



# THE COMMUNIQUÉ MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ÉCOLE LUXTON SCHOOL

MAY  
2025

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Luxton Families,

### *Strong Preschool Registration and an Information Evening*

While registration is ongoing for the Fall of 2025, I am excited to share with you that our French Immersion Kindergarten classes have 26 students registered, and our grade 1 class also has more than 20. Clearly, changing the catchment area boundaries is going to make our Immersion programme more stable for the years to come.

We also have more than twenty students registered for N-K in our English programme. As a result, there will be both a morning N-K and an afternoon N-K group next year. For families that are new to Luxton for the fall of 2025, we are hosting a Kindergarten Information Evening on **May 14 from 5:30 – 6:30 PM**.

### *Student Interest Clubs*

We are working on our school plan to develop student connection and belonging. You may notice that Luxton teachers have launched a variety of **student-interest clubs**. Mrs. Chan, Mrs. Horsman, and Ms. Ellana have launched a grade 7 Pottery Club on Wednesdays at Lunch from May to early June. Mrs. Howard has grade 6/7 students engaged in Dodgeball on Fridays. Beading Club is now running on Tuesdays, thanks to Ms. Prince, Mrs. Horsman, and Ms. Ellana. Finally, Ms. Toews is hosting the ever-popular Colouring Club for our younger students. Thank you to these teachers for volunteering host clubs and sports!

### *Under Construction*

A huge thank you to the building department. Carpenters, flooring installers, and electricians have quietly been making upgrades. Most of our classrooms have new, reinforced tile floors. In the gym, we've added a large projector screen and a projector.

Looking ahead to Sunday, May 11, I want to wish all the moms out there a Happy Mother's Day!

- Warren Nickerson

**Sunday, May 11, 2025**



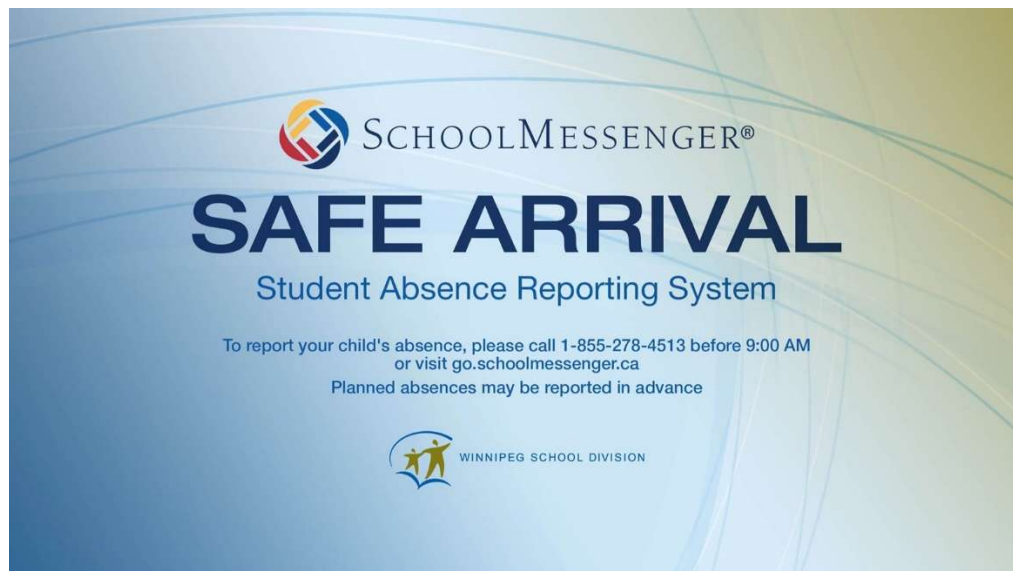
# INDIGENOUS SKY TEACHINGS PLANETARIUM



On Thursday, April 10, 2025, Luxton students experienced the Indigenous Sky Teachings Planetarium, led by Karl Courchene and Courtney Berthelette. Mr. Courchene explained to us that, “The division has purchased the planetarium and enabled me to travel to schools to deliver these teachings.” The planetarium is inflated with air and images of the night sky are projected on the ceiling of the dome.

The dome can accommodate an entire classroom. Ms. Berthelette, an Academic Support Teacher with the WSD’s *Ozhitoon Onji Peenjiiee* (“Build From Within”) program (and also a parent of a student at Luxton) said that “The division has purchased an even larger planetarium capable of holding up to 40 people.” We’re hoping that we can book the planetarium again in the fall.

Thank you to Ms. Prince and Ms. Howard for booking the planetarium, and to Mr. Kaye for facilitating all grades 1 – 7 classes in the gym



# BALANCED SCHOOL DAY PILOT

In the 2025/26 School Year, we aim to enhance students' wellness and sense of belonging. École Luxton School will be piloting a Balanced School Day schedule. As part of that effort, we will be exploring a new schedule.

In a typical schedule, schools have three breaks (AM recess, lunch, PM recess) with four blocks of learning that last around 75 minutes. With time taken from that for having snack and changing into snow suits, valuable learning time is lost.

The Balanced School Day is an alternative schedule. By consolidating the two recess periods into one longer break, the schedule has three longer blocks of learning. Research on the Balanced School Day suggests having more time improves learning. The longer breaks allow for healthy eating and daily physical activity. Nutritional break will happen in class, followed by 30 minutes of indoor clubs or outdoor physical activity.

Here is our *proposed* daily schedule. Note that early years (grade 1-4) and middle years (grade 5-8) will have separate outdoor breaks so that students have more space to play and can engage in age-appropriate activities. In the morning, these age groups *alternate* time outside. At lunch students get a fifty-five-minute lunch period, alternating who eats and who goes outside first.

Times	Early Years	Middle Years
9:00	Homeroom	Homeroom
9:05	First Learning Block	First Learning Block
9:35		
10:05		
10:35	EY Break	MY Nutrition
11:05	EY Nutrition	MY Break
11:35	Second Learning Block	Second Learning Block
12:05		
12:35		
13:05	EY Lunch	MY Activity
13:35	EY Activity	MY Lunch
14:00	Third Learning Block	Third Learning Block
14:30		
15:00		

We have not yet decided whether to change the current schedule for our Nursery – Kindergarten students. We are weighing whether to keep the current schedule or adjust it so that N-K teachers can be more involved in the life of the school, such as having breaks at the same time as their colleagues.

## What are the benefits of the Balanced School Day?

There are many advantages to the Balanced School Day schedule, including:

1. Opportunities for staff and students to connect
2. More uninterrupted instructional time
3. Improved student concentration and energy levels
4. Greater task completion for both students and educators
5. Positive influence on physical health

A study by Dr. Ken Reimer at the University of Winnipeg revealed that one of the strategies that has worked to connect students and teachers is the balanced school day:

Reimer, Kenneth L. (2022) The Balanced School Day and Teacher-Student Connections: Canadian Classroom Teachers Perspectives. International Journal of Learning and Teaching Vol 8., No.4 December 2022. University of Winnipeg. <https://www.ijlt.org/uploadfile/2022/10-E105.pdf>



## MUSIC – MS. DREWNIAK

Our composer of the month was George Gershwin – 1898 – 1937. We explored the music “Rhapsody in Blue”, created our own blue pictures, learned about his life and experiences.

Our dance for the month was Numa Numa. It had some fun new actions and a few repeats of dances in the past. Sharing Dance, with Miss Gabriella from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet will be continuing with 5 lucky classes at the school. It is a contemporary hip-hop piece.

Students in grades N-3 loved our circle game this month “Five Little Bunnies” and have been so excited returning to our rhythm board. It is wonderful for them to see how far they have come in their learning and reading and performing of music notations.

We have begun to experiment with drama: mime movements and actions and hope to include some scripted play creations in the next couple months of school.

## MANITOBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



This past month we previewed music performed by the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra. Students heard, discussed, and drew their images for the music of “Spring” by Vivaldi. Students in grades 4-7 created short skits, inspired by the works of Charlie Chaplin, that contained a beginning, middle and end, to be recorded and presented with the background music “Winnipeg Waltz” by T. Schubert, written in 1919. The students of room 16 were fortunate to be able to accompany the Orchestra with classroom percussion instruments in the piece “Toy Symphony” by Leopold Mozart.



## FAMILY CENTRE

It's hard to believe that we are in the month of May already. One more month to go until Summer Break! Family Centre hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, and the coffee is always on.

The Tuesday Morning Literacy Program is still going strong, so if you have a little one, please join us on Tuesday Mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. We would be happy to see you. The program ends in June.

Food Bingo will be running on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> in the Family Centre from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. There will be prizes!

Let's hope May will bring lots of sunshine and warmer weather.

Angie Houston, Room 66, Family Centre



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Welcome back from Spring Break! We've had an exciting and active start to the season in the gym.

To kick things off, we were thrilled to host a special performance from the **Manitoba Chamber Orchestra** right here in our gym. It was a unique experience that combined music and movement in a truly memorable way!



We've also launched our **popular Badminton Intramurals**, and it's been great to see so many students showing enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and skill on the court.

Our **Running Club** is now in full stride as we prepare for the **Kids Fit Run** in June. This event brings together students from grades 4, 5, and 6 across the Winnipeg School Division for a fun and energetic morning of running with their peers from other schools.

Looking ahead to May, students in grades 5 and 6 will have the opportunity to play **Ultimate Football**—a fun and fast-paced game that combines the best parts of ultimate frisbee and football. It's always a hit and a great way to build teamwork and fitness.

As the days get warmer, you can expect more **Phys Ed classes to take place outdoors**. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather so they can participate comfortably and safely.

As always, our goal is to **keep fit and have fun**—and we're doing just that!

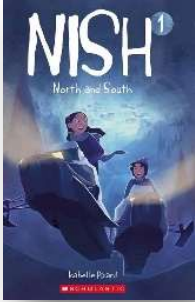
Sincerely,

Mr. Kay

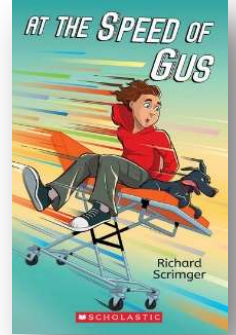
Physical Education Department



## LIBRARY NEWS – COME *CHECK IT OUT!*



We've got a bunch of brand-new books on display in the library, and they're just waiting to be read! Come take a look, pick one that catches your eye, and dive in. If you really enjoy it, why not write a short review? I'd love to post your review in the library so other students can see what you thought. And here's a fun bonus: if your review stands out, I'll reward you with a cool poster for your effort!



Also, we need your help! Parents, guardians, and students, please take a few minutes to look around at home for any library books that might have been borrowed and forgotten over the years. If you spot one with a yellow Winnipeg School Division barcode on the back, please return it to the Luxton library. Every book helps rebuild our collection—thank you so much for your support!

You might've noticed me spending a lot more time in the library lately. That's because I'm training to become the library technician here at Luxton! Starting this fall, I'll be working full-time in the library—and I'll be looking for library helpers from Grades 1 through 8. If you're curious about what that means and how you can get involved, just drop by and ask. Parents, you're welcome to volunteer too!

See you in the library!

Arlene Bell



### MAY 12TH – AUGUST 25TH, 2025

Join us this summer with OverDrive's annual reading program. Sora Sweet Reads is designed for schools in the United States and Canada (for our global program, [click here](#)) to encourage students to keep reading all year long. We're offering a collection of free, simultaneous-use ebooks (and select audiobooks) that spans grades K-12. These titles will be available to participating schools and prominently displayed in [Sora](#) so it's easy for students to find their next sweet read.

Content availability may vary by geographic market. Please contact your Account Manager or email [asksora@overdrive.com](mailto:asksora@overdrive.com) with any questions.

[Click here to view additional resources.](#)



# CANADA LEARNING BOND & RESP

## *What is an RESP?*

A Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) is an education savings account that is registered with the Government of Canada. It allows you to earn interest and grows tax-free until your child is ready to attend post-secondary education.

An article by Andrew Parkin ([LINK](#)) suggests that many children who are eligible are not receiving the funds. There are two ways the government can help you save with an RESP: The Canada Learning Bond and The Canada Education Savings Grant.

## *What is the Canada Learning Bond?*

The Canada Learning Bond (CLB) is a grant from the Government of Canada to help kick-start the education savings account of eligible children with up to **\$2000 of free money.**

You are not required to contribute any money to receive this grant.

Your child is eligible if:

- they are born in 2004 or later
- they lived in Canada before they turned 15 years old
- their family's income met eligibility criteria for at least one year ([click here for more information](#))



They can receive \$500 the first year they are eligible, and an additional \$100 every year they are eligible until they turn 15 years old. **(The money can be claimed retroactively, even after they turn 15!)**

## *What is the Canada Education Savings Grant?*

The Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) is a grant where the Government of Canada matches a portion of contributions in a child's RESP. Every child is eligible for the CESG regardless of their family's income. Contributions can be made until the end of the year the child turns 15 years old (and in some cases, until the child turns 17).

They could receive a **20% matching contribution on the first \$2500 contributed per year.** That's a potential total of **\$500 extra per year for your child's education!**

Depending on your family income, some children will qualify for an additional 10-20% match on the first \$500 contributed. That could be an extra \$100 per year!

# EVERY DAY COUNTS

Students should feel JOY, LOVE, and RIGOUR at school — and that starts with your child attending every day!

## Joy

Students need the support of a community that believes in their success.

## Love

School offers a sense of belonging where children can express their true selves.

## Rigour

Learning happens step by step. Missing days make it harder for your child to achieve excellence.

## Did You Know?

Kids who attend school regularly build stronger life skills, develop positive habits, and feel more connected.

Let's work together to keep our kids learning, growing, and thriving!



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

JOY  
LOVE  
RIGOUR  
WSD





## COUNSELLOR'S CORNER



This year's Winnipeg Pride Festival "Rise in Pride, Stand in Strength," is taking place May 23 -June 1, 2025, with the Pride parade on Sunday, June 1.

All are welcome to walk with The Winnipeg School Division in the parade; meet at the Legislative Building at 10:00 AM on June 1 and look for the Winnipeg School Division banners.

École Luxton School's *Safe & Healthy Schools* committee will circulate our school-based plans for Pride week in a separate mail-out.



To contact Ms Zeglinski - School Counsellor, please email [kzeglinski@wsd1.org](mailto:kzeglinski@wsd1.org)

For more information about counselling at École Luxton School, please

visit: [https://sites.google.com/wsd1.org/luxton-](https://sites.google.com/wsd1.org/luxton-counselling)

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## KINDNESS COUNTS

École Luxton School is devoted to positive behaviour. Room 25 has been developing the Kindness Rocks Project, sponsored by a grant from the Winnipeg Police Service's Cool 2 Be Kind programme. Thank you to Ms Meinders, Ms Castelli-Harms, and for coordinating these efforts.

Students in all classrooms were invited to paint a kindness, making designs that are happy, colourful and kind.



The students have coordinated rock painting: with a kindness/happy theme. The students are using bright colours to make positive pictures and messages. The rocks will be "planted" by the gym doors.

# Housing and I.D. Resource Event



May 7, 2025, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
École Stanley Knowles School  
2424 King Edward Street

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  
[kguzzi@wsd1.org](mailto:kguzzi@wsd1.org)  
204-788-0203



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

# MAY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1   Day 3  Swimming Counts (Grade 4)	2   Day 4	3
4	5   Day 5  Red Dress Day	6   Day 6	7   Day 1 Housing and ID Event @ Stanley Knowles	8   Day 2 Swimming Counts (Grade 4)	9   Day 3  Non-instructional  No School	10
11 M's Day	12   Day 4	13   Day 5	14   Day 6 Grade 6 Immunization (AM)  N/K Information Evening / WTK	15   Day 1 Swimming Counts (Grade 4)  School of Choice Application Deadline	16   Day 2  Food Bingo in the Family Centre 9:30 – 11:30	17
18	19  Victoria Day	20   Day 3	21   Day 4	22   Day 5	23   Day 6	24
25	26   Day 1	27   Day 2 N/K Classes Field Trip (6AM/ 6PM / 7AM / 7PM) all day  PAC Meeting 6:30 PM Library	28   Day 3	29   Day 4	30   Day 5	

## UPCOMING DATES

June 4	Fit Run (AM)
June 5	PowWow @ Tec Voc High School
June 6	Rm 8 + 9 Field Trip to the Zoo
June 9	Non-Instructional Day (PD Day)
June 13	Camp Manitou trip (Grade 5 and 6)
June 24	Water Day
June 25	Report Cards
June 27	Last Day of School (dismissal at 11:45 AM)

### SCHOOL PATROLS

#### Schedule:

April 28 – May 2	Squad A
May 5 – 9	Squad B
May 12 – 16	Squad C
May 19 – 23	Squad A
May 26 - 30	Squad B