

# ANNUAL REPORT

*to the community • 2012–2013*



River East Transcona  
SCHOOL DIVISION

*Creating student success*



## PURPOSE

The River East Transcona School Division exists to educate students to be inspired, skilled, responsible citizens.

## VISION

The River East Transcona School Division will be forward-looking, innovative and service-oriented, offering superior, comprehensive programming to meet the emerging needs of our students and community.

## MISSION

To fulfil our purpose and in our journey toward our vision, the River East Transcona School Division is committed to provide relevant, progressive educational programming and supportive services in a safe, stimulating learning environment.

## GREETINGS



On behalf of the board of trustees, it gives me great pleasure to present our 2012–13 annual report to the community. I hope that as you read this report, it will leave you with a sense of the excellent work that takes place in the 42 schools in our division and of the significant accomplishments of our students and staff. As the guardians of the division's programs and services, the board is proud of all that happens to fulfil RETSD's purpose of educating students to be inspired, skilled, responsible citizens.

Annual divisional priorities help us focus our efforts and work towards achieving that purpose. The articles in this report are reflective of those priorities and are intended to illustrate just some of the innovative approaches taken by our teachers and support staff to help our students achieve success, each in their own unique way. We are happy to tell you about them.

Robert Fraser  
Chair, Board of Trustees 2012–13



I'm very pleased to present you with a sampling of the new and ongoing initiatives that are a source of pride for us and that reflect just some of the great work being done in each of the four educational priority areas identified for 2012–13.

Teaching using differentiated assessment and instruction; creating respectful, safe and caring school cultures; enhancing technology-based learning; and building community connections continue to be the cornerstones of our work in River East Transcona

School Division. Every day, and in a myriad of ways, the teaching and learning that happens in our schools is geared to those priorities and we're happy to place a spotlight on them in this report.

As you read about these initiatives, please know that behind each of them are dedicated, hard-working staff and the students that inspire them to great heights.

Kelly Barkman  
Superintendent/CEO

## DIVISIONAL PRIORITIES 2012–13

- **Connections:** Enhance student performance through purposeful connections between the division and its community.
- **Safe Schools:** Enhance student performance through respectful, safe and inclusive school cultures.
- **Student Success:** Enhance student performance through authentic and differentiated instruction and assessment.
- **Technology:** Enhance student performance through information, communication and assistive technologies.



## CONNECTIONS

### MAKING PURPOSEFUL CONNECTIONS TO ENHANCE STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Reading and writing and making community connections go hand-in-hand in Georgette Nairn's Grade 2 classroom at Harold Hatcher Elementary School.

Purposeful connections that enhance student performance are a priority in RETSD and a pen pal project involving her students and education students from the University of Manitoba is just one example of how the division's teachers are making that priority come alive in creative ways.

During 2012-13, several letters were exchanged between Ms. Nairn's students and education students in an early years language and literacy class at the university. As a final celebration, the groups met when the Harold Hatcher students visited the university. While there, they worked together to write storybooks that Ms. Nairn later printed and presented to her students as gifts.

"This project had benefits for both of us. My students had an authentic audience for their writing and the university students could see real Grade 2 writing and follow the progression of the students' writing over six months. They were also able to model good writing in their letters to my students," Ms. Nairn explains.

Ms. Nairn is among many early years teachers across RETSD who, through a series of professional development workshops, have been introduced to teaching principles promoted by Regie Routman. The American author and educator believes students learn best by taking a gradual approach to their writing. It begins with the teacher demonstrating how to write, followed by numerous collaborative efforts until finally, students are ready to write on their own.

Ms. Nairn says the pen pal project focused more on the ideas children wanted to communicate in their writing and the interesting words they used, and less on spelling and perfect grammar. She demonstrated how she would write a letter, the children brainstormed and worked together on letters, reading and editing them together, and finally, each child wrote their own letter to their university pen pal. That they had a mentor at the university who would read their letters gave them motivation and a sense of pride, not to mention a sense of anticipation waiting for the return letters, says Ms. Nairn.

"There's something about receiving mail; children don't experience that very often today."





# Safe SCHOOLS

## RespectED

Students on the Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau unity committee have been trained through the Canadian Red Cross RespectED program, taught to empower people to stand up and stop bullying. The committee visits all Grade 9 classes at the beginning of each school year to teach the new students how to deal with bullying situations. They've also given presentations to Grade 5 and 6 classes at École Regent Park School.

## Playing It Safe

All RETSD schools have a Playing It Safe guidebook issued by the Manitoba School Boards Association. It covers playground supervision, safety rules, volunteers, occupier's liability, maintenance and inspection, and free play. The guidebook also includes a daily/weekly playground inspection checklist that is filled out by custodians and kept on site. Custodians keep their eyes peeled for garbage, broken glass and animal droppings; signs of damage or vandalism; and skipping ropes or other devices that have been attached to the structure.

## Street and Bus Patrols

RETSD patrols have won awards for their commitment to safety. This neon-vested force has two main functions—street and bus patrolling—and they receive thorough training before they take up their posts at the beginning of the school year, ushering their peers safely to and from school each day.

## Bullying Awareness

Schools across RETSD regularly mark national Bullying Awareness Week, building awareness of bullying in schools and teaching students how they can be a part of the solution. This includes identifying what qualifies as bullying, addressing the role of the bystander and discussing what students can do when encountering bullying situations.

## Student Mentors

Student-to-student mentorship has grown in RETSD schools, fostered through practices such as reading buddies or through collaboration with outside organizations. For example, for the past six years Transcona Collegiate students have been working in conjunction with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Winnipeg to mentor Radisson School students. This helps create a sense of community and a feeling of safety for Radisson students, and provides them with positive role models. It's a very rewarding experience for the older students, as well.

## Safety Drills

All RETSD schools hold fire drills a minimum of 10 times in each school year, and fire alarms, fire escapes and fire exit doors are tested daily. As well, all schools hold lockdown drills a minimum of two times in each school year.

## Schoolwide Positive Behaviour

Respectful behaviour in and out of the classroom is encouraged through schoolwide positive behaviour programs, such as the one at Dr. F.W.L. Hamilton School, where the guiding principles are: Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful. Students are encouraged in a variety of ways to meet expectations in their interactions with others.

## Aboriginal Mentors

Young Aboriginal students in RETSD benefit greatly from being mentored by older Aboriginal students. Nokoda Beautiful Girls, for example, is a tri-school initiative with River East Collegiate, Chief Peguis Junior High and Donwood Elementary School. REC students mentor the younger girls to develop positive relationships and keep them connected with school.



# STUDENT Success

## FIRST STEPS

Seeing mathematics through the eyes of a learner helps RETSD teachers determine what students already know and what they need to know to continue to develop their understanding of mathematical concepts. First Steps® in Mathematics is a resource and professional learning course RETSD provides for both classroom and resource teachers to help them achieve this goal with grades 2–6 students. First used in the division in the 2008–09 school year, it received positive feedback, prompting its continued use. First Steps helps teachers recognize the phases all students pass through in learning math and provides tools to help identify and advance student progress. Interested teachers are encouraged to attend the five-day course as part of a team of at least two educators from their school, and then they can share their learning with their colleagues.

## SETTING GOALS FOR FRENCH IMMERSION

French Immersion continues to be a popular choice across Canada. RETSD has responded to this interest by focusing attention on what we aim to achieve with our French Immersion programming. In 2012–13, the division created a French Immersion program paper, a document for teachers that sets targets and articulates what we want French Immersion to look like—an operational and philosophical guide. It addresses program expectations and design, language acquisition and use, strategies, assessment, and expected skills and training of teachers. It also discusses the importance of student engagement in language learning, and the division's willingness to be inclusive and provide special learning supports, if required.

## READING PROGRAMS GET RESULTS

RETSD has two excellent programs to help students having difficulties learning to read.

Grade 1 students can receive extra help through Reading Recovery™, a program that has received international recognition as a successful intervention strategy for young readers. Reading Recovery involves daily 30-minute individual lessons, conducted outside of the classroom for 12–20 weeks. RETSD currently has 26 Reading Recovery teachers.

Grades 2–8 students, on the other hand, can make gains through the division's home-grown Reading Tutor Program, which provides a five-month period of intensive, direct instruction to students who need help to become successful readers. An RETSD study of the program shows that participants gained from 0.5 to five years of reading development, with an average of 1.5 years by the end of the program. Follow-up showed that the majority of students continued to make reading gains after their participation in the program ended.

## SENIOR YEARS NUMERACY INTERVENTION PLANS

A number of senior years numeracy intervention plans got underway in RETSD in early 2013. RETSD staff explored methods to help students learn math in ways that actively engaged them and were differentiated for individual students' learning needs.

The University of Manitoba's Prof. Thomas Falkenberg helped a group of four Grade 11 teachers explore lesson studies, which had three stages: prepare the lesson as a group, teach the lesson individually while being videotaped, and regroup to view the videos and review the lesson with the intention of improving practices.

With another method, a group of Grade 12 teachers, along with Prof. Falkenberg and a facilitator, is creating lesson presentations wherein students work in groups and choose a particular topic from the curriculum, then present the concept to their class and offer learning activities to further understanding.

These plans will be implemented in September 2014 and if they prove successful, will be expanded to other schools.



# TECHNOLOGY

## ENHANCING STUDENT PERFORMANCE THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Technology has been integrated into teaching for many years in RETSD but in 2012–13, the foundation was laid for a very focused new initiative called the Technology-enabled Learning Plan (TELP).

“We’re inspired by the pockets of innovation we see across the division, where teachers are routinely embedding technology into the curriculum. The TELP will create a truly systemic and sustainable approach to using technology to enable teaching and learning, and it will ensure our investments in technology are closely aligned with our educational priorities,” says RETSD superintendent Kelly Barkman.

In 2012–13, two key steps were taken to begin to build the TELP. First, various personnel were equipped with tablets and they provided feedback on the successes and frustrations of usage, and opinions on how the devices could assist in the teaching and learning process. Second, a consulting team from IBM Canada K12 Education was contracted to work with a core team to develop the actual plan.

“The consultants helped guide the process for determining the objectives of our technology plan. They met with focus groups and a core team, and pulled together research that helped us narrow our focus,” Mr. Barkman explains.

Ultimately, it was decided the TELP will focus on improving math results for grades 4–9 students. “The core team chose numeracy because it’s one area where division assessment scores are weaker. We’re tying the TELP to our priority to enhance student achievement in numeracy.”

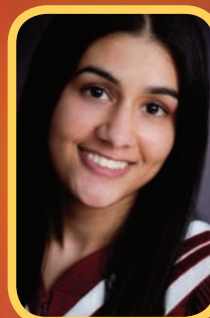
The team met with the IBM Canada K12 Education consultants several times to develop the particulars of the plan, which will be phased in beginning in 2013–14. The TELP will provide teachers with professional development on using technology to enhance teaching and learning in math, and equip classrooms with technology for students.

“As we introduce this into our classrooms, we’ll be putting pedagogy first and technology second and we’ll be assessing its effectiveness regularly,” says Mr. Barkman.

Four key teams will help get the TELP off the ground: a team to oversee and own the plan; a professional development advisory team; a team to make recommendations regarding appropriate software; and an IT team to provide infrastructure support.

“We are really looking forward to getting this initiative off the ground in the 2013–14 school year,” says Mr. Barkman.

## Outstanding RETSD SCHOOL BOARD MEDAL



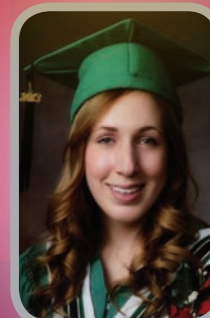
GURLEEN KHOSA  
KILDONAN-EAST COLLEGIATE  
GOLD MEDALIST



NICHOLAS PAULLEY  
MILES MACDONELL COLLEGIATE  
SILVER MEDALIST



ISABELLA SELK  
RIVER EAST COLLEGIATE  
SILVER MEDALIST



MADISON VASSART  
MURDOCH MACKAY COLLEGIATE  
SILVER MEDALIST



DEVON GILLINGHAM  
TRANSCONA COLLEGIATE  
SILVER MEDALIST



LEAH GOTTFRIED  
COLLÈGE PIERRE-ELLIOTT-TRUDEAU  
SILVER MEDALIST

### GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ACADEMIC MEDAL

Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau • Leah Gottfried  
Kildonan-East Collegiate • Gurleen Khosa  
Miles Macdonell Collegiate • Emma Gehrs-Whyte  
Murdoch MacKay Collegiate • Jea Patricia Laroza  
River East Collegiate • Courtney Lawrence  
Transcona Collegiate • Jessica Michaud

### STUDENT & STAFF AWARDS

**Megan Strain (MMCI)** • Manitoba Education  
Celebration of Excellence in Teaching Award—  
Senior Years

**Zane Zalis (MMC)** • Prime Minister's Award for  
Teaching Excellence, Queen's Diamond Jubilee  
Medal

**Janelle Chilton (REC)** • Premier's Healthy Living  
Award for Youth

**Kylie Bard (MMC)** • Premier's Healthy Living Award  
for Youth

**Dakota Kochie (MMCI)** • City of Winnipeg Youth  
Role Model Award in Sports

**Jamie Rakhra (MMC)** • Manitoba School Board  
Association Student Citizenship Award

### SKILLS MANITOBA COMPETITION GOLD MEDALISTS

**Stephanie Hunt and Alexandra Smith (MMC)** • 2-D  
Character Computer Animation (Also won gold at  
national competition)

**Dominika Kapustka and Roy DeJesus (MMC)** • 3-D  
Character Computer Animation

**Kelly Ross (KEC)** • Baking

**Travis Milkowski (MMCI)** • Carpentry

**Colin Naylor (KEC)** • Cooking

**Kerstin Betz (MMCI)** • Fashion Technology

**Jonathan Betz (MMCI)** • Precision Machining

### GRADUATION 2013

Regular 935

Vocational 65

Dual diploma 138

French Immersion 153

Mature student 17

Special 10



# RETSO TRENDS

## STUDENT AND STAFF STATISTICS

### Student enrolment (Sept. 30)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of students	16,843	16,618	16,346	16,322	16,353
Grades K–5	6,752	6,682	6,555	6,607	6,726
Percentage of division total	40.09	40.21	40.10	40.48	41.13
Grades 6–8	3,766	3,677	3,678	3,659	3,676
Percentage of division total	22.36	22.13	22.50	22.42	22.48
Grades 9–12	6,325	6,259	6,113	6,056	5,951
Percentage of division total	37.55	37.66	37.40	37.10	36.39

### Language program participation (Sept. 30)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
French Immersion	2,558	2,646	2,730	2,602	2,858
Percentage of division total	15.19	15.92	16.7	15.94	17.47
English-German Bilingual	414	411	437	406	394
Percentage of division total	2.46	2.47	2.67	2.48	2.41
English-Ukrainian Bilingual	86	90	87	85	87
Percentage of division total	.51	.54	.53	.52	.53

### School-based staff (Sept. 30 full-time equivalents)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Principals	42	42	42	42	42
Vice-principals	25.7	24.96	24.96	24.46	23.71
Teachers	1,048.1	1,032.8	1,020.81	1,010.04	1,014.20
Educational assistants	341.40	333.30	335.21	332.78	329.57
Library support	29.5	31	31	32	31.5
School clerical	79	79	79	78.5	78
School custodians	148	149.5	149.75	150.75	149.25



(Left to right) Superintendent/CEO Kelly Barkman, assistant superintendent of schools Keith Morrison, assistant superintendent of schools Barb Isaak, assistant superintendent of schools Jason Drysdale, assistant superintendent of student services Joan Trubyk, secretary-treasurer/cfo Vince Mariani.

## CONTACT US

### Administration Offices

589 Roch St.  
Winnipeg, MB R2K 2P7  
Tel: 204.667.7130  
Fax: 204.661.5618

### Educational Resource Centre

95 Bournais Dr.  
Winnipeg, MB R2C 3Z2  
Tel: 204.669.9412  
Fax: 204.669.9428

### Maintenance

1455 Molson St.  
Winnipeg, MB R2G 3S6  
Tel: 204.669.5660  
Fax: 204.668.9548

### McLeod Education Centre

530 McLeod Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R2K 0B5  
Tel: 204.667.6193  
Fax: 204.668.9309

### Student Services Unit – Polson

491 Munroe Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R2K 1H5  
Tel: 204.669.5643  
Fax: 204.663.9230

### Student Services Unit – Kildare

760 Kildare Ave. E.  
Winnipeg, MB R2C 3Z4  
Tel: 204.222.9577  
Fax: 204.224.2783

### Transcona Adult Learning Centre

130 Regent Ave. E.  
Winnipeg, MB R2C 0C1  
Tel: 204.958.9297  
Fax: 204.958.9299

### Transportation

2057 Camsell Ave.  
East St. Paul, MB R2E 1G2  
Tel: 204.669.0202  
Fax: 204.663.7731

# 2012–13 BUDGET INFORMATION

The board passed a budget of \$166 million, a 1.7 per cent increase in spending for 2012–13. This represented an average 2.9 per cent increase in local school taxes. RETSD received no new funding from the provincial government but was able to maintain existing programs, services and staffing levels, and provide funding for new initiatives to help older

at-risk students stay in school, and assist students to begin apprenticeship training in the trades while still in high school. As well, two existing programs, Reading Recovery™ and a math intervention initiative, were enhanced with additional funding. The division's per pupil cost was \$10,238, well below the provincial average of \$11,160.

## Your Trustees



2012–13



Robert Fraser  
(Board Chair)



Wayne Ritcher  
(Board Vice-Chair)



Colleen Carswell



Peter Kotyk



George Marshall



Greg Proch



Eva Prysizney



Shirley Timm-Rudolph



John Toews

Trustee Ward 3  
Robert Fraser (Board Chair)  
204.667.9348  
[rfraser@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:rfraser@retsd.mb.ca)

Trustee Ward 4  
Wayne Ritcher (Board Vice-Chair)  
204.663.6669  
[writcher@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:writcher@retsd.mb.ca)

Trustee Ward 1  
Colleen Carswell  
204.222.1486  
[ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca)

Trustee Ward 1  
George Marshall  
204.221.8464  
[gmarshall@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:gmarshall@retsd.mb.ca)

Trustee Ward 2  
John Toews  
204.663.0475  
[jtoews@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:jtoews@retsd.mb.ca)

Trustee Ward 4  
Eva Prysizney  
204.668.3501  
[eprysizney@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:eprysizney@retsd.mb.ca)

Trustee Ward 5  
Peter Kotyk  
204.668.4181  
[pkotytk@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:pkotytk@retsd.mb.ca)

Trustee Ward 5  
Shirley Timm-Rudolph  
204.414.8239  
[stimmrudolph@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:stimmrudolph@retsd.mb.ca)

Trustee Ward 6  
Greg Proch  
204.663.1925  
[gproch@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:gproch@retsd.mb.ca)