



# The Communiqué

February 16 - 19, 2021

**Monday, February 15, 2021**

- School Closure Day (Louis Riel Day)

**Tuesday, February 16, 2021 DAY 4**

- Les activités pour *Festival du Voyageur* – this week

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021 DAY 5****Thursday, February 18, 2021 DAY 6**

- DRESS LIKE A VOYAGEUR DAY
- 11:35 AM Schoolwide D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read); draws for book prizes

**Friday, February 19, 2021 DAY 1**

- 3:00 -3:20 PM I Love to Read - Mystery Reader

## Message from the Administration

This past Friday was the beginning of the lunar new year. In China, they will celebrate the New Year's Festival from February 11 – 17, a time to revisit family. 2021 is the Year of the Ox.

祝你牛年吉祥！

A heartfelt thank you to the Parent Advisory Group for the staff appreciation luncheon on Thursday. The catered lunch from the Greek Market was well-received by all the staff – clerks, educational assistants, custodians, faculty, and lunch supervisors. It is an honour to serve the children of this community and we appreciate the support!

This week we bid a fond farewell to Mme Edgar, who is leaving the school on maternity leave. Mme Brunel is looking forward to taking over Room 114 on Tuesday. Mme Brunel has taught at the school for several years and we are so glad to have her back in the fold.

Also returning to the school is Gabrielle Huggins, an Early Years Support Teacher, who will be supporting the learning in early years classrooms over the coming eight weeks.

## Festival du Voyageur – French Cultural Activity Week

For the last number of years here in Manitoba we have taken a public holiday in February for family time: Louis Riel Day. That means, of course, school will be closed on Monday. It's also the

month where we connect students with French cultural activities during the Festival du Voyageur week.

With funds from the French Revitalization Grant we have arranged for classrooms to engage in handicrafts such as weaving, puppet-making, or beading. Mr. Donato will continue the program for older students of cross-country skiing, while younger students engage in activities like relays and sledding.

Thursday is “Dress like a Voyageur Day.” Some elements to consider might be:

- students are encouraged to don their ceinture fléchée (a red cloth sash)
- chapeau rouge (any toque or wool cap will likely do)



- sac à feu (a purse worn around the waist that once carried fire-making supplies – the olden-days fanny pack?)



There aren't any rules for what a voyageur *must* look like. If they choose to participate, students can wear whatever they believe approximates a voyageur look. [Here](#) is an article that describes voyageur clothing.  
Hé Ho!

## Parent Advisory Group (PAG) Update

### Fundraising

Sunset Gourmet orders went home last week in students' backpacks, larger orders were delivered directly. If you did not receive your order or if there was an error please send an email to [fundraising@roberthsmithpag.ca](mailto:fundraising@roberthsmithpag.ca). Next, look for the Plant Sale this Spring!

### Staff Appreciation

On February 11th the PAG held the annual Staff Appreciation Lunch at the school. Each staff member received an individual catered meal from The Greek Market. They also enjoyed drinks, cookies, muffins, cinnamon buns, chocolates and candy brought in by parents. A BIG Thank you to all the parents who signed up and brought in extras for this lunch - it was enjoyed and appreciated! Also, thank you to the families who added special messages, cards, drawings and art for Staff to the Mailbox that was set up in the school.

Don't forget to checkout our PAG website: [www.roberthsmithpag.weebly.com](http://www.roberthsmithpag.weebly.com) and our PAG Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/RobertHSmithPAG> (please like and follow us). As always if you have any questions, concerns or would like more information on our PAG please email Melanie at [chair@roberthsmithpag.ca](mailto:chair@roberthsmithpag.ca)

## School Patrols

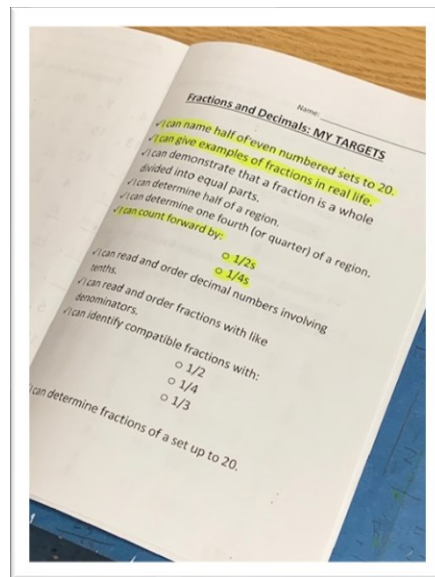
Patrols from Room 115 (A – formerly 208) will be on duty this week.

## A Focus on Accelerating Achievement in Mathematics

On our school closure day February 8, our staff reviewed patterns and trends in our school's numeracy achievement data. Mathematics, perhaps more than some other areas, may need more focused attention to address gaps after last year's school closure. Our discussion centred on expanding student opportunities to tackle more complex math problems. Students need more opportunities to model and communicate their reasoning and problem-solving.

This week during learning walks, Madame Powell noted examples in every classroom of teachers emphasizing math achievement. We expect that students can tell us what they are learning, describe how they can be successful, and say what their next steps in learning will be.

This coming week some of our intermediate teachers will be learning more about mathematics instruction for problem solving from Peter Liljedahl, mathematics education professor at Simon Fraser University.



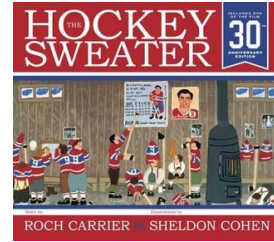
GRADE SIX RHS STUDENTS PROBLEM-SOLVING ON VERTICAL SURFACES/STUDENTS HIGHLIGHTING ACCOMPLISHED TARGETS

## Lunch Program

The Lunch Program is currently looking for parents to work from 11:55 AM – 1:00 PM each day. Should you be interested in a paid position in the middle of the day, please contact our Lunch Program Coordinator Cheryl Holmes at 204.488.1138 or [cholmes@wsd1.org](mailto:cholmes@wsd1.org).

## I ♥ to Read

We had four winners of books drawn from the reading tickets this week. Grade five student, Melia, said “I can’t wait to tell my dad I won. I really had a feeling this was going to happen.” Students receive one ticket for every quarter of an hour of reading during the I Love to Read month. The grand prize will be ordering breakfast from *Falafel Place* with the principal (“Is this really a prize,” some students have asked. “That might be awkward!” Madame Powell promises that she will make it FUN!).



This week on Friday, our 3 PM mystery reader was **Doug Zajak**, a much-beloved RHS teacher who retired from being our physical education teacher a few years back. Mr. Zajak read Roch Carrier’s classic Canadian short story, *The Hockey Sweater*. Thanks, Mr. Zajak!