



# The Communiqué

Monthly Newsletter of  
École Luxton School

APR  
2024

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Luxton Families,

Reflecting on the past month, I want to say how proud I was listening in on conversations between students and their caregivers about their progress and achievement during student-led conferences. I believe opportunities for *self-assessment* have the most powerful impact on supporting further learning. Students were able to showcase evidence of a range of academic, athletic, and artistic competencies.

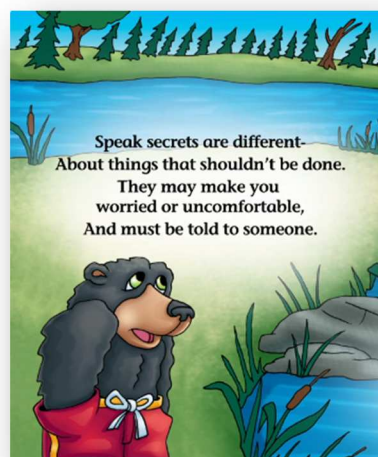


Term 3 will feature some important changes. Two teachers have returned from leave. Room 9 has said a fond farewell to Mrs. Sampson and welcomes back Mrs. Tolentino. Room 16 bid adieu to Mme Litardi and welcomes the return of Mme. Toews. In addition, several new students have registered in grades 1-3, necessitating a re-balancing of classroom sizes. Thank you to students and families who have agreed to change classrooms.

After every school break it's always proactive for school staff to revisit the guidelines for being a responsible member of a peaceful learning

community. At Luxton, we will be affirming with students the guidelines for respectful, responsible and mindful behaviour. It's important that we teach appropriate behaviour, and if children need additional reminders to learn, they also have that opportunity.

Of course, even when we are proactive about setting healthy boundaries for student behaviour, there are occasions where problems still arise. We've been teaching students a strategy called "Stop, Walk, and Talk." In addition, we are using a series of lessons at Luxton using material from *Kids in the Know*, an acclaimed safety education resource for educators and caregivers from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. An example of an important lesson from this resource is helping our youth understand the difference between secrets that you keep and secrets that need to be told to a trusted adult. See the storybook at <https://protectchildren.ca/en/video-storybooks/makoons/>



- Warren Nickerson

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Greetings, Physical Education Enthusiasts!

As we bid farewell to March, we are thrilled to share the highlights of our spirited activities leading up to Spring Break!

## Spirit Week Extravaganza:

We started the week with an exhilarating Spirit Week, igniting enthusiasm throughout the school. From themed dress-up days to lively competitions, our school radiated energy!

## Teachers vs. Students Showdown:

One of the week's highlights was our inaugural Teachers vs Students showdown! Each grade had the chance to challenge our esteemed educators in a game of Pin Guard. It was a resounding success, fostering camaraderie and friendly competition. Laughter echoed through the gym as students

and teachers alike



showcased their skills and sportsmanship.

## Jungle Gym for All:

Midweek, we transformed our gym into a playground paradise with the Jungle Gym set-up. From our energetic kindergarteners to our seasoned athletes, everyone had a blast swinging, climbing, and exploring. It was heartwarming to witness the joy and camaraderie as students of all ages came together for active play.

## Exciting Post-Break Plans:

As we anticipate the return from Spring Break, we have an exhilarating event lined up! Please mark your calendars for our Fit Kids Healthy Kids Gym Bash on the first Friday back. Get ready for an action-packed day of fitness challenges, wellness activities, and plenty of fun!

## Wishing You a Joyous Spring:

I hope that you have returned from your Spring Break adventures rejuvenated, and that you return refreshed, revitalized, and ready for more exciting PE adventures in April! Let's welcome the warm weather as an opportunity to stay active, stay healthy, and cherish every moment.

Warm regards,

Mr. Kay



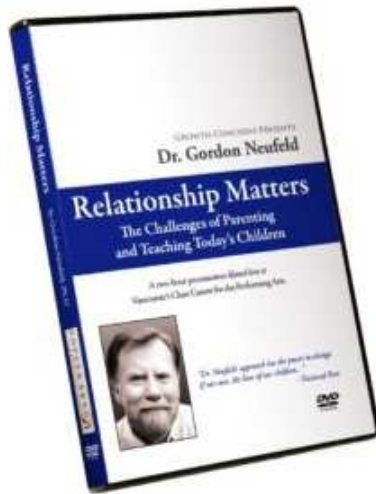
# COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

## Personal Hygiene

Students don't generally change for Phys Ed however, depending on the individual's chemistry, growth and development, and comfort level, they may wish to bring an extra shirt, some personal wipes and/or unscented antiperspirant or a natural unscented deodorant product such as a crystal gel or stone. **NOTE:** We are a "Scent Safe" school due to scent allergies. Please discuss the importance of personal hygiene with your child such as regularly bathing/showering and changing clothing more often as they grow. For more information about discussing personal hygiene with youth, please refer to:

<https://everydayspeech.com/blog-posts/general/teaching-good-hygiene-practices-a-guide-for-educators/>

For more information about the safety of deodorant or antiperspirant products, see:



<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/deodorant.html>

## Challenges of Parenting and Teaching Today's Children

The work of Dr Gordon Neufeld has been instrumental in my life as a parent and as an educator. To access a platform of FREE resources, visit: <https://neufeldinstitute.org/resources/free/>

*"Society has changed. So too have the challenges of parenting and teaching. We all want our children to realize their full potential. We all want our children to become caring and considerate individuals. ...How do we provide direction and discipline without it backfiring? How do we shield our children against the rising tide of aggression and bullying? Dr. Gordon Neufeld addresses these issues and points to a way through..."*

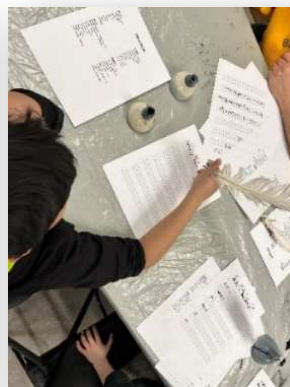
- Mrs. Zeglinski

## THE SAINT BONIFACE MUSEUM

In March, Rooms 24 and 25 visited the Saint-Boniface Museum!

Students learned about the Fur Trade and the history of Manitoba. They also had the opportunity to write using quill pens.

- Mme Groff and Ms. Ellana



# CELEBRATING FRENCH CULTURAL HERITAGE

In the first week of March, Luxton students and staff celebrated Festival du Voyageur week at the school. In classrooms, they learned about the development of the fur trade and the contributions of Indigenous people and French settlers in Manitoba's history.

We were treated to a concert by storyteller and musicians Tibert and Douzie, both proud members of the Métis community. They told stories and jokes and played traditional music like the "Red River Jig" with fiddle and mouth organ. Students stomped and clogged to the rhythm!



## PINK SHIRT DAY

Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, is Pink Shirt Day. This year each student will create a uniquely patterned, pink, tie-dyed shirt to wear and keep. **NOTE:** wash these shirts separately from other clothes for the first wash, as dyes can still leak the second time around (even though we washed them once).

Winnipeg's Canadian Museum of Human Rights is promoting the idea of being an UPSTANDER. What is an upstander? It's someone who chooses to support a person who is being abused or harmed. The upcoming International Day of Pink (April 10) encourages students, staff and community members to be upstanders. We mark the day at Luxton because we celebrate diversity and freedom. We stand against bullying and discrimination in all its forms.

Day of Pink started in Central Kings High School in Cambridge, Nova Scotia, when two senior students saw a freshman student being bullied for wearing a pink shirt. They organized fellow students to come to school wearing pink, standing in solidarity with their classmate.

At Luxton, our pink tie-dyed shirts will show solidarity for those who are picked on, made to feel different, or ridiculed. Teachers will discuss ways we can support and defend students who are subject to discriminatory (sexist, homophobic, racist) language or actions. We will promote safe ways to challenge such bullying and harassment and make Luxton a safe and healthy learning environment.



- Mr. S. Slobodian

# WELCOME TO NURSERY AND KINDERGARTEN



Families took part in École Luxton's Open House and Welcome to Kindergarten in March. Kindergarten teachers Mme Pronyk and Mrs. Kuyp welcomed new families and introduced them to the school. Mrs. Hnatiuk helped families navigate the registration process.

After the open house, families took part in stations that featured important dimensions of success for getting ready for school. The motto of Welcome to Kindergarten is "Talk, Read, Sing, and Play – every day." Thank you to our support teachers, Mr. McCartney, Mrs. Zeglinski, and Mr. Kay for running stations, along with our kindergarten teachers.

It's not too late to register for the 2024-2025 school year.

## SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair was held in our school library from March 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. The first few days were for student and teacher previews with sales being on the evening of Student Led Conferences. Thank you to all the families that came out to support the fair. Sales reached \$4460.20!

Thanks goes out to the wonderful volunteers that helped with the fair. We couldn't have done it without you.

Congratulations to Room 8 who won the Family night draw.



## MOBILE VISION CLINIC

The Mobile Vision Clinic will be at Luxton School during the week of April 8 - 12. The cost of the examination is covered by Manitoba Health. Please refer to the following package of information that has been sent home with each Luxton student (oldest member of family if there are multiple siblings).



- Parent/Guardian Letter and Dilating Eye Drops FAQ
- Eye Examination Consent Form
- Vision Impacts Learning Pamphlet and,
- Medical History Sheet

Please note that if you do not want your child examined you still need to fill out "Section A" to OPT-OUT. If you DO NOT want your child to be examined, please indicate "NO", complete "Section A" and return to Luxton School. Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

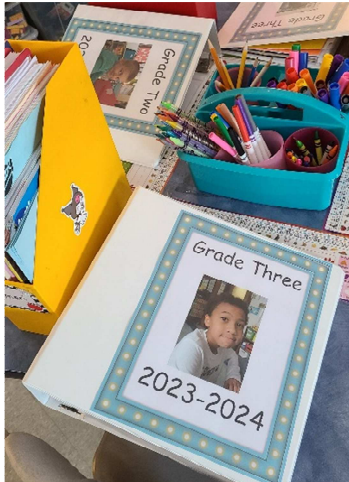
# HIGHLIGHTS FROM STUDENT LED CONFERENCES



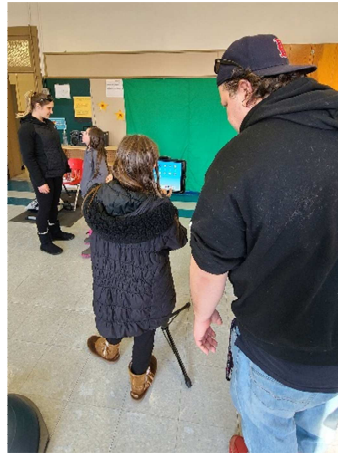
Flowers created in the style of Métis beadwork (pointillism).



(above), Learning about the north, polar bears, and art techniques.



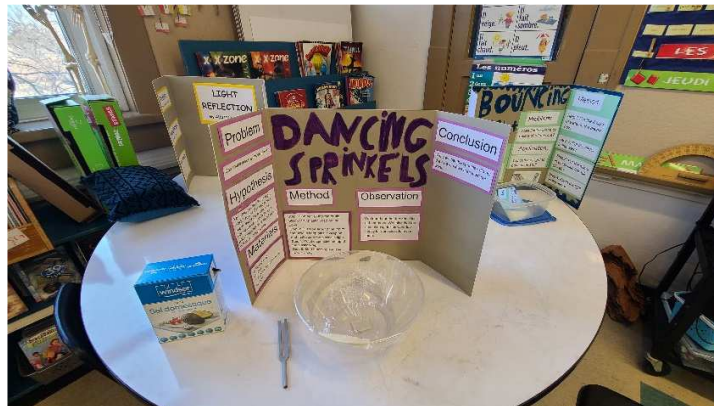
Student portfolios showing growth and achievement.



Students using a green screen to insert a custom background in a family portrait.



Drawing birds in the style of Indigenous artist Kenojuak Ashevak



Science project on display for student-led conferences

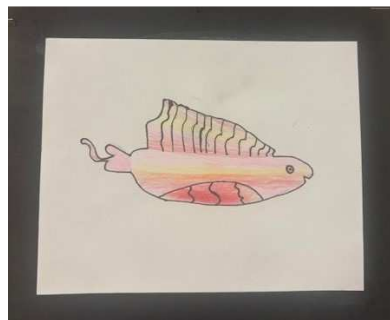


Our library book fair.



A classroom ready for student reflection

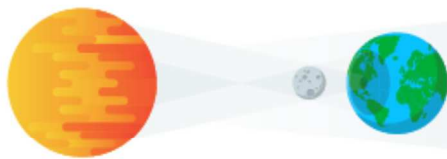
# ROOM 18 AT WORK AND PLAY





# SOLAR ECLIPSE

## Safety Measures and Viewing Guidance



### What is a solar eclipse?

During a solar eclipse, the moon moves between the sun and the Earth, partially or completely blocking the sun's rays. This means that the sun will appear less bright, and people will be able to look at it directly without turning away.

### What are the hazards of viewing a solar eclipse?

Looking at the sun, including during a solar eclipse, can cause **solar retinopathy**, which can permanently damage the retina's light-sensitive cells at the back of the eye. Even a brief look at the sun during an eclipse can cause **permanent harm** to the eyes. A person may not experience any pain or discomfort while watching the event and still suffer **severe damage** as a result.

Symptoms may not surface until 12 to 48 hours after the event and could involve retinal burns, temporary or permanent vision loss and blurred vision. Once symptoms start, it is usually too late to reverse any resulting damage. If someone experiences any changes in their vision from watching the solar eclipse, they should immediately have someone else drive them to a hospital or to their optometrist to be assessed.



Schools and child care facilities are encouraged to have a basic plan to ensure that children, students and staff will be safe.

Keep a close eye on children during a solar eclipse. Their eyes are still developing and let in more light to the retina than adult eyes, so they are at higher risk of harm if they look at the sun without proper eye protection.



### Additional resources

Additional resources are available through the [Royal Astronomical Society of Canada](#), the [American Astronomical Society](#) and the [Canadian Association of Optometrists](#).

### How can I safely observe a solar eclipse?

**Indirect observation** through a recording (for example, watching on television or streaming online) is the safest way to view an eclipse. **Direct observation** requires appropriate safety measures, including internationally-certified eclipse glasses. Sunglasses, camera lenses (including smart phone cameras), binoculars, telescopes or anything else that is not specifically made for viewing an eclipse are not safe.





# PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Stay in Touch

PAC has a new website! Please check it out at [www.ecole-luxton-pac.com](http://www.ecole-luxton-pac.com)

Follow PAC on social media as well to stay on top of all the current information about fundraising, events and meetings:

**Instagram:** @luxton.pac

**Facebook:** Ecole Luxton School Parent Advisory Council

## PAC Meeting

There was no Parent Advisory Council meeting in March. Our next PAC meeting will be on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the library. That evening will feature an opportunity for parents to have input into the Luxton School plan.

## Fundraising

École Luxton School PAC has teamed up with the Moose, the SeaBears, and the Bombers. More details will be sent home soon.

**École Luxton School PAC  
& The Manitoba Moose  
Have teamed up**



Sunday April 14 at 2 pm against Iowa

Tickets are 21.99 each  
(regular price is \$37)

**Buy your tickets here:**  
[École Luxton School \(fevo-enterprise.com\)](http://fevo-enterprise.com)



**\$10 from each  
ticket goes to PAC**

# CLASSROOM REPS NEEDED

**PARENTS ADVISORY  
COUNCIL** | **STARTS  
6:30PM**

**LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

COME REPRESENT YOUR  
CLASSROOM AND HELP SPREAD THE  
WORD TO OTHERS IN YOUR  
STUDENTS CLASSROOM



# APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 / Day 1 School Reopens	2 / Day 2	3 / Day 3 Kuamini Lunch Rm 18	4 / Day 4	5 / Day 5 P.E. Gym Bash	6
7	8 / Day 6	9 / Day 1	10 / Day 2 Kuamini Lunch Rm 18 International Day of Pink	11 / Day 3	12 / Day 4	13
Mobile Vision Clinic						
14	15 / Day 5	16 / Day 6	17 / Day 1 Kuamini Lunch Rm 18	18 / Day 2	19 / Day 3 Common Closure Day – NO SCHOOL	20
21	22 / Day 4	23 / Day 5	24 / Day 6	25 / Day 1	26 / Day 2	27
First Aid for Babysitters Course (April 22- 25, 4 – 6 PM)						
			Kuamini Lunch Rm 18 April 24 – PAC Meeting 6:30 in the library; Parent input into school planning for 2024- 2025			
28	29 / Day 3	30 / Day 4				

## UPCOMING DATES

- May 1, 4, 15, 22 and 29 Kuamini Lunch in Room 18
- May 2, 9 and 16 Swimming Counts – Grade 4 students
- May 6 Non-instructional Day – NO SCHOOL
- May 8 “Bear Witness” Day in recognition of Jordan Principle
- May 13 LifeTouch Spring Photos AM ONLY
- May 20 Victoria Day – NO SCHOOL

## SCHOOL PATROLS

Schedule:

April 1 - 5	Squad C
April 8 - 12	Squad A
April 15 - 18	Squad B
April 22 – 26	Squad C
April 29 – May 3	Squad A