

ANNUAL REPORT

to the community • 2014–2015



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 fulfill 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



The board is pleased to share this report to the community with you. It includes snapshots of just some of the important work and learning carried out by our staff and students so we can live up to our purpose: to educate students to be inspired, skilled, responsible citizens.

The 2014–15 school year was a significant one for the board of trustees. A major goal of the board is to bring consistency to the grade configurations across our division, creating early, middle and senior years schools. In September, we took another big step towards that goal with the reconfiguration of schools within the River East Collegiate catchment area, creating more K–5 and 6–8 schools, and making REC a Grade 9–12 school.

In October, we said thanks and farewell to two long-time trustees who retired prior to the 2014 school board election. Trustee Robert Fraser served for 37 years: 25 years in the former River East School Division and 12 years in RETSD. Trustee George Marshall served 24 years in the former Transcona-Springfield School Division and eight years in RETSD. We wish these men all the best in retirement.

Colleen Carswell
Chair, Board of Trustees 2014–15



I take great pride in reporting on some of the new projects, ongoing initiatives and unique activities that kept our students and staff busy and focused on the division's educational priorities for 2014–15. I hope you enjoy reading about them.

The superintendents department had its own initiative in 2014–15—a major reorganization of roles and responsibilities for three of its assistant superintendents as a way to more efficiently co-ordinate supervision of the work that happens in RETSD. The department now has an assistant superintendent of human resources (instructional), of educational programming, and of educational services and planning, along with an assistant superintendent of student services.

The leadership our assistant superintendents provide, along with the great work happening in our schools, continues to create success for the students of RETSD.

Kelly Barkman
Superintendent/CEO

DIVISIONAL PRIORITIES 2014–15

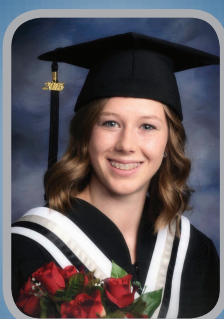
- **Numeracy:** Enhance student achievement through authentic and appropriate mathematics instruction.
- **Technology-Enabled Learning:** Enhance student achievement through investments in educational technology as an integral and integrated teaching and learning resource.
- **Safe Schools:** Enhance the climate and culture in all schools by further developing caring, safe and inclusive schools.
- **Literacy:** Enhance student achievement through authentic and appropriate literacy instruction.

OUTSTANDING

RETSD SCHOOL BOARD MEDAL



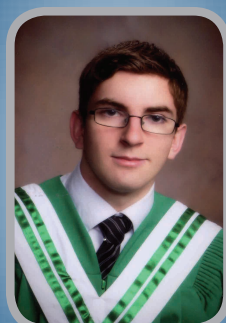
Cuinn Joseph
River East Collegiate
GOLD MEDALIST



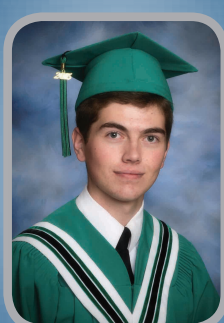
Gabrielle Daudet
Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau
SILVER MEDALIST



Matthew Kozicki
Kildonan-East Collegiate
SILVER MEDALIST



Tyler Baessler
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
SILVER MEDALIST



Braxton McKean
Murdoch MacKay Collegiate
SILVER MEDALIST



Myles Erickson
Transcona Collegiate
SILVER MEDALIST

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ACADEMIC MEDAL

Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau ☑ Gabrielle Daudet
Kildonan-East Collegiate ☑ Shifa Mohideen
Miles Macdonell Collegiate ☑ Samantha Ricard
Murdoch MacKay Collegiate ☑ Hannah Keenes
River East Collegiate ☑ Claire Heidenreich
Transcona Collegiate ☑ Dallas Gillingham

STUDENT AND STAFF AWARDS

Elizabeth Linton (Hampstead) ☑ School Administrator
Award for Distinguished Service, Manitoba School
Library Association

Jordan Tratch (John W. Gunn) ☑ Manitoba Physical
Education Teachers Association Award

Lauren M. Clasen (KEC) ☑ Outstanding Educator
Award, Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children

Simon Strauman (KEC) ☑ Educational Assistant of the
Year, Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children

Pol Gerrerres-Garcia (Miles), Imane Marrakchi (Miles)
☑ National Concours d'art oratoire

Kaylee Lucek (Murdoch), Nicole Rogowsky (REC)
☑ The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

SKILLS MANITOBA COMPETITION GOLD MEDALISTS

Beniyamin Ghiyasi (KEC) ☑ Cooking

Ashley Weber (KEC) ☑ Car Painting (also won gold at
national competition)

Birehanu Bishaw (KEC) ☑ Photography

Marcela Patricia Sanchez Morales (KEC) ☑ Cooking

Jill Pasveer (KEC) ☑ Baking

Blake Young and Jordan Mansky (Miles) ☑ 3D
Character Computer Animation

Jordanna Lovenjak (Murdoch) ☑ Fashion Technology

Braxton McKean (Murdoch) ☑ Electronics

Johannes Kister (Murdoch) ☑ Precision Machining

GRADUATION 2015

Regular 876

Vocational 50

Dual diploma 112

French immersion 141

Mature student 13

Special 9



NUMERACY

TELP LAUNCHES IN GRADE 4 AND 7

After two years spent laying the groundwork, the Technology-Enabled Learning Plan (TELP) launched in 2014–15. TELP aims to strengthen student achievement in math and ensure technology investments support pedagogy. All Grade 4 and 7 math classrooms received a set of iPads installed with math apps that support the development of problem solving and math conversation skills. Students use the iPads individually, in pairs and small groups, or as a whole group during math class as an additional learning tool. Teachers were provided with ongoing professional development, and monitoring and assessment processes were introduced to begin to measure the plan's impact. TELP will be introduced in Grade 5 and 8 in 2015–16, and Grade 7 and 9 in 2016–17, with the goal of making technology an integral teaching and learning resource in math classrooms.

FIRST STEPS CONTINUES TO GROW

RETSD has set the goal of training at least 20 per cent more teachers every year in a program called First Steps® in Mathematics. The division met that goal in 2014–15, with 44 early and middle years teachers attending the professional development sessions. This series of five full days of professional development focuses on the big ideas in number and operation sense and presents teachers with a developmental map of the stages in thinking students go through as they build their understanding of mathematical concepts. The diagnostic tools presented to teachers allow them to get a window into their students' current level of understanding and help them to plan the next steps required to support their students' learning.



TECHNOLOGY

NEW TOOL HELPS TRACK DATA

In 2014–15, RETSD began experimenting with a software product called Tyler Pulse Information Warehouse to help it use the data in its student information system more effectively. One of the main areas of focus for the new software is monitoring schoolwide student behaviour. Tyler Pulse provides quick access to behaviour incident summaries recorded in the student information system and allows staff to effectively monitor trends as schools implement Positive Behavioural Interventions and Supports (PBIS), a program that promotes and reinforces positive student behaviours. Once the testing phase is complete, RETSD expects to replace the current manual tabulation of PBIS data with the more efficient Tyler Pulse tool.

WEBSITES UPDATED

RETSD's website and the websites of its 42 schools were updated in 2014–15. The websites now have a fresh, modern look along with simplified navigation and the ability to automatically resize pages for mobile devices. For employees, the new websites provide convenient links to webmail and to the staff website. For the public, information has been reorganized and streamlined so it can be found quickly and easily, while a new "Find a School" menu on the home page takes a visitor directly to a school website. A new home page calendar also enables the viewer to quickly see what's happening in the division.



SAFE SCHOOLS

POSITIVE BEHAVIOURAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS

As of 2014–15, River East Transcona is the only division in Manitoba with dedicated Positive Behavioural Interventions and Supports (PBIS) teams in every school. The teams, who strengthen and sustain a positive culture in their schools, have been established at each school over the course of a few years. PBIS focuses on promoting, modelling and reinforcing (with verbal praise) positive and appropriate student behaviours, which in turn creates a positive school environment. This does not mean inappropriate actions are ignored. Instead, the emphasis has shifted from mostly addressing “bad” behaviour to reinforcing socially acceptable behaviour. The divisional goal is to have four positive interactions for every one disciplinary intervention.

BULLYING PREVENTION AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIVERSITY

In the 2014–15 school year, every staff member in RETSD, from teachers to bus drivers and clerks to administrators, completed online training in bullying prevention and respect for human diversity. This training is part of the division’s mission to provide a safe learning environment for its students, and upholds its “Respect for Human Diversity” policy (Policy ACF). The web-based program was developed by the organization Respect Group and the content provided information on bullying, abuse, harassment and neglect. The program highlighted how to identify and respond to specific situations and included access to resources for future use.



LITERACY

PARTICIPATION NETS POSITIVES

Pulse is a magazine of student creative work including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, photography and art, published annually by Miles Macdonell Collegiate. Literary magazine projects, like *Pulse*, have shown to have a positive impact on participants, according to a study by Lisa Wicklund Whiteside, a masters of education student at the University of Manitoba, whose thesis research in 2014–15 examined the impact on participants in high school literary magazine projects. Her study, which included *Pulse*, concluded that participation positively benefits the individual contributor and the group working on the project. It also provides valuable experience in editing, printing and publishing, and reaching a “real world” audience. It’s also an excellent way to teach about writing and the arts, challenging one’s self, building relationships, and solving problems.

INITIATIVES STRENGTHEN LITERACY SKILLS

Two initiatives designed to strengthen students’ reading and writing skills continued to gain momentum in RETSD in 2014–15. The Regie Routman and the Penny Kittle teaching methods continue to attract early, middle and senior years teachers who attend divisional workshops and weeklong residencies to learn more about the philosophies of these literacy experts. Then they take what they’ve learned to their classrooms, where demonstrating the writing process, writing for an audience and purpose, and becoming a community of writers who share their work, is emphasized with students. The results of this approach can be seen in many early years classrooms, where teachers are using digital publishing resources to create student authored, professional quality books for their classroom libraries.



FULFILLING OUR PURPOSE

River East Transcona's purpose is "to educate students to be inspired, skilled, responsible students." The division's staff members work hard to fulfill this purpose and their students always find ways to inspire them in return. Here are just a few events and initiatives the staff and students have taken on this year.

Westview students were asked to collect plastic shopping bags from home, family and neighbours for the Westview Bag Up Challenge! This recycling initiative is part of a program called Bag Up Manitoba and it diverts millions of bags from Manitoba landfills so the plastic can be reused. The top class collected 10,469 bags.

More than 70 Grade 5 and 6 RETSD girls enjoyed some hands-on exposure to the trades during a first-time event called Sparking Interest. The event brought the students together with seven women working in the skilled trades, as well as STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) occupations, for a day of learning that combined role-modelling, activities and mentorship.

Students from the RETSD English-German Bilingual Program got in the FIFA World Cup spirit in June, participating in a German-Language Soccer Camp guided by a visiting coach from Munich. Toronto's German Consul General Walter Stechel stopped by to kick things off.



For the 17th year in a row, River East Collegiate students participated in the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's CIBC Run for the Cure. Over the 17 years, REC has raised more than \$76,000 for the cause.

Prodigy, a singing group from Miles Macdonell Collegiate, visited CBC Radio to perform for an annual fundraising event called "Harvesting Hope." CBC aired music, stories and interviews in support of Winnipeg Harvest, and collected donations for the food bank. Prodigy has belted out songs for the cause for over 20 years.

A large group of hard-working RETSD students put their time and hearts into serving as mentors to Aboriginal students in the division. They were honoured at the Aboriginal Academic Achievement mentorship celebration and Mayor Brian Bowman was on hand to give his thanks.

Murdoch Mackay Collegiate students gathered for the annual "Hooping It Up" free-throw basketball competition that raises funds for the school's Best Buddies chapter. Best Buddies is a national charitable organization that helps provide meaningful friendships for people with intellectual disabilities. Murdoch Mackay and Kildonan-East Collegiate are two of only six schools in Manitoba with active chapters.

RETSD held its fourth community Powwow since 2008 and dozens of dancers from across the province turned out for the event, which celebrates Aboriginal culture, the community and another successful year of Aboriginal Academic Achievement programming in the division.

RETSD TRENDS

STUDENT AND STAFF STATISTICS

Student enrolment (Sept. 30)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Number of students | 16,346 | 16,322 | 16,353 | 16,086 | 16,091 |
| | | | | | |
| Grades K–5 | 6,555 | 6,607 | 6,726 | 6,676 | 6,804 |
| Percentage of division total | 40.1 | 40.48 | 41.13 | 41.5 | 42.28 |
| | | | | | |
| Grades 6–8 | 3,678 | 3,659 | 3,676 | 3,592 | 3,552 |
| Percentage of division total | 22.5 | 22.42 | 22.48 | 22.33 | 22.07 |
| | | | | | |
| Grades 9–12 | 6,113 | 6,056 | 5,951 | 5,818 | 5,735 |
| Percentage of division total | 37.4 | 37.1 | 36.39 | 36.17 | 35.64 |

Language program participation (Sept. 30)

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| French immersion | 2,730 | 2,602 | 2,858 | 2,854 | 2,934 |
| Percentage of division total | 16.7 | 15.94 | 17.47 | 17.74 | 18.23 |
| | | | | | |
| English-German Bilingual | 437 | 406 | 394 | 373 | 329 |
| Percentage of division total | 2.67 | 2.48 | 2.41 | 2.32 | 2.04 |
| | | | | | |
| English-Ukrainian Bilingual | 87 | 85 | 87 | 82 | 77 |
| Percentage of division total | .53 | .52 | .53 | .51 | .48 |

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

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Principals | 42 | 42 | 42 | 42 | 42 |
| Vice-principals | 24.96 | 24.46 | 23.71 | 23.71 | 23.71 |
| Teachers | 1,020.81 | 1,010.04 | 1,014.2 | 1,012.35 | 1,033.55 |
| Educational assistants | 335.21 | 332.78 | 329.57 | 322.11 | 322.85 |
| Library support | 31 | 32 | 31.5 | 33 | 33.5 |
| School clerical | 79 | 78.5 | 78 | 76.5 | 77.5 |
| School custodians | 149.75 | 150.75 | 149.25 | 149.75 | 140.25 |



Back row, from left: Kelly Barkman, superintendent/CEO; Jason Drysdale, assistant superintendent – educational services and planning; Greg Daniels, assistant superintendent – human resources (instructional). Front row, from left: Joan Trubyk, assistant superintendent – student services; Vince Mariani, secretary-treasurer/CFO; Barb Isaak, assistant superintendent – educational programming.

CONTACT US

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MCLEOD EDUCATION CENTRE

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STUDENT SERVICES UNIT – POLSON

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STUDENT SERVICES UNIT – KILDARE

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Winnipeg, MB R2C 3Z4
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Fax: 204.224.2783

TRANSCONA ADULT LEARNING CENTRE

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Fax: 204.958.9299

TRANSPORTATION

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2014–15 BUDGET INFORMATION

The budget for 2014–15 was \$172,145,990, an increase of \$2.08 million over the previous year. This represented a 2.6 per cent increase in local school taxes. Salary increases to meet collective agreement requirements and increased costs for supplies and services continued to push the budget upwards. For the third year in a row, RETSD

received no increase in funding from the province so to minimize the burden on ratepayers, the trustees moved to use \$1,135,000 in funds from its uncommitted surplus to support the budget. No new initiatives were included in the 2014–15 budget; the board continued to support the work related to the division's educational priorities.

YOUR TRUSTEES



2014–15



Colleen Carswell
(Chair)



Brian Olynik
(Vice-Chair)



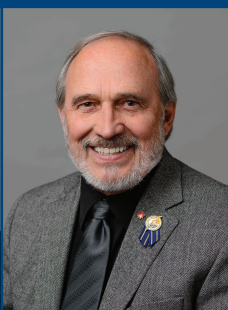
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Peter Kotyk



Eva Prysizney



Wayne Ritcher



Jerry Sodomlak



John Toews



Michael West

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