



The Communiqué
Monthly Newsletter of
École Luxton School

February
2026

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Dear École Luxton School Parents and Guardians,

Update: the new door and security vestibule that is being installed at the front doors of the school has been delayed. The new system will be installed over Spring Break. In the meantime, we will continue to monitor who comes into the school via closed circuit cameras that we have both inside and outside of the school.

The weather in February can be quite variable so please continue to send your children with appropriate winter weather gear, including mittens, toques, ski pants and boots. As per Winnipeg School Division protocol, students go outside for recess until the windchill at the Forks reaches -28C. Please label your items as this makes it so much easier for school staff to return. Thank you!

We are heading into an EXTREMELY busy month. I Love to Read month, Global Play Day, Festival du Voyageur, the 100th day of school, Black History Month and Valentine's Day are all taking place this month. Extra events and activities make school more fun and engaging by giving students chances to explore interests, build friendships, and learn in exciting ways beyond the classroom. However, these events take a lot of planning, organization and energy. We would like to thank all of the school staff for putting in the extra time and effort to bring all these worthwhile events to life in our school.

Respectfully,

Kerry and Anita

École Luxton School Administration

NEW STAFF PROFILE

École Luxton School has hired a 3rd Learning Support Teacher. Ms. Maxwell (see bio below) will be at our school until the end of June 2026.

Hello/bonjour! I am a Learning Support Teacher, Ms (or Madame) Maxwell. After teaching rurally in Manitoba's Interlake (Fisher Branch, Inwood, Stonewall) for 8 years, I taught in Pembina Trails School Division in Winnipeg for 14 years. I also enjoyed 7 years of teaching "teachers" at the Universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba before joining École Luxton School where I will support teachers, focusing on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths), but most importantly students' learning and development toward a "good life".



GLOBAL PLAY DAY

Global School Play Day began in February 2015 and started as a grassroots movement by a group of Educators who felt that students lacked opportunities for unstructured play in schools and an increased pressure on standardized testing.

Ecole Luxton School started celebrating Global School Play Day approximately six years ago, and it has quickly become one of Ecole Luxton students' favourite and most anticipated days of the school year!

This year, Global School Play Day lands on Wednesday, February 4th, 2026, and will continue to be known as the Julie Bachewich Day of Play in dedication.

About Global Play Day:

- **No Screens:** Students are encouraged to bring toys, but electronic toys or any devices with screens should be avoided.
- **No Structure:** Adults should not attempt to organize or structure student play in any way.
- **Stay Out of the Way:** Adults should let students manage their own play and should not interfere except in situations where someone could get hurt.

Please note: Teachers will lead discussions previous to February 4th about what this day will look like. What is play? When will an adult intervene? What would that look like / sound like in their classroom? This is an opportunity to observe social interactions and problem-solving skills.

Music and PE will run as normal (with no toys). Please note: no toys will be allowed outside unless your child's teacher organizes to take their own students outside under their own supervision.

Things to bring: TOYS! No electronics, screens, or battery-operated toys. Label your child's toys. Do not send irreplaceable or sentimental items. Students will be responsible for ALL items they bring to school and are expected to bring them home. Only send what your child can carry independently. Puzzles and board games are welcome! Teachers are not meant to instruct students on HOW to play the games. Teachers are observing and taking notes on how students lead, learn, listen and interact with each other throughout the day.

Please check out the website: <https://globalschoolplayday.com/about>

Have fun and happy playing!

-Ms. Howard

PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

The new year has started off strong with lots of exciting Physical Education opportunities for our students. January and February are shaping up to be very active months!

January - Grade 7 & 8 Boys Basketball

We are thrilled to have a grades 7/8 boys basketball team competing in league play against other schools in the Winnipeg School Division. They have been working hard at practices and games, showing great improvement and teamwork.

Feb. 4 - at Shaughnessy Park

Feb. 9 - at Luxton (vs. Keewatin Prairie)

Feb. 18 - at Luxton (vs. Isaac Newton)

Feb. 23 - at Lansdowne

Feb. 25 - at Luxton (vs. St. John's)

February - Track & Basketball Events

February brings a variety of athletic opportunities across multiple grade levels:

- Grade 7 & 8 - Track Attack Series (University of Manitoba): February 11 and March 12
- Grades 4, 5 & 6 - Elementary Relay (University of Manitoba) - February 24
- Grades 5 & 6 - 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament (Machray School) - February 25

These events allow students to experience different sports, develop new skills, and enjoy friendly competition with other schools.

Thank you for your continued support of our Phys Ed and school sport programs. As always, remember to keep fit and have fun!

Best regards,

Mr. Kay
Phys Ed Teacher

MUSIC NEWS – MS. DREWNIAK

This month we have been comparing a variety of versions of 'The Gingerbread Man'. Students in grades 3 to 8 are preparing their own version of the story to perform and present to their classes. Some include paper puppets, which other renditions include students as actors portraying a variety of characters. Students are welcome to include short melodies and rhythms to add to their performances.

We are continuing to work on the compositions of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, comparing and reflecting back on other places we may have heard his music. We will use non-pitched instruments, body percussion, and create artwork of the music as a visual.

This month is Black History Month and we will explore the music and hear about the lives of a variety of black musicians including Ray Charles.

Students in room 8 and 25, as well as an options group at lunchtime, have started their first enrichment dance project session with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. The students understand that it is a 9-session dedication to participate, practice, rehearse and be completely focused on their dance. Miss Gabriella, from the RWB, has returned as the instructor once a cycle, as time permits each month, for a 30-minute full-out dance session. I am looking forward to the new contemporary dance this year.

Ms. Drewniak

LIBRARY NEWS - COME CHECK IT OUT!



We had an amazing turnout for the MYRCA Book Club in January. There are 23 students participating in reading the 20 books in the Sundog and Northern Lights Collections before April. The books are also available on SORA through the Winnipeg School Division library website. Book club members will be provided with their own logon information to use SORA at home.

February is “I Love to Read Month” in the school and the library will be hosting several guest readers that will be coming in throughout the month to read to our students. Please take a few minutes a day to “Stop, drop and read” for a small break from your regular workday.

Coming up in March there will be a Spring Scholastic Book Fair. A percentage of all sales comes back to the school to provide new books and supplies for the library. A book flyer and note will be coming home in the near future. Thank you for your support.



As always, please remember to return all library books in a timely manner. Check at home for any books with a yellow barcode on the back that you may have forgotten to return. Another student may be looking for that exact book.

Arlene Bell
Library Technician

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

I have deep concerns about how social media is negatively affecting student brain development, attention span, mental health and social relationships. Many students are negatively affected in particular, by the way they communicate with and about one another online, often using words they would never use and having to deal with gossip and piling on, in ways that don't typically occur in-person at school.

It has come to my attention recently that there is a rather large Luxton group chat on Snapchat. Group chats may be very helpful when they are adult-monitored, and when membership is limited to a small number with a common purpose (a group project, planning an event, a sports team, communicating with loved ones who live far away, etc.)

Even though a child may not be on typical social media platforms such as TikTok, Snapchat, or Facebook, many students are still finding ways to communicate unmonitored, on other platforms that have chat functions such as Roblox and Xbox.

Please carefully monitor your child's use of media (of all kinds).

CBC The Current docuseries:

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/docuseries-social-studies-teens-social-media-1.7405504>

Links to related CBC articles:

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/social-media-health-warning-1.7241182>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/unesco-gem-technology-social-media-1.7184717>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/smartphone-brain-nov14-1.7029406>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/unplugged-kids-smartphones-pledge-1.7328319>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/aus-u16-socialmedia-ban-reax-1.7396324>

Other resources on the subject:

Hold On To Your Kids book: <https://a.co/d/gi2ok9R>

Recent Vlog Interview with Neufeld & Maté: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtQOPzDmY5s>

Neufeld Institute Article: <https://neufeldinstitute.org/editorials/children-teens-and-technology/>

The Common Sense Media/Common Sense Education platform: <https://www.common sense media.org/> ,
<https://www.common sense.org/education>

To contact Ms Zeglinski about a school counselling need, please email kzeglinski@wsd1.org

Clothing Needs at Luxton



While our youngest students generally bring their own change of clothes to school, or their teachers keep an emergency stock, many of our Grades 1-8 students have occasional clothing needs that arise.

That said, we do not have an endless supply, and just as at home, the decision to provide a change of clothing is on a case-by-case basis. In some cases, natural consequences must be experienced to develop self-regulation and future decision-making skills, especially in dressing for the weather.

If your child is sent home in clothing that does not belong to them, you may keep the item if you have need of it. Or you may wash/return the item back to school in good condition, so that we may return it to our Family Centre's emergency clothing stock.

Please regularly check the lost-&-found (main hallway and gym foyer) and remind your child to bring home their clothing that may be piling up in lockers, cubbies or coatrooms. If you wish to donate, our most-needed items are children's mittens, leggings and sweatpants (elastic or drawstring waist), sizes 7-14.

FAMILY CENTRE NEWS

Well, the month of January sure went by fast. Here we are in February hoping that the cold weather will end soon and warmer weather is on the way.

February is "I love to read" month and the Family Centre will be running a FREE Book Swap. There is no need to bring in any books to swap as we have plenty that can be taken. A sign-up sheet will be available in the workroom soon for teachers to pick a time for students to come by to get their FREE books.



Since Valentine's Day is on a Saturday, please join us in the Family Centre on Friday, February 13th between 9:30 AM and 2:30 PM for some coffee or tea and some Valentine treats. All parents and staff are welcome.

Our Tuesday Literacy Program will be enjoying a Valentine's Day Party on Tuesday, February 10th from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. We will be making a Valentine themed craft and enjoying Valentine treats.

As always, coffee and tea will be available from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM in the Family Centre with FREE smiles for everyone.

Angie Houston, Family Centre, Rm 66

LUXTON COMMUNITY FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM



Luxton Community Centre runs a **free breakfast program** every school day from 8:00AM to 1 St. Cross street

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.

PARENT COUNCIL

PAC is currently looking into the possibility of providing some support for students who are eligible and interested in the Babysitting Safety Course. As part of this we are looking for a volunteer who would be interested in helping to coordinate this and be present with the students on the day/days it will occur. If you are interested, please email PAC at luxton.pac@gmail.com

Parent Advisory Council meetings take place on the last Wednesday of the month. All families are encouraged to attend. Childcare is available at every meeting. The next meeting will be Wednesday **February 25th at 6:30pm** in the school library.

Get in touch with PAC through our social media:

Instagram: @luxton.pac

Facebook: Ecole Luxton School Parent Advisory Council

Or through our website: <https://www.ecole-luxton-pac.com/>

Meeting minutes will soon be posted on the school's website. If you cannot make a meeting but would like to know what was discussed, please head to the website.

WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION INFORMATION

Registration Information

Registration dates for schools in the Winnipeg School Division for the 2026/27 year are as follows:

- Tuesday, February 17 - **New Student Registration Opens**
- Monday, April 6 - **Schools of Choice Registration Opens**
- Friday, May 15 - **Schools of Choice Registration Close**

If your children are currently attending École Luxton School, there is no need to register them for the next school year as they will automatically be registered. Children who are new to our school will be required to register.

****Please stay tuned for more information about our Welcome to Kindergarten evening.**

Registration will be online only for 2026/27. If a family does not have access to a computer, they can register in-person at their designated catchment school offices. For further information, please visit the following website:

<https://www.winnipeg.ca/student-registration>

Draft Budget 2026-2027 Feedback

The Board of Trustees is preparing the 2026/27 draft budget, with a focus on sustaining existing staffing and programming in Winnipeg School Division. This work is being undertaken before provincial funding is confirmed.

WSD wants to hear from families. Please complete the online Budget 2026/27 Feedback Form by February 20. <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=l73VtU6BjkyZOcO7cGy8p-WmmB16jltBs9po3A9rW15URjRNQTNKUFZGWDBaSDI4S045VVRDMULXVy4u&route=shorturl>

If you require a paper copy or a form in another language, please contact the office. We can provide these forms in the following languages in addition to English: Arabic, Dari, Hindi, Karen, Punjabi, Spanish, Somali, Swahili, Tagalog, Tigrinya, and Ukrainian.

Families are also invited to attend a public consultation on the 2026/27 draft budget:

When: Tuesday, February 24, 5:00 pm

Where: 2nd floor, Administration Building No. 1, 1577 Wall Street East

Please register as a delegation with the Board Office at 204-789-0469 by February 19. The presentation will also be live streamed on our website.

Housing and I.D. Resource Event

February 12, 2026, 3:30 to 6:00 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
kguzzi@wsd.org
204-788-0203



PROVINCIAL INFORMATION

In the 2024-25 school year, the Government of Manitoba created the Universal School Nutrition Program. The goal of the program is to provide all public school students with access to nutritious food, without any barriers.

The department is inviting parents/caregivers to share their views on the program. Surveys are available at <https://survey.pra.ca/S2/1/SchoolNutrition/> Participation is voluntary and all responses will remain confidential. The deadline to complete and submit the survey is February 13, 2026. The input of parents/caregivers is very important to the evaluation. Thank you in advance for your participation!

If you have any questions, please email Samuel Etukakpan of Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning at Samuel.Etukakpan@gov.mb.ca.

Please remember that École Luxton School is a



**SCENT
FREE
ZONE**

Help us keep the air we share
healthy and fragrance-free

The chemicals used in scented products can make
some people sick, especially those with fragrance sensitivities,
asthma, allergies and other medical conditions.

PLEASE
DO NOT wear perfume, cologne, aftershave
and other fragrances.
USE unscented personal care products.

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2/ Day 1 Professional Development Day – No classes	3/ Day 2 I Love to Read month kickoff assembly	4/ Day 3 Global Play Day	5/ Day 4	6/ Day 5 Dress as your favourite book character Presentation to grade 8s by Argyle High School	
	9 / Day 6	10 / Day 1 Grades 7/8 at Practical Arts	11 / Day 2 Track Attack (grades 7/8)	12 / Day 3	13 / Day 4 Wear a shirt with writing on it Rooms 25 and 27 to Festival du voyageur	
	16 Louis Riel Day No school	17 / Day 5	18 / Day 6	19 / Day 1	20 / Day 2	
La semaine du Festival du voyageur - Festival du voyageur week						
		Toque day - wear a toque	Plaid shirt and sash day - If you don't have a sash, wear a regular winter scarf around your belly like a belt or across you like a sash Rooms 8, 15 and 16 to Festival du voyageur	Fake-beard day - Wear your best voyageur-style beard Rooms 20, 23 and 26 to Festival du voyageur	Voyageur day – wear all items worn this week	
	23 / Day 3	24 / Day 4 Grades 4, 5 & 6 – Elementary Relay (University of Manitoba)	25 / Day 5 Grades 5 & 6 – 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament (Machray School) PAC meeting 6:30pm in library	26 / Day 6 Rooms 12 and 13 to the zoo	27 / Day 1 Cozy Up with a Book Day (Pyjama Day)	

Upcoming important dates 2026

- Monday, February 2: PD day
- Friday, March 20: AM Student-Led Conferences; PM staff professional development
- Friday, April 10: PD day
- Friday, May 8: PD day – no classes
- Friday, June 26: Grade 8 Farewell Ceremony at 12:00pm
- Monday, June 29: PD day – no classes