



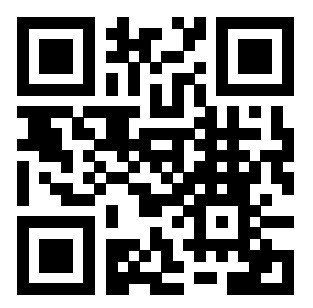
WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

OUR SCHOOLS

FEB
2015

VOL 43 NO. 01
ISSN 03484-6636

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FULL STEAM AHEAD

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HEALTHY MINDS

Churchill High School students explored peer-to-peer mental and physical health issues during the school's annual Health and Wellness Week.

The Nov. 24-28 event was split into sessions for male or female students; senior students serve as facilitators for the sessions.

Female topics included body image, relationships, personal safety and sex education. Male student sessions focused on leadership and making positive choices, with topics that included bullying and gangs, consent and respect, being a better man and a leadership chat with Robert Falcon-Oullette, program director, Aboriginal Focus Programs, University of Manitoba and former mayoral candidate of Winnipeg.

Senior High Guidance Counsellor LeAnne Froese said over the ten-year history of the event, students have become more involved as facilitators. The male student sessions were added three years ago.

"A lot of these topics are discussed and supplemented through many areas of the curriculum, but we want that dialogue to continue at the student level," Ms. Froese said.

BODY IMAGE

Grade 12 student Emma Trevenen served as a facilitator for the body image session.

"It's a tough topic to discuss because a lot of girls are insecure about it," Emma said. "I think it's really helpful to express that they are not alone—everyone feels the same way. We all have issues but you have to be able to work past and learn how to deal with them."

Emma added that the mass media really hasn't progressed when it comes to showing a broad variety of body types.

"I don't think the media has gotten much better," she said. "We really stress that these images aren't realistic. There's lots of Photoshop, crazy diets and exercise happening...it's more important to be healthy and love yourself."



POSITIVE LEADERSHIP

Students Dane Falavena, CJ Huculak and Griffin Jenkins assisted with a bullying presentation hosted by Winnipeg School Division Behaviour Support Teacher Mark Joyce and Behaviour Support Worker Gary Sovo.

The Internet has had a huge impact on bullying, often separating bullies from the impacts and consequences of their actions. And while Facebook can provide

students with access to hundreds of "friends," that doesn't necessarily mean anything in the real world.

"You're lucky to have one or two good friends," Mr. Sovo said.

Mr. Joyce and Mr. Sovo noted it was important for students to find positive ways to be leaders and gain the respect of their peers. Interestingly, the same tips often apply to both victims and bullies—including spending time with

friends and joining groups such as sports teams or extracurricular clubs to meet people and have a positive outlet. Body language is also important, such as using a confident posture (walking straight and holding your head up) if you are a potential target.

Dane said he thought the entire week was valuable for all students.

"I think this is a good week that enlightens us to a lot of issues."

LET'S LIGHT UP THE ICE!

Gordon Bell High School opened the first ever skating rink on the Panther Greenspace on Feb. 3 as part of a campaign to light up the field.

Prior to opening the rink, a pep rally was held in the school gym to honour contributors to the Lighting Campaign, including Peter Mikos, Gordon Bell High School alumnus. Mr. Mikos, who is from the company EnduraliteLED, has donated the lights for the field. The school is continuing to fundraise for the remainder of the costs which include poles, wiring, electrical boards etc.

Following the pep rally, Winnipeg School Division (WSD) Chief Superintendent Pauline Clarke dropped the ceremonial broomball on the skating rink along with Mr. Mikos, WSD Board Chair

Mark Wasyliw and MLA Rob Altemeyer.

Students ended the morning with a spirited broomball exhibition on the new ice surface.



THE STEAM AGE

Winnipeg School Division (WSD) students are enjoying enrichment education in dynamic new settings with the opening of four STEAM Enrichment Centres.

The centres provide students from across WSD a chance to experience inquiry-based programming that focuses on excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math education (thus providing the STEAM acronym). This year the program is focusing on Grades 4-6 students.

WSD Director of Program Support Brad Corbett said the centres are part of a division-wide priority to explore enrichment programming.

"The goal of the STEAM centre is to develop talent in students and inspire them to become inventors, critical thinkers, risk takers, as well as independent and collaborative problem solvers," Mr. Corbett said.

Students from each elementary school across WSD attend their district's STEAM Centre for one day a week for a block of eight weeks. The four STEAM Centres are located at Pinkham School (Inner City District), Isaac Brock School (Central District), Luxton School (North District)

and Rockwood School (South District).

Each STEAM Enrichment Centre is staffed with a Lead Consultant/Support Teacher from the Program Support Team.

"The initial part of the program identifies students interests, strengths, and learning styles," Mr. Corbett noted. "That becomes a starting point for the STEAM leaders to identify and support the children in their inquiry journey."

The students' STEAM experience does not end after their eight-week session; students receive an online Renzulli Learning System license. Designed by Dr. Joseph Renzulli, the system enhances students' inquiry learning and allows each learner to continue work in the program at school and at home.

Parents, guardians and teachers are able to monitor their student's progress and growth.

Classroom teachers also have access to all of the resources and materials for the online program, which they use to support other students in the classroom.

"Through the Renzulli Learning System, students are able to continue their collaborative inquiry learning and

maintain the network of relationships with their STEAM peers. The STEAM leaders go to the schools to visit the students and their home school teachers to see how they're progressing in their learning."

LEARNING WITH PASSION

In the STEAM Centres, students begin the groundwork for major inquiry projects that will continue through the school year.

"We all have these passion projects that are about things we like to do," said Queenston School student Anna Hunter, who was enrolled in the South District STEAM Centre at Rockwood School.

Students' projects range from robotics to video game design to self-publishing writing. Queenston student Kayla Mintenko was building a scale model of Salzburg, Austria (birthplace of Mozart) in Minecraft—a computer game that is the digital age's answer to Lego.

"It will have all the famous places, like Hohensalzburg Castle," Kayla said of her project. She added that the passion projects were her favourite part of the program.

"It's good because your project can be about your interests and your talents. We

don't all have to learn the same thing."

South District STEAM consultant Richard Roberts said engagement is key to creating self-driven learners.

"Most students are highly motivated when they are learning in a way that interests them," he said. "These kids are highly engaged, so we're looking at how we can differentiate. We can take what they are excited about and apply it in a bunch of creative new ways."

While many of the students' projects are ambitious, the STEAM program is giving students the tools to undertake long-term projects and learning goals.

"In some cases, these will be yearlong projects," Mr. Roberts said. "My hope is that they'll walk away from here with a plan and know what their next steps are going to be, and there will be a plan in place for them to continue that learning in school."

Another major component of the STEAM program will be for students to learn through a social justice lens.

"We want students to be thinking about how they can use their gifts, strengths and talents to make the world a better place," Mr. Corbett said.

GROWTH SPURT AT HARROW

Harrow School will soon be expanding its daycare facility after the Manitoba government announced funding for the development this past November. Provincial and Winnipeg School Division (WSD) officials visited the school to announce the project, Harrow Co-operative Children's Centre Inc., which will provide up to 6,000 sq. ft. of new childcare space.

Planning and design work is already underway and, when complete, will accommodate up to 16 infant spaces and 48 pre-school spaces, in addition to the existing 16 pre-school and 30 school-age daycare spaces available at Harrow.

"It is important for the Winnipeg School Division to continue to develop partnerships with members in the community that provide our families and children with access to supports and services," said WSD Board Chair Mark Wasyliw the day of the provincial announcement. "The new Harrow Co-operative Children's Centre Inc. will be able to accommodate more families and provide convenient access to the school and child-care facility."

In attendance were Minister of Education and Advanced Learning Peter Bjornson, MLA James Allum, MLA Kerri Irvin-Ross, WSD Trustee Sherri Rollins, Manitoba Child Care Association Executive Director Pat Wege and Harrow Co-operative Children's Centre Executive Director Mihaela Mujcinovic.

"Imagine how many families are going to benefit from these additional children's spaces," Ms. Mujcinovic said, adding that the centre currently provides care for children aged 3-12 years old. "With the current 46 spaces, our waiting list grows daily. These additional spaces will definitely make a positive impact on our community."



Harrow students in the school's current daycare space.

READ TO SUCCEED

Winnipeg School Division (WSD) recently celebrated Read to Succeed 2014. WSD promotes literacy as a basic essential in learning and life – and during the month of December, more than 49,000 books were distributed. Students of all ages at 25 WSD schools received books to take home over the winter holiday break. The books become a part of students' home libraries, thus promoting reading with families and building stronger communities.

Students from Nursery to Grade 6 chose their books on Dec. 8. Since WSD became involved in Read to Succeed in 2012, over 166,300 free books have been distributed.

Studies show a child from a family rich in books is more likely to complete university than a comparable child growing up without a home library.



DROP THE POP!

STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO RETHINK THE DRINK

Mulvey School students encouraged each other to forego sugary drinks in favour of healthier beverages during its recent Drop the Pop Week.

The week was part of a prevention campaign held in conjunction with the Kidney Foundation of Canada's Manitoba Branch.

"This week we're going to be watching what we drink and having healthy beverages," said Grade 6 student Dakota Gosek. "Pop has a lot of sugar and it can be super unhealthy...it can increase your risk of kidney disease and diabetes."

For the entire week, students were encouraged to eliminate pop consumption and were offered healthy alternatives. For example, Dakota and a group of students made a healthy version of lemonade—with real lemons, water and honey as a moderate sweetener—to serve to their fellow students. Other days included water and a healthy blueberry juice.

Melanie Ferris, the foundation's Kidney Health and Communications Manager, said the campaign is intended to educate younger children about how the kidneys function and how to keep them healthy for life.

"We are trying to help children learn about how much sugar is in all of these different drinks that are being marketed toward them," Ms. Ferris said.

Many sugary beverages, such as pop, energy drinks and certain flavoured dairy products, are marketed at youth. As part of the campaign, students learned about how to read labeling on beverages. Four grams of sugar is equal to one teaspoon. Some drinks pack in 40 grams of sugar or more in a small 350 mL serving. Some fruit punches and flavoured dairy products can have sugar servings rivaling pop.

"We recommend that people learn to read labels, and do it with their children," Ms. Ferris said, adding that organizers teach moderation when it comes to sugary beverages.

"We don't recommend parents keep it in the fridge, just have it as a treat once in a while."

Both Ms. Ferris and Principal Peter Correia said students have an opportunity to become teachers when delivering health messages.

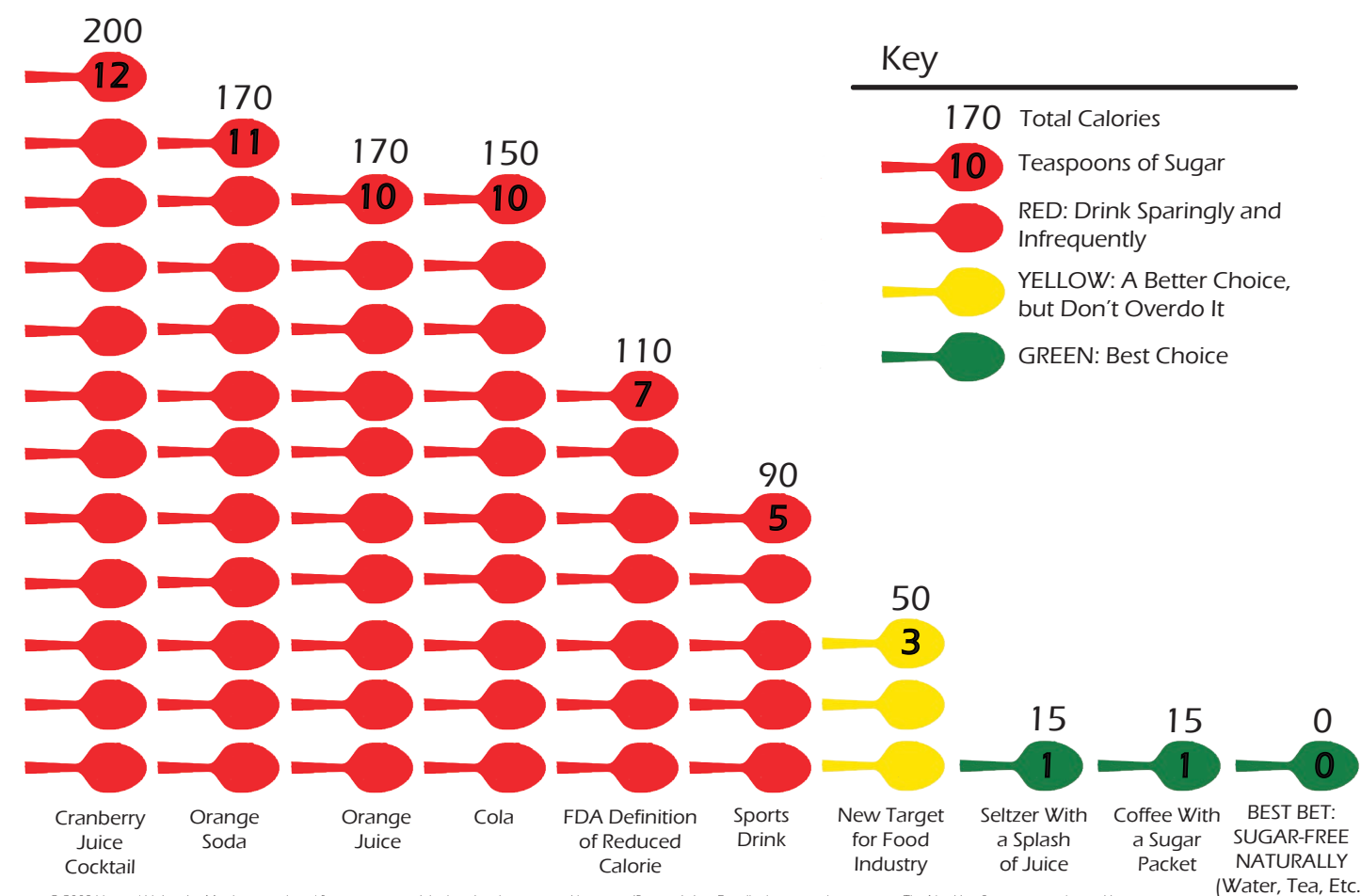
"Students can rethink their drink and influence some of the shopping choices at a young age," Mr. Correia said. "The education we're doing here can hopefully spill out into the community, with their peers, parents and families, so they can make healthier drink choices as well."



Team Lemonade gets ready to serve up refreshments for Mulvey students.

How Sweet Is It?

Calories and Teaspoons of Sugar in 12 Ounces of Each Beverage
For more information, see The Nutrition Source, www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/healthy-drinks/



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PICTURE PERFECT MOMENTS



With a lot of smiles—and a few tears—the River Elm School Watercolour Club bid a fond farewell to retiring Principal Tom Chan in December.

Mr. Chan was a driving force behind the lunchtime club, teaching both students and staff members watercolour techniques. The club represents another side to the principal, who is well known for his wacky reading challenges through the years.

The longtime artist started the club in 1990 at Florence Nightingale School; the concept worked so well that he brought it with him when he transferred to River Elm 21 years ago.

Teacher Karla Havelka credits the principal with making the club a lasting part of River Elm.

"I think the reason the club has lasted so long is that Mr. Chan is just so warm and friendly with the students," she said. "The students like spending that quality time with him."

Mr. Chan always made sure his Wednesday noon hours were booked for watercolour club, savouring the chance to enjoy art alongside students and staff.

"It's a lot of fun, you get to relate to kids in a totally different setting," said Mr. Chan, who began his education career in 1974 at Earl Grey School. "There's always lots of excitement."

Mr. Chan also has fond memories of pursuing another art form, photography, with his son Mikael, who passed away in 2009.

"Every fall or change of season, we would

go to the park and shoot...you see a clump of snow that shines like a diamond and just shoot close-ups," Mr. Chan said.

Mikael eventually became president of the University of Manitoba's camera club and became the teacher to Mr. Chan.

"We turned our home basement into a darkroom and he began to teach me how to develop and play with aperture and filters. That was a lot of fun."

Grade 5 student Leata Goulet has come to the club for three years running.

"I love spending the time with Mr. Chan and learning new ways to paint every time," she said. "Before the summer, he even gave us all packs of stuff so we could do watercolours at home. He gave us everything we needed, like paper, brushes, and a palette."

She added that she would remember Mr. Chan mostly for his reading challenges through the years.

Although club members said goodbye to Mr. Chan in December, the club will carry on—and he even plans to return as a guest artist from time to time.



SEE YOU AROUND, MR. CHAN

Principal Tom Chan officially bid farewell to the students and staff at River Elm School on Dec. 19. He read one of his favourite books to students—*The Pig of Happiness*—and also talked about his son Mikael, who passed away in 2009. "Five years ago, we lost a son, 25 years old. He took his own life. I still have that tremendous hole in my heart... and I'm feeling a hole in my heart about leaving you," he told students. "The only difference is, you are here, and you continue. You continue to do well and make us proud of you. You have a staff of wonderful teachers and you have wonderful parents...these are good enough for you to grow up to be a bunch of Pigs of Happiness."

GRAPHIC NOVELIST EXPLORES CANADA'S PAST



David A. Robertson holds up a copy of one of his more recent projects, the novel *The Evolution of Alice*, during his visit to General Wolfe on Feb. 3.

Students in the Native Studies and English-as-an-additional language program at General Wolfe School recently met an author whose work has brought Canada's indigenous past to life.

David A. Robertson has explored Aboriginal heroes, culture and history through the medium of the graphic novel in series such as *7 Generations* and *Tales from Big Spirit*. His first project explored the life and murder of Helen Betty Osborne. The Norway House student was kidnapped and murdered in 1971 in The Pas; only one of the men implicated in her death was convicted—16 years after the crime was committed.

"Her story was really important for me because it allowed me to teach about several different things...the justice system and how that had failed, racism, segregation...and one of the things you still hear about in the news today is missing and murdered indigenous women."

The Life of Helen Betty Osborne is an example of how the graphic novel format can connect with powerful themes and important pieces of history.

"This graphic novel allows teachers to go into the classroom and educate students about some of these important issues," Mr. Robertson said. "That's what it's all about...all I'm trying to do with these is to give teachers a tool to

educate kids about indigenous history and culture."

Growing up as a half-Cree youth, Mr. Robertson often felt ashamed of that side of his heritage because of racism and negative stereotypes.

"I feel if I had these books going through school, I would probably have learned more about my culture and myself. I wouldn't have come out from these experiences feeling so bad about who I was."

Students Callie Dunsford and Diane Harper said they found Mr. Robertson to be inspiring.

"I want to be a writer," Diane said. "I'm already writing a graphic novel called *The Pizza Thief*."



Grant Park alumnus and Broadway dancer Jaz Sealy works with high school musical theatre students in the school's dance studio.

ALL THAT JAZ!

Students in Grant Park High School's musical theatre program recently had the chance to workshop alongside a dancer who has made it to the shining lights of Broadway.

Grant Park alumnus Jaz Sealy is the tenth graduate from the school to appear in a New York city musical, and is currently performing as part of the original cast of *Aladdin*.

Mr. Sealy's visit in early January brought a lot of inspiration home. Students in the program make the trip to New York to see Broadway every two years.

"We're a big musical theatre school and this is something that a lot of the kids aspire to," said teacher Janna Larsen, Director of Choral Music and Special

Ed. Musical Theatre at Grant Park. "Jaz graduated from Grant Park 10 years ago and now he's living the dream."

Students got an idea of the amount of work it takes to achieve that dream. Mr. Sealy taught students routines from *Aladdin*, putting them through several high-energy segments.

Student Kyle Briscoe was among the Grant Park musical theatre students who went to New York last June to see Broadway. Students had the chance to meet Mr. Sealy in New York as well. Kyle said these Broadway connections were not only inspiring, but also gave students an idea of the amount of work involved to reach the upper echelons of the dance world.

"There's a big jump in difficulty," Kyle

said. "It has definitely given me insight and made me realize even more that this is what I want to do."

Mr. Sealy originally came to Grant Park to play on the school's hockey team, before he became fascinated with dance. Training both at Grant Park and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, he was able to eventually land a spot in a Rainbow Stage production.

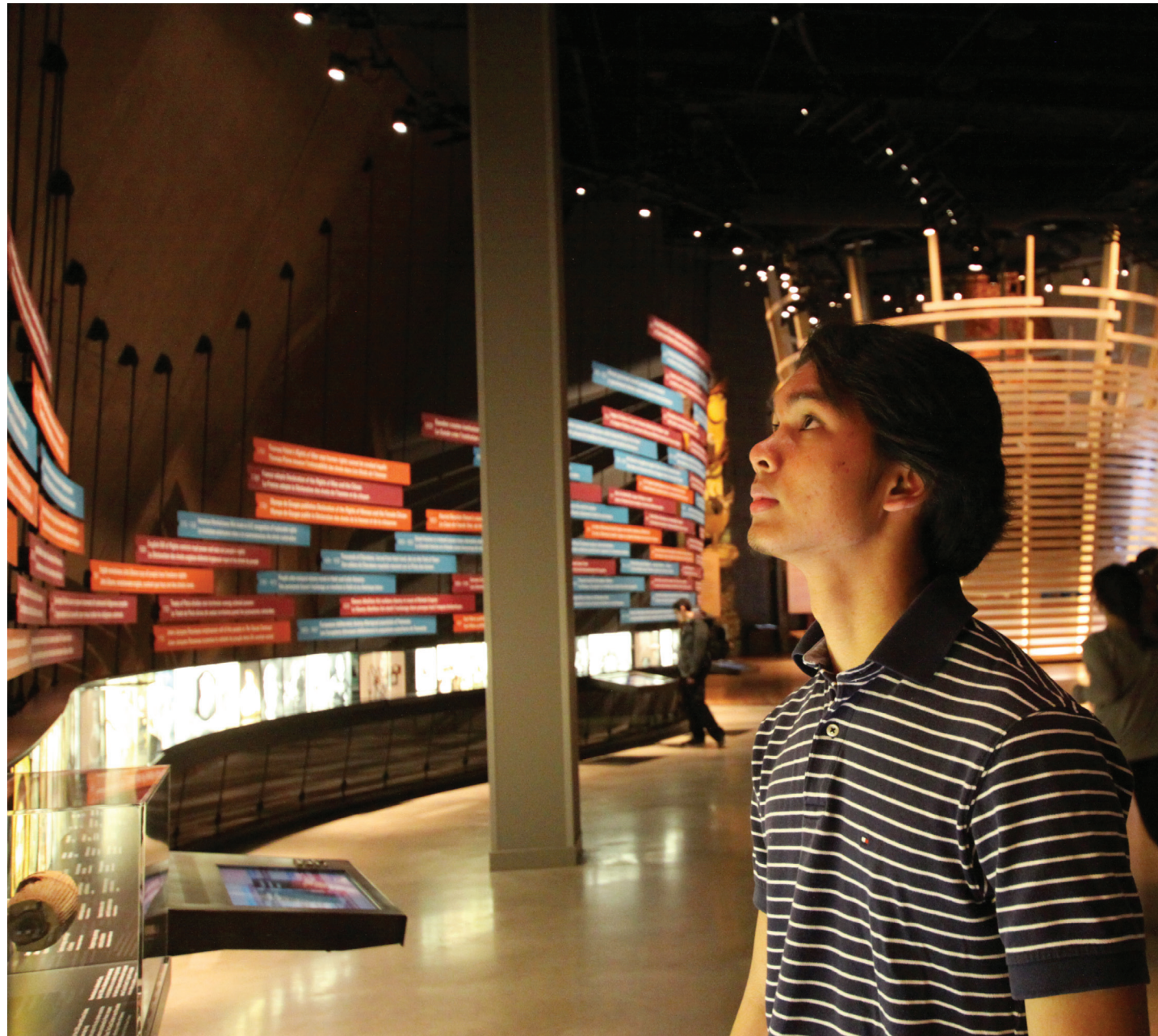
"I've been hooked ever since," Mr. Sealy said. He credits Grant Park with lighting his creative spark. "Most definitely. At the time, it was George Budoloski and Robin Dow who were the teachers here, who really captivated me at the time."

He said he enjoyed serving as a temporary teacher at Grant Park.

"I love doing this, it was this kind of workshop that got me into theatre as well. Grant Park would bring in teachers who were working with Rainbow Stage and MTC. They would teach combos from their repertoire of theatre...that was the inspiring thing, just hearing that it could be done and that you could make a living out of it."

Mr. Sealy, who has also performed on Broadway in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, said students should work on becoming complete performers.

"It's easy if you're a singer to just keep doing that, but it's harder to also do the dancing or acting component of theatre. If you work on your weakness and make yourself an all-around performer, you're more vital to a production."



FIRST LOOK

Students from Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute were among the first students in Winnipeg School Division to see the Canadian Museum for Human Rights up close. Teachers Steve Patrick and Analee Pangan brought their students to the museum in early January.



WSD Aboriginal Education Consultant Ollie Zirka drums during a sharing circle at DMCI.

DMCI EXPLORES HUMAN RIGHTS

English-as-an-additional language (EAL) students at Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute (DMCI) explored the commonalities of human rights in a weeklong series of workshops.

Presenters during the December event included Rainbow Resource Centre, Teen Talk and consultants with Winnipeg School Division's Aboriginal Education Department.

"This week is about celebrating human rights," said Kristina Stawski, a guidance counselor and EAL department head at DMCI.

RIGHT OF SAFETY CELEBRATED

"We have students from many different countries who have come to Canada for safety," Ms. Stawski said. We're all different, but respecting those differences allows everyone to feel safe, no matter where they are from."

For the week, the EAL students also created a gallery with displays detailing their own personal roots and how they came to Canada. Students also created badges that depicted what human rights personally meant to them.

"We're equally sharing our cultures," said EAL student Irene Kipala, who came to Canada from Burundi in 2009. "It's important to know the cultures of the country we are living in."

Fellow EAL student Jayvee Dimayuga joined DMCI in October, after his family emigrated from the Philippines. He said the human rights week was worthwhile.

"We're getting to know how each other lives and we know to respect their cultures and know our differences," he said.

FLEXING MUSSELS

STUDENTS EXAMINE A LAKE IN CRISIS

Sisler High School recently hosted a science and sustainability conference on the current status of Lake Winnipeg—a body of water that earned the title of "the most threatened lake in the world" in 2013.

The conference explored challenges the lake faces, from human stressors that effect phosphorus levels to invasive species such as the zebra mussel.

"Lake Winnipeg was specifically chosen as it is one of the least studied lakes, yet it's one of the largest watersheds impacted by Canadians and Americans," said teacher Matthew Robak.

Special guests at the conference included Dr. Karen Scott, ecologist and education program director of the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium, and Marlo Campbell, communications director with the Lake Winnipeg Foundation.

Student emcees Philip Kawalec and Winnica Beltrano have a connection to the lake; the duo having worked together on a science fair project examining phosphorus level reduction.

"Phosphorus is the nutrient that has the most influence on the health of our lake ecosystems," Winnica said, adding that phosphorus is contained in common items like detergents, fertilizer, manure and decaying plants. "There are also naturally occurring sources of phosphorus in lakes, such as decaying organic matter and eroding rocks and soils. This process of a lake's ability to collect phosphorus can lead to algae blooms and eventually eutrophication." Eutrophication is a condition that occurs in ecosystems when there is an overload of nutrients. Plant and algae growth dramatically increase, and when they decay, they consume the oxygen that normally sustains other organisms in a body of water.

Philip, who had a chance to visit the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium's research vessel in the summer, said awareness is key to improving the health of the lake.

"It's been going on for a long time. As a whole community, we must be more aware about it."

Through Sisler's live online video conferencing program, SoapBoxED, schools from Thompson, The Pas and Nashville, Tennessee also participated in the event. A group of 20 students from Elmwood High School attended the event in person.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

Sisler's Philip Kawalec and Winnica Beltrano show a sample of the invasive zebra mussel, one of many factors afflicting Lake Winnipeg.

A DAY FOR THE BOOKS

Students at Gladstone School are enjoying pages upon pages of stories and information thanks to a recent Chapters-Indigo book donation.

The school's library received 63 boxes of new books through the company's Adopt-a-School program; Gladstone was adopted by Cityplace Coles, which is part of the retail chain.

"For a small school it's really wonderful to be able to add to our collection," said teacher-librarian Carol Mills. "We'll be adding a new shelving unit for all of the new books."

The books came just in time for "I Love to Read Month" in February. Literacy is a year-long focus at the school.

"We have a real team effort to

promote literacy...it's a fundamental part of our school," Ms. Mills said.

Student Chaze Mercader said students are always on the hunt for new books.

"The old books get too easy so they're looking for something harder to read," Chaze said. "It's always good to look at new books instead of reading the same things over and over again."



GAME ON!

Representing a multitude of countries and languages united under a truly international sport, students converged on the University of Manitoba for the Seventh Annual Inner City Soccer Jamboree.

The Jan. 29 (elementary) and Jan. 30 (junior high/high school) event was the highlight of the season for 39 teams from 20 schools. Over 700 students took to the field for this year's jamboree.

The league and jamboree are outstanding opportunities for inner city students to participate in a sport with schools across the district. Through their experience and skill development in the league and Jamboree, many of the students go on to play competitively in various Winnipeg Soccer Clubs.

The league is organized by the Inner City Soccer League Committee that is chaired and spirited by Peter Correia, Principal of Mulvey School.

"The Inner City Soccer League was extremely pleased to see this year's Jamboree grow to be the largest so far of the seven years that we have been organizing the event," said Mr. Correia. He has been involved in the league and jamboree since it began and is instrumental in the success, growth and effervescence of the league and jamboree.

Mr. Correia describes the goal of the jamboree as providing students with the opportunity to come together as a team, be mentored by wonderful role models and promote active healthy living.

"The day also promotes the development of fair play, participation and soccer skills," said Mr. Correia. "This all takes place

in a world class facility. The jamboree combines athletic development along with enhancing and promoting positive social interactions and good sportsmanship."

The league and jamboree are collaboratively sponsored by The Laura Milner White Committee, W.Y.S.A. (Winnipeg Youth Soccer Association) and The Subway South Complex. Major funders include The Winnipeg Foundation, The Winnipeg Soccer Federation Subway South Complex and Peter White - Polar Bear Rubber Ltd.

The funders support students with items including facility rentals, transportation costs, uniforms, equipment, and food.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

EMPTY BOWLS A REMINDER OF THOSE WHO GO HUNGRY

PHOTOS AND STORY BY JEFF MILLER

As an official UNESCO (United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization) school, École Laura Secord School looks for ways to make a difference in its community.

In September, Winnipeg Harvest representatives spoke to students about local child poverty and the people who seek help from the organization.

Winnipeg Harvest supports over 380 agencies across the city and provides food to 61,000 people every month. Half of those people are children. For every dollar donated, the organization can stretch that into \$20 thanks to its various partnerships.

Four classrooms—Rooms 115, 213, 216 and 317—coordinated the school's efforts to help the cause, creating posters

and making morning announcements to spread awareness.

"The classes were given the task of making the rest of the school aware about poverty and how they could help," said teacher Cathy Ashkolm.

The four classrooms also visited Winnipeg Harvest for a tour and to volunteer sorting and bagging potatoes.

Thanks to the generous donations from

the local community, the school was able to collect 304 pounds of food at its winter concert in December. After the winter break, students got right back on track, this time collecting cash donations. The final element in the project was a Jan. 28 Empty Bowls Dinner, where parents, staff and members of the community were invited for a soup dinner. The soups were made by parents, staff and Tec Voc High

School, with buns donated by City Bread. Students also made artistic soup bowls, which were sold at the event for a suggested donation of \$5.

"We came up with a slogan called the three H's...The Hand, The Heart and How to help," said teacher Laurie Kopytk. "I am extremely proud of all our students, staff and community members for their active participation and wonderful donations."



The bowls created for the Empty Bowls fundraiser are intended to remain empty so it will remind us of the people who are still hungry.



A SONG FOR LOST SISTERS

Student dancers from Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute (DMCI) recently performed in a work honouring Canada's missing and murdered Aboriginal women. Over their winter break, the DMCI students went to the Graffiti Gallery to videotape a special dance performance with director Kayla Jeanson.

Sisters is set to the music of the Ottawa-based Indigenous DJ collective A Tribe Called Red.

Choreographer and DMCI dance teacher Loa Olafson's intention was to honour the memory and deepen community concern for the women.

"The inspiration was to make a contemporary work that would raise

awareness and hopefully spread some knowledge and concern for an important cause," Ms. Olafson said. "I've used A Tribe Called Red's music in the past and I just think they're so talented and they do lots of positive work for the Indigenous community in Canada and across the world."

The female students wore red dresses for the performance, the result of a connection with visual artist Jaime Black, whose work the REDress project was recently installed at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The exhibit houses red dresses collected through community donations; the dresses serve as a symbolic reminder of the staggering number of women who

are no longer with us.

Student Denisse Roque said dancing for the video offered unique challenges.

"We have to be more precise. People can play a video over and over again, not like a live performance," she said, adding that she felt an emotional bond to the work. "Most of the Aboriginal women that went missing and were murdered, they were our age...as dancers, we feel a connection to that."

You can watch the Sisters video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZONVmtToY>.

-with files from DMCI

SUPERHEROES' WORK NEVER DONE

In teacher Marjorie White's classroom at Dufferin School, she asks each student to be a superhero every day.

It sounds like a job for Superboy or Supergirl, but really, being a superhero can mean being a super-speller, a super-reader, or being super respectful of others.

"We're the Justice League of Learning," Ms. White said, adding that both she and the students get into their roles by wearing capes and costumes on occasion.

She also notes that being a superhero can also mean helping out those in need. In December, the Grade 2 class spearheaded a Dufferin campaign to help Winnipeg Harvest serve the hungry.

"First we dropped off cans at the office or our classroom, and then our cans got dropped off at Winnipeg Harvest," said student Dellin McLean. "Then Winnipeg Harvest gave hampers full of food to less fortunate people."

The campaign amassed several large plastic barrels full of non-perishable food items.

"It makes me feel happy to help," Dellin added. "We're hunger heroes too."



AMVC LANCASTERS READY TO SERVE COMMUNITY

Andrew Mynarski VC School teacher Stefania Zaurrini prepares to serve during a student/staff charity volleyball game at the school.

The December match-up was held as a fundraiser for Siloam Mission.

The game was organized by educational assistant Krishna Armogan, who is also a four-time cancer survivor. Mr. Armogan has organized charity basketball and volleyball games in the past between staff and different age levels of students. Other beneficiaries of the charity games over the years have included CancerCare Manitoba.

"The competition is always fun... we have a really good time," Mr. Armogan said.

The Dec. 12 game was the second of several games where students and staff raised money through a silver collection. The first game alone raised over \$160.

Mr. Armogan was on the public address system frequently to issue the fundraising challenge to students and staff. The school community was also asked to donate winter clothing in collection boxes throughout the school.

"The Siloam Mission's need right now is for mitts, toques, long johns and those kinds of things," he said. "The boxes have really been filling up."

A representative from Siloam Mission visited the school in February to speak with students about how the organization serves Winnipeg's homeless.

SEWING A VALUABLE LIFE SKILL

Sargent Park School students are learning valuable life skills—and offering a helping hand to people locally and globally—through the school's sewing club.

"I always have students coming to me asking if I have something to sew in their spare time," said Samantha Einarson, who teaches sewing to junior high students at the school. "This gives them a chance to work on projects that have some meaning."

The club was formed this school year, originally to help sew items for the charity Days for Girls. The organization makes feminine hygiene kits for girls in other countries who are unable to purchase or obtain these essential items that are so easily available in first-world countries.

"There are girls who don't have that convenience, they have to stay home for a

week and miss school," Ms. Einarson said.

The club has since turned their attention to create blankets for the needy in Winnipeg and beyond.

Students said they are learning a valuable skill.

"It's very handy to repair stuff, or if you want to make something new, such as making a gift for somebody," said student Renee Marcelino. "I learned from my mom, and she learned from her mother."

For many other students, sewing is a way to connect to family.

"Sewing reminds me of my grandmother," said student Juliane Damaso. "She runs a shop in the Philippines and makes things like wedding gowns."

For more information on Days for Girls, visit www.daysforgirls.org.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

Renee Marcelino (left) and Raven Dela Reyna measure fabric during a lunchtime sewing club meeting.

SONGS FOR CITIZENSHIP

Becoming a Canadian citizen is a huge moment for newcomers to Canada, marking the end of one journey and the start of a new life.

On Dec. 10, Sister MacNamara School choir students had the chance to sing a bilingual version of *O, Canada* at the first citizenship ceremony to be held at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

"It was definitely an honour," said Music Specialist Paula Walker. "We've sang for citizenship ceremonies at the Legislature before, but it was really neat to see the inside of the new museum."

Students also sang a version of *I Love this Country* at the event.

"They even made some people cry, it was a great song," Ms. Walker said.

She added the school was a perfect fit to perform at such ceremonies, given the multicultural student body.

"One year, we even had a Grade 5 student who was becoming a citizen that day, so we took his class to sing at the event and cheer him on. Many of our students have families that are becoming citizens or did it in previous years. A lot of kids can really relate to it."



Photo courtesy of Sister MacNamara

HEADED HOME

This past December, 20 Christmas hampers headed home to Tec Voc High School families to give them a little help during the holiday season.

Tec Voc's annual hamper drive started approximately ten years ago, when teacher Nicole Bouchard noticed there were many students in need at the school.

"Students are selected based on the connections staff have made with these kids," Ms. Bouchard said. "The students have felt comfortable enough to share their personal situations, which is remarkable. It can be a lot about pride and not being able to share, not wanting to tell people that they are in need. But when they do open up, we want to help them the best way that we possibly can."

Since it began, more and more staff and students have joined the cause, bringing in food and spreading awareness about the annual campaign.

"It's grown and blossomed since then,"

Ms. Bouchard said. "More staff members have become involved and in the past few years our student council and leadership students have gotten involved as well."

Students and staff members have also contributed financially to purchase perishable food items and gift cards for the hampers; one staff member alone donated \$500.

"This year we raised a record \$1,600, so that allowed us to add more to each of the hampers," Ms. Bouchard said.

Granny's Poultry donated turkeys, while Weston Bakeries donated bread and Peak of the Market provided potatoes for the hampers.

In addition to the hamper drive, the school has breakfast and lunch programs that run with the support of the staff and Tec Voc's culinary arts program.

"We try to make sure that nobody goes without at Tec Voc High School," Ms. Bouchard said.



THE ROSSBROOK ROCKERS

PHOTO AND STORY BY JEFF MILLER

Every young rockers' dream is to play to a sold out show—and that is exactly what happened for six extremely talented musicians from the Wi Wabigooni program.

On January 15, the United Way was at Victoria Inn celebrating another successful year of campaigning, with over 800 people at the sold out event.

The Rossbrook Rockers were invited to perform at the festivities. The band is made up of six students between Grades 3-6, some with no musical experience prior to this year. Skender Sefa, president of the Winnipeg Classical Guitar Society, teaches music in the program. He said students began learning music and instruments in September.

"We only had two weeks notice to prepare...there were definitely a lot of nerves prior to the performance but as a

musician it works in your favor," Mr. Sefa said. "I am very excited for the students to be challenging themselves at such a young age."

Classroom teacher Lynn Barry watched in amazement at how the students learned new songs in such a short span of time. "It has been so inspiring to see them go into the music room themselves and practice because they are so excited about their performance."

At the conclusion of a three-song set, which featured Seven Nation Army, Smells Like Teen Spirit and Eye of The Tiger, the packed room jumped to their feet with a standing ovation.

Wi Wabigooni is a specialized off-campus program run in conjunction with Rossbrook House and École Victoria-Albert School.



The Rossbrook Rockers perform at the United Way celebration.

MOSAIC AT THE MUSEUM

Winnipeg School Division art consultant Joe Halas (left), Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute's Sumer Elk, Wali Korane, Anabelle Salonga, Hayder Al-Saeedi and teacher Robyn Rypp stand with the mosaic mural produced by WSD students.

Over 165 students (representing 77 schools) participated in creating the massive mural as part of the human rights celebration Everybody has the Right.

The group assembled the full mural at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in December.

Anabelle said her own contribution was about murdered anti-child labour advocate Iqbal Masih.

"Having this piece in the museum, about a story that has really affected me and having it seen by all these people is amazing—it really spreads a message."

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

OUTSTANDING ACADEMICS

The Winnipeg School Division's (WSD) Board of Trustees recognized outstanding academic students from the Class of 2014 at its Dec. 15 meeting.

Administrators from each WSD high school presented their respective Governor General's Medal and WSD School Board Post Secondary Scholarship winners to the board.

The Governor General's Medal is presented to the student who achieves the highest academic standing at their high school. The WSD School Board Post Secondary Scholarship Awards, which were established in 1972, present \$1,000 scholarships to a student at each high school.

The graduates are congratulated by the Board and presented with \$50 book gift certificates.

PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S AWARD-WINNING GRADUATES:

Front row: Grace Johnston, Gordon Bell High School; Kim Laberinto, Collège Churchill; Erika Manimtim, Tec Voc; Rose Dominguez, Tec Voc High School; Thalia Louise Hemedes, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute; Xiaorui (Sharie) Ding, Winnipeg Adult Education Centre; Candace Spence, R.B. Russell Vocational High School; and Tara Hendy, Winnipeg Adult Education Centre.

Back row: Jase Falk, Churchill High School (left); Eucharía Ogoms, Argyle Alternative High School; Marley Ferreira-Malyon, Kelvin High School; Julia Brigham, Grant Park High School; Carlyle Foja, Sisler High School; Giorgia Skorletos, Churchill High School; Matthew Levesque, Grant Park High School; and Edmund-Sean Viagedor, St. John's High School.

Not pictured: Cole Berens, R.B. Russell High School; Candy Berthelot, Children of the Earth High School; Jasmine Charles-Cabral, Argyle School; Teosha Green, Elmwood High School; Ryan Pangilinan, Elmwood High School; Maria Isabel Prieto, St. John's High School; and Avery White, Kelvin High School.

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH ALWAYS IN THE FOREFRONT

With 77 schools in the Winnipeg School Division (WSD), and several more administration and service buildings supporting those schools, Workplace Safety and Health Officers Pierre Dufault and Cindy Henning help to keep all of these buildings running safe and sound.

Operating under the WSD's Human Resources Department, Mr. Dufault and Ms. Henning manage safe workplace programming throughout the division. "Our role is primarily ensuring that as a division we are in compliance with Workplace Safety and Health legislation," Ms. Henning said.

That includes everything from provincial legislation to keeping buildings in compliance and up to date with local fire codes.

"We're always making sure everything

lines up in accordance with current permits, codes and best practises," Mr. Dufault said. "And we're always trying to find gaps in our system."

Staff training is a major part of the officers' day-to-day responsibilities. Mr. Dufault and Ms. Henning provide training sessions to teachers, trades staff and administrators in areas like fire safety, lifting, ladder training, WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Material Information System), ergonomics, new staff orientation, training new building safety committees and more.

"There's a huge training component to this job," Ms. Henning said. "For example, we do safety talks with our trades staff, and we're also looking at implementing safety talks for custodial staff every month."



GRANT FOR GREEN GIANTS

Deputy Education Minister Gerald Farthing and representatives from the RBC Foundation recently visited Elmwood High School to present a \$3,000 Learning for a Sustainable Future Grant. The grant was in recognition of the Green Giants project, which had students gardening and learning about concepts such as sustainability, vermicomposting, aquifer systems, the grow-local perspective, First Nations perspectives and more. The project, which was spearheaded by teachers Jenna Forslund and Christina Nguyen, also benefitted from partnerships with the Green Action Centre and Winnipeg Harvest.

PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER



VOCAL DYNAMICS

The musical talents of Winnipeg School Division students were on full display at the annual Honour Band and Choir Concert, Jan. 10 at Jubilee Place. Guest conductors Michelle Chyzik and Dr. Gillian MacKay led students through a dynamic evening of music.

PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY REMINDER

FOR DRIVERS

- Flashing yellow lights on the school bus mean the bus is getting ready to stop and load or unload. You need to slow down and get ready to stop.
- Flashing red lights mean the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off. It is illegal to pass a school bus from either direction once it's stopped and has its lights activated unless there is a physical barrier (such as a median) between your vehicle and the bus.
- As soon as the bus driver turns on the flashing red lights, drivers coming from both directions must immediately stop at least five metres from the bus and remain stopped until the lights stop flashing, the STOP arm folds away and the bus begins to move.
- Be extremely cautious around school buses and remember young children are nearby and move quickly.

FOR PARENTS

Educate your children about bus safety etiquette:

- Teach them to stay away from the three danger zones – the front, sides and back of the bus by staying at least three meters away from the school bus.
- If children must cross the street, they must never cross behind the school bus, they should seek the driver's permission, take five giant steps past the front of the bus and make sure the driver has seen them before crossing.
- Teach them to be watch for other traffic before crossing the road.
- If children drop something near or under the school bus, they should never attempt to retrieve it without the driver's permission.
- Ensure that they get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the school bus arrives.
- Teach them to never run after the school bus if they arrive late at the bus stop.
- Teach them to take five giant steps away from the road when the school bus is approaching.

Source: Manitoba Public Insurance





Children's Heritage Fund
Supporting inspired learning

Donate for a positive future

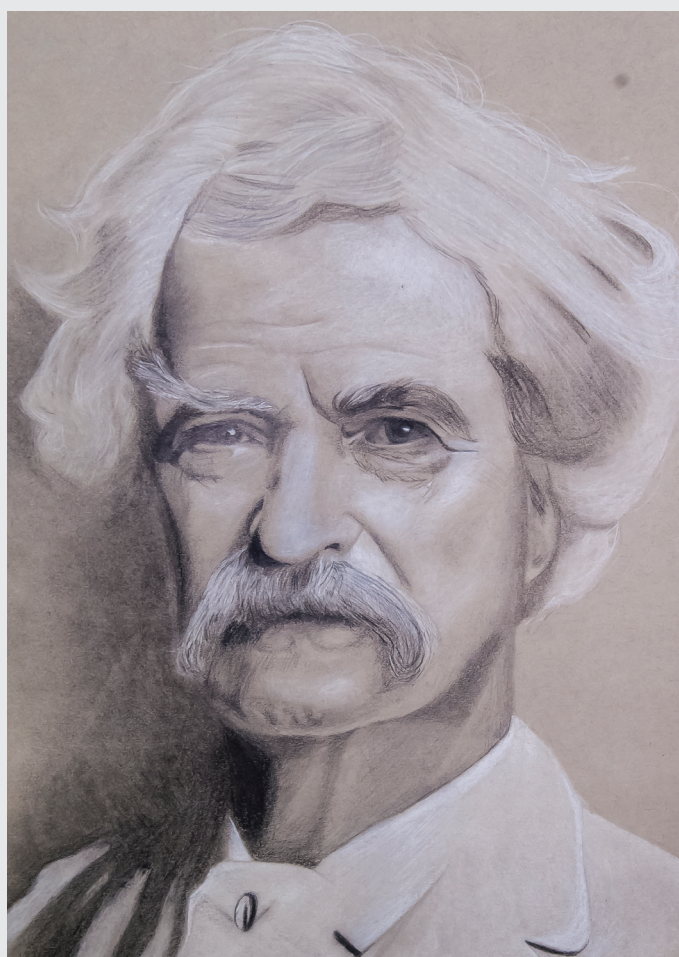
Your donation to Children's Heritage Fund plays an important role in ensuring children attending school in Winnipeg School Division enjoy experiences that instill a positive attitude and build confidence to achieve their goals.

You can help support:

- Multicultural and cultural enrichment
- Outdoor education and sports
- Playground equipment and field improvements

For information on Children's Heritage Fund and how to make your donations:

(204) 775-0231 x 404 | childrensheritagefund@wsd1.org
| www.winnipeg.ca/CHF



ARTFULLY RENDERED

Young artists from Sisler High School and Andrew Mynarski VC School partnered for the annual Winter Art Fair, held Dec. 16 at Sisler. Among the work on display was Aldrin Zapata's portrait of Mark Twain (left), and Tracy Anne Balak's mixed media sculpture (below).

PHOTOS BY JEFF MILLER



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Scan to watch the Winnipeg School Division in action!