

NEWS RELEASE

Winnipeg School Division students kick off I Love to Read month with Devon and Pearlene Clunis

February 1, 2023 (Winnipeg, MB) – More than 100 Grade 3 students from across Winnipeg School Division (WSD) gathered today to kick off “I Love to Read” and “Black History” month. They were joined by Devon and Pearlene Clunis at the Manitoba Children’s Museum.

“Learning to read and enjoying a good story are important foundations for a child’s education,” says Pauline Clarke, Chief Superintendent and CEO, Winnipeg School Division. “I Love to Read month activities provide students a greater focus on their literacy skills and fostering a love of reading both at school and in the community.”

February is also Black History Month, a time for celebrating the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians. During today’s event, Devon, the first Black Canadian ever appointed as a police chief in Canada, and Pearlene, an international award-winning fashion designer, read from their book “The little boy from Jamaica” to students from five elementary schools in WSD. The reading was followed by a conversation with the children about diversity and inclusion. After the reading, students explored the 13 galleries offered at the Children’s Museum.

“We are passionate about diversity, equity and inclusion,” says Devon Clunis. “Our children’s books are written to help address the contemporary social issues of our time and create a more caring, compassionate and culturally sensitive future generation.”

Devon Clunis is a Canadian law enforcement officer, who was the chief of the Winnipeg Police Service from 2012 until his retirement in 2016.

Pearlene Clunis owned her own business and throughout her career in the fashion industry, grew passionate about women’s rights and the need to advocate on behalf of vulnerable and exploited women. This has become a significant part of Pearlene Clunis’ purpose as she strives to build a culturally diverse and inclusive society.

WSD was established in 1871 and currently has 79 schools, almost 30,000 students and over 4,000 full time employees. Its purpose is to provide a learning environment that fosters the growth of each student’s potential and provide equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and values necessary for meaningful participation in a global and diverse society.

-30-

Media contact:

Radean Carter – WSD Senior Information Officer
(204) 789-0412 or mobile (204) 771-5352 rcarter@wsd1.org