



## NEWS RELEASE

### Winnipeg School Division celebrates 50 years of Nursery program – fun in learning

**May 18, 2016 (Winnipeg, MB)** – Winnipeg School Division (WSD) today commemorated 50 years since it first launched its Nursery program. The division planted a tree at David Livingstone School where the first Nursery class began in 1965. (View [Celebrating 50 Years of Fun Learning](#)).

Now the Principal at Principal Sparling School, Lionel Pang was among the first Nursery class students in Winnipeg School Division.

“Growing up with immigrant parents limited my experiences as both parents worked - the Nursery Program and first years of school helped to build my foundation of learning,” said Pang. “What I remember most is that education became an important part of my life. The more I learned, the more I loved to learn. The Nursery Program and early years in school not only built a strong foundation for education, but was an important building block of my life’s foundation, which has led me to do what I do today.” Pang said that as a Principal, one of the most important parts of his day is visiting the Nursery Program in his school.

Winnipeg School Division is a strong advocate of early years education and pioneers for new programs. Over the past two years, the number of schools with full day Kindergarten has increased and as of this September there will be 13 full day Kindergarten classes.

“Preschool education has a long-term and positive impact on children’s learning and development,” said WSD Board of Trustees Vice-Chair Sherri Rollins. “We’re very pleased to recognize the significance of this 50 year milestone. The tree going in the ground later today will stand tall and be testimony – another fifty years from now – to the strong roots that preschool education gives our children to grow on.”

Winnipeg School Division is the only division in Manitoba to offer Nursery programs at all 59 elementary schools. More than 1,780 students are attending Nursery this year.

-30-

**Contact:**

Radean Carter  
Public Relations Services  
Winnipeg School Division  
(204) 789-0412 Cell: (204) 771-5352 [rcarter@wsd1.org](mailto:rcarter@wsd1.org)