and community engagement programs. Over 138 educators, speakers, Elders and other delegates took part in the event.

Activities included a gallery walk for sharing BSSAP programs and projects, as well as rotating professional development sessions that focused on Cree and Ojibwe languages, Métis dancing, Michif language resources, medicine pouches, spirit stones and many other topics.

Diana Elliott, a provincial advisor for the Aboriginal Infant Development Programs of B.C., was the keynote speaker for the event, while Division students were also on hand to share their success stories and provide entertainment.

Director of Aboriginal Education Val Georges said the Division's Aboriginal Education team was honoured to co-host the event, and appreciated the opportunity to share resources and experiences with educators from across the province and Canada.

"We're a large Division and we have developed many resources for Aboriginal education. We are always more than willing to share what we're doing with Aboriginal education, whether that's with other schools or other Divisions."

# Standing together to address bullying

Former NHL player and abuse survivor Sheldon Kennedy (front right, kneeling) and Education Minister Nancy Allan visited Andrew Mynarski V.C. Junior High School in November for a friendly floor hockey game and a discussion about bullying.

The appearance was part of the Respect in School program, which offers an online resource to train teachers in recognizing and addressing issues such as bullying and harassment.

Students were encouraged to speak up against bullying, including speaking to teachers and staff at school that are trained to deal with such situations when they arise.



## Gingerbread math

A Grade 3/4 class at Inkster School undertook a home-building project of a different sort during a recent gingerbread house math unit.

Teacher Annie Kosanouvong's students analyzed different gingerbread stories, drew blueprints for their own house models and enjoyed plenty

of fun in math along the way. The house project covered math concepts such as perimeter, area, 2D/3D shapes, and real life usage of money using pattern blocks.

As a culminating activity, the class held a Goody Gumdrops Candy Store event where the students came to purchase, with patterned block money, the candies to design their gingerbread houses. Students were responsible for adding up their totals, informing the adult clerks how much they owed and decide which pattern block would be best used to get less change.

The event would not have been such a success without all of Inkster's parent volunteers, educational assistants and teachers.



Photo and files courtesy of Inkster

## Colourful corridor



Photo and files courtesy of Elmwood

Approximately 75 Elmwood High School students planned and painted a giant mural in the school's front linkway.

Artist Annie Bergen spent two weeks working with the Grade 7-12 students to create the piece, which intertwines themes of school, community spirit and students' personal lives.

The project was made possible thanks to generous funding from the Manitoba Arts Council, the Division's Children's Heritage Fund and a Gifted and Talented grant.

The mural, which is very visible from the street and sidewalk in front of the school, has added another unique touch of character to Elmwood.

Photo unavailable for website.

## Thumbs up!

Norquay School student Keith Dorion had a favourable review for his school's recent Breakfast with Santa event; students enjoyed a mouth-watering pancake breakfast and a visit from the big man himself on Dec. 21. Staff and volunteers hold the annual meal to share the Christmas Spirit with the Norquay community.

Photo by Jeff Miller

## Gingerbread palaces



Photo by Jeff Miller

Students from Machray School stopped by R.B. Russell Vocational High School over the holiday season to create some positively palatial gingerbread houses.



# Adobe accolade for Sisler tech program



Sisler Digital Voices students. The program is exploring the positive ways in which mobile technology can be used to educate and share ideas with students elsewhere in Canada and the United States.

Sisler High School's Digital Voices program—a web design and rich media program that is building far-spanning technology partnerships with other North American schools—was recently honoured as one of the three international finalists for the Adobe Educators' Choice Award.

The program has been recognized in the past year with either awards or finalist nominations from industry and government bodies such as Cisco, Microsoft and the Manitoba Premier's Innovation and Technology Award.

"This is a huge honour. It's great to have them recognize what we're doing here," said teacher Jamie Leduc, who has been part of the Adobe Education Exchange for over three years. "A lot of the students coming through the program are in the industry right now. We want them to have that experience with industry standards, whether that be with software or anything else."

As a result of being a finalist, the program won a technology package that includes Adobe software and a one-year subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud, which will allow students access to master software at home and school.

The program uses technology such as real-time video conferencing to connect with other schools in Winnipeg (including St. John's, Churchill and Children of the Earth high schools), Manitoba, Ontario and Philadelphia's School of the Future for both technology education and creative projects. Students and teachers collaborate on video tutorials to create a sizeable online resource for their partners.

"This program is no longer about one educator or school. Students are teaching students, students are teaching the teachers, and teachers are working together collaboratively," Mr. Leduc said. "If any of these other schools want to take this class, they can. They can pick and choose what units they need for their classes. We're doing a lot of video collaboration and conferencing and we're looking to push that to the next level."

One project had students from Philadelphia and Winnipeg working with a spoken word/hip hop artist Nereo Jr. Eugenio—and then filming their own spoken word performances with mobile devices and sharing them via video linkup.

Student Brittany Bryson said that technology is providing students with a tremendous opportunity to learn from each other.

"I'm learning a lot. You get to experience different cultures and different stories from these students from all over the place. When you share your own work, you're able to get so many different points of view and see how people interpret it."

School of the Future teacher Frank Machos was in Winnipeg for a Digital Voices year-end conference in June. The school has established its own Digital Voices program to help continue a dialogue that has so many educational, cultural and artistic possibilities.

"I really think that this is a model that can change the dialogue across the global community in terms of how multimedia and technology should be used to enhance education...not to complement it, not as a fun class, but really to showcase what the students have learned," he said.



Teacher Cathy Cullen runs laps with Harrow students during a typical recess at the school.

## Fitness role-model

When its recess time at Harrow School, it's not uncommon to see dozens of students speeding around the field like miniature tornadoes.

Students are busy logging laps as part of a school-wide Kilometre Club—and are inspired in no small part by their phys. ed. teacher Cathy Cullen.

As a marathon runner, Ms. Cullen has amassed an impressive list of times in recent years. In 2012, she earned a first place finish in the Winnipeg Police Service's Half Marathon (1:22:13), third place in the Manitoba Full Marathon (1:54:37) and 25th place (second Canadian) in the Chicago Full Marathon (1:52:07). She was also the women's winner of the full Manitoba Marathon in 2007.

"It's always been a passion of mine," said Ms. Cullen, who trains

six days a week in peak training periods. "There's no better feeling than setting personal goals, working really hard and then making them happen."

As well, there's the added bonus of cardio-vascular fitness, increased energy and all the other healthy benefits that physical activity can bring. Ms. Cullen strives to pass on the rewards of fitness to her many students.

"One of the reasons I keep running and active is to be a role model for the students," Ms. Cullen said. "When it comes to goal-setting, I want to show them that hard-work equals success."

Through the Kilometre Club, students earn shoe tokens for every 10 kilometres, while for every 20 kilometres, students earn a free gym period at lunch time.

"Kids are kids. It's just natural for them to be moving."



The dessert course behind-the-scenes.

## A feast of food and culture

Students, families and other members of the Sisler High School community enjoyed a tasty, sustainable meal and a diverse slate of cultural entertainment at the school's annual Fall Feast.

Teacher Lauren Sawchuk assembled a crack team of student chefs and servers to deliver a menu comprised of locally-grown and produced foods for the Oct. 18 meal. A portion of the proceeds were donated to Winnipeg Harvest.



*Bridging the Gap Program Manager, Deanna Kazina explains harvesting techniques to students.*



*One of the gourds harvested in the Burrows community garden.*

# Bridging the gap with nature

Situated in the 400 block of S Burrows Avenue, the William Whyte Residents Association's urban garden offers a natural oasis amidst the concrete sights and sounds of the city.

Grades 4 students at Strathcona School have been planting and harvesting their own vegetables at the site, while learning about science, sustainable development and Aboriginal culture through Bridging the Gap—an environmental education and stewardship program managed by Nature Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg's Naturalist Services Branch.

"People are very disconnected with nature these days...spaces like this give students a chance to make that connection," said Bridging the Gap Program Manager Deanna Kazina. "Our role is to help nurture that connection. In the bigger picture, there's something here for the students to be proud of—they're learning skills that will last a lifetime. It's empowering."

The program, which supplies all materials for the educational gardening experiences, also works with students at William Whyte Community, Pinkham and other Division schools. Bridging the Gap

also provides field trips to the Living Prairie Museum and Assiniboine Forest, as well as bringing Elders to the classroom to discuss nature and cultural connections.

In 2010, the William Whyte Residents Association joined with Strathcona Grade 4 teacher Elaine Mayham and Bridging the Gap to refurbish the Burrows garden. Students helped the garden take shape by moving soil and creating raised beds for plants.

"This is our third year of planting and harvesting here with Bridging the Gap," Ms. Mayham said. "The students plant when they're in Grade

4 and harvest in Grade 5—they bring the new Grade 4s with them to show them what to expect. They learn to respect the plants, the insects and the whole community garden. They see how much work is involved, and there are so many insights and science tied into it."

Strathcona pupils were excited to see the fruits of their labour during the fall harvest.

"The sunflowers grew the best this year," said student Marlon Sison. "We learned a lot of things here—like you should plant Marigolds with potatoes. The bugs that eat potatoes hate Marigolds."

Photo unavailable for website.

## Bieber bound!

École Stanley Knowles School student Chelsea Tolentino was thrilled to be handed the hottest ticket in town in October.

Virgin Radio deejays Chrissy Troy and LTI dropped in to her Grade 8 classroom to hand the shocked Grade 8 student a pair of tickets to see Justin Bieber live in concert.

The show, which was held at the MTS Centre, was long sold-out. When Chelsea's classmates and teacher Alyssa Greenberg found out

she didn't have a ticket to see her beloved pop idol, they called the radio station every day with hopes of getting her to the show.

Chelsea is known among her classmates as a hardworking, positive student who always has a smile and a kind word for others.

The efforts of the Stanley Knowles students obviously impressed the crew at Virgin Radio. When the deejays arrived in the classroom on Oct. 18, students cheered as they finally realized their campaign was a success—Chelsea was Bieber bound!

"You guys are so amazing, the fact that you would be so supportive of one of your friends," Chrissy Troy told the students.

## Puppets teach kindness, compassion



Students at Fort Rouge School met four new friends in October: Sophie, Jack, Natalie and Matthew, aka the Camp Quality puppets.

The puppets depict normal kids, but some are settling back into life after a few health setbacks. Sophie is a cancer-survivor who lost her hair during chemotherapy, while Matthew is an amputee due to cancer.

Camp Quality is a non-profit/volunteer organization that supports children with cancer and their families; the puppet program incorporates concepts such as the Seven Teachings to help children adapt when they or someone else may be seriously ill.

"Sometimes we may go out to schools if there may be a child attending with cancer, or to educate children who don't know what to do because they may have relatives that are sick," said local program director Deb Scott. "What we're doing fits in the social studies curriculum and the citizenship component—we're talking about values like friendship, caring, loving, respect and compassion."

# Youth and wellness



Manitoba Olympian and London 2012 bronze medalist soccer player Desiree Scott told students that setting reachable goals and having a positive mental attitude were keys to making healthy choices in life.

Grade 7 and 8 students from across the Division gathered at R.B. Russell Vocational High School for the Youth Wellness Conference, a special event co-sponsored with the Winnipeg Police Service.

Student delegates attended seminars on cyber bullying, drug awareness, nutrition and health, but

the underlying message of the day was about the value of making the right choices.

“We want to give the kids some inspiring presenters to help them make good choices every day,” said WPS School Resource Officer Lisa Bryce, who also served as a co-organizer for the event. “These speakers are going to talk about their own life experiences, the choices they’ve made and how it’s helped them get to where they’re at right now.”

Keynote speakers included London 2012 Olympian and soccer bronze medalist Desiree Scott and MLA Kevin Chief.

Ms. Scott told students that while she was a young athlete growing up in Winnipeg, many naysayers told her she was too small to go far in soccer; she refused to listen to those negative voices.

“Luckily for me, I had a drive inside of me that fuelled my desire, I wanted to prove absolutely everyone wrong,” she said. “I had a passion inside of me to want to be the best that I could be, every single day and put Manitoba on the map in the soccer world.”

Ms. Scott trained hard and slowly worked her way through the local soccer ranks, setting small, achievable goals. She hasn’t stopped setting

goals for improvement. Just a year prior to their medal performance at the Olympics, the Canadian Women’s Soccer Team came in dead last—16th out of 16 teams—in the World Cup Tournament.

“For me to be able to say that I was a part of that journey was a dream come true for me,” Ms. Scott said. “Success is no accident—it’s a lot of hard work, perseverance, learning and most of all, the love of what you do.”

Earlier, Mr. Chief told students that as a youth, he used sports and extracurricular activities as a way to steer clear of bad influences. That pathway would lead to going to the University of Winnipeg on a basketball scholarship and years later, it would point him to becoming the MLA for Point Douglas.

“The number one reason why someone joins a gang is to simply feel like they belong to something,” said Mr. Chief, who attended school in the Division. “I always tell young people that you have to get involved in things outside of your classroom, involved in your school communities, so that you belong to something positive.”

He added that everyone in the room was already a role model to others.

“If you know someone younger than yourself, the question isn’t whether you are a role model or not. It’s what kind of role do you want to be?”

“The choices, the decisions you make every day, someone is looking up to you and seeing how you are doing.”

A large contingent of Winnipeg Police Service constables and cadets attended the conference, to chat informally with students as well as to take part in the presentations. These officers—in particular the police in the School Resource Officer program—also serve as role models for students.

Const. Bryce said of the SRO program: “The students are seeing a police officer on a daily basis that they can go talk to about anything. We are here in the schools to be approachable, whether that’s answering their questions or giving advice.”

Division Board Chair Rita Hildahl, who was in attendance, thanked the WPS for co-sponsoring the event.

“I would like to give a special thank you to the Winnipeg Police Service, for taking a special interest in the education and development of our students...and for working so hard to keep our families and communities safe.”

## Every day is WE Day



Sisler WE Day members with teacher Oryssa Petryshyn.

In what has become an annual event, WE Day offers humanitarian-minded students a chance to hear from like-minded speakers and artists from around the world. This year’s event, which took place Oct. 30 at MTS Centre, featured Mikhail Gorbachev as a keynote speaker, as well as Honorable Justice and Truth and Reconciliation Chair Murray Sinclair and many more.

The message of the event is to practise humanitarianism every day, both locally and globally. Sisler High School is one such school where that message has been taken to heart. The school’s WE Day group and other humanitarian groups are active throughout the year, holding fundraising efforts to help aid victims from the Haiti earthquake, flooding in Pakistan and many more projects.

Recently, the school’s WE Day group has been selling everything from rafiki necklaces to pizza and lumpia, holding penny drives and other fundraisers to support Free the Children’s global clean water campaign—which provides this basic necessity of life to international communities in need.

“Everyone who is supporting our fundraisers knows that the money is going to help people who don’t have a lot,” said student Janessa Graves.

Students like Justin Midwinter and Keziah Laurea are part of the group’s own communications team, providing public address announcements, posters and other media promotion for fundraising efforts.

“We even made commercials, that we show on special TVs in the hallway, so we can show students about Free the Children, how they can donate and where they can join to become involved,” Justin said.

The Sisler WE Day group was not only front and centre in the audience at this year’s WE Day event, but the school’s choir was also part of the day’s on-stage entertainment. Students said they were honored to be attending.

“I wanted to go and hear what Mikhail Gorbachev had to say, he’s the last head of the Soviet Union and he’s important because of what he did with Perestroika (the economic and social reform in the country) and Glasnost (a policy that enhanced freedoms such as speech and political thought),” said student Olga Syvoraksha, who came to Canada from the Ukraine eight years ago.

Photo unavailable for website.

## Fast friends

Photo by Jeff Miller

École secondaire Kelvin High School student Bronwyn Butterfield and Machray School student Teagan Shorting share a laugh during a Dec. 14 Christmas party. The older Kelvin students hosted the elementary school children for games, face-painting, crafts and a visit from Santa himself. Kelvin has traditionally hosted different Division elementary schools each year for the party, with students and staff putting in hours of volunteer time to make the event a reality.

# Big hearts, smiles what Copshop is all about



Patrol Sgt. Edith Turner (back, left) and Cst. Rose Ledoux shop with Niji Mahkwa School students.



Ready to go on gift patrol: A Fort Rouge School student and Cst. Trevor Zwarich.

Photo unavailable for website.

Division SROs (School Resource Officers) Cst. Doug Jones (left) and Cst. Shannon Fedoruk enjoy a healthy snack with students.

Sixty students from several different school divisions partnered with members of the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) for the sixth annual Copshop event at St. Vital Centre.

The Nov. 28 event saw students receive \$200 gift cards for a special Christmas shopping trip with their WPS counterparts. The students and

police members also enjoyed a pizza lunch together. All costs for the event were covered by St. Vital Centre; students were selected by their schools on the basis of academics, volunteerism, athletics and need.

Judging by the faces of both the students and the officers, a good time was had by all!

Photo unavailable for website.



## Off and running

Still energized from attending WE Day at MTS Centre earlier in the day, this group of École Stanley Knowles School students and staff were already at the finish line for their successful Shoes for Africa Campaign.

The school's WE Day team collected over 600 pairs of new and gently-used runners and shoes in September and October; the shoes were destined for students in Zambia to help them get their education (schools require students have shoes to attend). Teacher Karen Wilson has led previous drives at the school for shoes, but this year, the leadership mantle was passed on to the students.

"We were looking for students that showed initiative and interest in helping and making a difference," said guidance counsellor Jessica Blaikie.

Grade 8 student Taylor Kowal said the WE Day group made posters, morning announcements and speeches in classrooms to promote the drive.

"There are kids in Africa who don't have the privilege to go to school like we do," he said. "It just makes you feel good to help someone."

## Voices of remembrance

Sisler High School students Keisha Mendoza (left), Peter Krawchuk and Jayde Erasmo remember the victims of the École Polytechnique Massacre during a Dec. 6 ceremony.

The school—which holds a memorial ceremony for the 14 murdered women annually—also hosted the Canadian Museum for Human Rights' annual general meeting on the same day. Fittingly, the memorial service was conducted as part of the meeting.

Keisha also performed at the event as a member of the Sisler's Most Wanted dance troupe, while Peter and Jayde are captains of the Sisler Spartans football team. Members of the team are traditionally involved with the service every year.

"A lot of times football players are put in roles of being 'macho' or mean guys, but we want to show that we're respectful young men and we care about these issues," Jayde said. "When you wear that white ribbon, it's about addressing violence towards women."

Peter added that previous Spartan players who took part in the ceremony served as role models for younger students: "I remember when I was in Grade 9 and first came to this school, I'd see the guys who were in Grade 11 and 12 on the football team and look up to them...so by having the opportunity to do something like this ceremony, I'd like to think that we can influence some of the younger guys in the same way."

# Breaking the surface of water issues

Churchill High School students were inspired during a recent visit by representatives from the humanitarian organization Free the Children.

Founded by a 12-year-old Craig Kielburger in 1995, the organization encourages youth to become active humanitarians to address issues affecting other children in the world—such as hunger, access to clean water and the right to education.

Free the Children reps Robert Palmer and Kim McLeod visited the school on Oct. 17 as part of the H2O 4U Tour, which focused on clean water and sanitation issues. Over 2.6 billion people in the world lack access to either of these basic necessities; however, students can help the situation by raising money through programs such as Adopt a Village.

“There are people all over the world that lack access to safe, clean drinking water,” Mr. Palmer said. “Of the safe water that’s left, the people who do have access to it are over-using and polluting it.”

Grade 9 student Heba El Gubtan said that with Canada having the third largest supply of water in the world, Canadians need to take a leadership role.

“We have to stop taking water for granted and think twice when we use it, instead of filling up a sink to brush your teeth,” she said. “I’m from

Libya originally, which was just recovering from a civil war, and water there is very, very sacred.”

Heba is a member of Peace Learners, Churchill’s humanitarian student group. In the past, the group has worked with Free the Children to raise funds to build a well in Sri Lanka, and has since adopted a village in Sierra Leone. The group also works locally to support food banks.

Educational assistant Barb Ediger, teachers Tanis Westdal and Dave Law help coordinate the student group, which arose out of a human rights unit in Ms. Westdal’s class several years ago.

“A group of students in Tanis’s class learned about human rights, were passionate about it and wanted to do something,” Ms. Ediger said. “The students’ researched and found out about Free the Children and realized that there’s no point in reinventing the wheel—they already had an organization that was doing the same things they wanted to do. And they just ran with it.”

“The neat thing about this is that it has always been student led,” Ms. Westdal said. “I think that’s why it’s grown from eight to about 55 students. Year to year, there is always that momentum, with the older students mentoring the younger ones. It’s sustainable.”

Following the assembly, 25 Churchill students took part in a lead-



Free the Children speakers Kim McLeod and Robert Palmer visited Churchill as part of the organization’s H2O 4U Tour.

ership workshop with the Free the Children reps. Students at École Laura Secord School also visited to take part in human rights workshops

that were led by Churchill students. “We’re really trying to form relationships with other schools that have the same goals,” Ms. Westdal said.

## NBA brings hoop mania to Sargent Park



Photo and files courtesy of Sargent Park School

Coach Brown works on a drill with some Sargent Park basketball players.

Sargent Park School was recently entertained by the Minnesota Timberwolves’ NBA Cares program.

The high energy program came to the school on Oct. 23; both the Timberwolves and the Detroit Pistons were in Winnipeg to play a preseason game at the MTS Centre the following night.

For one hour, the junior high students were entertained by the Timberwolves Tumbling Team and the Timberwolves Dance Team, who wowed the crowd by their high flying antics.

Steve Brown, a coach in the Minnesota Timberwolves system and a regional director for the National Basketball Academy, also gave 30 stu-

dent athletes a mini-basketball clinic.

The school would like to thank Basketball Manitoba staff, especially Adam Wedlake, for selecting Sargent Park to be honoured by this show.

As part of the program, Sargent Park also received two shot clocks and a portable score board.

Coach Brown commented that he was very impressed by the skill level of the student athletes and that it was easy to coach them. He added that it was hard to see the walls because of all the championship banners from previous years.

Sargent Park athletes thanked NBA Cares for the gifts and said they looked forward to continuing to pursue athletic excellence.



Sisler’s Community Action Committee presents \$500 for AIDS support projects to Grands ‘N’ More.

## Supporting families affected by AIDS

Sisler High School’s always-busy Community Action Committee recently made a \$500 donation in support of AIDS-related projects in Africa.

Students made the donation to the local organization Grands ‘N’ More, an affiliate of the Stephen Lewis Foundation’s Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, in October. The organization raises funds to support AIDS projects and raises awareness about the plight of Africans facing the disease.

Student Stephanie Zabar said the money was raised at Sisler’s Spring Fling Dance; at the event, representatives from the NorWest Clinic also gave students information about STIs—in particular, HIV and AIDS.

“We all felt pretty awesome to be supporting such a good cause,” Stephanie said, adding that the student committee assists many different organizations. “Our group’s main focus is to help people who are struggling in this world.”

# Farm fresh fundraising

A Grade 3 student at Clifton School spent a summer on the soil to raise vegetables for a healthy school fundraiser.

After coming up with the idea of having a farmers' market fundraiser last spring, Caleb Bremner planted a special crop on his grandparent's land in rural Manitoba and got to work.

"I thought we could just sell everything at a farmers' market at the school—it'd be a nice change," Caleb said. "We usually grow radishes, lots of carrots and every couple of years we even grow watermelon. We were also going to grow lettuce, but we had a canola field next door and those flea beetles, they crawl over everything and eat it."

Caleb's family also grew corn, potatoes, pumpkins, onions and more; between seeding, replanting, watering, maintaining and harvesting, the student had a busy summer and fall.

"The best part about it is all the nature and being outdoors," Caleb said.

Along with this commendable effort, Caleb and his family also donated all of their vegetables to the school.

"We just wanted to help the school with the fundraiser, so they didn't have to buy all the vegetables some-

where else—and it always tastes better farm fresh," Caleb said.

Caleb's mother Jennie Bremner-McLeod said her family was eager to help her son reach his goal: "It kept him out in the fresh air and exercising, and it taught a lesson that it's

always good to give to others."

The farmers' market proved to be a fundraising success. To help create an authentic farmer's market atmosphere, the school also sold honey and student handicrafts.

"Caleb's a very thoughtful student

and a great leader—this turned out to be a wonderful fundraiser for us," said Caleb's teacher Dana Curtis-Smith.

All of the money raised at the market will go back into special projects and events for students at Clifton.

Photo unavailable for website.



## Realizing the Green Dream

Gordon Bell High School students hold up a section of artificial turf at their school's new green space.

Gordon Bell's "Green Dream" truly took shape in the fall as work crews installed the turf, fencing and other landscaping details on the land adjacent to the school.

"This is a huge step," a student said. "This will give us more outdoor activities both in the summer and the wintertime."

An extended grassroots effort on the part of students, staff and community members helped make the project a reality.

"Lots of people have been waiting a long time for this—I think this will help the athletic programs grow here at Gordon Bell," another student added.

Previously, the land was owned by Canada Post, which graciously sold the property to Manitoba Education; that government department in turn allocated it to the Winnipeg School Division for use by Gordon Bell High School and its surrounding community. Manitoba Education also granted \$1.5 million for development.

The school also undertook additional fundraising to install the artificial turf, along with a stage, cross country loop, prairie plant gallery and outdoor classroom.

## River Heights remembers with Schreyer

The Right Honourable Edward Schreyer (right), both a former Governor General of Canada and a former Premier of Manitoba, joined the students and staff of École River Heights School for their advance Remembrance Day services on Nov. 7.



Photos by Konnor Leonard and Hannah Smerchanski.



## Celebrating Manitoba libraries

Education Minister Nancy Allan reads to students from Wellington School as part of festivities for Manitoba School Library Day.

Also on hand for the Oct. 22 event was Division Board Chair Rita Hildahl, as well as representatives from the Manitoba School Library Association and the Manitoba Teachers' Society.

Students in schools across the province were encouraged to drop everything and read for 20 minutes at 11 a.m. as part of the day's activities.

During her Wellington visit, Ms. Allan chose to share selections from *A Light in the Attic* by Shel Silverstein.



Storyteller Kate Ferris chats up the crowd at Central Park.

## Storytelling in the park

Whenever the time, wherever the place, there's nothing like hearing a well-told story.

Three of Manitoba's most talented storytellers—Kate Ferris, Duncan Mercredi and Jamie Oliviero—entertained students at downtown's Central Park as part of national Culture Days celebrations.

The storytelling festival was just one of thousands of cultural events taking place across Canada Sept. 28-30.

Grades 1 and 4 students from Sister MacNamara School were among the children in attendance for an afternoon of stories under the sun.

Teacher Jodi Somers said Sister MacNamara students were already fans of Mr. Oliviero's, having worked with the storyteller on an extensive project in the 2011-12 school year.

"He did storytelling with all of the students in the school—they worked together to create stories based around the theme of water," she said. "It was Jamie who invited us to come here today...the kids loved him last year so much when he came out to our school. When I told them that they were going to see him again today, they got very excited."

Grade 4 student Karl Sacdal said "I like Jamie because he's funny...and he tells other stories too, like mystery stories and scary stories."

Ms. Somers added that Mr. Oliviero would again be working with Sister MacNamara students this year.

"Storytelling is very universal with our students—they can all make their own pictures in their minds," she said. "For them to hear stories like this outside helps them to realize that reading and stories don't just happen in school. They can be enjoyed anywhere."

## Grant supports after-school program



Photo by Jeff Miller

Gordon Bell High School's diverse after-school program recently received major funding support courtesy of the RBC Foundation. The foundation gave the school a \$40,000 grant on Nov. 26, bringing along former world curling champion Jill Officer and Paralympian Jared Funk for the announcement. Gordon Bell's after-school programming includes a homework club, literacy and language instruction, sports, a nutrition component and other activities for students. Pictured here is teacher-librarian Kyla McDonald (left), Principal Arlene Skull, phys. ed teacher Lloyd Rana, RBC Regional Vice-President Holly Toupin and students.



Photo by Jeff Miller

Leading an activity station on the Lord Nelson schoolyard.

## Les amis

Students at Sisler High School and Lord Nelson School have begun a unique interschool mentorship based around the French language.

Les amis—the French Buddies program—started in January with Sisler's Grade 9 French Immersion students planning lessons and activities for Lord Nelson's Grade 5/6 Basic French students. The older students visited once a month to deliver fun, instructive lessons on numbers and counting, vocabulary, conversational French and more. Activities have included song and dance games, BINGO, memory games and more.

Sisler teacher Myriam Bara and Lord Nelson teachers Lisa Titley,

Fernando Dalayoan, Pat Atkinson and Lorielyn Castillo collaborated to make the project a reality.

The program ties into the Grade 9 Social Studies curriculum in areas such as citizenship and building community, while also providing many other intangible benefits. The Grade 9s have a chance to teach their accumulated knowledge, while the elementary students get a chance to be taught by the "cool high school kids."

In June, participating students from both schools had a year-end wind-up at Lord Nelson, in which the Sisler students translated familiar schoolyard games such as Red Light, Green Light and ran activity stations. At the end of the wind-up, the mentors presented their younger counterparts with posters, certificates, name tags and snacks for a job well done.



*Chef Darlene Ring hands a sandwich to a student at the new Panther Café.*

## Gordon Bell opens revamped cafeteria

Gordon Bell High School students and staff were happy to return to a familiar haunt in November, with the reopening of the school's cafeteria.

The cafeteria—renamed the Panther Café in a recent student contest—had been closed since the summer for a major renovation that included a complete kitchen overhaul. Among the improvements are convection ovens, a new ventilation system, sandwich counters and more refrigeration space, drink machines, a spacious new kitchen layout and a fresh redesign in the dining area.

"It's very much an improvement," said Grade 11 student Tiffany Thunder. "We had to go a few months without a cafeteria but this looks great."

Principal Arlene Skull said the new equipment allowed staff to prepare meals more efficiently: "We're able to cook much faster so we can focus even more on preparing nutritious food."

Dwayne Franz, a Building Department estimator who worked closely with the project, said many of the changes reflect updated nutrition guidelines.

"For example, there are no more deep fryers in here, the focus is now on baked goods," he said.

While the school waited for the cafeteria to open, staff and students made use of an old staff room and other areas of the school to serve up a bare-bones interim menu.

"We were only able to do basic things, but I think the wait was worth it," Ms. Skull said.

Mr. Franz said similar cafeteria remodels were taking place at Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute and École secondaire Kelvin High School.

## Take Our Kids To Work Day 2012



*Photo by Hannah Smerchanski*

This Sargent Park School student was one of thousands of Manitoba Grade 9 students who joined their parents for the annual Take Our Kids To Work Day, held Nov. 7.

Sponsored by The Learning Partnership, the event is designed to help students understand the school-to-work connection, appreciate their parents' careers and roles in supporting their families, and to start exploring the many career options available.

### BOARD BRIEFS

**The Winnipeg School Division Board of Trustees is in the process of developing the 2013/2014 school budget.**

To learn more about the Draft Budget for the 2013/14 school year:

- Visit our Budget webpage at [www.wsd1.org](http://www.wsd1.org)
- Residents are invited to share their ideas by attending a meeting on **February 25 at 1577 Wall Street East at 7:00 p.m.**
- You can request a printed copy of our budget information brochure by calling the Board Office at (204) 789-0469.
- Parents/Guardians are invited to discuss the Budget at their parent advisory meetings. Discussions will be held at the District Advisory meeting scheduled in February.

#### Board of Trustees

**1 Rita Hildahl, Chair**  
Ward 1, Phone: 414-7706

**2 Mark Wasyliv, Vice-Chair**  
Ward 1, Phone: 475-3114

**3 Jackie Sneesby**  
Ward 1, Phone: 489-3277

**4 Kristine Barr**  
Ward 2, Phone: 775-0990

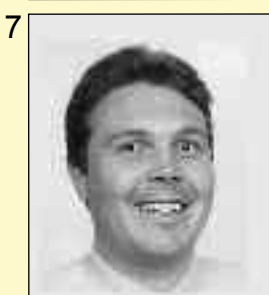
**5 Cathy Collins**  
Ward 2, Phone: 789-0469

**6 Anthony Ramos**  
Ward 2, Phone: 293-8040

**7 Mike Babinsky**  
Ward 3, Phone: 582-9296

**8 Darlyne Bautista**  
Ward 3, Phone: 295-0922

**9 Suzanne Hrynyk**  
Ward 3, Phone: 452-3847



1577 Wall Street East,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 2S5  
Telephone: 204-775-0231

**Chief Superintendent**  
P.E. Clarke  
**Superintendents of Schools**  
K. Seiler—Inner City  
R.N. Chartrand—South  
C. Caetano-Gomes—Central  
D. Persaud—North

**Public Relations Committee**  
Trustees: Anthony Ramos (Chair),  
Darlyne Bautista, Jackie Sneesby

*Our Schools* is published  
five times per year.  
Copyright © 2013  
Winnipeg School Division  
All rights reserved.

*Editor:* Dale Burgos  
*Writer/Photographer:* Dan LeMoal  
*Layout/Design:* Diane Skogstad