

# Munroe Junior High School Newsletter

Fall Newsletter 2014

Principal: Mr.K. Mackay

Vice-Principal: Ms. C. Nick-Johnson



## PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The 2014-2015 school year got off to a great start at Munroe Junior High! I am delighted to be starting my 28<sup>th</sup> year in the school division at Munroe Junior High. I have truly felt welcomed by both staff and students and look forward to working with them as we move forward.

Though staff and students are key contributors to the school, parents and guardians are equally as important to the school community. I invite all parents and guardians to the Parent Consultation night on Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the school library; at this time I will share with you proposals on the future direction I see for Munroe Junior High. Specifically, I will seek your input for the next year's Grade 9 timetable, the Grade 7 math initiatives we have in place, as well as what we plan to do to increase our students' literacy rates across each grade level. I will also take any questions you might have regarding Munroe Junior High.

I would like to congratulate our 32 cross-country runners (13% of the school population) who represented Munroe at the three cross-country meets this year!

Mr. Kevin Mackay  
Principal

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You are invited to Munroe Junior High's

## Parent Consultation Night

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 6:00 PM

All Munroe parents are invited to attend our first parent meeting of the year. Come meet with our principal, Mr. Mackay, and provide valuable input into your child's education, specifically regarding literacy and math initiatives. Pizza will be provided. Looking forward to meeting you!

Please RSVP to (204) 661-4451



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## GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS

### Farm to School Fundraiser

Thank you to all families who participated in the Peak of the Market Farm-to-School fundraising campaign; the support is greatly appreciated and valued! We raised a total of **\$955** which will assist in purchasing items and offsetting the cost of events/activities that will benefit all of our students. Participating students' names were entered into a draw for a \$20.00 Kildonan Place Gift Certificate. The lucky recipients were: Blake O. (7A), Madison D. (7D), Ryleigh R. (8E), Richelle D. (9A) and Luke M. (9D).

Ms. Nick-Johnson

### Take Your Kids to Work Day

On Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Grade 9 Munroe students will be participating in *Take Our Kids to Work Day*, a Canada-wide program designed to provide students with career experiences. Our students will have the pleasure of helping out and experiencing careers in textiles, health care, education (from elementary to college), construction, confectionaries, hospitality, restaurants, and a variety of large and small businesses. Throughout the day our Grade 9 teachers will be driving around the city and visiting the students at their workplaces and meeting and greeting parents and family friends in their work environment. This is a day that both the students and the teachers greatly enjoy, and after speaking with our Grade 9 students from last year, many of them were very appreciative of what their parents, family and friends experience on a daily basis and were happy to return to school the next day.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Take Your Kids to Work Day and possible placements for your child, please contact Ms. Plunkett at the school.

### Koats for Kids

The United Way's Koats for Kids is now up and running for the winter months. This is a program offered to all families in Winnipeg and the cost is absolutely free! If you know of any adults or children in need of winter coats, mitts, hats, scarves or boots (somewhat limited), please contact the school's guidance counsellor, Ms. Plunkett, to make arrangements or to place an order. Once the order is submitted, the coats and winter gear will be delivered to the school.

Koats for Kids will also be accepting donations of gently used outerwear that can be dropped off at any Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Station or Perth's location.

### Council of Drug Awareness Program

An information and permission letter will be sent home this month regarding presentations for our students to be facilitated by Dr. Vanderwater from the Council of Drug Awareness. The sessions will take place over the span of eight weeks with each grade receiving tailored information regarding drugs, safety and responsible lifestyle choices. The program has three phases:

#### Phase 1 - Drugs & My World

- Heightens awareness of drugs and how they interact with youth's world
- Breaks myths and misconceptions of drug use in our world, including social/occasional use
- Information reflects social & community context of students and the drug situation in their region
- Highlights the presence of direct and indirect peer and media influences

### Phase 2 - Drugs & Me

- Provides drug-specific information in reference to the interplay between drugs and the brain, body, and social and family life. Please note that Grade 7 students receive a presentation with a 'general' drug focus while Grades 8 & 9 presentations are drug-specific.

### Phase 3 - Drugs & My Strength

- Focused on skill-building and capacity-building
- Goal is to increase protective factors of youth
- Build capacity to make the right choice
- Topics are related directly to drug-use scenarios

### Live Different – Courage to Connect

Munroe Junior High School had the opportunity to see 'Live Different' again this September and hear their message of "Courage to Connect." The Live Different speakers and band are all about embracing a lifestyle of caring for people, not "stuff". They were able to connect with our students in an amazing multimedia presentation about the choices we make every day.

The messages we received loud and clear were to get involved in one social issue or cause that we are passionate about, to seek out daily opportunities to show kindness towards others, and to live simply because our choices impact our global community. The motivational speakers and band, The Scenic Sound, left a big impact on our students and have inspired our own students to form a committee to help Munroe Junior High School move forward and spread their messages of awareness, kindness and choices. You can find out more about this group on their website: <http://livedifferent.com/>.



### Wilderness Ed Mountain Bikes

The Grade 9 Wilderness Ed bike shop is always looking for the donation of used mountain bikes to be rebuilt and repaired by students in the program. Anyone with bikes to donate to the program can contact Mr. Coppinger.

### Wilderness Ed Course

Grade 9 students enrolled in the Wilderness Ed course and the Wilderness Ed club participated in an overnight camping trip to Nutimik Lake Campground on September 22nd and 23rd. To take advantage of the very warm weather, students experienced hikes along various Whiteshell trails and tried their hand at some fishing. Students learned how to set up a proper camp and how to start and maintain a campfire. With visits from our friend the skunk and his raccoon pals, they also quickly learned the importance of keeping a clean campsite and the proper storing of food. Come spring, this group will be busy planning for their next overnight adventure to Spruce Woods.

### We Care

This student group includes students from all grade levels who have expressed a desire to get involved in human rights and environmental issues. Students will be running a can drive for Winnipeg Harvest which will include a can collection at Halloween known as 'We Scare Hunger' (or 'Halloween for Hunger'). On October 29<sup>th</sup>, 25 lucky students from this group will also be attending We Day at the MTS Centre which is always an exciting and inspiring day. New students are always welcome to join We Care which meets every Day 3 at lunch in the Art Room.

### School E-Memos

In order to keep you informed regarding important upcoming events at Munroe, the school sends out an e-memo every Friday. If you are not currently receiving our e-memo and would like to, please contact our office

at (204) 661-4451 or email to [mun@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:mun@retsd.mb.ca) and we will add your email address to our mailing list; all email addresses are kept confidential.

## School Website

Did you know that you can keep up-to-date on Munroe events, activities and forms on our online website? Check us out at [www.schools.retsd.mb.ca/mun/](http://www.schools.retsd.mb.ca/mun/)!

## Pizza Thursdays

Munroe's Leadership team hosts pizza lunch every Thursday in the foyer. Pepperoni and plain cheese pizza are available at \$1.50 per slice, first come, first served.

## City of Winnipeg Leisure Guide

The City of Winnipeg is proud to provide a wide variety of recreation and leisure opportunities that contribute to the overall well-being of our community. The Leisure Guide is published three times per year and is filled with fun and exciting programs for everyone. For more information on leisure, sport and fitness programs, please pick up a copy of the Leisure Guide at civic indoor pools, libraries and leisure centres, as well as at a number of retail locations including Safeway, 7-Eleven and Mac's, or you may call 311 or visit [winnipeg.ca](http://winnipeg.ca). Register now for fall programs!

## City of Winnipeg Priceless Fun

Winnipeggers now have easy access to information about free recreation, leisure and library programs with the free programming guide, 'Priceless Fun'. The fall edition of Priceless Fun provides information about the free programs for children and youth being offered by the City of Winnipeg throughout the city, all in one convenient guide. Hard copies of Priceless Fun are available for pick-up at all civic indoor pools, libraries and leisure centres. You can view the current edition of Priceless Fun online at: [winnipeg.ca/cms/recreation/leisureguide.stm](http://winnipeg.ca/cms/recreation/leisureguide.stm). Information about programs is also available by calling 311.

## Miles Macdonell Christmas Craft & Bake Sale

The Miles Macdonell Music Students Parent Association is hosting a Christmas craft and bake sale on Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm; the sale will be held at Miles Macdonell Collegiate at 757 Roch Street. Admission is free!

## LA FRENCH CONNECTION!



### Je choisis le français dans ma vie parce que...

Grade 9 students were asked why they chose to be in Munroe's Late French Immersion program. Here are a few reasons they shared:

- To be able to greet others in their native language
- To have a chance to learn something new
- To be able to choose the career I want in my life
- To enjoy a sophisticated and romantic language

Whatever their reasons may be, they are saying; "Oui!" to opportunity!

## Célébration!

Congratulations to our Grade 7 students who have recently finished their first five weeks of French language acquisition! We celebrated this occasion with an evening of snacks and juice October 8<sup>th</sup>. The students each presented some of their work to their families while speaking French! Bravo!

## FI Field Trip News

Grades 7-9 FI students, as well as Grade 9 Communication and Culture (formerly known as Basic French) students will participate in the French Film Festival at the Towne Theatre on Monday, October 27th. This annual film festival, called 'Cinémental', gives our students a chance to view an authentic French film. The films, "Un monstre à Paris" and "Gabrielle" will be viewed.

## Winter! Célébration d'hiver!

All Munroe students will participate in an afternoon of winter-themed craft activities on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Our French Immersion students will be grouped into multi-grade groups, allowing them to mix and mingle with other FI students while engaging in authentic French conversation. Some of these activities will include making a gingerbread house, computer animation, making cookies, designing cards or scrapbooking.

## How to successfully learn a new language!

Our philosophy is that a student best learns an additional language by consistently communicating and studying in that language. We recognize that to become bilingual, we need to practice our French language skills at every available opportunity. For our students, learning a second language requires effort and commitment; for us, helping students to develop a sound working knowledge of the French language is priority.

As parents and teachers, we need to work in partnership in order to encourage our students to regularly use French at every available opportunity; in the end, it is the students who will benefit from our commitment to this goal. The expectation is that students communicate in French in class, in the hallways, during in-school and out-of-school activities and with all of their French Immersion teachers.

To help your child improve their French language skills you can:

- Talk to them about why your family chose late entry French Immersion
- Express your interest in the French language and French culture
- Take them to French cultural activities like the French-Canadian pavilion at Folklorama or the Festival du Voyageur in February
- Visit the French section of the public library
- Watch a French TV show, listen to a French radio station such as Envol 91.1 FM, or tune in to the French track of a DVD
- Listen to them speak and read in French and comment on their progress
- Encourage their participation in class and to be engaged learners
- Set aside regular homework time so your child can review vocabulary by practicing their pronunciation in addition to completing any assigned work
- **Encourage them to take risks when they speak and to always speak French with their teachers...**

Nothing is gained when no effort is made!

## FI Report Card

In the 'Learning and Behaving' section of the FI report card, there is a category entitled "French Engagement"; this helps students reflect on their French skills and informs parents of how well students are communicating orally and in written form. The focus is also on how they participate in the Francophonie outside of school. This year, Grade 9's will participate in the 'Passeport Franco-Fun' and record three separate activities of choice to help their personal and academic growth with the French language and culture. At the end of each term, a student from each class will be entered in a draw to enjoy a lunch at a restaurant with French-inspired cuisine in St. Boniface with Mme Léveillé!



## Un Chic Flick! A cool movie!

Stay tuned for details about an upcoming after-school movie date! All French Immersion and Basic French students will be invited to view a French film in mid-November. Information and permission forms will be sent home at the end of October. Participation will count towards one activity for the Grade 9 'Passeport Franco-Fun'.

Mme. Léveillé

## NEWS FROM THE GYM

### The Munroe Stingers Report

This has been a busy time for the PE / Athletics program at Munroe! The Stingers' volleyball teams are in the middle of their season. Each team member needs to be congratulated on their commitment to their teams. Way to go Stingers!

We are also doing our first organized intramural of the year, indoor soccer, and the competition has been very exciting! Many students have enjoyed playing and watching this sporting event and are anticipating which team will be crowned the Stingers' Indoor Soccer Champs.

In PE we are looking forward to December 3rd which is International Disability Day where special recognition is brought to individuals who are living with a disability. To coincide with this day, we have organized a PE unit where students will play games designed for people with disabilities; for example, the Manitoba Wheel Chair Society is coming to Munroe to demonstrate wheelchair basketball. What's more is that the National Institute for the Blind is lending us equipment so we can play specialized games meant for blind people. We have also obtained different apparatuses such as crutches so that students can experience what living with a disability could really be like. We are looking forward to making this unit a success and a character-building experience for the students of Munroe Junior High.

Mr. Bargen and Ms. Penner

## ART NEWS!

The Grade 7, 8 and 9 students still have an opportunity to buy an art kit for the year for \$30 and cheques can be made out to the school. If students do not buy a kit, they are encouraged to bring their own supplies for art such as a sketchbook, pencils and other materials to work with.

Student art work is on display throughout Munroe's halls and in the art room – we are off to a really great start this year with so many artists!

There will be a huge divisional art display at the Concert Hall in November for one night while the bands from throughout the division perform with the WSO. More information on this will follow, but it is a great opportunity to have the students' work on display for such a large audience!

Congratulations to all the art students for such a great start to the year!

Ms. Land

## NEWS FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Things are off to a great start in the band room this year! Our students have already been working hard to prepare for our first concert and I'm very pleased with the progress they have made!

## First Note Night

Our Grade 7 students had the opportunity to participate in Munroe's fourth annual First Note Night on September 17th. The students worked with local specialists to learn basic skills on their instruments. Students enjoyed the experience and learned a lot from their instructors.

## Grade 7 First Concert

The Grade 7 Band will make its debut performance on Thursday, November 20 at 7:00 pm in the Munroe Gym. Students will demonstrate their skills as an ensemble and will also perform as soloist or as part of a small group. Refreshments will be served at the end of the concert.

## RETSD Honour Bands

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the River East Transcona School Division will continue its annual tradition of performing a joint concert with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. The concert will feature band students from across the division working with symphony musicians to perform some very exciting music! Congratulations to all the Munroe students who were accepted into this year's Honour Bands! Grade 7/8 Honour Band: Laura G., Joanna L., Saron L., Jacob M., Erik W. Grade 9/10 Honour Band: Mia A., Yarah B., Quentin F., Josiah F., Julissa R., Ben S., Isabella S. and Jordanna S.

## Upcoming Events\*

November 20 (7:00 pm)	Grade 7 First Concert
January 29 (7:00 pm)	Winter Concert (Grade 7, 8, 9, and Jazz Band)
February 24-27	Optimist Clubs of Winnipeg Band Festival (Grade 9) **
March 5-7	Optimist Jazz Festival (Jazz Band) **
April 14-17	Level 1 Band Festival (Grade 7 and 8) **
May 4	Music Monday
June 11 (7:00 pm)	Spring Concert (Grade 7, 8, 9 and Jazz Band)

\*Other Important Dates TBA. Please visit Munroe's website for additional information throughout the year.

\*\* Exact performance dates and times to be confirmed.

**Attendance at our concerts is mandatory so please clear your calendars well in advance!**

Ms. Foster

## Board of Trustees 2014 – 2015

Name	Ward	Email Address	Phone
Colleen Carswell	1	<a href="mailto:ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca">ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca</a>	204-222-1486
George Marshall	1	<a href="mailto:gmarshall@retsd.mb.ca">gmarshall@retsd.mb.ca</a>	204-221-8464
John Toews	2	<a href="mailto:jtoews@retsd.mb.ca">jtoews@retsd.mb.ca</a>	204-663-0475
Robert Fraser	3	<a href="mailto:rfraser@retsd.mb.ca">rfraser@retsd.mb.ca</a>	204-667-9348
Eva Prysizney	4	<a href="mailto:eprysizney@retsd.mb.ca">eprysizney@retsd.mb.ca</a>	204-668-3501
Wayne Ritcher (Vice-chair)	4	<a href="mailto:writcher@retsd.mb.ca">writcher@retsd.mb.ca</a>	204-663-6669
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Greg Proch	6	<a href="mailto:gproch@retsd.mb.ca">gproch@retsd.mb.ca</a>	204-663-1925

## Upcoming Events

October 20	Peak of the Market vegetable pick-up (3:00-5:00 pm)
October 24	Co-ordinated Day – No School
October 28	Picture re-takes (pm)
October 28	Parent Consultation night (6:00 pm)
November 5	Take Our Kids to Work Day (Grade 9)
November 5	Early dismissal (2:26 pm)
November 6	Student-led conferences (4:00-8:00 pm)
November 10	Co-ordinated Day – No School
November 11	Remembrance Day – No School
November 20	Grade 7 band concert (7:00 pm)
December 4	Report Cards sent home
December 19	Early dismissal (2:15 pm)
December 22- January 2	Winter break
January 5	School re-opens, Day 6
January 14	Early dismissal (2:26 pm)
January 29	Winter band concert (7:00 pm)
February 2	Co-ordinated Day – No School
February 11	Grade 6 parent information evening (7:00 pm)
February 16	Louis Riel Day – No School
February 18	Early dismissal (2:26 pm)
March 13	Co-ordinated Day – No School
March 19	Report cards sent home
March 26	Student-Parent-Teacher conferences (4:00-8:00 pm)
March 28-April 5	Spring Break
April 6	School re-opens, Day 5
April 8	Early dismissal (2:26 pm)
April 24	Co-ordinated Day – No School
May 13	Early dismissal (2:26 pm)
May 15	Professional Development – No School
May 18	Victoria Day – No School
June 5	Field Day
June 11	Spring band concert (7:00 pm)
June 26	School Administrative Day – No School
June 29	Student recognition/awards day and Grade 9 farewell
June 30	Last day of school, early dismissal (2:15)