



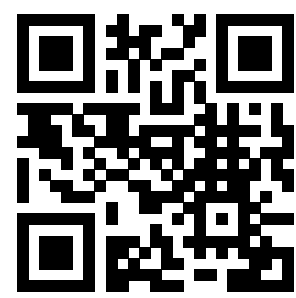
WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

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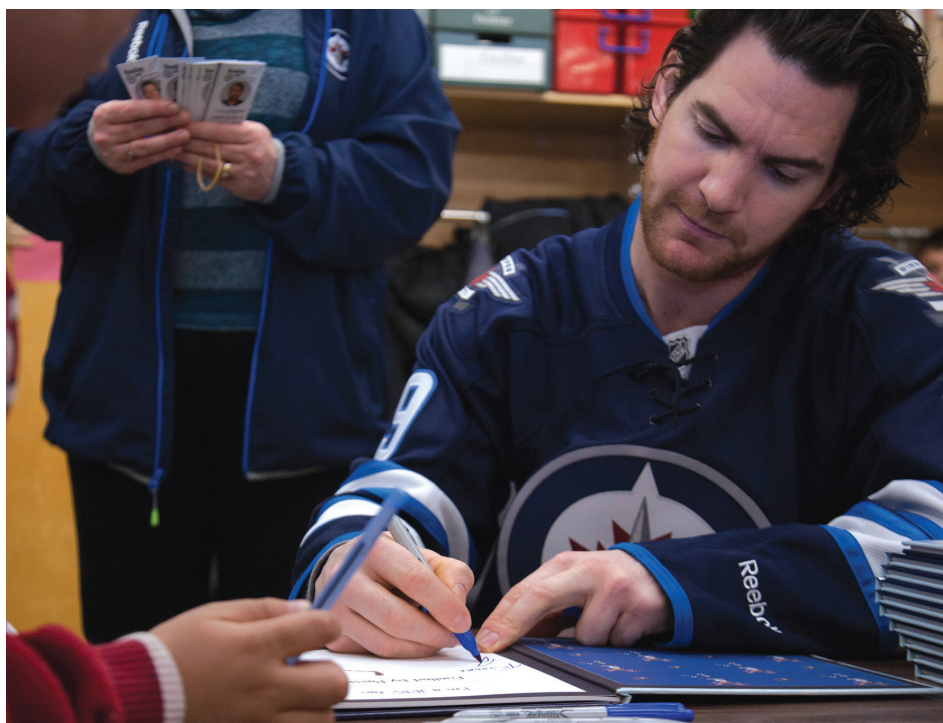


Photo by Jasper Evans, Tec Voc Photography

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WSD 2015/16 BUDGET ENHANCES PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Board of Trustees approved the 2015/16 school year budget on March 11. Some programs and services that will be enhanced next year include more support for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math education (STEAM) Enrichment Centre classrooms, the Sistema music partnership with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and strengthening Indigenous Education support with the addition of a division-wide Aboriginal Elder position. The Board

has also approved expanding WSD's all-day kindergarten pilot by five additional schools for a total of nine schools.

The final budget approved by the Board of Trustees includes expenditures of \$387,505,400 for the fiscal period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Instructional expenditures account for 81 percent of the total budget. Administration costs equal 2.8 percent of the total budget compared to the 2014 provincial average of 3.5 percent. The WSD reserve fund is used for one-

time expenditures without requiring additional revenues from property taxation. In the 2015/2016 budget, WSD is using reserve funds for technology upgrades and data storage, washroom renovations in four schools and renovations to accommodate Clinical Support Services.

"I'm proud of this budget and feel it reflects the uniqueness of this Board and our vision to strengthen communities, schools and partnerships," said Finance Committee Chair Sherri Rollins.

"The 2015/2016 budget supports our commitment to excellence in education from the early years through to graduation to prepare WSD students for successful lives."

Trustees extend their gratitude to the schools, parents, residents and community stakeholders who have met with trustees in the past couple of months to discuss the draft budget.

Full budget details can be found on the WSD website at: www.winnipegsd.ca

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Kelvin High School's human rights collective Hopeful Aware Students Taking Action (HASTA) recently hosted a forum on Freedom of Expression in the school's library. Over 100 Grades 9-12 students participated in the event, which was inspired by the Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris, France that occurred in early January.

The forum exposed students to theories, like John Stuart Mill's Marketplace of Ideas theory, which is the notion that ideas, theories, and movements will succeed or fail on their own merits. Students were also encouraged to consider the notion that satire succeeds when it critiques those in

a position of power and is misused when it marginalizes others in our society.

Guest speakers at the forum included Nadia Kidwai, a journalist, community activist and founder of the Canadian Muslim Leadership Institute; and Dr. Neil McArthur, Associate Director of the Centre for Applied Ethics and Social Justice at the University of Manitoba.

Kelvin High School would like to thank the forum organizers, Vida E. and Darnell W., as well as HASTA members Miranda M., Moira S., Juliana X., Dulcemiel M-C. and Xavier Y.

— with files from Kelvin



Kelvin students gather in the library to participate in a forum on Freedom of Expression.



ROYAL READING RACE

David Livingstone Community School Principal Tim Cox and Vice-Principal Patricia Mainville donned their finest royal livery for a special I Love to Read Month Challenge. Students read 2,920 books to get the administrators to square off in a tricycle race. The clear-cut winners were the students, who cheered on an exciting race and read more than a few good books along the way.

PHOTO BY VANESSA LEWIS, TEC VOC PHOTOGRAPHY

WSD SPONSORS SECOND ANNUAL NATIONAL GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE SUMMIT

Winnipeg School Division is co-sponsoring OUTShine 2015—Canada's National Gay Straight Alliance and Safer Space Summit—being held from May 15 to 17 in Winnipeg. The conference brings together students, educators and community partners who are invested and involved in creating safer schools for LGBTQ & Allied students. About 500 attendees, made up of students and educators from across the country, are expected to attend.

"Conferences like OUTShine help to build awareness and a sense of community that we value highly in Winnipeg School Division," said Chief Superintendent Pauline Clarke. "We're very pleased to have OUTShine held in our city and to be part of the meaningful dialogue and understanding that will happen both during the three days and as a result



of this event."

OUTShine 2015 is the second annual national Gay-Straight Alliance Summit. The first summit was held in 2013 in Toronto, Ontario. Youth and educators from across the country will focus discussions on LGBTQ inclusion in schools, creating and sustaining

Gay-Straight Alliances, sharing best practices and celebrating LGBTQ & Allied experiences.

OUTShine 2015 is organized by Egale Canada Human Rights Trust, Canada's only national charity promoting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans human rights through

research, education and community engagement. More information on Egale is available at Egale.ca. Egale has partnered with three local Winnipeg school divisions including Winnipeg School Division, Louis Riel School Division, and Seven Oaks School Division.



LANGUAGE COMES TO LIFE

CULTURE, COMMUNITY ALL PART OF UKRAINIAN IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

Ralph Brown School's Ukrainian Bilingual Program provides students with all the advantages of learning a second language, while connecting students to Winnipeg's rich Ukrainian roots.

"There are definitely benefits...learning different languages helps to develop the mind," said Principal Randy Routledge. "Students can enhance their personal cultural identity while developing an appreciation for cultural diversity."

Along with enhancing their problem solving and higher-order thinking skills, Ukrainian-bilingual students are learning a language spoken by more than 50 million people in 24 countries worldwide.

In Winnipeg, Ralph Brown has been part of the North End Ukrainian fabric since the Ukrainian Bilingual program's inception in 1979.

"When the program started, we had a lot of children who were grandchildren of immigrants. But as the program progressed, we had many children enrolled who didn't have a Ukrainian background—they wanted that second language," said Marijka Diakiw, who teaches Kindergarten and Grade 1 in the program. "The little ones are like sponges...they pick up the language quickly."

Students learn together in a full-classroom environment, with 40 per cent of instruction in Ukrainian—including Ukrainian language arts, social studies, music and phys. ed. Mathematics, science and English language arts are taught in English.



Cultural education plays a major role in the program.

"We bring the language to life through games, songs, poems and we'll have visuals and artifacts for them to touch," Ms. Diakiw said. "We'll have meals to help them understand the food and the traditions as well."

"This is an excellent program for hands-on, kinesthetic learners."

The Ukrainian Parents Association of Manitoba frequently takes students on field trips to culturally relevant locales such as the Leo Mol Sculpture Garden in Assiniboine Park and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

"My favourite part of the program is all the activities we do," said Grade 8 student Oksana Mokriy. "In January, we had a big

event and I got to be the Ukrainian emcee. And right now, we just finished making Pysanka, Ukrainian decorated eggs."

Along with being able to converse in Ukrainian at home with her family, Oksana said there were other benefits.

"I think it will help if you are applying for a job and you're the only person who can speak that extra language," she said.

Nathan Martindale graduated from the Ukrainian Bilingual program's Grade 6 class in 1988. He said that his experience at Ralph Brown was invaluable.

"Generally speaking, I think any time a student or child can learn another language it is beneficial in many ways," Mr. Martindale said. "It wasn't only about the language, it was all of the culture that was a part of the program at Ralph Brown. My mom

was Ukrainian and being able to celebrate and learn about the traditions was really important to my mom. As a kid you don't realize that you can reflect on that."

Along with fond memories of friendships, performing in the Ralph Brown choir and going to camp, the program also prepared Mr. Martindale for future life experiences.

"Learning that additional language, I've been to Ukraine twice. Going to Ralph Brown was the base of that...I believe that kids who get involved in the bilingual program and are exposed to more activities, it helps them down the road for becoming a better person."

For more information, call Ralph Brown School at (204) 589-7355 or visit www.winnipegssd.ca/schools/RalphBrown.

"BE THE CHANGE"

Meadows West School held its own version of We Day in February with the Be the Change Conference.

Based on the principles of Free the Children, students looked at creating a better world locally and globally.

"We want to tell our students that they can be part of the changes going on in the world," said Grade 7/8 teacher Eric Sagenes.

The conference provided older students with a great leadership opportunity, as Global Awareness Group students ran breakout sessions for younger students.

"The sessions are based on topics students were interested in, like poverty, access to clean water and access to education," Mr. Sagenes said.

Student Kira Dubyts helped chair a racism workshop, while Lyric Trojillo worked on a session discussing the Right to a Clean Environment.

"It's cool that we get to teach the

younger kids," Lyric said.

"I learned new things just doing this topic, and it's good to spread that information to other kids," Kira added.

Cat Ross, founder of the Kenya Initiative for Development & Sustainability (KiDS), was the keynote speaker for the event. She founded the organization after several humanitarian trips to Kenya. KiDS' mission is to promote development, enrichment and sustainable solutions in Kenya through educational programs and local fundraising in Canada.

KiDS representative Jeremie Minami also performed a rap song at the conference and talked about coming to Canada as a Rwandan refugee. Now he is helping other African youth through KiDS.

"You are capable of doing great things, no matter how old you are or where you come from," he told students.

For more information on KiDS, visit www.kidsinitiative.ca.



Jeremie Minami of the Kenya Initiative for Development & Sustainability performs at Meadows West's Be the Change Conference.

STRESS-FREE LIVING

Winnipeg Adult Education Centre students and staff explored stress-free living and the path to academic success at the annual Healthy Living Conference.

The event took place Feb. 20 at Red River College's Exchange District Campus and featured info sessions covering both the physical and mental aspects of creating a healthy lifestyle. Along with traditional sessions on health topics such as nutrition, diabetes, and addictions, students also took part in workshops that focused on academic success.

"We're partnering with Red River College this year—they're giving students tips on what to do after high school...such as how to manage their time in their post-secondary life," said teacher-librarian Darcie Kiene. "We want students to know that they are not alone in pursuing their education—and we're trying to give students the tools they'll need to move forward."

One of the organizers' goals for the conference is to make students aware of health resources available in the community, like mental health resources and nutrition programs like the Good Food Club, amongst many others.

"So many people don't know where to find the information, so setting something up like this is very helpful. It helps you go in the right direction," said student Kayshia Luce.

Keynote speaker for the event was Muuxi Adam, the Red Cross's Young Humanitarian of the Year for 2014. Mr. Adam is a Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute alumnus who came to Canada from Somalia. He co-founded Humankind International, a non-profit organization that helped to build and run a school in Dadaab refugee camp. He also works with young newcomers in Winnipeg through the Immigrant and Refugee Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM).

"Every child in this world should be given the opportunity to go to school—that will change their lives," he said.

Mr. Adam's message—that education is a goal that is worth persevering for—was not lost on students.

"Back home, many people do not have the opportunity to go to school," said student Mary Ndaya. "We are able to get an education here, so we don't take that for granted. We have to pursue our education so we can get jobs and have a good life."



DMCI alumnus Muuxi Adam spoke of the importance of education worldwide at WAEC's Healthy Living Conference.



ZUMBA REVOLUTION

Zumba may be one of the latest crazes in fitness, but students at Sister MacNamara School are in it for the groove.

Students came out in droves for lunch hour Zumba sessions over a ten-week period.

"The kids enjoy it because it's dance," said Zumba instructor Kaye Ong. "This group has been great, they caught on really quick and are doing the routines by themselves now."

Grade 6 students Malaihka Siemens and Makeer Guluak were among the faithful students and staff-members that showed up every week.

"I actually like dancing a lot," Makeer said. "I also got accepted into a program called Quantum Arts, and I get to dance all afternoon."

Malaihka said she always feels better after a Zumba session.

"It's a good way to get out my energy," Malaihka said, adding that the sessions are a great workout. "I'm sore the next day."

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

STRING THEORY

Young fiddlers from Inkster School shared the stage with counterparts from the Frontier School Division for a string hoedown. The Frontier Fiddlers visited the school on Feb. 13 for a concert assembly, with the Inkster fiddlers serving as the opening act.

"Fiddling is really big in Frontier School Division so they do quite a bit of touring," said Special Education Resource Teacher Evelin Anderson. She added that the group was comprised of students from all over Northern Manitoba. "Some of these students have been fiddling for years."

For Inkster students, the assembly was an opportunity to

showcase their developing skills.

Cameron Baggins of the Manitoba Conservatory of Music & Arts has been instructing Inkster students, including Janna Cuya and Zyril Laydia, through the Exploring Strings program. Janna and Zyril said they have enjoyed the opportunity to learn a new instrument.

"The hardest part is string crossing," Janna said, referring to the technique of crossing smoothly and cleanly from one string to another.

Playing as a group offers its own challenges as well. There is only one remedy for both: plenty of practise.

"We practise together as a group every Monday so we can sound good," Zyril said.

LEARNING MINDFULNESS

MINDUP CURRICULUM STARTING POINT FOR REGULATING EMOTIONS

The other day I took a breath. Sometimes life feels like that—as though we’re speeding along so fast the wind is grabbing the breath right from our lips, making it almost impossible to catch a good lungful of oxygen. For children and adults alike, learning techniques to take back our breath is an important tool in regulating emotions, managing fear and giving us better focus and concentration.

Winnipeg School Division (WSD) launched a pilot two years ago to prevent and reduce anxiety in children and youth (PRACY). The need was clearly identified in the “Tell them from me” student survey. About 20 percent of all students from Grade 4 to 12 report intense feelings of fear, anxiety and worry; and about 20 percent of all students in Grade 7 to 12 report prolonged periods of feeling sad, discouraged and inadequate.

“We piloted PRACY with Grade 4 and 7 students in 32 classrooms, introducing six lessons in the fall on reducing feelings of anxiety and six lessons in the spring on practicing mindfulness,” said Student Services Consultant Olga Wyshnowsky. “Our goal is to increase awareness and knowledge of anxiety and ways to reduce risk factors.” Ms. Wyshnowsky said the program gives students an opportunity to experience social emotional learning while also giving adults the tools and supports needed to support the students.

The pilot program was well-received and during the 2014/15 school year, it expanded to other Grade 4 and 7 classes across WSD. The program includes a variety of resources for social emotional learning, including MindUP, which focuses on mindfulness techniques.

THE MINDFUL BRAIN

Joanne Rusen is the elementary guidance counsellor at École Stanley Knowles School where she begins introducing MindUP by teaching students how to breathe.

“This involves breathing in their belly, in through their nose and out with their mouth,” says Ms. Rusen. “There is no right or wrong way to breathe but it takes



practice to do it thoughtfully and in the present moment.”

The students also learn about their brain, its physiology and the relationship it has with breathing and reducing stress. “We explore how connections to the brain helps make good decisions, how it increases attention and learning,” says Ms. Rusen. “The ability to visualize that connection to the brain teaches children how the mind and body connect to translate making a good choice when acting on impulses, thoughts and feelings.”

Parents are benefitting as well. School Guidance Counsellor at Machray School, Kristy Waldman, says a school-wide assembly of students, staff and parents introduced mindfulness.

That has since evolved into regular mindfulness training sessions in the school’s parent room one morning a week. “It has also helped with the parent-teacher collaboration on how we continue to bring more mindfulness strategies into the classrooms,” says Ms. Waldman.

How mindfulness lessons are making a difference for students is best described in their own words. Here’s what some Grade 7 students had to say:

“I learned to breathe when I’m stressed so I can calm down. Mindfulness was hard in the beginning but got easier. In the future I will use mindfulness when I am stressed or don’t feel in a good mood.”

– Bernard

“The most important message for me was to think positive. It was kind of hard when we started because I was really stressed out and at the end it got easier because I got to sit and think.”

– Maryama

“My favorite one in this program is when we took a few minutes and thought about the person we loved the most, it’s like find the inner edge and keep thinking about them.”

– Mohammed

“I learned not to let sticky thoughts get in my head and to breathe in hard times.”

– Seim

“What I learned...is that I have to let go. I learned how to control my feelings...to relax even in situations where it feels impossible.”

– Payton

“I learned how to let all of my bad thoughts float above my head. I will use what I’ve learned in life for lots of things, like if I have a test I won’t let my thoughts get to me and ruin it.”

– Tashina

“I think this will help me in life if I’m stressed or angry. The message I got from this program was ‘you are strong and you are confident’. In the beginning I didn’t want to close my eyes but after a while I felt more confident.”

– Kailey

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

A group of Sisler High School students showcased their ongoing mental health awareness projects to educators and students at a recent Safe and Caring Schools Conference.

The Feb. 9 conference was organized by the Canadian Safe Schools Network and Safe Schools Manitoba.

Digital Voices students Jennifer Pazdor, Simarjeet Gill, Stephanie Zabar and Samantha Figueroa presented their third augmented reality app project for mental health awareness. Augmented reality technology allows cell phone users to scan photos and graphics to access web content and other resources on a related subject.

The Elephant in the Room campaign, created with the Mood Disorders Society of Canada, includes info kits designed for schools and workplaces; the project has already grabbed the attention of clients such as Bishops University in Sherbrook, Quebec.

“We would like to reduce the stigma

(of mental illnesses) due to the fact that this is not getting the proper attention that is needed,” Jennifer said. “We use technology because these days that’s the best way to get through to students.”

Students Christina Feliciano and Lalaine Balmediano created a two-minute video for the campaign; they tried to show how people with various mental problems (like depression and social anxiety) exist in their daily lives.

“We’re trying to get people to not be afraid to talk about it—because they are not alone,” Lalaine said.

Meanwhile, Mary-Kate Miller pitched a project called *Strong is the New Skinny*, which also used augmented reality apps to talk about perceptions of health.

“We’re giving more information about eating disorders, body image, health and nutrition,” Mary-Kate said.

For more information visit www.saveourminds.org.



TAKING THE STAGE

After eight weeks of focused arts training with professionals from the Prairie Theatre Exchange (PTE), the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) and the Winnipeg Art Gallery (WAG), over 100 Quantum Arts Program students lit up the stage.

The Grade 5-8 students showcased their artistic talents for their families, educators and trustees at the 2015 Quantum Arts Finale at the Winnipeg Art Gallery's Muriel Richardson Auditorium.

Since the 1989-90 school year, the Quantum Arts Program has run under the belief that every child deserves a chance to shine. During the eight week course, students spend two hours, twice a week training at PTE, RWB or the WAG.

General Wolfe School students Nichole Pontanares and Elyzah Averion, both in Grade 8, had the opportunity to study modern, ballet and jazz dance with the RWB. Both students have previously shown a love for dance as members of their school's dance squad, General Chaos.

"We learned a dance every class to present for the finale," Pontanares said. "We're getting to show people everything we've learned."

Averion said she enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the intricacies of dance: "We got to find out more about different styles of dance we didn't know much about, like ballet. It helped us to develop our dancing experience."

Clifton School students Clarisse Villegas and Rachael Hart, who studied visual art at the WAG's studio, said they enjoyed the opportunity to meet fellow young artists from other schools.

"Every week we get partnered with a different student from another school. We get to talk to them and share something about our school and ourselves while we do our art lessons," Villegas said.

Students also learned many new techniques during their eight-week span at the WAG.

"We learned to use light and shadow for self-portraits," Hart said. Despite some

nerves about meeting new students and studying in a new setting, Hart said art was a calming influence. "I like art because it makes me calm and relaxed."

Both students were excited to have their work showcased at the WAG for the finale.

"People can see everything we learned about art, and they can be inspired by that," Villegas said.

The Quantum Arts Program is made possible through the sponsorship of the WSD's Children's Heritage Fund.

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Schools for WSD's North District, said the program provides a valuable opportunity for students.

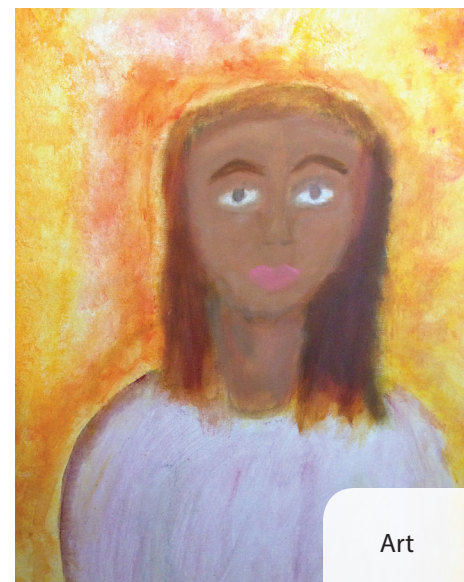
"Many of these students may not have otherwise had the opportunity to participate in these types of art classes," Mota said. "Thanks to the Quantum Arts Program and the generous donors to the Children's Heritage Fund, these students are able to discover their talents and take pride in showing the results of their hard work to others."



Dancing



Acting



Art

SO MANY WAYS TO SAY "WELCOME"

Elmwood High School recently unveiled a colourful mural that says the same message in 31 different ways: welcome!

The multicultural mural, located in Elmwood's family room, features many languages and traditional clothing from cultures around the world. The school held an official unveiling in February.

"The mural is all about making people feel like they belong and that they are loved," said student Olawale Lawal, who emigrated from Nigeria in 2014.

Teacher Briony Haig said the mural took many hours to create and required a group effort from staff and students.

"It was fun to have so many people involved...people did what they could do to help out."

Students researched traditional clothing from their cultures. Rough images were traced onto an overhead and projected onto the wall for an accurate rendition of the initial drawings.

Student teacher Shira Tennenhouse was among the people who logged many lunch hours to create the mural.

"We had 10 to 15 students who would

come in on their breaks to help with it," said Ms. Tennenhouse. "I'm so happy with the final result, I'm still taking it all in."

Cross Cultural Community Support Worker Rose Kimani, who works to integrate newcomer students at Elmwood, said the mural has enlivened the conversations in the family room.

"Our conversations have changed from 'where do you come from' to 'oh, I can see my culture and language in that mural,'" she said. "This will go that extra mile to tell students that they are accepted. Whatever culture you come from, you are welcome here."



THE SCIENCE OF UNDERSTANDING

THE INVESTIGATION BEGINS AT THE INNER CITY SCIENCE CENTRE

For students who are full of questions, the realm of science has many appeals; it serves as a starting point for finding some of the answers and posing even more complex questions about the universe.

“There’s so many unanswered questions and a lot left to explore...you never get bored,” said École River Heights School student Emily Green.

Emily and a group of River Heights students were part of the first groups to attend the new Inner City Science Centre enrichment program, which officially started in January.

Grade 7-8 students from River Heights, Churchill, Grant Park, Niji Mahkwa and William Whyte schools attended four full-day sessions once a week over a two-month period.

The centre, located at Niji Mahkwa, makes use of a state-of-the-art lab facility that also houses the University of Manitoba’s Biomedical Youth Program.

“It’s a place where we can learn more,” said River Heights student Terry Barber. “Anything you can think of science-wise, it’s in that room.”

The Inner City Science Centre offers enrichment programming for students who have shown an engagement in science. For students like Emily and Terry, whose interest in the subject has drawn

them to activities like science fair, the program is an opportunity to work with kindred spirits.

“Everybody wants to be here and they have a passion for science,” Emily said. “It’s great to meet people who have common interests.”

Teacher Mario Rocha, who runs the program, is hoping to tap into students’ passion for science and natural curiosity to create a foundation of scientific skills.

“We want to develop investigators,” he said. “The goal is to make students better at understanding information—how we get it, how we process it and how that supports our scientific knowledge.”

In addition to broadening and supplementing the students’ classroom curriculum, they are also working on classic investigative skills, like microscope work and staining.

“We’re doing some of the more classic lab activities that generally don’t happen in the regular classroom for various reasons, like the time factor,” Mr. Rocha said. “The focus of the whole program is to concentrate on lab and information gathering skills. I don’t want to do the showing...I want the students to know how to figure it out and make it happen for themselves. If we can get a cohort of students going that are skilled within the



lab, then hopefully those skills can transfer to future years.”

While the centre is currently working with Grades 7-8 students, the intent is to eventually add more grade levels to the program.

By providing students with the ability

to collect, analyze and make informed decisions based on data, Mr. Rocha believes they are building a generation that will be able to better manage our planet.

“These students will eventually have to make the decisions and understand how to manage their world.”



ONLINE COMMUNITY

EXPLORES CLASSIC NOVELS

Grade 10 English students at Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute are having fresh discussions about classic books with an online literature circle.

Students enroll in the private literature circle anonymously, and are grouped according to the book they have chosen to study. Students spend six weeks blogging about titles ranging from *Peter Pan* to *Pride and Prejudice*.

“Because it’s all anonymous, it takes away the peer pressure...so they can actually talk about these books,” said teacher Cynthia Jones.

Students in each book group took on separate responsibilities in the forum, such as providing synopses, vocabulary or historical context of the novel.

Students’ books are kept “under wraps” with discreet book covers that hide the titles; and participants were also sworn to keep their books secret

from classmates. This made it difficult for students to know who their fellow forum members were.

“You could really express your feelings and not worry about being judged,” said student Nathan Leitgo. “It helps if you’re a shy person...it can really build your discussion skills for other areas of your life.”

Tiffany Inza Cruz studied *Little Women*. “Ms. Jones actually recommended it,” she said. “The book was great, it had a lot of values in it that can still be seen in today’s world.”

Students finally met the rest of their online study groups at a formal tea on March 26.

“Most of these books take place in the Victorian Era, so we thought we’d also teach students about tea etiquette, manners and social faux-pas,” Ms. Jones said. “We included some links in the blog about formal teas to help students out.”



DMCI students wrapped up their literature blogging project in style with a formal tea/book discussion on March 26.

Photo by Maya Pavez, Tec Voc Photography

MUSICAL YOUTH

Musically inclined students from General Wolfe School had a chance to lay down tracks alongside professional musicians as part of a Winnipeg Folk Festival program.

Since 2010, the Musical Mentors Program has paired local musicians with students to explore the craft of songwriting and performance. Approximately 20 schools participate in the program annually; this year’s schools also included Isaac Newton, Hugh John Macdonald and Niji Mahkwa schools.

Local artists Sheena Grobb, Vanessa Kuzina, Don Amero, Grant Davidson (Slow Leaves) and Keri Latimer guided the process.

“We start by taking individual ideas and by the end it’s become this one beautiful, magical, cohesive piece,” Ms. Kuzina said.

Students spent eight weeks learning

songwriting techniques and composition before recording their work at the Broadway Neighborhood Centre’s Just TV studio.

“We called our song ‘Love is an Open Door.’ We all wanted to do a song about love,” said General Wolfe student Nancy Duong, who handled piano and vocal duties with her group.

She added that creating a song with nine collaborators was made easier by the fact that the students were kindred spirits: “Everyone in this group is very musical, they always sing and talk about music...we’re sharing something we have in common.”

Student Miriam Kabonesa said with nine distinct personalities, students had to negotiate to create a final song.

“Sometimes we have to yell at each other,” she said with a laugh. “But we still got it done. I love the song that we made.”

OPEN ICE

HOCKEY PROGRAMS GIVE STUDENTS A CHANCE TO LEARN CANADA'S GAME

Hockey may be Canada's national game, but there are many students in the Winnipeg School Division who haven't had the opportunity to hit the ice.

For some families, the cost of equipment, registration fees and ice rentals pose a challenge. Other families are newcomers to Canada entirely, and hockey is just another one of winter's mysteries.

But thanks to several local programs, students are getting the chance to don skates and get into the game.

WINNIPEG JETS HOCKEY ACADEMY

With a focus on boosting school attendance and graduation rates, The Winnipeg Jets Hockey Academy has made a long-term commitment to local youth.

Over 530 students are provided with equipment, transportation, meals, coaching and ice time during the 30-week academy. The Jets' True North Foundation sponsors the academy through fundraising efforts such as the 50-50 draws during home games.

The academy follows students throughout their school years to maintain a constant presence in their lives. For example, left-winger Dakota Sass started with the program at Strathcona School four years ago and has stuck with it since graduating to Isaac Newton School.

"I've always liked skating, even before I started...I've gotten better at stopping since then," he said with a smile after a practice at Gateway Arena.

Student Hilary Sokoloski didn't know how to skate prior to joining.

"I like learning new moves and meeting new people. The coaches are really good, they taught me how to skate. And they're really friendly."

Students are building confidence, finding an identity and taking on new challenges on the ice. Right-winger Brooke Arnold has even put on the pads to try her hand at goaltending, while Izabella Ferreira describes herself as a "stay-at-home defenseman."

Academy students also enjoy other opportunities, such as attending Jets games and weeklong stays at Camp Manitou in the summer.

Principal Ryan Hughes said the academy uses hockey as a tool to build students' connections to school and the community.

"True North really wants to keep these kids in the program all the way to high school. They want to give these students their first volunteer opportunities and their first jobs," Mr. Hughes said. "This program isn't about creating elite hockey players—it's about creating good citizens that connect with others and build success in their everyday activities."

DUFFERIN'S SHOOTING STARS

For evidence of what can be accomplished through community partnerships, one has to look no further than the Dufferin Hockey Academy.

Students are fully equipped and coached at the Pioneer Arena every Wednesday with the help of a huge cast of volunteers: teachers, educational assistants, members from the Winnipeg Police Service and

Winnipeg Police Cadets, the Freight House and other community members.

"Some of our kids had never been on the ice before," said Principal Wayne Wyke. "They fall down and they get back up. They really have a whole group of kids that are supporting them. After a few weeks, they are starting to skate and they are so excited to come to school on Wednesdays."

WPS School Resource Officer Garnie McIntyre has been a champion of the program, always making sure there are plenty of constables and cadets to lend a hand on Wednesdays. The ice offers a place for students and police to build a rapport.

"The students know that what we're doing is not for any other agenda than that we want them to succeed and do well," Const. McIntyre said.

Educational assistant Rick Boucher said students are learning other life skills from the academy: "Students are reaching their goals academically—this hockey is a learning skill. And the police, cadets and other volunteers are out there role modeling for our students."

The academy just finished its third season on March 18 with a wind-up game that also included Hugh John Macdonald School students and Principal Vinh Huynh.

Keisha Hillier joined the academy three years ago while attending Dufferin; she has continued to play since moving on to Hugh John Macdonald.

"I just like skating and moving the puck—it takes my mind off things," Keisha said. "And you make a lot of friends through games and tournaments."

A huge donation of equipment from Play It Again Sports has organizers hoping to expand the program from 60 skaters to 120 next year.

THE ROYAL/WILDCAT CONNECTION

For the past three years, Wellington School students have been introduced to hockey with a dedicated core of teachers and volunteers. The school has amassed a pool of donated equipment so kids can enjoy the game.

"Almost every single student is borrowing their hockey equipment so they can go skating on the weekend," said teacher Ryan Erichsen. "That's been the best part of the program, that they're continuing this without us."

Student Jamie Plamondon likes to practise at outdoor rinks like the Burton Cummings Community Centre: "It's good, I can get together with my friends and we can hang out and practise."

This year, with the help of an RBC community sports grant, the Wildcats teamed up with King Edward School's Royals for a series of skills clinics in February and March.

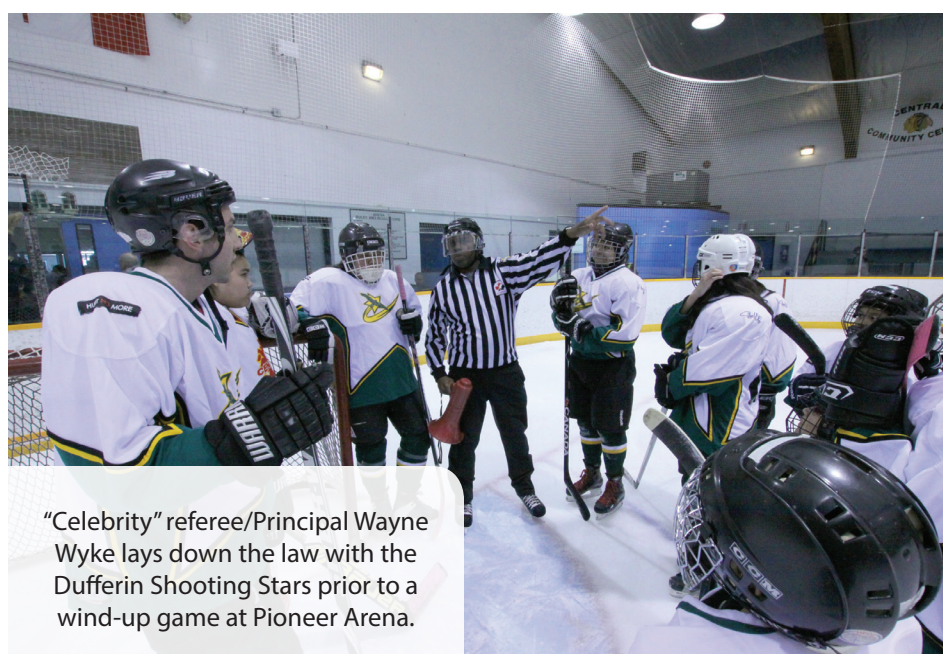
The schools had met once a week at the Old Exhibition Arena (which closed its doors permanently at the end of March).

For the coaches, one of the biggest thrills has been seeing students who hail from countries like Sudan and Somalia learn the game.

"For them, skating and hockey is new. They see it and hear about it, and now they get to experience it," said King Edward



Winnipeg Jets Hockey Academy Coach Cale David with Isaac Newton students.



"Celebrity" referee/Principal Wayne Wyke lays down the law with the Dufferin Shooting Stars prior to a wind-up game at Pioneer Arena.

Principal Aaron Benarroch. "We had one student who is new to Canada from Sudan, and he said 'I am so proud.'"

For a finale, the students travelled to the MTS Iceplex, where they got to meet former Atlanta Thrasher and current TSN broadcaster J.P. Vigier and play in a skills competition.

"Any time you can show a kid a new sport, that brings them into a new group atmosphere—it brings them into a family," Mr. Vigier said. "And if you're coming from far away and don't have a lot of family here, that can be reassuring."

Students Jena Tabelina, Crystal Ducusin, Jamie Plamondon and Joven Teano said they were all honoured to be skating on the same ice where Winnipeg Jets practise.

"It's really exciting," Joven said.



NHL veteran J.P. Vigier gives some instruction to the Wellington Wildcats prior to a drill at the MTS Iceplex. A total of 30 students from Wellington and King Edward school joined together for a series of hockey clinics.

ARTSSMARTS AT CECIL RHODES

Cecil Rhodes School students explored the power of art with storyteller Leigh-Anne Kehler and actress Daina Leitold as part of an ArtsSmarts project.

Coordinated by the Manitoba Arts Council, ArtsSmarts provides local artists to schools where they work with teachers and students using art as a tool for creative, hands-on learning of core curriculum.

For the first week of the project, Ms. Kehler worked with students to create stories based on the curriculum needs of each class. Younger students did stories about their families and culture, while older grade levels worked on story topics that ranged from the solar system and the human body.

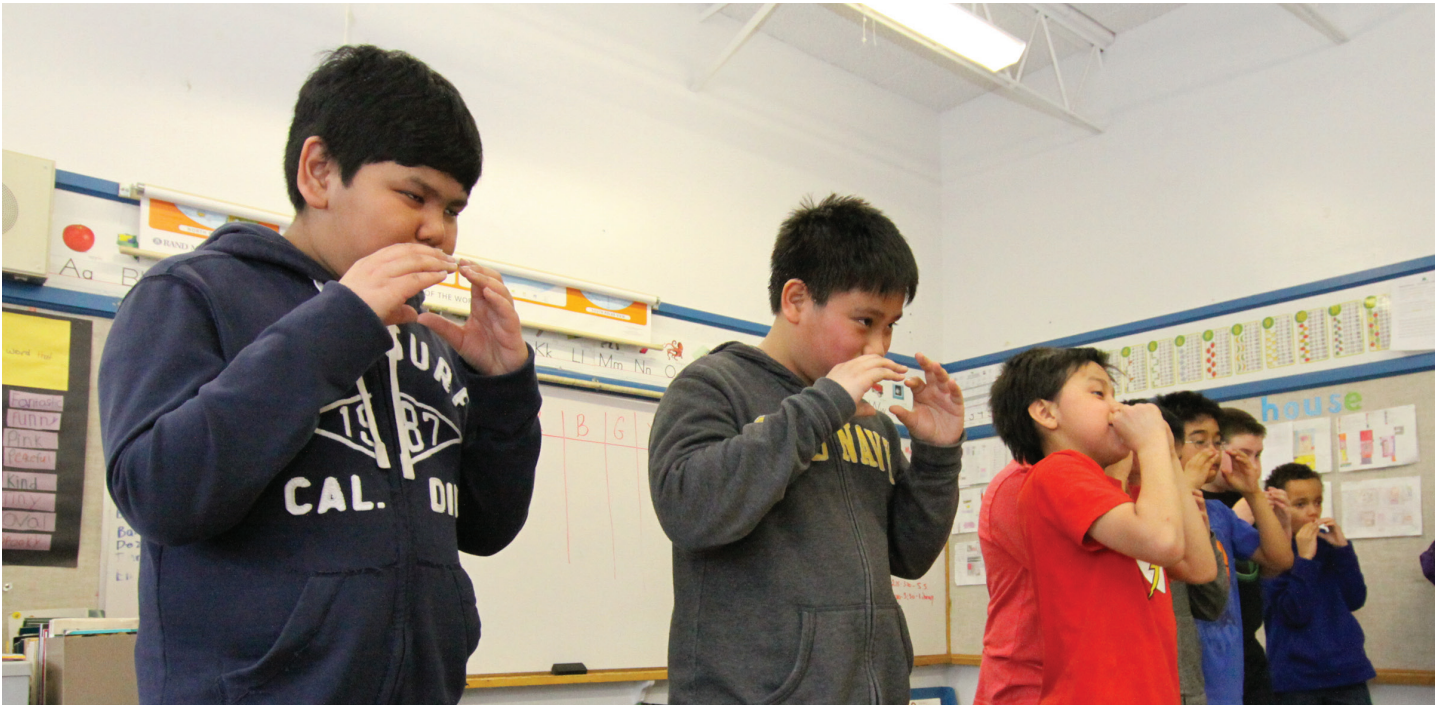
“Whatever students were studying, that’s what we focused on in the writing,” Ms. Kehler said.

In the following weeks, students worked with Ms. Leitold to bring their tales to life.

“We would look at the stories as a group and decide how we wanted to dramatize them,” Ms. Leitold said. “The students would play many different characters in their stories, from being a tree to being a dragon, planet or intestine. We were personifying all sorts of things.”

The project was a good example of how tactile learning can help students grasp concepts.

“Once the students physicalize it, they



Cecil Rhodes students mime burger-crazy consumers in a cautionary nutrition story.

find the words...they can verbalize what they’re learning about,” Ms. Kehler said.

Grade 5 students Jerome Salvetia, Bradley Soriano and their classmates created a nutrition-themed play.

“We’re teaching kids not to eat too much junk food,” Bradley said. “We’ll be performing this for Nursery to Grade 3 students.”

The students’ play suggested healthy

snacks, like fruit and vegetables, instead of fast food.

“Too many greasy burgers is bad for your heart,” Jerome added.

Teacher Fraser Oakes said the ArtsSmarts project brought learning to life in bold new ways.

“The students were all actively engaged, and we saw a lot of talent in our students. Their growth was amazing.”

MEDICAL CAREER GRADS RETURN TO COTE

Two Children of the Earth High School (COTE) graduates recently shared their story with current COTE students about their choice to stay on the path of the school’s Medical Career Exploration Program.

Graduates Amy Bousquet and Colten Pratt visited the school in March. Amy is now studying psychiatric nursing, while Colton is now working full-time as a paramedic with the City of Winnipeg.

After his graduation, Colten entered a paramedic-training program funded through the City of Winnipeg and the Manitoba Métis Federation. He told students that there are many bursaries and post-secondary programs that can help them attain their post-secondary education.

“There’s lots of scholarships available to you coming out of high school. Do your research and you’ll find way more than you expected to be out there,” said Colten, noting that he had benefited from this type of funding to complete his own post-secondary program. Meanwhile, Amy is studying through a Brandon University program at the University of Winnipeg campus.

“Specializing in mental health, you can work in psychiatric hospitals, you can work in addictions... you can work in a lot of different places,” she said.

Both students said courses in the COTE Medical Career Exploration Program, such as anatomy, are helpful for future study at the post-secondary level.

“Anatomy is difficult, learning all the bones and muscles, but it’s a lot of help to take it here over a few years in high school before university,” Amy said.

The four-year COTE program is designed to increase core academic skills and build a familiarity and comfort level with the medical field. Students are able to gain valuable insight during work placements at the Pan Am Clinic, Grace Hospital and the Health Sciences Centre.

“The students get such a leg up, working in a healthcare setting before they even enter post-secondary,” said Courtney Soszek, Program Coordinator of the Medical Careers Exploration Program. “They’re getting experience working with healthcare professionals and patients.”



Amy Bousquet and Colten Pratt talk medical careers with COTE students.

SHARING THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN A COMMUNITY’S CULTURAL LIFE

Elmwood student fiddler Sophia Rivera, guitarist Rylan Knaggs (pictured, left) and dancer Priya Jayasree perform during the finale of Elmwood’s Human Rights Week. In keeping with Winnipeg’s Festival du Voyageur, the event featured a focus on Métis culture.

Grades 7-8 students took field trips to the Grey Nuns convent in St. Boniface, as well as took part in workshops that included Métis cooking and the life of Louis Riel.

The Feb. 13 finale featured Métis performers The Sorin Family, the official Voyageur Family for Festival du Voyageur. Ryland and Sophie performed several Métis-themed songs as well.

“I grew up around this culture and this

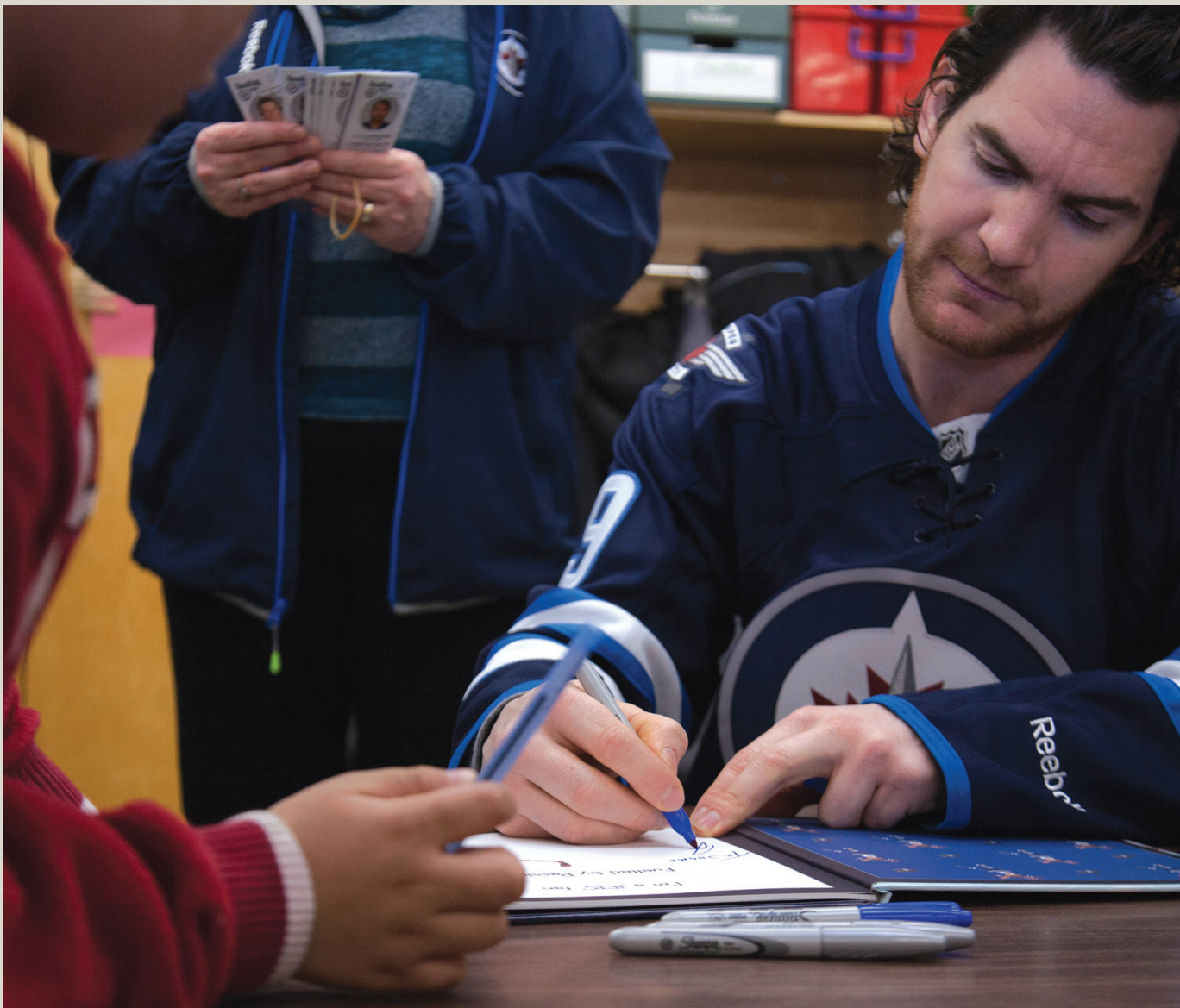
style of music...my uncle is Arnold Asham, who organizes Stomperfest (a Métis dance and music festival),” Rylan said. “This music is a part of both of us and we’re happy to be here performing.”

Organizer/teacher Christine Osztian said the annual event encourages an understanding of cultures.

“This week is all about students learning their heritage. Every year we do something a bit different but we always try to have a human rights focus.”

Other cultures were also showcased; for example, Priya performed the Bharat Maytam, a traditional Indian dance.

“I think it’s important to share our culture, because we should know more about other countries,” Priya said.



READING TAKES FLIGHT

Students at Earl Grey, David Livingstone and Tyndall Park schools were thrilled to meet members of the Winnipeg Jets as part of the hockey club's Reading Takes Flight Program.

On Feb. 23, the Jets visited schools to read from *The Home Team*, a locally-set hockey story; players also answered students' questions and signed autographs.

New Jet Drew Stafford went to David Livingstone, Jim Slater read at Tyndall Park and Chris Thorburn stopped by Earl Grey school.

All in all it was an exciting day that students won't soon forget!



From top:
Jim Slater signs autographs.

Photo by Jasper Evans, Tec Voc Photography

Drew Stafford chats
with students at David
Livingstone.

Photo by Maya Pavez, Tec Voc Photography

Chris Thorburn reads to the
class at Earl Grey School.

Photo by Dan LeMoal



MEET THE CHIEF!

Robertson School students welcomed Winnipeg Chief of Police Devon Clunis as part of their I Love to Read Month festivities.

Chief Clunis visited on Feb. 5 to read *Have You Filled a Bucket Today* by Carol McCloud. The book discusses how we can make the world a better place with small acts of kindness to others.

Grade 5 students Eron Ledesma and Alisha Puno said the book has been a cornerstone at Robertson for years, with students filling their classmates' buckets (actually, paper versions) with notes of kindness.

"You can write a compliment to somebody, then they'll read it and feel good about it," Alisha said.

"You feel great about yourself when you do it and then the other person does too," Eron said.

Chief Clunis's visit fit in perfectly with the ongoing focus on caring, respect and self-esteem. The school is part of the Winnipeg Police Service's Cool 2 Be Kind campaign which promotes kindness and respect in classrooms. Principal Tony Marchione said Chief Clunis was both personable and inspiring in his conversation with students.

"He spoke to the kids about being a good student and working hard in school. If you're a good student, you'll be successful in life...and if you become a good reader, it opens many doors. It's an inspiring message for our students."

The theme for Robertson's I Love to Read Month was "Everybody as the Right to Read"—which tied into the Winnipeg School Division's human rights celebration started earlier this year.

JOURNEY FOR LITERATURE

A newly formed Sisler High School student group called GIANT made the journey to Fisher River Cree Nation over Spring Break—bringing books by the box load and even more goodwill.

Some students in teacher Greg Shedden’s Global Issues class decided to form GIANT (the Global Issues Aboriginal Networking Team) partially as a response to a recent magazine article that dubbed Winnipeg Canada’s most racist city.

“Our class was inspired to create change...the objective of our initiative is to create more positive connections with Aboriginal communities and the Winnipeg youth,” said student Duyen Chau.

Looking for ways to improve relations, GIANT members connected with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC). Duyen contacted AMC youth coordinator Carla Cochrane, who saw the benefit of the GIANT’s mission through a connection with Fisher River First Nation.

One of the major needs the community identified was more books for its youth.

“Literacy skills are the fundamental basis to achieve academic and social success,” Duyen said. “The first step to

achieving this goal is to have a variety of books to read and materials to look at for the children of Fisher River.”

The group collected over 1,000 books, which were donated by Sisler and Shaughnessy Park students, as well as McNally Robinson and First Books.

Fifteen students travelled to Fisher River by bus, and stayed in a lodge as guests of the Fisher River council during the three-day trip.

“They were overwhelmed with joy and they were quite surprised because their library was quite small and they have to share that library with students that range all the way from kindergarten to Grade 12,” said Duyen when describing their hosts’ reaction to receiving the book donation. The group was given a tour of Fisher River with tour guides explaining significance of various buildings and locations.

“We experienced a sweat lodge and got our spiritual names,” said Duyen. “The sweat lodge was really hot—we went through four times and they taught us lessons about the importance of helping others, cleansing and self-healing.”



Mr. Shedden’s classes have spawned numerous humanitarian groups in the past, keeping the teacher busy throughout the year.

“This is why I teach,” Mr. Shedden

said. “The class is called Global Issues, Sustainability and Citizenship, and it’s about creating aware, involved students. And this is as aware and involved as you can get.”



MEETING MR. MAYOR

Faraday School’s Grade 2 and 3 students had an opportunity to learn how and where the decisions and the laws are made to make Winnipeg a better place. Students in Mr. Yanofsky’s, Mr. Wade’s, and Ms. Mandarano’s classrooms were invited by the Mayor’s Office for a special reading in celebration of I Love to Read Month and a tour of City Hall on Feb. 13.

In November, the students wrote letters to the newly-elected Mayor Bowman to congratulate him and ask him what it’s like to be Winnipeg’s mayor.

“I asked ‘how hard is it to be the mayor of Winnipeg?’” said Parmela Naslund. “There was a little room so I drew him a picture of a hockey stick.” Parmela knew that Mayor Bowman likes sports.

Mark Traquena asked Mayor Bowman for a favour: “I said congrats, and like a favour, to have more policemen.” Mayor Bowman read Ruby’s Hope, a story by the founder of The Ladybug Foundation, Hannah Taylor. The story is about a

ladybug that encounters a homeless bug asking for help. The book discusses the issue of homelessness, and encourages young readers to get involved and make a change at any age.

“This whole issue of homelessness connects nicely to some of Faraday School’s Education for Sustainable Development and Social Justice initiatives and priorities,” Mr. Yanofsky said.

After the reading, the students were given the grand tour of City Hall, including a tour of the underground walkway that connects the two City Hall buildings with the Manitoba Museum and the Centennial Concert Hall. A highlight of the tour for many students was walking through the civic meeting hall, where portraits of previous mayors hang along the walls.

“I enjoyed seeing the [pictures of] the mayors,” said student Tyler Butler.

– with files from Kelvin

PHOTO BY MAYA PAVEZ, TEC VOC PHOTOGRAPHY

BEYOND THEIR REACH

Kelvin High School’s Reach for the Top teams have continued their undefeated streak in the 2014-15 competitive season. The Senior and Intermediate teams earned a pair of victories against some of Winnipeg’s highest-profile public servants.

Reach for the Top is a national academic quiz competition for high school students across Canada. Students complete regionally against other local high schools, provincially, and nationally. Each match consists of three rounds and students answer 86 questions per match.

The Kelvin Titans of Trivia bested a team of local politicians, including

Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South Centre Joyce Bateman, River Heights-Fort Garry City Councillor John Orlikow, St. Vital City Councillor Brian Mayes, and Charleswood-Tuxedo City Councillor Marty Morantz. Although the Reach team rendered victorious, the politicians gave team members Erik K., Sam A., John M., Muhamed A., Torbjorn T., Nigel S. and Ethan T. some of their best competition yet.

Reach for the Top coach John Martens said that after 32 straight victories over the past two seasons, the two matches against our city’s politicians were among the closest he had ever seen.



City Councillor Brian Mayes, MP Joyce Bateman, and City Councillors Marty Morantz and John Orlikow compete against the Kelvin Titans of Trivia.

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

École Robert H. Smith School served up breakfast in support of a worthwhile community champion: The Boys and Girls Club of Winnipeg.

The March 6 event drew an enormous response from families and the community at large, raising \$14,180.

For the past eight years, Robert H. Smith's Grade 6 students have researched different charities and presented potential beneficiaries to their peers. Students vote on the charity to be supported by the school and community for each year's breakfast.

Students Thalia Thorlacius, Simone Zahodnik and Anna Fowler were among the Grade 6 students who researched charities and presented their findings to their peers.

Thalia visited a local Boys and Girls Club to see first hand the impact the organization makes on the community. She said the clubs provide youth with positive activities and a welcoming environment: "They help out a lot of kids."

The school's community breakfast raises thousands annually for its various beneficiaries, which have included The Children's Hospital Foundation, The Children's Wish Foundation and Winnipeg Harvest.

"This is about kids giving to kids, embracing the community and helping others," said Principal Tom Rossi.

The carnival-like event has drawn many special guests over the years, including the mayor, city councilors, the Chief of Police, The Joe Show, Shaw Television, Breakfast TV and the



CTV Morning Show, to name a few.

Robert H. Smith students, as well as students from nearby schools (such as Kelvin High School's jazz band) provided entertainment for the event.



FESTIVAL!

A Tec Voc High School Culinary Arts student serves up some French-Canadian fare during the school's Festival du Voyageur celebration (left). The February feast included pea soup, tourtière and beaver tails for dessert. Meanwhile, a young visitor explores a tipi on the school grounds.

PHOTOS BY VANESSA LEWIS, TEC VOC PHOTOGRAPHY



A TEAGUE OF HIS OWN

Winnipeg Blue Bomber Teague Sherman captured the attention of each set of young eyes throughout his afternoon visit at Sister MacNamara School.

Mr. Sherman, who was visiting as part of I Love to Read Month, began his visit by explaining his defensive role to the Grade 4 class. The students seem intrigued by the idea that he can tackle without getting into trouble.

The Bomber safety read from *Where the Wild Things Are*, making sure to show each picture to students before turning the page. Interpreter Dinnah Koskie accompanied Mr. Sherman in sign language.

While reading a second book, *Dino-Football*, Mr. Sherman peppered the students with questions about football. Each student was very keen to gather as much information as they could from this admirable athlete—and they could not help but laugh when he showed them his touchdown dance.

STORY AND PHOTO BY JASPER EVANS, TEC VOC PHOTOGRAPHY

FAMILY FUN THROUGH FACT FINDING

When it comes to learning, games are a great way to engage students. Inkster School’s annual Family Learning Olympics event always offers a colourful variety of learning activities. Families came to the school on Feb. 4 for a healthy supper and an evening of literacy and math games.

Teachers Elizabeth Idone and Carol Nichols said the event focused on families with children in the pre-primary grades of nursery or kindergarten.

“The children and families get the idea that learning is fun and that will help them later on,” Ms. Nichols said.

Stations included Page Pounder (where families read and created their own pop-up books), Read and Roll, mental gymnastic puzzles and a Streetwise event that had families reading maps to find locations in their community.

Parent Trina Elia said her two children, who are five and seven years old, enjoyed moving from station to station.

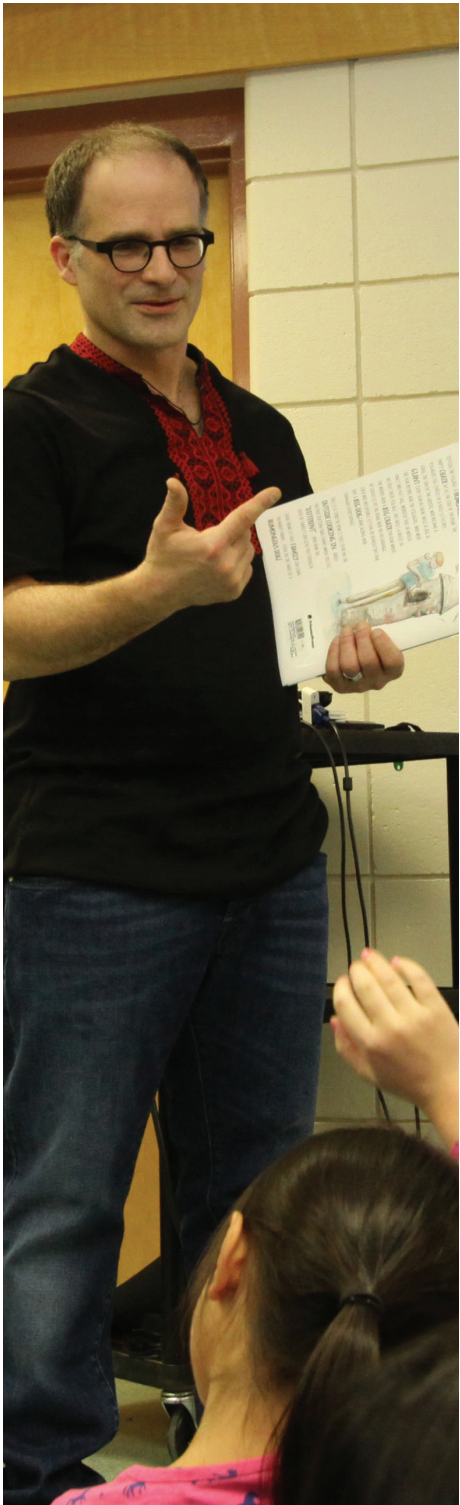
“This encourages the children more if there’s some fun in it,” she said.

Approximately 12 volunteers, including teachers, educational assistants and parents, helped to put the event on. The event was made possible with a grant from Families and Communities Together (FACT).



“This is just a nice family bonding time, as well as a way to promote what we’re doing here at the school,” Ms. Idone said.

Each of the families received a take-home literacy bag that included literacy, math and physical activities.



LANDMARK SPARKS CHILDREN’S BOOK

On his trips out to Gimli with his young nephew Maksym, Adrian Hawaleshka would often pass an unusual Manitoba landmark: a giant wooden chair sat by the side of Highway 8.

Mr. Hawaleshka was fascinated, but little Maksym was worried.

“Who sits in it?” the young boy asked his uncle. “And why is he watching me?”

And there lay the roots of Mr. Hawaleshka’s children’s book, *The Chair by the Side of the Road*.

The author visited École Stanley Knowles School in February as part of I Love to Read Month.

“Over a ten year span, I would drive back and forth past that chair and think of another couple of scenarios that would add to the story,” Mr. Hawaleshka said.

In real life, the chair is rumoured to have been built for a University of Manitoba Department of Engineering project, or made by a local family to tease a tall relative. In the story, it turns out the chair belongs to a giant, lonely boy who meets an equally gigantic dog.

“The chair has entered urban mythology—nobody really knows why it’s there,” said Mr. Hawaleshka.



WE BAKE FOR CHANGE

Ralph Brown School’s Social Action Team recently raised \$296 for Free the Children’s We Bake for Change event.

The organization seeks to create equality for children around the world by providing access to essential human rights, like education and clean water.

Ralph Brown students baked treats and

handled sales for the February fundraiser.

Student Darko Milardovic said the student projects like the bake sale were only just the beginning.

“When you get older, you can do even more stuff like this. You can even travel to other countries to help more people.”

Teacher Kristin Grey said these types of

humanitarian experiences are invaluable to students.

“It’s really important for kids to be able to give to others, no matter how much they have for themselves,” Ms. Grey said. “It’s amazing for them to be able to make a difference in someone else’s life.”

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

KELVIN STUDENT TURNS FOOD ALLERGY INTO LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

A Kelvin High School student has won a major academic award worth \$100,000 toward tuition, living expenses and summer programming.

Hannah Lank was among 30 candidates chosen by the Loran Foundation; the winners were selected from a field of over 4,000 students. She was chosen for many reasons – including her personal efforts to educate others about food allergies.

“I have food allergies myself, I’m allergic to peanuts and tree nuts,” she said. “I’ll go into Grade 9 classrooms once a year...I’ll teach them how to use auto-injectors and answer any questions they might have about food allergies.”

By the end of this year, Hannah will have educated over 900 students on the issue. As a result of her work, Hannah was elected to the Young Canadian’s Roundtable on Health, a national panel that advocates and advises on issues impacting the health of Canada’s youth.

“I think having food allergies has made me who I am. It’s definitely provided me with a lot of different opportunities, and it’s forced me to be more responsible about myself and my actions.”

The Loran Awards are given to students on the basis of character, service and leadership—qualities that aren’t always evident on an academic transcript.

The awards program also connects students with a mentor in the community where they attend university, as well as making allowances for travel to other parts of the world in the summer months. Such provisions ensure the students continue to become well-rounded global citizens.

Hannah said she was excited to be selected—and by the possibilities the award represents.

“They really invest in you as a person. It comes with a responsibility to continue on with what you’re doing, and try to always improve and look towards the future.”

Along with maintaining excellent grades, Hannah is co-president of Kelvin’s student council and participates in many extracurricular activities, such as the school newspaper.

The Grade 12 student plans to focus on both arts and sciences at the university level, either at McMaster, Queen’s University or the University of Toronto. Hannah is considering pursuing medicine but the future is still unwritten.

“The Loran Foundation really encourages us to keep our options open and see where the path leads.”



NATIONAL HONOUR FOR KELVIN TEACHER

École secondaire Kelvin High School teacher Chris Young is among 50 honourees recognized by the federal government for making Canada a better place.

MP Joyce Bateman visited Kelvin to present Mr. Young with a flag, a certificate and a letter from Prime Minister Stephen Harper; the presentations were made across Canada as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations for the Canadian flag.

“It’s super humbling...I was absolutely surprised by being honoured in this way,” Mr. Young said.

The flag is an appropriate gift for Mr. Young, a proud advocate of teaching Canadian history. The teacher was a key organizer in the school’s 100th anniversary and works to highlight Kelvin alumni contributions to Canada.

Mr. Young has organized battlefield trips to Europe for several years running, visiting sites such as Dieppe, Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele. Students research Kelvin veterans who died in action in the First and Second World Wars, working from military files and other documents before having the opportunity to visit tombstones and

commemorative monuments in Europe.

“It’s been an amazing experience for myself and my students,” said Mr. Young, who once worked as a tour guide at Vimy Ridge. “The students are making profound connections with Kelvin’s past.”

One student even found out they lived on the same street as the soldier they were studying.

“Those kinds of connections have been exciting for me to see and I think they’ve been meaningful for the students.”

KELVIN HISTORY PROJECT

The teacher has mined Kelvin’s rich history for class assignments and extracurricular projects, such as Kelvin’s recent 100th anniversary. Mr. Young and Kelvin students past and present are currently working on a website detailing Kelvin’s history; a large body of work has already been produced prior to the launch.

“There’s such a wealth of history and documents and primary sources,” Mr. Young said. “The students are not only able to work with these interesting sources, they’re also getting inspired about their own school and history...and hopefully they’ll get even more involved.”



The 100th anniversary also inspired Mr. Young to create a book chronicling the history of the school, entitled *Courage, Truth, Right: One Hundred Years of Kelvin High School History*.

“It’s been a long process...it’s been a life-passion over the last few years,” Mr. Young said. “It will be a 140-page coffee-table book focusing on distinguished alumni and highlighting moments in the school’s history.”

Mr. Young, who is working with printers in anticipation of a 2015 launch, credits his students for bringing these historical projects to life.

“I absolutely couldn’t have done any of this without the students.”

WINNIPEG FOUNDATION GRANT SUPPORTS FITNESS PROGRAM

R.B. Russell’s Y-Not? Program has a great fitness partner in the Winnipeg Foundation.

The Winnipeg Foundation gave the R.B. Russell Y-Not? Downtown YMCA-YWCA Program a \$5,000 grant to continue its mission of providing healthy lifestyle choices to inner city youth.

The program offers students from Winnipeg School Division schools and off-campus programs an opportunity to access fitness programming and facilities at the Downtown YMCA-YWCA.

Program Director and retired R.B. Russell English teacher Brian MacKinnon announced the \$5,000 grant to cheering R.B. Russell students during a March 10 assembly.

“We want to once again acknowledge the tremendous ongoing support that The R.B. Russell Y-Not? Downtown Y Anti-Poverty Program has received with yet another grant from The Winnipeg Foundation,” Mr. MacKinnon said. “The Winnipeg Foundation, which is Canada’s first community foundation, serves as a kind of conscience to the city and therefore cares deeply about what’s going on with youth in Winnipeg’s inner city.”



LORD NELSON EXPANSION UNDERWAY

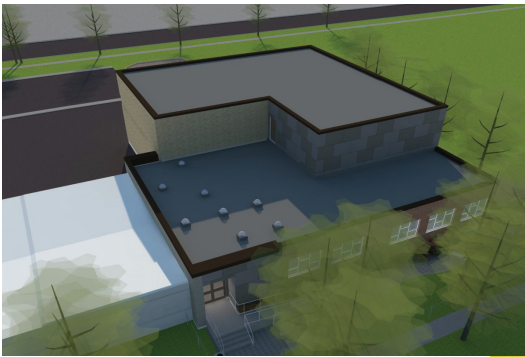
Officials turned sod on Feb. 26 to mark the beginning of Lord Nelson School’s gymnasium project.

The 886 square metre expansion includes a 390 square metre gym and two 925 square metre classrooms. Developers are anticipating that construction will be completed by the fall of 2016.

“The new gym will enhance the learning environment for Lord Nelson students and allow for more participation in sports and recreational activities that promote a healthy school community,” said Winnipeg School Division Board Chair Mark Wasyliw.

Principal Sandy Stevenson said the school community was excited by the impending expansion.

“Lord Nelson School students, staff and the community are delighted the construction of our new gymnasium and early years’ classrooms is about to begin,” she said. “Our new gymnasium is targeted for LEED Silver designation and will provide students with many great



opportunities to learn and play during class time and after school, and give our community a state-of-the-art facility for evening activities and events.”

The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver designation is a green building certification. The expansion project, which is also targeting a Manitoba Hydro Power Smart designation, will feature low-flow plumbing, energy-efficient heating/ventilation, light fixtures and other features.



Other dignitaries at the event included Minister of Education and Advanced Learning Peter Bjornson, Minister of Children and Youth Opportunities Melanie Wight, Trustee Cathy Collins and parent

Kim Storer.

Following the indoor sod-turning ceremony, students built a makeshift wall with colourful bricks that will eventually adorn the new addition.



SMILING IN WINTER

Students and staff from Pinkham School visited the nearby Burton Cummings Community Centre for their 2015 winter carnival. Pinkham’s Winterfest included skating, sledding, ice painting, snowshoeing, amongst other activities. Students proved that there are many ways to get outside and be active year-round. Students warmed up with a hearty meal of soup and grilled cheese sandwiches for lunch. Thanks to the staff at the Burton Cummings Community Centre for hosting a great day of fun in the winter sun!

EMPTY BOWLS A REMINDER OF THOSE WHO GO HUNGRY

STORY BY JEFF MILLER

École Laura Secord School has raised over \$1000 for Winnipeg Harvest as part of its Empty Bowls fundraiser. The donation, raised by selling students’ artistically created soup bowls, is the crowning achievement to a coordinated school effort to make a difference in its community.

As an official UNESCO (United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization) school, École Laura Secord School looks for ways students can be global citizens. The school invited Winnipeg Harvest representatives to speak to students about local child poverty and the people who seek help from Winnipeg Harvest.

Winnipeg Harvest supports over 380 agencies across the city and provides food to 61,000 people every month. Half of those people are children. For every dollar donated, the organization can stretch that into \$20, thanks to its various partnerships.

Four classrooms—Rooms 115, 213, 216 and 317—coordinated the school’s efforts to help the cause, creating posters and making morning announcements to spread awareness.

“The classes were given the task of making the rest of the school aware about poverty and how they could help,” said teacher Cathy Askholm.

The four classrooms also visited Winnipeg Harvest for a tour and to volunteer sorting and bagging potatoes.

Thanks to the generous donations from the local community, the school was able to collect 304 pounds of food at its winter concert in December. After the winter break, students got right back on track, this time collecting cash donations.

The Empty Bowls Dinner, held Jan. 28, was the final element. Parents, staff and members of the community were invited for a soup dinner. The soups were made by parents, staff and Tec Voc High School, with buns donated by City Bread.

“We came up with a slogan called the three H’s...The Hand, The Heart and How to help,” said teacher Laurie Kopytk. “I am extremely proud of all our students, staff and community members for their active participation and wonderful donations.”

FRIENDSHIP WITH FIRE, PARAMEDIC SERVICE CONTINUES

Principal Sparling School’s long-running friendship with the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) continued with a friendly basketball exhibition game on March 6.

Firefighters and paramedics visited the school as a finale to Principal Sparling’s fire safety week. The week was scheduled before daylight savings time for a special reason.

“We reminded students that we change the batteries in our smoke detectors when the clock moves forward,” said Principal Lionel Pang.

Students were also given sheets to take home and map out their home escape plans.

“We planned out what to do at home if

the smoke detector goes off,” said student Gabriel Cabrera.

Marc Proulx, the WFPS Public Education Coordinator, said that along with having working smoke detectors and drawing up escape plans, it was important to hold drills at home.

“It’s just as important to (practise) at home at least once a month,” he said.

The celebrity WFPS team included new Chief John Lane and Assistant Deputy Chief Don Enns, who Mr. Pang said is a longtime friend to Principal Sparling.

“Mr. Enns has been coming to our school for over five years,” Mr. Pang said. “He really helped make this game happen today.”

The students ended up winning the game 17-14.



The Principal Sparling Road Runners shake hands with members of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service after a friendly exhibition basketball game.

Photo by Vanessa Lewis, Tec Voc Photography



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WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

KELVIN CAMPAIGN BEGINS

The Kelvin High School community is embarking on a \$1,000,000 fundraising drive to create an Active Living Centre at the school. Parents, students and staff hosted an official kickoff at Kelvin on Feb. 12.

On April 14, 2014, the provincial government announced funding for a much-needed gymnasium for Kelvin. The school and community are looking at enlarging this addition to include a track and Active Living Centre. The centre will be state of the art with an emphasis on personal fitness and community use.

The proposed facility would add 185 square metres to the gymnasium project. The school is already \$100,000 closer to its goal thanks to a City of Winnipeg grant.

"We want to make this new facility the best it can possible be," said Principal Jim Brown. "It's an exciting opportunity for Kelvin High School as we build for our second 100 years."

Winnipeg School Division (WSD) Board Chair Mark Wasyliw said the facility would give the public an opportunity to interact and see first-hand the many

positive things happening in the school community and the Winnipeg School Division.

"What we're trying to do at the Winnipeg School Division is to expand everybody's idea of a school," said Mr. Wasyliw. "A school is not just a place where you go to learn, it is also a community hub."

Kelvin alumni were well-represented at the kickoff; their presence was important, as alumni will play a major role in the fundraising drive.

"Kelvin has a tradition of excellence, and we are sharing our dream with alumni and seeking their support," said Vice-Principal Joyce Wong.

The event was followed by an alumni versus varsity boys basketball game, symbolic of past and current students working together to build for the future.

The school is also asking alumni to share their Kelvin memories and to spread word via social media with a challenge to other alumni to support the campaign.

Donations can also be made to the project through the WSD's Children's Heritage Fund (indicate the project on the donation form).

BRIDGING THE GAP

Children of the Earth High School hosted 250 youth delegates from across the country for a Canadian Roots Exchange national youth forum.

Bridging the Gap focused on youth leadership and creating a dialogue between indigenous and non-indigenous youth.

Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman welcomed students to the three-day conference on March 5; keynote speakers included media personality Wab Kinew and St. John's High School alumnus/youth advocate Michael Redhead Champagne. Youth panelists also tackled topics such as mental health & addictions, reconciliation and youth empowerment.

A topic of conversation that frequently came up was a magazine article that dubbed Winnipeg as Canada's Most Racist City. Regardless of whether or not one views that as a fair assessment, it had many at the forum talking about ways to create more cultural understanding.

Mayor Bowman said the forum was an opportunity

for students to share their stories and experiences, as well as their challenges and positive ideas to create more understanding in the world.

"No matter our skin colour or creed, we are all Children of the Earth, and we're all part of the same community...we're all part of one Winnipeg. It's our community and it doesn't matter where you come from."

Student Ocean White said it was difficult to compare the cultural environment in different cities and provinces in Canada.

"You can't compare Manitoba to Alberta or Ontario. They're all different, they're all unique."

While Winnipeg has its challenges, Ocean said that the situation was not hopeless.

"I think we can improve as a community and come together," Ocean said. "We can educate children in the younger grades to know Aboriginal history...you have to know what happened to them in the past to know who they are today."



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