



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

★ FINAL PRINT EDITION ★

OUR SCHOOLS



Photo by Mikayla Carter, Tec Voc Photography

CELEBRATING OUR VOICES

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WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

OUR SCHOOLS

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THIS IS IT – FINAL PRINT EDITION

You are holding in your hands the final print edition of *Our Schools*.

The paper was in existence for many, many years, but the goals were always the same: to highlight and celebrate the learning and achievements of WSD students, staff and schools; to keep our families and communities informed and connected to our schools, our board and WSD as a whole; to connect people from a wide variety of social, political and cultural backgrounds while also celebrating our uniqueness.

On a personal level, I have always

felt that along with a well-rounded education, one of the greatest gifts we can give students is confidence and self-esteem. We've tried to do that by sharing students' successes (and sometimes those noble failures on the journey to learning, enlightenment and success) and more importantly, sharing their unique voices and stories with all of you.

We shall continue to do all of these things online. At www.winnipegsd.ca, the news and events from *Our Schools* will continue. Student work, special projects and school initiatives will be shared in the

Spotlight. We'll periodically take a look back in time via *Our Schools' Flashback*. We'll continue to bring positive education stories to you through social media such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. We'll provide photos and content directly to schools for featuring in their monthly newsletters and websites.

I look forward to seeing all of you online, and in our schools.

Dan LeMoal, Editor
May 26, 2017



YELLOW IS FOR HELLO

Grant Park High School was chosen to be an official host site for one of five yellow Friendship Benches.

The benches were being installed at five schools, located in five provinces, in five days; Grant Park's bench was unveiled during a May 4 ceremony.

The bench ceremony was part of WSD's Healthy Minds Week 2017 and Mental Health Awareness Week.

Sam Fiorella, founder of The Friendship Bench, is traversing the country to install the benches and remind students to talk with one another about depression and suicidal thoughts to help prevent tragedies.

Each Friendship Bench is a permanent symbol to encourage students to take minute of out their day to sit, breathe and talk (or think) about their mental health

and that of their peers. In only two years, there are already 27 benches in place on campuses across the country—not including the five being added during Mental Health Week. The benches and #YellowIsForHello campaign serve as a valuable resource to:

- Encourage peer-to-peer conversations about mental health.
- Via the on-bench web-address/hashtag, connect students with available on-campus mental health support service.
- Act as a tool to help inspire and augment existing on-campus mental health awareness efforts.

Tragically, Sam was inspired to found The Friendship Bench initiative after the loss of his son Lucas in 2014. At the time, Lucas was in his second year of university, and Sam and his family were utterly unaware that Lucas was suffering with

depression. The shock and overwhelming loss shook Sam to his very core and, in Lucas' memory, he is determined to help others open up before it's too late.

"As a parent, learning that your child is suffering alone—when if you only knew, you could have helped, is your worst fear," Sam said. "You can't rewrite the past but you can certainly change the future. Suicide is second leading cause of death among Canadians aged 15 - 34. No parent should find out their child is suffering when it's too late to do anything about it."

The Grant Park Friendship Bench will be located outside of the school's Wellness Place—a special room that features soft lighting, comfortable chairs, plants, standup desks and more. The room serves as a formal and informal meeting place for students and staff.



INDIGENOUS GALLERY WALK 2017

CELEBRATING OUR VOICES



Photo by Mikayla Carter, Tec Voc Photography

Students from across WSD gathered at R.B. Russell Vocational High School on May 26 for the 13th Annual WSD Indigenous Gallery Walk.

"This is a celebration and acknowledgement of all of the wonderful work our schools are doing," said Aboriginal Education Director Rob Riel. "There has been a ton of growth."

The day offered the opportunity for students and schools to share their learning in Indigenous languages such as Cree and Ojibwe, as well as to showcase their Indigenous Education projects in a gallery setting in the school's gymnasium.

Carol Beaulieu of Indigenous Languages of Manitoba, who was one of the featured speakers at the event, said learning these languages can be a challenging but rewarding goal.

"Most Indigenous languages are very complicated and very extensive...you can't learn them in a year. The average is anywhere from five to seven years," she said.

"We don't have a lot of early childhood introductions due to all of the cultural interruptions we've had over the last 100 years or so. But it's coming back, and it's wonderful to see...we are the only ones to have (these languages) and we're the only ones that can keep it going. Once it's gone, it's gone."

St. John's High School student Brandon Wood said he was glad to see Indigenous perspectives and traditions being celebrated and taught in schools.

"I see children singing in languages like Ojibwe and it's so touching...it's good for us, it's a historic thing," he said. "There's a bad history of these cultural traditions and ceremonies being prohibited...this is helping to make people aware of what happened and it's giving them knowledge."

The day got off to an energetic start with Elders Wanbdi Wakita and Myra Laramee (who also works as WSD's Traditional Knowledge Keeper), as well as a smudge ceremony.

The previous evening, WSD invited over 175 parents from 65 different schools to R.B. Russell to help the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education (which is an ad hoc committee of the Board of Trustees) to review its current Aboriginal Education policy. The ultimate goal is to set the course for Aboriginal Education policy in the years to come.

"It's something that is needed...we have

been working from our current policy for a decade," Mr. Riel said.

He said this was just the beginning of an extensive review process.

"This is step one of a multi-step process. We still have to review with our principals as a group, our teachers, support staff such as consultants and Clinical Support Services, and then we still have to review with the most important group: our students."



WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

PHOTO AND ARTICLE BY JARED STORY

On April 25, Glenelm's nursery students staged a theatrical performance of *Where the Wild Things Are* in the school's gym.

The 1963 best-selling children's picture book by Maurice Sendak focuses on a young boy named Max, who, while dressed in a wolf costume, behaves badly and is sent to bed without supper. Max's bedroom is transformed into a jungle and he sails to an island occupied by frightening fiends known as the "wild things."

Max becomes king of the wild things, but he becomes homesick and returns to his bedroom where he discovers his dinner waiting for him.

Prior to the performance, the Glenelm nursery class crafted their very own wild thing papier-mâché masks.

"It was a story we could work with for this age group, where they could hold a mask in front of their face and wouldn't be intimidated," said Glenelm nursery teacher Jamie Sager.

"They are in front of their parents and the whole school for the first time, so it's a big deal for them."

The nursery students were joined in the play by Glenelm's Grade 2 students.

"The Grade 2 kids are helping us with props. They are the trees, they are doing the jungle music, they're narrating," Sager said.

In the Glenelm production, brothers Ryder and Maxwell Reid shared the role of Max.

"We have a little Max here, and then in the forest, he grows, and in comes the Grade 2 Max," Sager said.



Glenelm's nursery class staged a theatrical version of the book *Where the Wild Things Are* on April 25.

HOMEMADE HAPPINESS

At Strathcona School, they're known as the "Baking Circle," at Shaughnessy Park School, students simply call them "The Baking Ladies."

But despite the informal names, the small army of bakers that provides snacks to both schools is a highly organized operation that involves volunteers from across Winnipeg. Dozens of bakers are donating their time—and ingredients—to keep students well fed.

"I'm just passionate about baking," said Arlisa Greco, a Technical Solutions Manager for IBM Canada who started the baking circle at Strathcona nine years ago. "And I've become pretty good at tripling recipes."

Ms. Greco connected with Strathcona through a neighbor who was volunteering to read with students at the school. The neighbour had noticed that some students were coming to school hungry.

"She recognized that students couldn't focus if they were hungry," Ms. Greco said. "I said I would bake weekly for her when she was volunteering...I did that for the rest of the school year. But then I started thinking that I knew a lot of people who like to bake, and if I organized my like-minded friends, maybe we could do more."

The baking crew has grown over the years to a rotation of 75 volunteers who provide snacks for Strathcona's Nursery to Grade 2 students. One of the bakers, Khalie Jackson-Davis, has helped the circle expand to include Shaughnessy Park School; she coordinates approximately 30 volunteer bakers for the second school.

"I do less baking now that I'm coordinating," said Ms. Jackson-Davis, who is also a Reading Clinician with St. James School Division. "Thanks to Arlisa,

I have a very nice spreadsheet that I plot in and figure out the entire year for each baker. I send them their schedule at the start of the year."

Teachers pick up the baked goods on a weekly or semi-weekly basis. The Strathcona operation is so large that Ms. Greco even has depot houses to collect baking from different areas of the city.

"Sometimes there's so much you can't fit it all in your car," she said.

The baking circles also go beyond the staples of muffins and other treats.

"Sometimes people aren't able to bake, so they'll send in fresh fruit, yogurt, cheese and crackers, granola bars or other healthy snacks for the kids," Ms. Jackson-Davis said.

Shaughnessy Park teacher Kristen Mitchell said the snacks have proven tremendously popular amongst students at the school.

"The students are always asking and trying to figure out what we're having for snack on a given day," Ms. Mitchell said. "They're exposed to foods they might not get at home. They may have never heard of a cranberry and now they're getting cranberry muffins."

Students are raving about everything from muffins to squares to cookies.

"They are the best bakers ever, I like when they bake banana chocolate chip muffins," said Adrian, a Shaughnessy Park student.

"I like when they bake us treats at Christmas," said another Shaughnessy Park student, Shanelle. "It was so tasty that my whole family ate it in one day."

Those kinds of rave reviews are what keep the bakers hard at work in their respective kitchens.



"It's important that the bakers hear those stories and get the feedback," Ms. Greco said. "You want them to keep feeling inspired."

The other reason for continuing the

volunteer effort is simple.

"The reason for the program existing is that kids are hungry...and I can make a difference. As long as there is a need, we'll keep going," Ms. Greco said.

UNITED BY OUR STORIES

Students from across WSD and participants of the International Storytelling Festival connected April 26-27 at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights for the finale of the Everybody has the Right (EHTR) program for 2016/17.

"This was an exciting year of learning for all of us - learning about our identities, about building respectful and responsible relationships, and about sharing our stories to better understand each other and the world we all occupy," said Sherri Rollins, WSD Board of Trustees Chair. "Everybody has the Right is a program that was initiated in Winnipeg School Division in 2014 as a way for our students to become involved in the exciting opening of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. It has now become part of the division's annual programming."

Throughout the school year and during two previous assemblies, students learned about the art of storytelling and how Indigenous children are traditionally taught, with storytelling beginning after the snow blankets the earth. Honouring and respecting the way Indigenous communities learn from each other is a major theme in the Everybody has the Right program.

"I really liked how the human books took time out of their day to share about their past," said Austin Smith, a Grade 6 student at École Victoria-Albert School. "They helped me to be open and think more about other cultures."

The EHTR Human Library events over the past year have helped students consider "identity" from a variety of different lenses as they develop their own sense of who they are. At the finale, students learned about artifact storytelling with international storyteller Jamie Oliviero and Chris Scholl from DNA Rhythms.

"One of the most meaningful, physical actions we can do as people is to reach out our hands to connect with others," said Oliviero. "That is what is at the heart of this experience."

As a finale art piece for the 2016/17 EHTR, students created giant puzzles, or story circles, on the floor of the John & Bonnie Buhler Hall at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The story circles represent both the individuality and connectivity across Winnipeg School Division. WSD Art Consultant Joe Halas said the story circles, one created on each day of the student assemblies, are the



beginning of a larger creative process. "After assembling the story circles and developing personal interweaving stories, the students will spend the next two months before Summer break working on their puzzle pieces, transforming them into colourful narrative artworks," said Halas. "The story circle will be reassembled as one giant and complete artwork in the Fall as part of Culture Days."

WSD will announce details of the final assembly at the beginning of the 2017/18 school year.



WPS PART OF WELLNESS TEAM

PHOTO AND ARTICLE BY JARED STORY

Students were inspired to do well and be well at the Youth Wellness Conference on May 5 at Tec Voc High School.

Presented by the Winnipeg Police Service and the Winnipeg School Division, the day-long program featured presentations by such guest speakers as WPS Deputy Chief Gord Perrier and Business Council of Manitoba vice-president Kevin Chief, as well as performances by the Tec Voc's Dance Tech Company and magician Ryan Price.

In his speech, Chief, the former MLA for Point Douglas, emphasised the importance of belonging to person's well-being.

"How do we build a neighbourhood or a school that is resilient, that has wellness in it?" Chief asked. "Well, we start by making sure that you belong, that no matter who you are or where you come from, when you are in the school you go to, that you belong."

Chief also stressed students' importance as role models in their schools and communities. The Tec Voc alumnus explained that when he reads to young children during I Love to Read Month, he gets an older student to read with him, and the student always fields more questions than him.

"No matter how hard the police try, no matter how hard teachers try, no matter how hard older people try to be role models, we will never be as effective as all of you," Chief said. "You have a natural ability to create and influence change. Do you want to be the kind of person who asks



Please be nice to my dad & follow him on facebook and twitter!

Business Council of Manitoba vice-president and former Tec Voc student Kevin Chief is presented a basketball jersey by Cst. Garnie McIntyre during the Youth Wellness Conference at Tec Voc High School on May 5.

kids to join a gang or the kind of person that inspires them to read?"

The Youth Wellness Conference also featured presentations by WSD Trustee Chris Broughton, the Winnipeg Police Association's Kool 2 Be Kind campaign, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service member

Cory Guest, Canadian Centre for Child Protection Education Coordinator Graham Milliken and WSD Director of Student Support Services Julie Millar.

In her presentation, Millar highlighted the work of the nine school resource officers working in the division.

"We see them helping us make our schools safer, improving relationships with the police and students. We see our school resource officers helping students solve problems, reducing bullying and other forms of violence in our schools," Millar said.

VICTORIA-ALBERT WINS NATIONAL INNOVATION AWARD

The Canadian Education Association (CEA) has recognized Ecole Victoria-Albert School's Makerspace program with a Ken Spencer Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning.

The prestigious award, which was announced on April 5, cited the school for "exemplifying the joy of student design, creation and learning."

The school has transformed its library into a Learning Commons Makerspace, which has provided meaningful hands-on learning opportunities for the majority of its students, including a significant English-as-an-additional-language student population.

"This is an excellent Makerspace example that's ahead of the curve in the way it provides newcomer students with engaging personalized learning and integrates their families into this process," said Ron Canuel, CEA President and CEO.

Students work independently and plan their own learning using a variety of Maker materials, from cardboard to Lego robotics for engaging opportunities to think critically and creatively about their given challenge. Teacher debriefings after every Makerspace activity represent a crucial component for their own continuous

learning and improvement.

The concept is based on the work of educator and mathematician Seymour Papert and in particular the concept of constructionist learning, which advocates student-centered, discovery-based education. Students participate in project-based learning that leans heavily on the use of manipulative materials and the experience of creation to develop understanding.

"Through the Makerspace, we do a lot of teaching around collaboration," said Renee Sanguin, Inquiry Support teacher Victoria-Albert. "Children are learning to talk about their experiences through teamwork, collaboration and communication. They're sharing ideas and applying critical thinking and creativity."

The wealth of resources can be used for crafting or for fulfilling instant challenges to construct different designs under time constraints.

"I work with the classroom teachers to plan and be very intentional about the kind of learning that's happening here, to make it meaningful for each classroom," Ms. Sanguin said. "This is just one part of that whole concept of inquiry and innovation we're trying to develop."



By listening to and learning from their students, teachers are providing relevant opportunities for problem solving and deep learning, which is equitable and empowering for all. For the school's many English-as-an-additional language students, the act of creating and manipulating materials provides another language for learning to take place.

"It's a place where we get to make new stuff and figure out how things work," said one student. "And we get to play with toys too."

The Makerspace has revitalized the

school's library. "We're trying to shift from the idea of the traditional library to that of being a learning commons where you create knowledge and understanding and learn together," Ms. Sanguin said.

A Ken Spencer Award recognition ceremony will take place at Victoria-Albert on June 7.

For a booklet showcasing the work of all seven Ken Spencer Award winners, visit <http://www.cea-ace.ca/2017KSAwardWinners>



50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

R.B. Russell Vocational High School marked 50 years of excellence on April 20, opening its doors to the community for a special anniversary celebration.

Established in 1967, the school offers a variety of vocational programs including Culinary Arts, Building Construction,

Welding, Hairstyling, Mature Student Diploma, Pre-industry Training Programs and Indigenous Leadership Development.

"R.B. Russell is a stellar example of the kind of programming that is developed to suit the needs of the students and the community," said Sherri Rollins, Chair, WSD Board of Trustees. "The school is providing the structure for young adults to fully develop their futures - a place to learn the academic and technical skills that will provide them with strong and fulfilling futures."

Principal Jackie Connell said the school was a place where students from many walks of life could find success.

"We have a really open door policy. We value community, we value relationships. And when you do those things, all of those other expectations of school fall into line," she said. "We want academic and vocational successes for students, but at the end of the day, what we do here is all about relationships."

Retired teacher Bernie Novak was at R.B. Russell in its first year of existence back in 1967; a common catchphrase of the day was "Learn to Earn."

"I taught carpentry for 20 years and



work education for eight years—at the beginning we had Grades 9 to 11 students, it wasn't until later on that we had Grade 12 students as well. Then we added an adult program too.

"Some of the students may have fell behind at other schools, but here we gave them an opportunity to work with their

hands and they enjoyed that. At the end of the day, they could see the finished product that they had made."

Along with historical displays from throughout the school's history, students and staff also conducted tours of its many classrooms and programs. A short program in the RB Russell gymnasium tied together past, present and the future.

"Fifty years ago, this place was finally built and named after a prominent activist and labour leader, Robert Boyd Russell... and from that time, the standard was set," said former Principal Wally Stewart (1991-2002). "Pre-employment training, apprenticeship training, bringing young people into the workplace. And it evolved over the years into something nobody could have possibly imagined...they're challenging not just the students, they are challenging the community they live in to do a better job of being communities and employers."

Student Trevor Creeley, who has been attending R.B. Russell for two years, said there are several reasons why he comes back to school every day.

"The vocational programs are very strong here," said Trevor, who is in the Welding Program. "And we have an awesome teacher, Mr. Johnston. I like it here very much, I really enjoy it."



Former R.B. Russell Principal Wally Stewart (1991-2002) was one of several featured speakers at the 50th anniversary ceremony.



WSD Chief Superintendent Pauline Clarke, Board Chair Sherri Rollins and retired R.B. Russell teacher Bernie Novak, who taught at the school in its maiden year.



SCIENCE FESTIVAL 2017



The 47th annual showcase of WSD students' innovation and learning in science was held under a new moniker: the Winnipeg Schools' Science Festival.

It is certainly a more apt name for the event, which features a colourful exhibition of students' projects along with a jam-packed day of workshops and scientific demonstrations.

Project entries covered a variety of categories ranging from Biology, Chemistry and Physics to Sustainable Development and Innovation, Environmental Science, Engineering, and Consumer Science. This year, there were nine major categories in all. Projects may take on the form of a research project, an innovation, or a scientific experiment.

"The Winnipeg Schools' Science Festival is enthusiastically supported by teachers, parents, mentors and administrators who recognize the importance of encouraging young minds to ask questions and to develop action plans to address these questions," said Mary Lucy Rocha St. Lawrence, WSD Science Consultant. "It's called Scientific Inquiry and the Design Process, and every year we see amazing ideas and the results of this process."

Here are the major award winners from the April 7 event, which was held at the University of Manitoba's Brody Centre (Health Sciences Centre Campus).

Photos by Birehanu Birchaw, Mikayla Carter and Maggie Gehman, Tec Voc Photography

ELEMENTARY

- **Max Kochan, Grayson Burzynski** – Grosvenor School; Platinum Elementary Award for "Hot Pucks... Cold Speed."
- **Coby Samphir** – Brock Corydon School; Most Outstanding Elementary Award, University of Manitoba Science Innovator Award for "Spice Hacks."
- **Nathan McKenna** – Brock Corydon; WSSF Sustainable Development Challenge Award for "Freshwater Fence."
- **Matthew Toledo** – École Stanley Knowles School; Manitoba Hydro Energy and You Award for "Lights Out."
- **Deven Huard-Bernuy** – École LaVérenedrye; Mathematics and Statistics Innovative Application Award for "Une méthode pour mieux comprendre le théorème de Pythagore."

JUNIOR

- **Cole Osiowy** – Grant Park High School; Junior Platinum Award, WSD Junior Sustainable

Development Award, Junior Mathematics and Statistics Innovative Application Award for "The Mendocino Potential."

- **Alayna Smith** – École River Heights; Most Outstanding Junior Award for "Advantages." Alayna was also selected to attend the 2017 Canada Wide Science Fair.
- **Brock Barber** – River Heights; Junior University of Manitoba Innovator Award for "Biofuel."
- **Katie Skwarchuk** – River Heights; Grades 7-9 Manitoba Hydro Energy and Me Award for "Sauve les citrouilles: Papier la prochaine generation."

INTERMEDIATE

- **Jakob McKenna** – Grant Park; Platinum Intermediate Project for "The Bioremediation of Fertilizer Nitrate in Soil."
- **Ava Stokke** – Grant Park; Most Outstanding Intermediate Award, Intermediate Mathematics and Statistics Innovative Application Award for Alternative Antibiotics: Allium Sativum and Origanum Heracleoticum L for Growth Promotion in Rumen Livestock."
- **Maya Gusak** – Grant Park; Intermediate & Best Overall Mathematics and Statistics Innovative Application Award for "The pHenomenal Effect of Hydrochloric Acid on E. Coli Bacteria."
- **Izzy Marquez, Lidia Imbrogno** – Grant Park; Intermediate University of Manitoba Innovator Award for "Does Bacteria Rupture When It Comes Into Contact with the Wing of an Insect?"
- **Kamryn Mendoza** – Sisler High School; Intermediate WSD Sustainable Development Award for "A Solution to Pollution."

SENIOR

- **Ivanna Sanderson, Dwayne Genaille** – Tec Voc High School; Platinum Senior Project for "Mercury in Walleye in the Manitoba Watershed."
- **Ya Wen Huang** – Grant Park; Most Outstanding Senior Project Award (tie), Senior University of Manitoba Innovator Award (tie), Senior Mathematics and Statistics Innovative Application Award for "Secreted Amyloid Precursor Protein Alpha as a Therapeutic for Diabetic Encephalopathy." Ya Wen was also selected to attend the 2017 Canada Wide Science Fair.

Coby Samphir

Jakob McKenna

Ya Wen Huang

- **Jacob Harvey** – Grant Park; Most Outstanding Senior Project Award (tie), Senior University of Manitoba Innovator Award (tie), Overall U of M Innovator Award, Senior WSD Sustainable Development Award for

"Pseudomonas Putida LS46 culture resistance to contamination under various carbon substrates." Jacob was also selected to attend the 2017 Canada Wide Science Fair.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

Jacob Harvey

Photo by Birehanu Bishaw, Tec Voc Photography

Katie Scharchuk

Photo by Birehanu Bishaw, Tec Voc Photography

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

Photo by Maggie Gehman, Tec Voc Photography

Alayna Smith

Photo by Mikayla Carter, Tec Voc Photography

Ivanna Sanderson, Dwayne Genaille

Photo by Birehanu Bishaw, Tec Voc Photography

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Photo by Birehanu Bishaw, Tec Voc Photography

Ava Stokke

Photo by Birehanu Bishaw, Tec Voc Photography

Max Kochan, Grayson Burzynski

Photo by Maggie Gehman, Tec Voc Photography

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Photo by Birehanu Bishaw, Tec Voc Photography

Cole Osiowy

Photo by Mikayla Carter, Tec Voc Photography

Kamryn Mendoza

Photo by Birehanu Bishaw, Tec Voc Photography

RED RIVER HERITAGE FAIR 2017



Students from across Manitoba gathered to explore and share Canada's history at the 14th annual Red River Heritage Fair.

The May 4 event, which took place at the University of Winnipeg, had students presenting their major historical projects to judges.

"We had students travel in for this from as far away as Flin Flon," said Marie Zorniak, a St. John's High School teacher and co-chair of the heritage fair. "So we've really widened our base—it's become a provincial fair."

Students also had the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of workshops and explore the U of W campus through a scavenger hunt and other activities. Workshops included a History of Money with the Bank of Canada, Spirit Pouches and more. These learning opportunities have added to the fair's popularity over the years.

"We try to give the students an experience," Ms. Zorniak said. "They're not just waiting for their projects to be judged—they participate in workshops and the whole event becomes more of a learning conference than anything else."

Many of the students had personal ties to their historical projects. Inspired by her father's real life story, École Sacré-Coeur student Lien Huynh chose a project that



focused on Vietnam's Boat People. Her father's family left the country to flee a harsh Communist government.

"My father was ten when they left Vietnam. They went to Malaysia for a few months, but they were very lucky because they were sponsored by an Anglican church in Byrtle, Manitoba, and came to Canada," she said. "Ever since I was little, my dad would tell me stories about his escape from Vietnam. It used to sound like an adventure, but now that I'm older,

I can appreciate that it was dangerous." Grant Park student Aela Robbins presented a project on Viola Desmond. The black businesswoman had challenged racial segregation in a Nova Scotia movie theatre back in 1946.

"She played a vital role in raising awareness about racism and segregation in Nova Scotia and the rest of Canada," Aela said. "She is still affecting Canada to this day—she is going to be on the new ten dollar bill."

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

Inspired by her father's real life story, École Sacré-Coeur student Lien Huynh chose a project that focused on Vietnam's Boat People.

WINNERS FROM THIS YEAR'S RED RIVER HERITAGE FAIR:

- HERITAGE WINNIPEG – WINNIPEG PROJECT**
- Maria Sto Domingo – Murals – Elmwood High School
- KGS AWARD – SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY**
- Bobby Dutt – Sustainability in Canada – Elmwood
- MANITOBA SPORTS HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM – SPORTS AWARD**
- Ashley Evangelista, Psalm Samuel – Le Hockey – École Sacré-Coeur
- MANITOBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY – MANITOBA PROJECT**
- Rushel Sacopla – Winnipeg Strike 1919 – Sisler High School
- ST BONIFACE MUSEUM – FRENCH LANGUAGE/CULTURE AWARD**
- Solomon Caliot – La chasse aux bisons – Sacré-Coeur
- RRHF ART AWARD**
- Johnny Merasty – 7 Generations – St. John's High School
- VETERANS AWARD (HONG KONG VETERANS, ROYAL WINNIPEG RIFLES AWARD)**
- Madison Charest, Ava Stokke – War's Silver Lining – Grant Park
- MANITOBA MUSEUM AWARD**
- Cynthea Anderson – Check Out These Pipes – Elmwood
- PARKS CANADA CENTENNIAL AWARD**
- Laura Tan – Louis Riel – Sargent Park School
- Allyza Tabirara – Hudson's Bay Co. – Sargent Park
- IQMATRIX TECHNOLOGY AWARD**
- Lezlee Hastings – Tommy Prince – École J. B. Mitchell School
- TREATY RELATIONS – TRCM**
- Antonio Duggan – Hudson's Bay Co. – J.B. Mitchell
- BEST SCHOOL ENTHUSIASM AWARD – DALNAVERT**
- École Sacré-Coeur
- CITY OF WINNIPEG MUSEUMS BOARD AWARD**
- Rushel Sacopla – Winnipeg Strike 1919 – Sisler High School
- RED RIVER HERITAGE FAIR AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE**
- Sarah Lewis – Indian Residential Schools – Sargent Park
- Stanlee Arches – Confederation – General Wolfe

HAVING A GRAND OLD TIME

PHOTO AND ARTICLE BY JARED STORY

École Sir William Osler held its inaugural Grandparent and Grandfriend Tea on April 26, with almost 300 grandparents participating in the event.

Principal Karen Loveridge said the idea for the Grandparent and Grandfriend Tea came from one of the school's teachers who had been reading and talking about grandmas and grandpas with her students.

"In each classroom the children will make a craft with their grandparent," said Loveridge just prior to the event. "They're decorating little picture frames and we have staff members taking pictures of each child with their grandparent. We'll get those developed and they'll be sent home in the frames later."

"The children are also playing games with their grandparents, and some will be down in the library reading with their grandparents. Then the grandparents will come down to the gym, have coffee, tea and dainties and each class will do a little song, dance or poem."

Liz Kircher, a retired school teacher, attended the event to spend time with her granddaughter Sofia Kircher. She said in the day and age of two working parents, grandmas and grandpas play a large role in the family.

"I think for most families now, grandparents are an essential part," Kircher said. "They're not just someone they see on best occasions, like Easter and Christmas. You see your grandparents all the time. Often they're a big stability in the family's life."

Loveridge can speak to the stability that



grandparents provide.

"It's funny. Even though there's so many people here, grandparents bring a certain calmness with them. It's busy but not crazy," she said.

KELVIN MARKS VIMY RIDGE 100TH

Kelvin High School remembered the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and Canada's contributions during the First World War with a full day of heritage activities on April 7.

MPs Jim Carr and Robert Falcon Ouellette, MLA Wab Kinew and Councillor John Orlikow were among the guests that joined Kelvin for the commemoration.

In the morning, students learned about life on the battlefield during the First World War through presentations by retired Cameron Highlander Frederick Carsted and historian Jim Blanchard. Students also had the opportunity to share their own multimedia projects on the war.

In the afternoon, students made a pilgrimage from Kelvin to Vimy Ridge Memorial Park. On route, they stopped by the homes of five First World War soldiers who died in action, two of whom went to Kelvin.

Once arriving at the park, the contingent held a short ceremony beside the 44th Battalion monument. The ceremony included Cam Kilgour (the great grandnephew of John McCrae) reciting "In Flanders Fields," the laying of flowers and wreaths, and a student playing "The Last Post."

The Kelvin History Student Club took the lead in organizing the day and they did a great job honouring our troops.

— WITH FILES FROM KELVIN HIGH SCHOOL



A student plays "The Last Post" during a ceremony honouring the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Photo by Jeff Miller

HONING THE “WRITE STUFF”

While writing is often depicted as a solitary endeavor in popular media, being part of an artistic community not only creates strong writers, it provides inspiration to continue development.

Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute's biannual *Write Stuff* event brings students together to participate in writing activities with experienced authors.

The theme for this year's event, which took place April 28 at Calvary Temple, was “Everybody has the Write.” The focus was exploring human rights and freedoms through the act of writing.

Keynote speaker for the event was Shaun Loney, author of *An Army of Problem Solvers*. The book explores how social entrepreneurs and enterprises can provide the solutions to tackle sustainable development issues facing Canada, such as climate change, unemployment and poor living conditions on First Nations, high prison incarceration rates, unsustainable government and more.

“Do not be a writer...it's more important to be a storyteller,” Mr. Loney said.

“Pay attention to what it feels like to be uncomfortable, because there is a story there. Sometimes you will come across something that moves you...you feel compassion and you feel joy...pay attention to that, because that's a place to tell a story.”

Following the keynote, students participated in workshops and writing exercises with local authors and



communications professionals, such as longtime radio host and DMCI alumnus Joe Aiello.

“We want students to know about all of the opportunities that are available to them in the Communication Arts,” said English teacher Robyn Harrington. “This is an opportunity to meet local professionals in the field that have been successful.”

Through careers such as journalism, public relations, advertising, technical writing and web content development (to name a few), there are many jobs that require a strong foundation in writing.

“It's not just a daydream to write

professionally—there are important people in our community who hold these jobs,” said English and Drama Teacher Natercia Doucet.

Grade 11 student Mika Castro said it was her third time attending the conference; she initially attended while a student at Cecil Rhodes School (one of several feeder schools to DMCI). She said the diversity of the student population at DMCI and its neighbouring schools made it rich in stories.

“The more diverse the student pool is, the more diverse our perspectives on certain subjects and issues, like freedom,”

Mika said. “We all have a different idea of what freedom means to us.”

Grade 11 student Josh Joseph said it was his first time attending. He thought it was a good way for students to get to know each other on a deeper level: “You don't know what people have on their minds until they share their stories.”

One of the day's writing activities had students creating blackout poetry based on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.

“We're tying into those themes of diversity and inclusion,” Ms. Harrington said.



Sisler Girl's Choir receives two awards from Winnipeg Musical Festival Director Joanne Mercier.

SISLER CHOIR BRINGS HOME TOP HONOURS

PHOTO AND STORY BY JEFF MILLER

The Sisler High School Girls' Choir was the recipient of the inaugural Muriel Waldie Memorial Bursary at the 2017 Winnipeg Music Festival.

The award was created to recognize the most outstanding performance of a Canadian composed piece by a Grades 7 to 12 choir at the festival.

In addition, the choir took home the Salisbury House Trophy—awarded for the most outstanding performance by a Grades 7 to 12 boys or girls school chorus.

The Sisler Girls' Choir consists of 90 unadorned singers from Grades 9 to 12 and is one of five choirs in the school.

Sisler High School Choral Director Carolyn Boyes—who was originally hired

by Muriel Waldie (then a music consultant for the Winnipeg School Division)—said that although her choirs have received awards in the past, the memorial bursary was very near and dear to her heart.

“Muriel hired me when I was just 21 and she had a huge role influencing my choices and growth as a choral director,” Ms. Boyes said.

Ms. Waldie was past President of the Manitoba Music Educators and also of the Winnipeg Music Festival, where she conducted many award-winning school choirs in her position as Music Consultant to the Winnipeg School Division.

“Every year we work on Canadian pieces but this year, with Canada's 150th birthday, we really wanted to focus on something memorable,” Ms. Boyes said.

As a result, Ms. Boyes chose “The Log Rider's Waltz,” a Canadian folk song written by Wade Hemsworth; the song was made famous by the National Film Board vignette by the same name. A second piece called “Cape Breton Lullaby” was added as a second song for the choir's performance.

“The Log Rider's Waltz” was an extremely challenging piece that we started in October and ‘Cape Breton Lullaby’ was started after the winter break,” Ms. Boyce said.

Joanne Mercier, Executive Director for the Winnipeg Music Festival, was on hand to present the trophy and bursary to the choir.

“Caroline has done an amazing job with her choir. Their rendition of the ‘Log

Rider's Waltz” had audience members at Westminster United Church with ear-to-ear grins and swaying in their seats,” she said. “It was really special, especially with it being Canada's 150th birthday.”

To put the choir's accomplishment into perspective, there were over 200 school and community choirs participating in the festival, with approximately 13,000 students making up those choirs.

“It has been such an amazing experience,” said Grade 12 student Kiana Baul. “Ms. Boyes is an amazing director and she leans on the experienced singers to help teach and inspire our younger choir members with less experience.”

Money received from the bursary will help go towards the purchase of uniforms for the choir.

YES I CAN 2017

There are many people that make Inclusive Education a reality. Every year, the Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children awards the students and staff who are leading the way.

Zackary Blair, Elmwood: Athletics Award

When Zack first attended Elmwood, he had difficulty with the loud environment in the gymnasium. Four years later, he is now participating and enjoying a full phys. ed. class. He has participated in Winnipeg Special Olympic competitions and basketball clinics at the University of Winnipeg. He was also part of a Manitoba Special Olympic Bocce team that travelled to the nationals in Oshawa, Ont.

Winnifred Braun, Luxton: Educator of the Year nominee

Where someone may see a child with exceptionalities, Winnifred sees potential. She researches, questions and seeks out people with expertise in areas that will lead to often innovative strategies and supports for young learners. Winnifred co-wrote Luxton's initial proposal for the Heart & Sole Project, which is based on research that suggests daily moderate exercise impacts memory, self-regulation and well being.

Cindy Charlton, Luxton: Educational Assistant of the Year Nominee

Cindy has a calm demeanour that helps to lessen students' anxieties and set a tone for positive learning. She serves as a model for healthy living to her students and has managed Luxton's Heart & Sole room, which helps students achieve mindfulness through exercise, meditation and other techniques.

May Corpuz, Sister MacNamara: Educational Assistant of the Year Nominee

May has a quiet and patient manner that reassures students when she works with them. She breaks down learning for students into manageable pieces ensuring they understand concepts and feel successful. May is also a school leader through her work as a lunch room supervisor, the Filipino Club and as a community representative.

Carolyn Desrochielotz, Luxton: Educational Assistant of the Year Nominee

Carolyn has a natural approach to supporting the inclusion of all children, whether it's through her work at Luxton as an EA or through her volunteering at Luxton's Community Club. She also serves as a parent council executive, a Neighbourhood Watch Captain and coaches soccer—making her a familiar, friendly face amongst Luxton students.

Jason Din, Sister MacNamara: Academic Award

Jason has demonstrated major progress in both his speech and reading. This has boosted his confidence, benefited his continued integration in the classroom and has let his personality shine through. Jason excels in math and problem solving, and is now supporting other students in these areas. He's a natural leader in the classroom.

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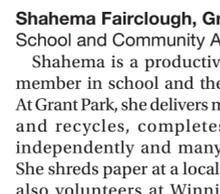
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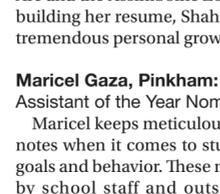
Winnifred Braun



Cindy Charlton



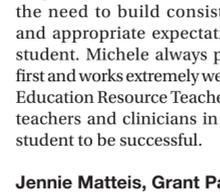
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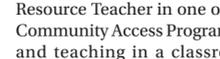
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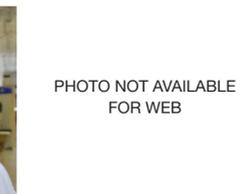
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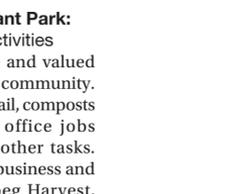
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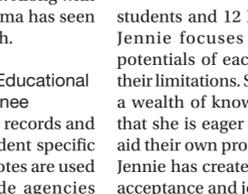
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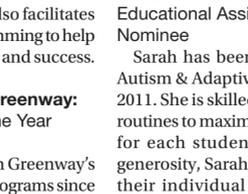
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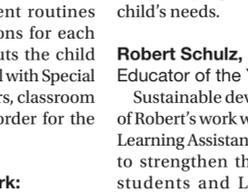
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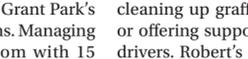
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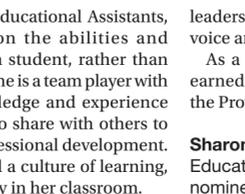
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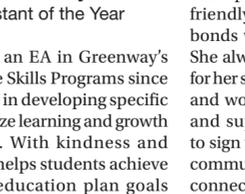
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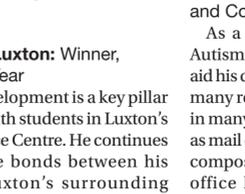
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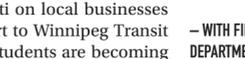
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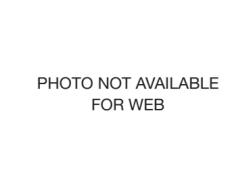
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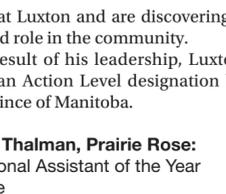
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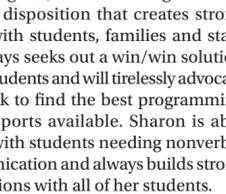
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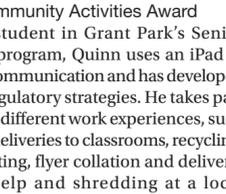
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— WITH FILES FROM WSD'S INCLUSIVE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



ALL-SEASON BONSPIEL

The gymnasium at École Victoria-Albert School was transformed into a curling club for the school's first Groupe Germain Funspiel.

The school hosted students from Greenway School for the April 24 event, which saw students curling with a dry-land set of brooms and rocks designed to teach the basics of the game.

Phys. Ed. Teacher Rodger Lourenzo said the school received the equipment thanks to the generosity of Groupe Germain, the company that runs the Alt Hotel in downtown Winnipeg.

"Groupe Germain has an employee-driven, charitable fundraiser that takes place in Quebec, it's a 1,000-mile bike-a-thon," Mr. Lourenzo said. "So they donated the funds to purchase these eight sets of rocks."

He said the dry-land sets were a way to bring the sport out of curling clubs and into the community to reach the youth.

"This gives students exposure to curling that they may not have otherwise had," he said. "Curling is a lifetime sport...this is something they can take with them after the leave here. And there are a lot of motions in curling that are common to many sports."

Victoria-Albert lent Greenway four sets of rocks so students could also try the sport and get ready for the tournament.

Student Nor Htoo Do said he enjoyed trying the sport: "I like that it takes strategizing, like if you have two rocks in play already and you want to knock out both of them. I like playing with another school too, so you get to play against new people."

Students as young as Grade 1 have been trying out the sport; the earlier grade levels were rolling the rocks towards bowling pins rather than the traditional button to get students used to the proper way to deliver a stone.

The tournament is the start of a new curling tradition at Victoria-Albert.

"This will be an annual tournament—we also do an annual, two-week intramural tournament," Mr. Lourenzo said. "We had seven sheets and 21 teams going at lunch time."



"HONEY, I HAVE ACNE!"

PHOTO AND STORY BY JEFF MILLER

In early March over 40 Grades 5 and 6 River Elm School students combined their efforts to come up with 22 amazing projects for their annual science fair.

After almost a month of preparation, the students lined the front hall and library with their science projects. For many of them this was their first experience with presenting, but after the nerves settled everyone did an amazing job.

There were a lot of great projects with stunning visuals and in depth research that was presented like seasoned professionals. In between judging, students also had an opportunity to share their findings with the rest of the River Elm student body as they visited the fair.

Just to highlight a few projects: Grade 5/6 students Terris and Abdullah presented their project on "Killer Colas" where they did a five day experiment to see how the acid in cola affected chicken, steak, and pork submerged in the liquid.

Grade 6 students Donte, Kayden, and Wesley got answers to the question many may have: "How long past the expiry date is my food good for?" The project, perfectly titled "Unloved Foods," had the three young scientists observe foods such as milk, oranges, apples, and bread and came to the conclusion after their 16-day study that bread lasted only a couple days

Aurora, Raquel, and Lunah present their science project "Honey, I Have Acne" at the River Elm School Science Fair.

after expiry; milk did fairly well, lasting six days past the expiry date.

There was a really fun project called "Mathematical Mysteries In Nature" where the students observed repeating patterns in nature such as flowers and plants and very unique habits involving wildlife.

A very common issue among teens is acne. Young scientists Aurora, Raquel,

and Lunah tackled the problem with their project "Honey I Have Acne." The trio studied using organic honey applied to acne on the face versus the typical store bought acne cleansing pads. After a three day study, they concluded that the honey outperformed the store bought pads; the students displayed the results of before and after photos on their iPad.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

HEALTHAPALOOZA 2017

Lord Nelson School students got into the Healthy Minds spirit with a full day of mindfulness and health activities at the school's Healthapalooza event in May.

Students enjoyed a wide variety of activities that included martial arts, painting, yoga, knitting and crochet, slime making and even a visit from some friendly pets.

"Everyone looks after their mental health in their own way. We tried to give students a variety of activities so they could find something that spoke directly to them," said Nursery Teacher Michelle Wolfe, who also sits on the school's sustainable development committee. "We want students to know it's important to take some time to focus on their own mental well-being."

Grades 1 to 6 students took part in the many sessions, while kindergarten and nursery students had their own Healthapalooza events in their classrooms.

"The younger students did their own mindful activities like colouring, listening to music, dancing or walking through our school garden," Ms. Wolfe said. "So they got an Early Years version of the activities."

If students, regardless of age, are in a negative mental state, there are many ways to break the cycle, whether it's pausing for physical exercise, focused breathing or other activities.

"Everyone needs strategies to deal with the stressors in their lives. If we can give kids positive, achievable methods to do that, then we're achieving the goal of the event."



Photos courtesy of Lord Nelson



CELEBRATING CAREER MENTORS

PHOTO AND ARTICLE BY JARED STORY

Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute held its annual career mentorship luncheon on May 24.

DMCI students and their work placement mentors enjoyed a meal catered by Tec Voc High School, as well as performances by DMCI's choir and dance groups.

The career mentorship program sees Grade 12 students matched with a mentor in the community for a 30-hour practicum.

"We're trying to link the school experience to the work experience, find out what that transition is going to look like," said DMCI Career Internship Coordinator Mark Neves.

"For some students, it enables them to make a career choice. 'I do want to do that.' Sometimes it's the opposite. 'Oh, I don't want to do that.' But it's career awareness either way. Sometimes the students have a limited idea of what is out there, and by being with a mentor they realize all the possibilities in that area."

DMCI students Brandon Dao and Meyar Abdullah were placed with Silvia de Sousa,

a lawyer with the firm Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP. They both reported a very positive experience.

"I've always had a lot of curiosity about the subject of law and I wanted to take the opportunity and get as much information beforehand before I made the decision to pursue it," Dao said. "I got a lot of the questions I had answered, and even some new ones. I got to see a variety of different things in the law, so many different sectors."

"I was thinking about (law) for a long time, I just didn't know if I was right for it," Abdullah said. "In my head I thought, 'What if I don't like it?' I took this opportunity to find out if it's something I would like. I got to see how Silvia works and it just strengthened my ideas about law. I'm definitely going to pursue it in the future now."

For her part, de Sousa said she feels a responsibility to help those coming up in her field.

"I've been successful and a large part of that is because the people who helped me get to where I've got to," de Sousa

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

DMCI career mentorship program student Brandon Dao, mentor Silvia de Sousa, student Meyar Abdullah and career internship coordinator Mark Neves at the career mentorship luncheon on May 24.

said. "I always like to give back because I appreciate those that helped me and I want to help those that are also interested in getting into law."



THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF IZ

École Robert H. Smith School students are on a mission in the ESD themed *The Wonderful World of Iz*. Along the way they do battle with the Wicked Witch of Waste. Students performed the musical for two shows on May 18.

KINDNESS HAS A HOME AT KENT ROAD

STORY AND PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

The Cool 2Be Kind campaign is an initiative of the Winnipeg Police Association and focuses on teaching youth in Grades K to 8 the value of being kind.

Now in its fifth year, Cool 2Be Kind has funded 112 school kindness projects totaling \$56,000. The program has off duty officers visit school's throughout Winnipeg to deliver fun and interactive presentations focused on reducing bullying in schools.

Detective Sergeant, Cst. Brent Wilkinson and Patrol Sergeant Grant Hansen of the WPS visited Kent Road to present a \$500 cheque and to hand out an extra cool gift of sunglasses to everyone in attendance.

Kent Road School's kindness project is called PAL (Partners And Learning) and it helps bridge the gap between parents and the students.

PAL gives students a chance to teach parents arts, crafts and other forms of adaptive living. It also gives caregivers an opportunity to meet their children's friends and families.



Kent Road Students proudly show of their official Cool 2Be Kind sunglasses.

"It is a great way to bring our community outside the school even closer together," said Resource Teacher Brenda Ryant. Every classroom has one day per school

year to share fun, food and stories and even new positive behaviour strategies that can be practiced at home.

are they are going to be nice back to you and then you can make more friends and have more fun," said Grade 5 student Timothy Bosco.

DEEP WOODS ADVENTURE

Students in Elmwood High School's Education for Sustainable Development group recently had the opportunity to take part in a major Forests Ontario conference for environmentally minded students.

The Northwestern edition of Forestry Connects, held May 24-26 near Kenora, ON, offered students a glimpse of current forestry practices and stewardship at sites including Weyerhaeuser's local mill. Students stayed overnight at the nearby B'nai Brith camp during the conference.

The Elmwood group included students Maine Marquina, Brigitte Begas, Mickey Thai, Lakeisha Moreno, Isis Balagtas, Regine Estropigan, Michelle Nastor, Bonnie Ma and Morgan Wood, along with teachers Jenna Forslund and Brian Desautels.

"This is the first time they've offered the program to Manitoba schools, so we applied to attend," Ms. Forslund said. "There are huge benefits to experiential education and getting students out into

the bush or places they wouldn't normally experience."

Students were involved in workshops that tied into all aspects of forestry—foresters, operators, First Nations and biologists—to learn about the sustainable management of Ontario forests.

"A lot of what we learned wasn't what people traditionally think of forestry to be," said Grade 12 student Lakeisha Moreno. "There are a lot of protocols when it comes to harvesting trees."

"Tree cutting actually helps with forest regeneration and helps fight off tree diseases," said Grade 12 student Isis Balagtas. "In a hectare, they have to leave a minimum of 25 or more trees that they don't cut."

Students added that the trip was a good memory to have with graduation with just a few short weeks away.

"It was good for us, because we're graduating soon and we want to get out there," Lakeisha said.



Photos courtesy of Jenna Forslund

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DESTINATION: KNOXVILLE!

École Garden Grove School's Destination Imagination team "Sunny Side Up" were thrilled to be headed to an international competition in Knoxville, Tennessee after excelling in provincials.

Students Lores Silla, Bianca Imperial, Emmanuel Guevarra, Aiden Sofronio, Amelia Barrett and Riley Syrnk were headed to the event. The team works with two coaches: teacher Natalia Serylo and Jaymie McClure.

Garden Grove hosted the provincial Destination Imagination tournament in March.

Each year, the program issues seven fun and engaging open-ended challenges for DI teams in science, technology, engineering, visual and performing arts, improvisation, service learning and early learning. Each challenge is designed to teach students the creative process—a powerful tool that is at the root of all innovation. Teams gather for Destination Imagination tournaments and tackle these challenges, along with timed instant challenges.

"Destination Imagination makes you use the four C's—communication, critical thinking, creativity and collaboration," Aiden said. "You also

get to prepare for one of the challenges and you bring it to the tournament. We did a fine arts challenge on what would happen if a certain colour disappeared."

"We chose the colour yellow," said Lores. "We'd lose sunshine and happiness if we didn't have yellow."

They added their group had grown closer working as a team during lunchtime and afterschool practices.

"They've become a little family...this gives students a chance to explore their strengths," said Ms. McClure. "Students had to create a script and set, then act...different kids shone in different ways. They came in first with the instant challenge, and a big piece of that provincial win was their communication skills."

Ms. Serylo said the Destination Imagination group was totally student-driven: "It's all guided by them, we're there more just to facilitate in the background."

The Knoxville tournament, which ran from May 24 to 27, was considered Destination Imagination's Global Final. Over 1,400 teams from 21 different countries participated.

While Garden Grove did not capture gold in the Fine Arts competition, it was an experience the students will remember for a lifetime!



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STUDENT ARCTIC RESEARCHER RECOGNIZED

A Kelvin High School student was recently honoured with a \$25,000 STEAM Horizon Award for her work as a young leader in environmental and sustainable development issues.

Grace Ma, a member of the International Student-led Arctic Monitoring and Research (ISAMR) program, was one of seven students flown to Ottawa for the Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation Foundation's first annual National Science and Innovation Gala on May 17.

"This scholarship money goes towards paying for your undergraduate degree... so it's really helpful," said Grace, who submitted a two-minute video application as part of the selection process. "At Kelvin, I've been lucky to have been part of a lot of different projects...I feel like I'm representing the entirety of ISAMR with this award, because it was definitely a team effort."

Grace has been able to pursue her interests in the environment and sustainable development as a researcher with ISAMR. This coalition of students and educators from Winnipeg, Churchill, and Baltimore, Maryland have worked together since 2007 on a projected 30-year study of the permafrost and sea ice in a subarctic climate. In the summer of 2016, Grace conducted permafrost and vegetation research in the Greater Wapusk Ecosystem.

She has since excelled as a student representative for ISAMR at conferences such as the Wapusk National Park Research and Monitoring Symposium and ArcticNet's Annual Scientific Meeting. At the ArcticNet conference, she gave a research talk regarding monitoring of a burnt bog in Wapusk.

Grace has also produced a creative short film chronicling her summer research trip; the film has been shared on various social media platforms to raise awareness of ISAMR research and the Arctic.

She feels there is enormous potential in online and social media for youth to share ideas, STEAM opportunities and build collaborative communities.

"It would be cool to develop an online community where professional researchers could communicate with students," Grace said.

Grace envisions an online, youth-led Arctic community that would feature

free, online seminars with researchers and professors, and weekly Skype discussions between youth on scientific research, major issues and relevant topics of the day.

"You are much more exposed to research when you get to the university level, but being able to go to ArcticNet with the ISAMR group was great...as high school students we got to see what graduates and undergraduates were doing for their research. It activates your mind at an earlier level."

While there continues to be a need for frontline research, it is equally important to be able to convey the heart of research and scientific study to the masses. Grace hopes to tap into her natural strengths in writing and communicating ideas to help bridge this gap. She believes bridging relationships with youth and the

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

professional research field will strengthen the foundation for meaningful change and action.

"Everything is so accessible now, but the problem that comes with that is there is too much information, and often its bad information," she said. "I think there is definitely a market for better quality news sources and getting people more involved earlier on."

To that end, Grace is hoping to do a double major in Science and the Arts, likely at the University of Toronto.

"These two fields are very interdisciplinary...having that science background in methodology and technique, and the Arts helps develop communication and empathy, which is necessary as well," she said.

Teacher Donna Labun, who worked closely with Grace in the ISAMR project

over the past several years, said Grace was highly deserving of the honour.

"This award is for students who have been recognized as leaders and innovators, promoted positive change in their communities, and have acted as role-models and ambassadors for future generations," she said. "And I would say that Grace definitely is a leader at our school, in Arctic research and other areas as well. Grace has a passion for the environment and is an excellent spokesperson for the ISAMR group."

You can see a short video and read more about Grace and all of the other 2017 STEAM Horizon Award winners at <https://steamhorizonawards.ca/winners>.

— WITH FILES FROM KELVIN HIGH SCHOOL AND STEAM HORIZON



TAG TEAM TRASHES LITTER

Clifton School safety patrols recently teamed up with CAA Manitoba to help clean up a local litter magnet: Omand's Creek.

"CAA Manitoba has been a great supporter of Clifton School over the years, and they approached us to help do a cleanup of this area as a belated celebration of Earth Day," said teacher Antonio Di Geronimo. "The kids were super-excited to come, I think every patroller we have is out here today. All of these kids are leaders at our school as patrols and they also want to be leaders in the community."

CAA Manitoba's Empress Street offices are located right across from the creek, which unfortunately collects litter strewn about by the wind and passers-by.

"We know Clifton School is very involved in the community and in our school patrol program," said Erika Miller, CAA Manitoba's Public and Media Relations Specialist. "Omand's Creek can get pretty disgusting, especially in the spring after the

snow melts. This just benefits everybody in the community, whether you're a student walking to school or a business owner or somebody waiting for the bus. It's important for all of us to step up and take care of our community."

Grade 6 student Fevithyl Lanticse said patrols were finding a lot of Styrofoam cups and items that could have been recycled instead.

"It's sad to look at this creek every time you walk past it or drive by," she said. "It's sad people throw their litter here. People need to care for the Earth more. We all live here and we all need to care for it."

Cleaning up litter can be dirty work, but students and adult volunteers all carried out the task with smiles on their faces, despite it being a blustery day.

"This is part of our community...our students have an investment in it and they all wanted to volunteer to do this," Mr. Di Geronimo said.



CROSS-CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Fort Rouge School celebrated their identities and cultures at the school's recent Multicultural Night.

The evening combined a meal of many nations with main stage entertainment and cultural pavilions in the school's classrooms.

"We have 26 different countries represented at this school between the students and the staff," said Community Support Worker Tammy Shone. "So it's very multicultural."

Classrooms each focused on a country or a specific region; for example, the South American pavilion featured Brazil, Venezuela and El Salvador.

"Our families each get a passport, so when they visit each classroom and see the displays, they get a stamp," Ms. Shone said.

Students and their families were proud to share their cultures on stage and in casual conversations throughout the building; as evidenced by the photos here, it was a night to remember.



HONOURING WSD FUTURE-LEADERS

On May 8, WSD's Board of Trustees honoured students and student groups that were nominated for the Manitoba School Boards Association's Student Citizenship Awards. Through their hard work at school and in the community, these students are creating a better world every day.

Alon Golubchik, Grade 12, Grant Park High School

Alon is an outstanding student and a leader at Grant Park and beyond. He has spent much of his time volunteering in various organizations like Saul and Claribel Simkin Centre, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing shelter, care and support services to the elders of the Jewish community.

Alon also volunteers at the Manitoba Housing Food Services and the Manitoba Children's Museum, as well as serving on

Grant Park's student council and tutoring younger students at a neighbouring elementary school. Alon is also fluent in three languages, was a recipient of the Winnipeg Schools Science Fair Gold Medal and was awarded the United Way Student Community Service Award for 2016.

As a result of his hard work, Alon was selected the by Manitoba School Boards' Association to receive the 2016 Student Citizenship Award for the Region.

The board also honoured the efforts of two other nominated student groups:

Hugh John Macdonald's Bridge Jazz Program

This group of approximately 50 students—many of whom are just starting to learn English—are diverse in background but united in purpose. Bridge students are learning music and sharing that gift with the community at public

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

Alon Golubchik

events such as the WSD Long Service Tea, the National School Boards Convention, provincial announcements and more.

Tec Voc High School's Stinger Credit Union

This student-run credit union, operated in conjunction with Assiniboine Credit Union, is helping both students and their

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

Bridge instructor Neil Watson with student musicians Vincent Roussin, Fatima Kazmouz and Abdul Kaswat Zadeh.

families to learn about managing money. Students are learning to build their savings account while still in school—as well as building their resume. While students from the credit union were unable to attend the May 8 board meeting, they were to be recognized by trustees at a later date.

MANY PATHS TO HEALTHY MINDS

The 2017 Healthy Minds celebration got off to an inspiring start on May 1 with opening ceremonies and a gallery walk of the many mental wellness projects taking place in WSD schools. R.B. Russell Vocational High School served as the host site for the opening event.

Since 2013, WSD has embarked on numerous mental health initiatives; this includes PRACY (Preventing and Responding to Anxiety in Children and Youth), a pilot project that included professional development around school-based mental health interventions (mindfulness), classroom instruction (prevention), small group intervention (targeted), data collection, parent sessions and a communication strategy. This has since evolved into WSD's ongoing Healthy Minds strategy.

"Winnipeg School Division has been investing in the promotion of mental wellness and responding to mental health problems for a number of years. We thank the board for their commitment to mental health in WSD," said Director of Student Services Julie Millar. "What began a few years ago with a review of the Tell Them from Me survey data, we saw that we were having some anxious students. We wanted to develop a strategy to promote mental health and prevent anxiety in children and youth."

Since then, WSD has undertaken mental health literacy training for all staff (which will be completed in June 2017), along with specialized training for counsellors and clinical staff. As well, schools have created their own mental wellness plans, projects and initiatives, many of which were on display at the gallery walk.

Hugh John Macdonald School students Kryzler Mariano and Imran Hussien presented their school's ongoing restorative justice project.

"Restorative justice is a way to help people know that they are worthy in our community, that they are safe and that they are loved in our schools," Imran said. "It encourages mature, healthy relationships, repairs harm and transforms conflict, and creates just and equal learning environments."

Kryzler said when there is a grievance between two parties, they will form a sharing circle with Hugh John Macdonald staff and their peers to discuss the problems.

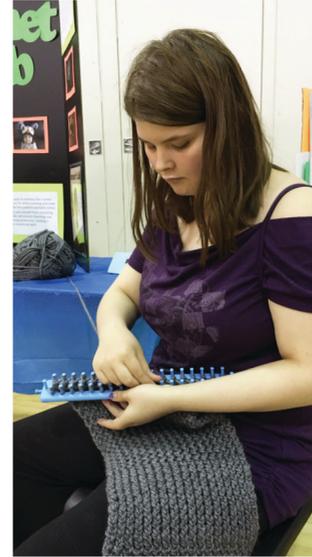
"They can tell each other how they feel and what their problems are, so everyone can help each other to solve it," he added.

Elsewhere, R.B. Russell Vocational High School Guidance Counsellor Pamela Potter was at a booth highlighting the school's Crochet Club. Ms. Potter learned to crochet while on maternity leave; when she came back to school, she saw the possibilities of the activity for students and started the club.

"When you're crocheting, there's a tactile comfort and repetition...it's a great mindfulness strategy. You're totally in the moment and working with your hands," she said.

WSD Student Services Consultant Jón Olafson said he was pleased to see so many students, teachers, administrators and other staff in attendance to share ideas and support the Healthy Minds strategy.

"Today is all about celebrating the great work that is happening in Winnipeg School Division to support mental health and wellness in our students, and how that



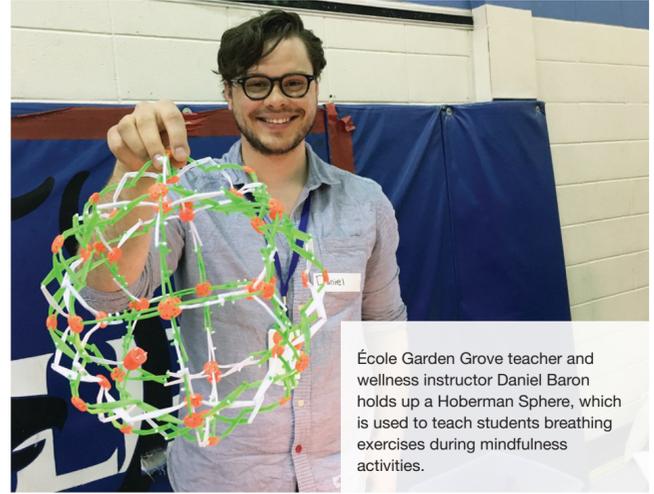
all connects to enhancing academics and creating safe school communities," he said. "It's not just counselors and clinicians here today...we have students, teachers, administrators and other staff who are all supporting mental health in their schools and beyond."

The May 1 to 8 slate of activities—which also included school health fairs, mindfulness activities and more—was held in conjunction with the Canadian Mental Health Association's National Mental Health Week.

The week also included the WSD launch of the Orange Daisy Project in support of mental health for teen girls and young women at Kelvin High School, the Winnipeg Police Service Youth Wellness Conference at Tec Voc High School and professional development sessions with speakers such as Dr. Joseph Gone and Tree of Life Parent/Child Workshops.

Kelvin High School student Hannah Jones-Waterman, who was in attendance at the gallery walk, said it was good to see more conversations happening about mental wellness and mental health issues.

"It's really important, not only for kids to feel comfortable talking about their mental health, but also for people who don't have as much experience with mental health issues to understand more about what some people are going through," she said. "It's important for kids to know that they aren't weird...what they're going through could be a very common problem."



École Garden Grove teacher and wellness instructor Daniel Baron holds up a Hoberman Sphere, which is used to teach students breathing exercises during mindfulness activities.



Tec Voc's Dance Tec crew used dance to create the states of anxiety and mental wellness for the Healthy Minds launch.



PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE FOR WEB

BUTTERFLIES FOR DOROTHY

PHOTOS BY MAGGIE GEHMAN, TEC VOC PHOTOGRAPHY

In February, two multi-age Grade 1,2,3 classrooms from Luxton School visited Tec Voc High School to work on a "together building" project.

"Together Building" is a simple concept: get two groups of students who would not normally have any interaction, and combine them to create a new sense of community building.

The two schools were working on a project called Butterflies for Dorothy—in memory of Luxton Educational Assistant Dorothy Roberts, who passed away at the beginning of the school year.

Tec Voc students took charge and guided the younger students on how to sand, paint and finish a wooden butterfly.

The Luxton and Tec Voc students painted a unique design on every butterfly. The finished pieces will be erected on the Luxton School grounds as a memorial for Ms. Roberts.

"This project will always be a reminder of how she touched the lives of many

students over her time at Luxton School," said teacher Kendra Howard.

The young students from Luxton absolutely adored their "big buddies" from high school.

Students were excited by how HUGE the school was; one student was overheard

saying "This place looks like a mansion!" "We were grateful for the opportunity to build community and come together with the amazing staff and students at Tec Voc," Ms. Howard said.

— WITH FILES FROM LUXTON SCHOOL



ON HOME ICE

Dufferin School students and staff marked another successful season of the Learn to Skate program with a parade to "home ice" at Pioneer Arena.

Winnipeg Police Service School Resource Officers Garnie McIntyre and Doug Jones joined students, staff and community members, as well as students from Hugh John Macdonald and Pinkham School, for the grand parade.

"We get the parents out and we have so many volunteers that are part of our hockey program, so they marched with us as well," said Principal Wayne Wyke. "It's another way to have a positive presence in the community."

When the parade arrived at Pioneer Arena, they were greeted by Copper, the WPS mascot, and skated in front of a large home crowd.

"We had police officers and cadets giving everyone high fives and the kids who skated in the program over the past ten weeks did a demonstration of their skating and hockey skills," Mr. Wyke said.

The program offers an introduction to skating for students from many different cultural backgrounds, including new Canadians.

"All kids need to start is skates, helmets and gloves," Mr. Wyke said. "Then as they progress from skating to developing their hockey skills, they get full equipment."

The program wouldn't be possible without many amazing community partners: the City of Winnipeg provides free ice time at Pioneer Arena and provide a trained instructor, while WPS officers and cadets volunteer with the program.



Photo by Tec Voc Photography

Play It Again Sports and local families have donated all of the equipment. The Centennial Neighbourhood Development Cooperation provided funds for

nutritional snacks to fuel hungry skaters. "We are very thankful for all of our partners who make the program possible," Mr. Wyke said.

CITY AND COLOUR

Grades 8 students in Andrew Mynarski VC School's Read 180 program recently created a colourful cityscape mural under the tutelage of visiting artist Becky Thiessen.

Ms. Thiessen visited the school over a two-month period through the ArtSmarts program, visiting once every six-day cycle.

The art project had students cutting their own stencils, which were in turn used to create striking art pieces—including a large cityscape mural.

"We're making a giant mural of Winnipeg, so students have been practicing making different parts such as bridges, buildings and other features," said teacher Jewels Stiles. "We started by creating individual pieces that were personal to students and now we're working together to create a larger mosaic."

Ms. Thiessen said Andrew Mynarski students had become their own community of artists.

"The theme of this project is about

community and that self-awareness of being part of a community," Ms. Thiessen said. "Through this mural they're working collaboratively and building on it every day."

Ms. Thiessen has collaborated with many students on stencil projects over the years. Many popular street artists, such as Banksy, use stenciling extensively.

"It's a unique art form...it's very urban and you see it in street art all of the time," she said. "The beauty of stencils is that you can use them over and over again."

Student Francis Lasao said the class traced their drawings of birds, people, buildings and other pieces and then cut stencils with X-Acto knives. While cutting the stencils was difficult at times, Francis said, "We've learned a lot about how to make them."

Student Arriane Leviste said she was looking forward to seeing the final mural: "I think it will be a 9-and-a-half of ten."



PINK DAY 2017

The Day of Pink is the International Day against bullying, discrimination, homophobia, transphobia, and transmisogyny across the world.

WSD schools joined global "pink wave" on April 12. But as Lord Selkirk School Principal Stormie Duchnycz noted, it was not a one-and-done event.

"Every day is Pink Day at Lord Selkirk School," she said. "Everyone works so hard at paying it forward and being kind to each other...there's always such an awareness about it."

At Lord Selkirk, students took part in a school wide assembly that featured a teacher-led Pink Day Rap.

"This is a day to celebrate...we recognize that each of us is different, and that is okay," said Special Education Resource Teacher Alison Petrelli.

Students wrote on pledge sheets that promoted positive behavior, which they later captured for posterity in a special photo booth. The school was also one of many to have a door-decorating contest to help spread the word about Pink Day.

Meanwhile, at St. John's High School, the 21 Leaders put on a pink pancake breakfast for staff and students.

The students in the group promote empathy, citizenship, volunteerism and have a desire to make a difference at their school and in the community.

Students said bullying impacts everyone, including the bully.

"People who have been bullied can turn into bullies too," said student Joseph Kosior. "I've been bullied and I feel for other people who have been bullied too...this is an event that should be taken seriously."

Student Ryan Imperial added that bullying exists in all walks of life.

"In the world you see people getting bullied and we want to stop it...bullying can kill people," he said.



ROBERTSON RHYTHM CONNECTION



Students at Robertson School recently had a chance to learn African drumming from longtime Winnipeg percussionist Jay Stoller.

Mr. Stoller worked with students over a two-week period in April and May through the Manitoba Arts Council's Artists in the Schools program.

"We had the students working in a West African drumming style and using mainly a djembe drum," said Mr. Stoller, who has been involved with the Artists in the Schools program since 1999. "I also like to incorporate information about the culture and where this style of music comes from. I lived in Ghana for a number of years, so we started this off with some slides from my travels there."

Although Mr. Stoller was at Robertson for just a couple of weeks, students were ready to perform in two special school wide concert assemblies by May 5.

"He's a really fun teacher, he wasn't strict

at all," said Grade 3 student Troy Walls. Each class performed an ensemble percussion piece for the rest of the school.

"We did pretty good, it didn't sound like anybody made any mistakes," said Grade 5 student Rylin Kuhnel.

The African drum sessions were a new experience for most students.

"I'm starting to learn guitar but this is way different," said Grade 6 student Alyssa Raulino. "It was a good experience because we also learned more about Africa."

Robertson music and dance teacher Sarah Roche said the drumming workshops appealed to Robertson's diverse array of students, from Inclusive Education to the many cultures at the school.

"What I find with the drumming is that it's accessible to all," Ms. Roche said. "There's something so innate in a heartbeat and a drum beat. It's a lovely way to create community in a classroom, when everybody finds that pulse together."

EVERYDAY HEROES

WSD IS FULL OF AMAZING TEACHERS WHO ARE TRUE SUPER HEROES EVERY DAY IN THE CLASSROOM. HERE ARE SEVERAL WHO WON MAJOR AWARDS IN THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR.

Marjorie White, Dufferin School— Manitoba Certificate of Teaching Excellence

Whether her students are dressing up as pirates, math ninjas or superheroes, there's never a dull day in Ms. White's class.

"My biggest competition is Disney... they're doing something right when it comes to keeping kids' attention," Ms. White said. "So I tend to be very animated. I'll dance, sing and rap, or we'll dress up...I dare students to fall asleep in my class."

Following recesses and lunch, Ms. White uses calming music and dimmed lights to set the stage for learning. Students are encouraged to be super learners in the classroom and super citizens in their school and community—such as offering a helping hand or showing kindness to others.

Using the Seven Teachings of honesty, truth, wisdom, love, humility, courage and respect, Ms. White builds her students' confidence and sets high expectations in a caring learning environment. Whether students come from war-torn countries or Winnipeg's Inner City, they are all part of Ms. White's Justice League of Learning.

Jason Garton, Tyndall Park Community School— Premier's Award for Excellence in Education

Amazingly, Mr. Garton is in just his fourth year of teaching; he has worked in Inclusive Education classrooms for all of those years.

He is also a former high school dropout. Now, Mr. G is using his own life experiences to support students with emotional and behavioural challenges. He currently teaches in Tyndall Park's Treatment Academic Program and previously taught at Earl Grey School's Learning Assistance Centre.

"These kids do more before 8 AM than most people do in a day...they can really show you what resiliency is all about," he said. "The biggest thing is that your past doesn't define you. And we always try to separate the student from the behavior. The students are doing the best they can in that moment. You have to look past the surface, but you also have expectations of each student."

Mr. Garton always strives to make his students part of the Tyndall Park community, through leadership opportunities, service learning and simply sharing kindness with others. Mr. G's classroom is a safe, caring space where students can feel a sense of belonging; he credits the Educational Assistants and clinical staff in his classroom, as well as Tyndall Park staff and students for creating a welcome environment for all.

"Belonging is a word that we hear so much about, but it is so crucial for these kids. We have it in the classroom and we have it here at Tyndall Park as a school. We have other teachers and students coming to our classroom to hang out, and our students feel like they're part of something bigger."

He also thanks his administrators for allowing him to try out new strategies for his students.

"This year has been especially

exceptional because the administration team is so supportive and believes in the kids and what we are doing to meet their needs," Mr. Garton said. "Which allows us to take risks without a fear of failing. My teaching esteem has grown exponentially. They are truly awesome!"

Leah Benoit, Sheena Gordon and Ken Hunter, École River Heights School— Manitoba Education Award for Outstanding Team Collaboration

Delivering phys. ed. and health education for approximately 500 Grade 7 and 8 students, Ms. Benoit, Ms. Gordon and Mr. Hunter have taken a collaborative approach. The trio find creative ways to support student learning and co-teach using each teacher's professional strengths. Leah, Sheena and Ken strongly believe in inclusion and seek to offer the best curricular, intramural and extracurricular opportunities for all students. By offering different levels of intensity and empowering students to challenge themselves, these teachers are imparting life-long fitness habits to their students.

Robert Schulz, Luxton School— Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children's 2017 Teacher of the Year

The students in Mr. Schulz's Learning Assistance Centre classroom are not just a vital part of Luxton School, they are known throughout the community. Whether they are cleaning graffiti off local businesses, deliver compost to neighbouring homes or writing letters of appreciation to Winnipeg Transit drivers, his students are encouraged to make a difference.

"We have a relationship with just about every business and organization in walking distance of this school, and I think that helps teach the students how to build relationships as well," Mr. Schulz said.

Working with his classroom team, Mr. Schulz uses flexible strategies and goals to meet the needs of his students.

"There's a wide range of academic levels in this class, but our goal is to support students' learning wherever they may be," Mr. Schulz said. "I want this room to be a fresh start and a positive space for any



Marjorie White



Jason Garton (centre) with EAs Tracey Smith (left) and Huma Arain.

student who comes in here."

That positive community attitude has extended through the entire school, as Mr. Schulz has helped Luxton achieve status as a Manitoba Action Level School for sustainable development.

"Luxton School is a gem in this community, and we have a wonderful blend of staff here. We have these really experienced, superstar teachers and then we have this up and coming generation of

new teachers, and I guess I'm somewhere in the middle. I talked with Ken (Luxton Principal Ken Reimer) and said I would accept the nomination for the award on behalf of the school. I don't know if I am comfortable with being Teacher of the Year, but I am comfortable with Luxton having the Teachers of the Year."

— WITH FILES FROM MANITOBA EDUCATION AND WSD'S INCLUSIVE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Robert Schulz



Leah Benoit, Sheena Gordon and Ken Hunter

BLANKET EXERCISE A MOVING LESSON

PHOTO AND ARTICLE BY JARED STORY

Churchill High School students taught their teachers a lesson during a recent professional development day.

On April 21, the school's Indigenous Youth Group performed the Blanket Exercise, an interactive teaching tool that explores Canada's history from an Indigenous perspective and the on-going impact of colonization on Indigenous peoples and communities.

"It's a visual representation of the history of Canada through the Indigenous eye," said Jessica Ducharme, a Grade 11 student and member of the Churchill's Indigenous Youth Group. Ducharme is of Cree and Métis descent.

Developed by Kairos, a group of Canadian churches and religious organizations dedicated to human right causes, the Blanket Exercise begins with blankets arranged on the floor. These blankets represent Turtle Island (North America) before the arrival of European settlers.

Churchill staff were given nation nametags like Cree and Ojibway and were asked to stand on the blankets. As the students narrated the history of Indigenous and European settlers in Canada, the space available on the blankets was made smaller by students acting as settlers and government officials. The students pushed the teachers tighter together, then separated them, and in some cases, eliminated them from Turtle Island.

"It went from giggles and smiles to 'Wow. This is a really powerful exercise," said Churchill vice-principal Dominic Zagari. "You've heard some of these stories, but all separate, so when you put it all together, and the effect through time that it's had on First Nations people, it's unbelievable."

Nancy Grant, a Churchill teacher and facilitator of the Indigenous Youth Group, interjected throughout the exercise with information on books, movies and other resources on Indigenous Canadian history and perspectives available to students and staff.

Grant also told a personal story about discovering that her great great uncle was



an Indian agent. Without a pass from an Indian agent, status Indians were not allowed to leave his or her reserve.

"One of the suggestions for non-

Indigenous people to get a handle on this is to think about your family history and situate with these stories that you hear," said Grant during the exercise.

"For whatever reason, Jessica (Ducharme) and I have ended up here, where in the past my great great uncle had complete power over what her ancestors did."

SPRING CLEAN

Argyle Alternative High School teacher Kristyne Toews and students participate in neighbourhood cleanup that took place on May 11.





WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

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GLOBAL TALENTS

In a school rich with performing arts traditions, Gordon Bell High School's Multicultural Mosaic has become one of the most popular events.

The school's diverse student body comes together for the biannual concert to highlight the music, dance and traditions of their many countries of origin.

"We have 70 different countries represented here at Gordon Bell," said teacher and EAL Department Head Jill Stefanyshyn. "This is just one way in which they all come together to support and encourage each other."

The school held two performances on May 4 for students, families and the community.

"We have many students who are gifted in the performing arts and it's always so heartwarming to watch them showcase those talents for us," Ms. Stefanyshyn said. "They can be proud of where they're from, proud of where they are now and proud of how far they have come."



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

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