



The Communiqué

Monthly Newsletter of École Luxton School

FEB
2025

"The students, staff, and communities of Winnipeg School Division are committed to truth and reconciliation through building relationships with Mother Earth, the original peoples of this land, and the stories that bring us together. We acknowledge the place in which we gather is on Treaty 1 territory, the homeland of the Red River Métis, and the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininiwak, and Dakota Oyate."

Message from the Principal

There's so much to look forward this February! The days get brighter day by day, and the students take part in a series of winter celebrations.

Before previewing the celebrations, there are two staff changes to share with the community. **Allyssa Seaman** has joined Luxton School for three hours per day as a food coordinator in our nutrition program. Many students know her from the youth activity program at the Luxton Community Centre. Welcome Allyssa! In addition, we welcome **Sara Ermet** who will be teaching on term until mid-April in Room 18. Ms. Ermet has worked at Luxton in the past and returns to fill in for Ms. Chan.

We celebrate **I Love to Read Month** all month long in February. The Luxton Parent Advisory Council has organized a Read-a-thon fundraiser, and we have guest readers popping into classrooms. Our family center has organized a book exchange.

As a unique, fun feature this year, we are hosting "**100-Day Celebration**," an evening celebration of learning for Nursery and Kindergarten students. They'll perform songs, then take part in activity stations and have a snack.

Registration for the 2025 – 2026 School Year

If your child already goes to Luxton, there's no need to re-register. Simply fill out the student intention form and indicate "Continuing." If your family's plan is to apply to attend another school next year, we'd appreciate knowing those intentions, even if your child has not yet been accepted by another school.

Registration Dates

Registration for students *in the catchment* area will begin **Monday, February 10, 2025**. Please note that we have two catchment areas – one for English program and a different one for French Immersion. If families are from *outside the catchment* area, the registration date is **Monday, March 10, 2025**. Please note that we consider enrollment at Mary Kardash CC as a factor in deciding whether to accept out-of-catchment area students.

Change in French Immersion Catchment Area

The Winnipeg School Board has changed Luxton's catchment area. Lansdowne School and Waterford Springs French Immersion programs are full. To alleviate the pressure on these two French Immersion programs, the board has redrawn the catchment boundaries.

In the past, parents had a choice between a milieu French Immersion program (at Lansdowne) and a dual-track program (at Luxton). For the 2025-2026 school year, new registrants will no longer have that choice. Luxton's new French immersion program boundary is in the west and runs along McGregor Street. All students in this area who want French immersion will register at Luxton for Kindergarten, and all new students to F.I. (say, if you moved here from another town) would also come to Luxton. The [Find a School](#) app on the web site can help.

In terms of bussing, students who are outside our new F.I. boundary might continue to be eligible for bussing – it will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Warm regards,

W. Nickerson
Directeur / Principal

February is I Love to READ Month!

We recognize February 2025 as “I Love to Read Month.” We celebrate the importance and joy of reading. This year’s theme is “Building Bridges.” According to the Reading Council of Greater Winnipeg, the theme is meant to help develop deeper connections within our diverse communities, while engaging with literacy in meaningful and impactful ways.

Luxton will experience Yoruba stories with Bola Oriyomi, a storyteller and cultural performer, originally from Nigeria, celebrating literacy and Black History Month together. We will also host a guest reader from the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth. The guest will visit elementary French Immersion classrooms and share the voices and rights of youth.



I LOVE TO READ MONTH!

Building Bridges

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Prepared by: Reading Council of Greater Winnipeg Please visit: https://rcgw.weebly.com						1 Read a book with a family member.
2 Read <i>How to Make Un Ami: The Story of Elliott and Élodie</i> by Amy Warr and Kristy Maan.	3 Greet someone in French today.	4 How do you say “I love to read” in French?	5 What languages are spoken in Manitoba?	6 Go for a walk and look for signs in different languages.	7 Write as many words as you can in 5 minutes.	8 Visit your local library.
9 Read <i>When We Are Kind/ Nihá’ádaahwiinít’igo</i> by Monique Gray Smith.	10 What does kindness mean to you? Make a list of ways to be kind.	11 Complete 3 random acts of kindness today.	12 Write a thank you note to someone special.	13 Make a bookmark about kindness.	14 Say I Love You in a different language.	15 Read <i>Luli and the Language of Tea</i> by Andrea Wang.
16 Make a cup of tea and listen to a story.	17 Find someone that speaks a different language and ask them to teach you a word.	18 Write down 3 things you are grateful for.	19 Read <i>Next Door</i> by Deborah Kerbel. If there were words, what would they say?	20 Learn a word in American Sign Language (ASL).	21 Create your own wordless picture book.	22 Play a game of charades or Pictionary, using no words.
23 How many ways can you say “Hello”?	24 Trade books with a friend.	25 Create a poem about your identity.	26 Read a dual language book of your choice.	27 Play a word game like Boggle, Scrabble or Bananagrams.	28 Share your favourite story with someone.	

Each Friday in February, we will celebrate I love to Read different fun activities:

- February 7: Read my Shirt - Wearing a shirt with appropriate writing on it!
- February 14: Hats off to reading - Wear your favourite hat!
- February 21: Create your own wordless picture book.
- February 28: Share your favourite story with a friend.

Global Day of Play February 5

In Honour of Julie Bachewich



This year, as part of our commitment to fostering joy, creativity, and connection in our students' lives, École Luxton School is embracing the ideas behind the Global Day of Play (On February 5th) in a very special way. We are dedicating this celebration to the memory of Julie Bachewich, a beloved educational assistant who touched the hearts of everyone in our school community.

Julie was known for her warm sense of humor, her infectious laughter, and her magical pocket full of candy that always seemed to appear at just the right moment. She brought light and joy to our school, forming meaningful connections with students and staff alike. Julie had a unique ability to make each child feel valued and understood, whether by sharing a kind word, listening with patience, or offering a sweet treat that brightened a tough day.



To honor Julie's legacy, we will embody the principles of the Global Day of Play: unstructured, child-directed play that allows students to explore, imagine, and create without boundaries. It will also reflect the kindness and joy that Julie brought to our school every day.

What to Expect on Play Day:

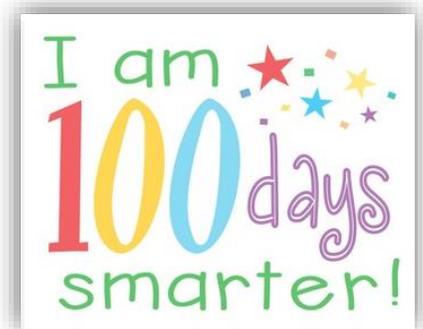
- **Unstructured Playtime:** Students will have access to a variety of play stations, including building blocks, board games, art supplies, and outdoor activities, allowing them to choose how they spend their time.
- **Memory Sharing:** Students and staff will have the opportunity to write or draw their favorite memories of Julie, which will be displayed in a commemorative mural.
- **Laughter and Fun:** True to Julie's spirit, the day will be filled with smiles, laughter, and moments that remind us of the joy of being together.

Julie Bachewich's legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched. Through this special day of play, we hope to honour her memory and celebrate the values she held dear: kindness, connection, and the simple joys of childhood.

100 Day Celebration for N and K

We are thrilled to invite the caregivers of students in Nursery and Kindergarten on **February 12th** to celebrate 100 days in school. On 100 Day, students will perform some songs together, then take part in activity stations that show and celebrate how much they have learned in the first 100 days,

5:30 PM Performances, including dance club
 5:50 PM Transition to stations



"Play and Go"	Literacy Activity	Numeracy Activity	Snack-tivity
6:00 – 6:15	Rm 6AM	Rm. 7 AM and PM	Rm 6PM
6:15 – 6:30	Rm 7 (AM and PM)	Rm 6 PM	Rm 6 AM
6:30 – 6:45	Rm 6 PM	Rm 6 AM	Rm 7

MUSIC

This month in music we are learning about the musical instrument families. The percussion family is the largest group of music families and includes instruments that are not really instruments, such as the sounds from spoons to piano and from xylophones to triangles. It isn't just about drums! Percussion is anything that can keep a beat or make a rhythm.



We have begun to work on rhythms and patterns in a drumming circle and I look forward to students creating their own musical drum selections to perform for each other. We will talk about the vibrations of sound, how sounds and drums work, as well as the energy that goes into playing a drum. The other instrument family we have worked on is the woodwind family. It relates with the music from "Peter and the Wolf" written by Sergie Prokofiev. The instruments are used to represent animals: the oboe is the duck, and the clarinet is the cat.

Students in rooms 15, 16, and 18 will be starting their first enrichment dance project session with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. The students that joined understand that it is a 10-session dedication to participate, practice, rehearse and be completely focused on their dance. Teachers from the RWB will be at the school once a cycle, as time permits each month, for a 30-minute full out dance session. I am looking forward to participating with the students and learning the dance with them. I am sure we will all need to remember our water bottle that day!!

The afterschool guitar club has started again for students in grades 6 – 7 and will be 35 minutes, Monday to Wednesday after school. Students will be learning chords, practicing independently and playing together. There is a permission letter if your child is still interested in learning to play guitar.



Next month we will be exploring the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. He may have died over 225 years ago, but his music lives on. The students will play along to such pieces as "Eine Kleine Nauchtmusik" and the "Turkish March".

Ms Drewniak

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Although January was marked by some very cold weather, we still managed to make the most of a few warmer days. Students had a blast heading outdoors to play in the snow with shovels and sleds, embracing the winter fun.

As we look ahead, February is shaping up to be an action-packed month filled with exciting events and opportunities for our students:



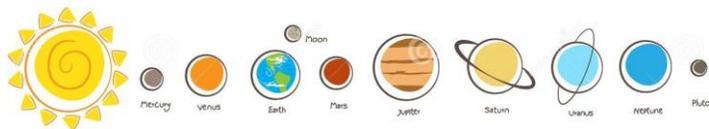
- **February 7** - Tripleball: Our Grade 5 and 6 Tripleball players will participate in an invitational tournament at Waterford Springs School.
- **February 12** - Junior High Track and Field: For the first time, our Grade 7 students will attend the Track Attack event organized by Manitoba Athletics—a fantastic opportunity to experience junior high track and field.
- **February 25** - Athletics Manitoba Elementary Relay: Grade 4, 5, and 6 students will have the chance to participate in this exciting event hosted by Athletics Manitoba.
- **February 26** - 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament: Luxton School has been invited to a thrilling 3-on-3 basketball tournament at Waterford Springs School, open to students who are interested.

February promises to be a busy month, packed with opportunities for physical activity, teamwork, and fun. As always, remember to keep fit, stay active, and most importantly, have fun!

Best regards, William Kay, Phys Ed Department

Room 20 – Ms. N. Horsman & Ms. Iris

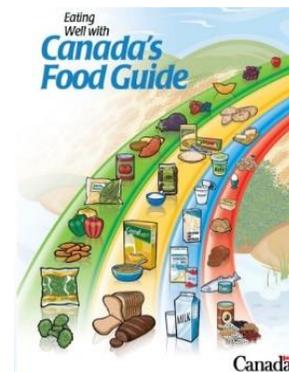
It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the school year! The students in Room 20 have been busy learning about the Canada Food Guide and what healthy eating looks like. This month we will be starting a new Science Unit on the Solar System and



learning how to do a research project on a planet.

As a Pay it Forward project the students have been

making toques for a grade 1/2 class at David Livingstone Community School. They are learning to make toques using a loom. Once the toques are all completed, we will be taking the students to David Livingstone so that they can present the toques to the students.



New Holiday Store

We are pleased to announce that in December 2025, we will host our first-ever École Luxton School Holiday Store. The holiday store is a place where students can bring in a small donation, such as a \$1 or \$2, and purchase a holiday gift for their family members. For the holiday store to be successful, we are now collecting donations of small gifts, similar to what you would save for a garage sale. For instance, gently-used mugs, books, kitchen items, or holiday decor items. We are not collecting perishable items such as candy. Items can be sent in at any time during the rest of the school year and labelled as "Holiday Store". Please have your child give their items to their classroom teacher and then items can be given to Ms Howard or directly to Ms Angie in the Family Centre. A big thank you to Ms Angie in the Family Centre who will be collecting, sorting, and storing the items until next December.

In the Fall, we will look for volunteers to work at the Holiday Store. We are hoping that parents will work at a table and sell items to students who are wanting to purchase items for their family. We will also be looking for donations of wrapping paper, gift bags, ribbon, and gift tags. People who are willing to wrap items for children will also be needed to volunteer at the Holiday Store.

All donations collected will go to community members in need. In the past our school collected money for families who have lost their home to fire and supported families in need around the holiday time? The fundraising from the Holiday Store will continue to support our Luxton community in this way.

If you have any questions about the Holiday Store, please contact Ms Howard at khoward@wsd1.org

With thanks,

Ms Howard

FAMILY CENTRE

Come and stop by the Family Centre (Room 66). The coffee is always on. We're always happy to see you and meet new parents.

We're open Monday to Friday – 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM unless otherwise posted.

Tuesday Literacy Program runs from 9:30 to 11:30 AM every Tuesday. If you have a little one and would like to join us in the fun, come on in.

Don't hesitate to make suggestions. We're always looking for parent input on activities at the Family Centre, such as Food Bingo, Painting Class, Potlucks, or just getting together for coffee/tea and conversation.

In December, Angie Houston hosted a wonderful holiday party for families and staff. A good time was had by all that were able to attend.



February is "I LOVE TO

READ MONTH", and the Family Centre will be running a Book Swap on Wednesday, February 19th, 2025. Students can drop off books to swap at the Family Centre until February 18th. Each student can bring in 4-6 books to swap. The Book Swap will run from 9:30 to 11:30 AM and 1:30 to 3:30 PM.

February 14th is Valentine's Day. Please join us in the Family Centre for some coffee and Valentine treats from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. All Parents and staff are welcome to attend.

Angie Houston

Provided Items from The Family Centre "Rm 66" (across from N/K)

Students are often provided with clothing items from The Family Centre "Rm 66" (across from N/K). If you do not have need of these items long-term, please send all returns to the last locker beside Rm 66, freshly washed and ready for re-use. Underwear may be kept.

The Family Centre "Rm 66" Donations Welcome

We are low on the following:



- children's mittens and gloves
- children's socks
- pants, sweats, leggings (size 7-12)

Please drop off to Rm 66 (across from N/K).



POLAR BEAR CLUB UPDATE

Currently our Polar Bear Club has 20 cubs registered! Students have braved the frigid temperatures outside to get out in the sunshine and fresh air while staying active.

Reminders that students can still join Polar Bear Club by bringing back a signed permission from a parent / guardian. Permission forms can be picked up in the main office or they can be requested through your child's classroom teacher.



Students normally stay indoors for recess when the temperature with the windchill (as measured at The Forks) is below -27°C . Polar Bear Club members will be permitted to still enjoy an outdoor, supervised recess, even if indoor recess has been determined by the school office. If the temperature with windchill exposure becomes VERY HIGH RISK (-40°C or colder as outlined by Environment Canada), Polar Bear Club will be cancelled. If a student in Polar Bear Club chooses to go outside but then changes their mind, they will be allowed to return inside. This club is completely optional. Permission forms will be sent home with interested students before the winter break.

All students are welcome to join Polar Bear Club if they have:



Written permission from a parent / guardian (forms will be sent home)



Appropriate outdoor clothing (snowpants, jacket, boots, gloves/mittens, toque/hat/hood)

Once permission has been granted, students in the Polar Bear Club will be expected to check in with the designated supervisor (Mr. McCartney) just before the normal recess times to confirm permissions and appropriate clothing.

For more information about Polar Bear Clubs, please follow this link: <https://activeforlife.com/polar-bear-clubs/>. If you have any further questions, please contact the school at (204) 589-4368.

MS ZEGLINSKI'S COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook & other social media use--is it safe for developing brains?

After the holidays, several students reported they spent a lot of time on social media platforms and arrived back exhibiting social distress. Some were reluctant to attend. They had been subjected to embarrassing gossip and were afraid of facing people at school. Another student was victim of someone making a fake account in their name. Some parents reported seeing personal posts by children that made them to worry. Several questions come to mind in reflecting on the negative impact these students experienced:

- ◆ Should these platforms be permitted for youth?
- ◆ Are we able to monitor use?
- ◆ Do you know the age restrictions?
- ◆ Do you know the privacy settings?
- ◆ Have you considered an alternative with strong parental controls?
- ◆ Who is "following" & interacting with your children?
- ◆ Do they know every user they interact with online & have a relationship with them in-person? Do caregivers know them? Do caregivers know & have contact info for one another?



There are numerous articles & podcasts on the subject. Here are a few recent ones from CBC:

Dec 19	https://www.cbc.ca/listen/cbc-podcasts/410-the-dose/episode/16116906-how-can-we-reduce-the-negative-effects-of-social-media-on-kids-health
Dec 17	https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-63-the-current/clip/16116427-time-push-back-smartphone-based-childhoods-jonathan-haidt
Dec 10	https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/docuseries-social-studies-teens-social-media-1.7405504

To access school counselling, students may self-refer, or teachers, parents, peers may refer them. kzeglinski@wsd1.org, or by phone (204-589-4368). To leave a message wait for 3 rings, a long beep, followed by 1 brief ring; a recorded message will prompt you.

Thank you for your collective parts in keeping kids feeling safe, healthy, & secure.
Ms Zeglinski

Volunteering

To express your interest in volunteering at École Luxton School, please stop by the office with your ID to fill out the WSD Volunteer Application form and Child Abuse Registry Check form. After returning the forms, watch for an email from Ms Zeglinski with further instructions and the required Winnipeg School Division online training links. If you are available during the day, we are in need of drivers for various school excursions. Additionally, all volunteer drivers must complete the WPS Vulnerable Sector Check. Please contact Ms Zeglinski for details: kzeglinski@wsd1.org



LUXTON COMMUNITY CENTER FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM



Luxton Community Centre runs a **free breakfast program** every school day from 8:00AM to 10:00AM.

All children, youth and their families are welcome to attend.

Breakfast supervisors will remind children when it's time for school.

For more information, please contact Luxton Community Centre at 204-582-8249.

Early Literacy

at

St. John's Library

Monday, January 13 - Monday, March 17 Registration begins December 9

Baby Rhyme Time Wednesday at 11:00AM

Introduce babies to the sounds of language through rhymes, songs and simple stories. For babies, newborn to 18 months with a caregiver. 20-30 minutes.

Registration required.

Family Story Time Saturday at 11:00am

Help build pre-reading skills by sharing stories, singing and having fun together! Best enjoyed by children up to 5 years with a caregiver. 30 minutes.

Registration required.

guides.wpl.winnipeg.ca/earlyliteracy

Family Card Making program on **Monday, February 3rd from 6:00-7:00PM**. Families are encouraged to stop by and make some cards just in time for Valentines Day.

Wild animals at the library? Yes! We have partnered with Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre for **Reading With Wildlife** on **Monday, February 10th at 6:30-7:30PM**.

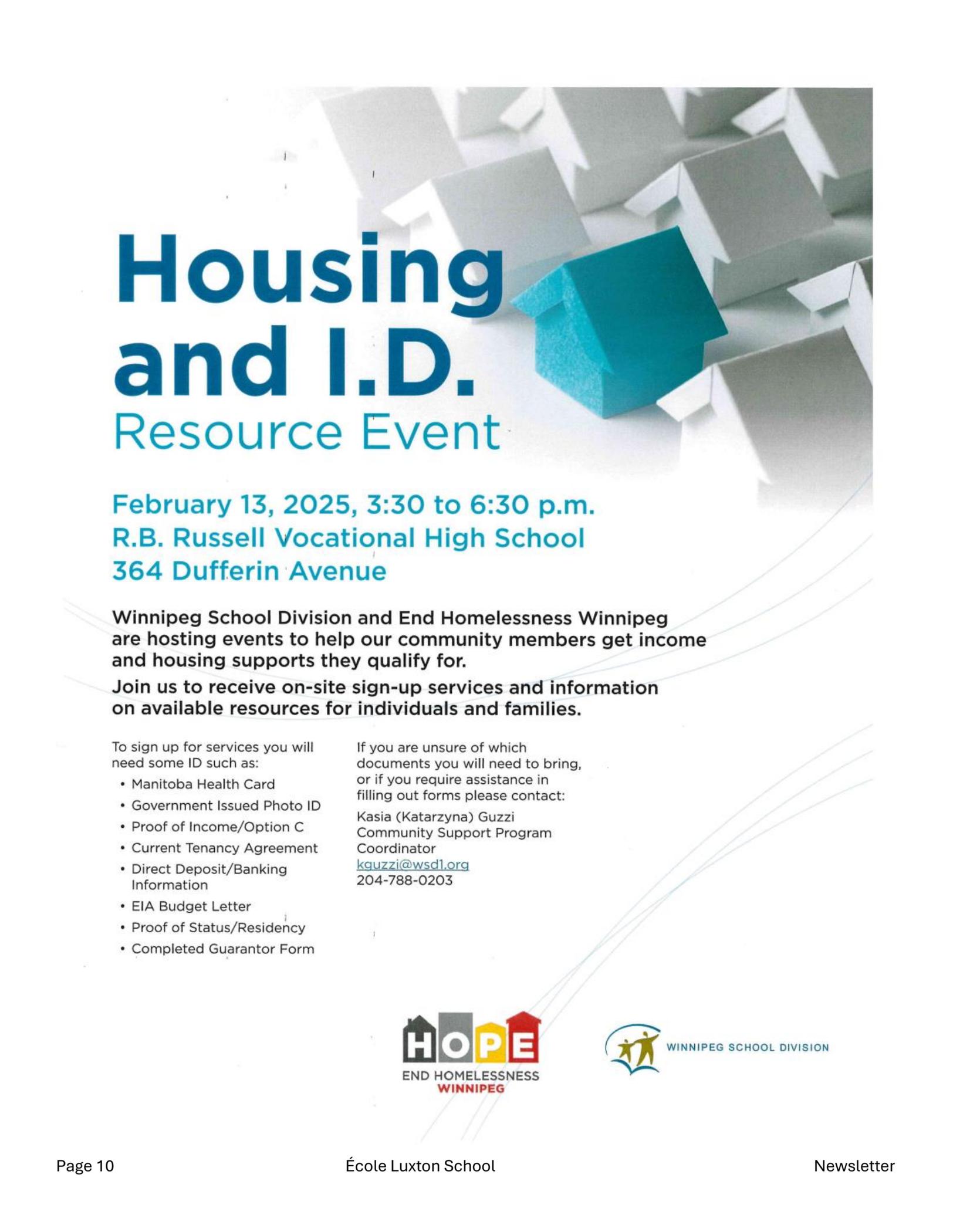
Free! Sign up required.

Anyone interested in board games? We have a drop in **Teen Board Game Afternoon** on **Thursday, February 20th at 3:30-5:30PM**. Swing by after school!

We are also hosting a drop in **Family Game Day** on **Saturday, February 22nd at 11:30-1:30PM**.

Calling all kids 9-12 years old! Are you interested in world records and trivia? Sign up for **Junior Record Breakers** on **Monday, February 24th at 6:00-7:00PM**. Free! Sign up required.

Rather stay home? There is a virtual program **Songs & Puppetry in Anishinaabemowin at Home** on **Wednesday, February 19th at 6:00PM**. Free! Sign up required.



Housing and I.D. Resource Event

February 13, 2025, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
R.B. Russell Vocational High School
364 Dufferin Avenue

Winnipeg School Division and End Homelessness Winnipeg are hosting events to help our community members get income and housing supports they qualify for.

Join us to receive on-site sign-up services and information on available resources for individuals and families.

To sign up for services you will need some ID such as:

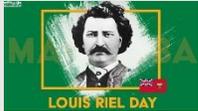
- Manitoba Health Card
- Government Issued Photo ID
- Proof of Income/Option C
- Current Tenancy Agreement
- Direct Deposit/Banking Information
- EIA Budget Letter
- Proof of Status/Residency
- Completed Guarantor Form

If you are unsure of which documents you will need to bring, or if you require assistance in filling out forms please contact:

Kasia (Katarzyna) Guzzi
Community Support Program
Coordinator
kquzzi@wsd1.org
204-788-0203



FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 Day 1 Read-a-thon begins for I Love to Read Month Student intention forms distributed	4 Day 2	5 Day 3 Global School Day of Play in honour of Julie Bachewich	6 Day 4	7 Day 5 Storytelling 9:30-10:30 AM Bola Oriyomi Tripleball Tournament (PM – Gr 5-6)	8
9	10 Day 6 2025-26 Div. Registration for new catchment area students Wise Kid-netic (Rm 9, 13) Sharing Dance	11 Day 1	12 Day 2 Track Attack (Grade 5 / 6) 100 th Day Celebration and Concert (5:30 – 6:45 PM)	13 Day 3	14 Day 4 Valentine's Day  Rm 13 100-day celebration	15
16	17 LOUIS RIEL DAY No School 	18 Day 5 Wise Kid-netic (Rm 20, 24, 25, 26)	19 Day 6 Deadline for the book exchange (Family Centre) 	20 Day 1	21 Day 2	22
23	24 Day 3	25 Day 4 Elementary Relay (gr 4 – 6) PAC Meeting in Library 6:30 PM	26 Day 5 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament (Gr. 5 / 6)	27 Day 6	28 Day 1	29

Upcoming Dates in March

- 10 - outside the catchment area registration date
- 11 – report cards go home via School Messenger
- 10 – 14 – Scholastic Book Fair in Library
- 13 – Student LED Conferences in evening
- 14 – Non-instructional Day NO SCHOOL; Student LED Conferences AM
- 25 – PAC Meeting; 6:30 PM in the library
- 28 – Last day of school before Spring Break
- 31 – April 4 - Spring Break

