



MEDIA INVITE

WSD High School students announce massive book drive Sisler's INSPIRE group intent on sharing the magic of reading

January 16, 2018 (Winnipeg, MB) – Winnipeg School Division (WSD) is pleased to invite media to Sisler High School on Thursday, January 18, 2018 for an announcement by the Sisler High School INSPIRE group.

INSPIRE (Inter-school Nation to Support and Protect Indigenous Rights and Education) began four years ago, primarily focusing on collecting and donating books to low income indigenous families. To date, INSPIRE has collected over one thousand books for donation.

“The members of INSPIRE recognize literacy is a community responsibility and we all have a role to play in this,” says Awab Jelani, Sisler High School student and leader of INSPIRE. “We are excited to announce details of our 2018 book drive – the biggest target we have ever undertaken. We are also issuing a challenge to other schools in Manitoba to run their own book drives, with the aim of donating the books to Share the Magic, an organization with a province-wide commitment to provide books free of charge to communities without many books.”

Share the Magic President, John Helliar, has pledged that all of the books raised by INSPIRE will go to Indigenous peoples throughout Manitoba. Helliar says, “It is indeed an honour to work with such a wonderful group of young people, INSPIRE helps me believe a better world is possible, starting right here in Manitoba.”

Details of the book drive and challenge to other high schools will be announced at a news conference:

- Where:** Sisler High School, 1360 Redwood Ave. (Entrance through main door on Redwood Avenue, please report to office before proceeding to Room 46, street parking available.)
- When:** 1:00 pm, January 18, 2018.
- Who:** Sherri Rollins, Chair, WSD Board of Trustees
Awab Jelani and INSPIRE group members
John Helliar, President, Share the Magic
Chris Melnick, Executive Director, Share the Magic

WSD was established in 1871 and currently has 78 schools, 33,000 students and 6,000 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.

Share the Magic Book Program is a registered charity which aims to increase literacy levels in low income populations. The Program collects new and gently-used books for give away and community libraries, free of charge, in Manitoba communities that do not have many books. *Share the Magic* gives away books for all ages, from baby books to adult fiction and non-fiction. To date *Share the Magic* has given away 417,000+ books. For more information contact Chris Melnick, Executive Director at: cmelnick@mymts.net or by calling 204 257 0517.

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