

Munroe Junior High School Newsletter

Spring Newsletter 2014

Principal: Ms. Walder

Vice-Principal: Ms. Nick-Johnson



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Principal's News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is difficult to believe that we are more than half-way through the school year. This past term has been action-packed with fantastic activities occurring at the school. Despite the frigid weather, Munroe Junior High continues to be a vibrant place! This newsletter is full of information about the exciting learning opportunities provided for our students.

A congratulations and thank-you is extended to the staff and students who contribute to the positive school climate at Munroe by giving their time and efforts to the extra-curricular school programs. A thank-you is also extended to all of the parents, extended family and friends who have shown their support to their child's activities by attending their games and concerts.

We wish you a wonderful time with your children and families over the spring break!

Ms. Walder
Principal

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GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS

School-Wide Positive Behavior

One of our goals at Munroe is for all staff to engage in proactive strategies and programs that support a respectful, inclusive school culture. Staff are continuing to develop the school-wide positive behaviour plan.

While continuing to teach and practice hallway expectations, the primary focus this year has been on school-wide classroom expectations. A second 'Classroom Blitz' occurred during the week of January 20th. During extended homeroom time in the mornings, teachers reviewed the expectations under each strand (Respect, Responsibility and Safety) and had students assess how well they were doing in each of the areas; once areas in need of improvement were identified, classes discussed what these behaviors should look, sound and feel like. Throughout the week, teachers would distribute tickets to students who demonstrated the expected positive behaviors. Tickets were placed in grade-level bins for a draw for individual and classroom rewards. Congratulations to Evgeniy and Jeremiah (7A), Caiyi (8A), Aleah (8D), Devin (9A), and Sage (9D) who each won a pair of Canadian Olympic mittens. The classroom winners were 7A (Ms. Boutroucas), 8D (Mme. Jackson) and 9D (Mme. Leveillé). Each homeroom received \$50.00 towards a mutually-decided-upon reward for their class.

On February 18th, all Munroe students participated in the Live Different motivational presentation. Through music, videos and live presentations, the troop engaged students in the idea that their life has value and that they can make a significant difference in the world. The theme was "It Starts Here - Kindness Changes Everything". After the highly-motivating presentation, students returned to their homerooms and had an opportunity for discussion to extend on the ideas they had just heard.

This year, the Munroe staff is also involved in a book study to broaden and enrich their knowledge of research-based proactive strategies around learning and behaving; the book is entitled: *Classroom Management That Works: Research Based Strategies for Every Teacher* by Robert J. Marzano.

The Munroe Learning and Behaving Committee

Winter Olympics at Munroe

Munroe students and staff participated in a variety of activities and events in celebration of the winter Olympic Games. Each homeroom researched and represented a different country and proudly carried their country banners to the opening ceremony. The Canadian anthem and a variety of cultural dances were performed by our own Munroe students. Other activities included daily trivia contests, a gym riot, and class celebrations. On the final day, students and staff were treated to a "Breakfast of Champions" consisting of pancakes, a fruit cup and juice and were entertained by Munroe's own rock band. Students then rotated through a number of grade level activities. Outdoor activities had been planned, but due to the frigid temperatures, indoor events such as games, flag tag, cookie baking and a school-designed biathlon took place. At the end of the day, students came together for the closing ceremonies. A huge thank you goes out to all staff and students for their hard work in creating a most memorable time!

I Love to Read Week



From February 24 to 28, students celebrated 'I Love to Read' week by participating in a variety of activities and contests. Each morning, students and staff had the opportunity to "drop everything and read" for a 20-minute block of time. Each afternoon, students listened to the first line of a well-known book. If an individual knew the title, they put their name in to win one of five \$10.00 Scholastic gift certificates. Congratulations to Hudson H. (7D), Saron L. (7D), Adam L. (9D.), Jordanna S. (8E) and Andrew G-W. (9D).

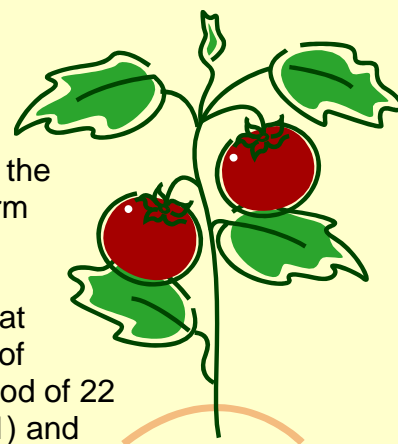
Something new this year was our 'Guess the Reader' contest. Staff members were photographed behind their favourite books and the photos posted for all to see. Each homeroom had four days to match the staff member to their book. The class with the most correct guesses would win an edible prize for the class. The lucky homeroom was 9D (Mme Leveillé). Congratulations to all!

Munroe is participating once again in the Red River Ex 'Read and Win' program. If students read for 30 minutes for any 20 days (the days do not have to be consecutive) from January 19 to April 15, 2014 and have this signed off by a parent or guardian, they will receive two free admission passes to the Red River Ex!

Project Tomatosphere

Our grade 9 students will once again be participating in Project Tomatosphere. Tomatosphere is an educational outreach project involving more than 17,000 classrooms in Canada and the United States. The project uses the excitement of space exploration as a medium for teaching students about science, space and agriculture and the role being played by Canada as a world leader in the support of long-term space flight.

Students will be conducting a germination experiment in a "blind" test that will utilize two sets of tomato seeds. There is a control group and a set of seeds that have been on the International Space Station (ISS) for a period of 22 months. The seeds were taken to the ISS on the last shuttle (July, 2011) and returned to Earth with Commander Chris Hadfield on May 15, 2013 on board a Russian Soyuz vehicle. One group of seeds that the students will germinate has travelled in excess of 450 million kilometers!



Career Symposium

Our Grade 9's attended the Rotary Career Symposium on March 18th, 2014 to explore their options for secondary education, apprenticeship programs and careers.

Grade 10 Registration

High school registrations are now being accepted for the 2014-2015 school year for those Grade 9 students who live within the division or are submitting registrations for school-of-choice (in division). Out-of-division applications will not be accepted until May 1, 2014. Please contact Ms. Plunkett if you have any questions or concerns regarding courses, registrations, timelines and school tours.

School E-Memos

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

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.

French Immersion News

Concours d'Art Oratoire

Our 'Concours d'Art Oratoire' French-speaking competition is coming up in April, 2013. Good luck goes out to all of our FI students who will first be judged at the school level. After our competition, three students will then move on to perform at the divisional level, and from there, the winners will participate in the provincial competition.

Fingerweaving

All French Immersion and Basic French students attended a fingerweaving workshop February 4th and 5th in our library. This workshop was led by Carol James who is an expert in fingerweaving techniques and is the author of the book "Fingerweaving Untangled". Ms. James has given workshops across North America and Europe and has created replica sashes for diverse customers, including the Manitoba Museum and Parks Canada. She has served as a private consultant in ancient textile techniques for archaeologists.



Diverse intelligences, eye-hand coordination, interpersonal skills and spatial sense were exercised. Connections were made to various curriculums such as history, aboriginal studies, social skills, artistic creation and math.

Québec trip May, 2015

Over 25 students have recently enrolled the Quebec trip and we are all very excited about visiting museums, eating in French restaurants, shopping, seeing the beautiful countryside and learning about French history and culture. This trip is offered in French with French tour guides as well as French-speaking bus drivers. All students will have an authentic opportunity to increase their French language skills.

If any other families are interested in enrolling their child, please email Mme Lépine at llepine@retsd.mb.ca. We are extending the enrolment date for those families who have not yet made their decision.

We are about to begin fundraising for our trip! We will be selling kielbasa rings and products from Mom's Pantry. These fundraisers will run in April of this year.



Looking Ahead.....

Well, the end of the year is approaching and we thank you for having chosen to provide your children with a unique opportunity to benefit from the French Immersion experience. Our philosophy is that a student best learns a second 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 a 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 attempt to 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
- express your support by asking your child to teach you some French words they are learning
- take them to French cultural activities like the French-Canadian pavilion at Folklorama
- 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 into the French track of a DVD
- listen to them speak and read in French and comment on their progress
- encourage them to take risks when they speak and to always speak French with their teachers

Lise Lépine
French Immersion Team Leader

NEWS FROM THE GYM

It is an exciting and busy time for the Munroe Stingers!

Interschool Sports

Basketball season has just wrapped up and the teams had a great year learning new skills and participating in many exciting games. Congratulations to all players for their hard work and commitment to the team and thanks to all of the coaches who helped out!

Badminton tryouts are starting up in March and April. Students who want to be part of a team should listen for announcements for when tryouts will be held.

PE Class

In January, students participated in a "Games for Persons with Disabilities Unit" in their Phys. Ed. classes. The theme of this unit was "No excuses! Overcome your limitations!" Students examined how persons with disabilities overcome their daily challenges using an attitude of "I can". They also participated in numerous sports designed for people with physical disabilities including wheelchair basketball, goal ball and sledge hockey.

Mr. Barga and Ms. Taylor
Munroe PE Teachers

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

January and February are always a busy time of year in the band room at Munroe! Our students have been working hard to prepare for our Winter Concert, the Optimist Concert Band Festival, and the Optimist Jazz Festival.

Winter Concert

This year our Winter Concert was held on January 30 in the Munroe Gym. The concert featured excellent performances by all of the Munroe ensembles. Congratulations to all students on their hard work and dedication!

Optimist Festival

Our grade 9 concert band had the opportunity to participate in the Optimist International Band Festival at the Convention Centre on February 18. The grade 9 band performed two pieces: 'Northpointe Fantasy' (James Swearingen) and 'In the Shining of the Stars' (Robert Sheldon). The grade 9s did an excellent job and received many compliments from the adjudicators. Our clinician, Clinton Marshall, said "That was one of the best openings to 'Northpointe' that I've ever heard, and I've heard this piece hundreds of times!".

Optimist Jazz Festival

The Munroe Jazz Band had a great time participating in the Optimist Jazz Festival on February 28. The jazz band played three pieces, had a clinic with Professor Tony Garcia of Virginia

Commonwealth University, and enjoyed watching other ensembles perform. Special congratulations go out to our terrific soloists: Andrew G., Adam L., Isabella S. and Dany R.

Edmonton Cantando Festival

After-school rehearsals are currently underway in preparation for our trip to Edmonton on April 7-10. The 31 grade 8 and 9 students participating will perform at the Winspear Centre, receive clinics from leading music educators, and spend some time having fun!

Level 1 Band Festival

On Thursday, May 1, 2014, the Munroe Grade 7 and Grade 8 Bands will be traveling to the North Kildonan Mennonite Brethren Church to take part in the Manitoba Band Association Level 1 Band Festival. Students will perform in the festival and receive a clinic from one of the festival adjudicators. The Grade 7 band will perform at 10:00 am and the Grade 8 band will perform at 1:20 pm. Parents and families are welcome to attend! Permission forms for this event will be handed out to students by mid-March and need to be returned to Ms. Foster by Wednesday, April 23.



Munroe Band Parents' Association and Fundraising

The Munroe Band Parents' Association has been very active this year in providing fundraising opportunities (including Show and Save books, Sobeys gift cards, Fund scrip gift cards, and hot lunches) for our students. We are currently in the middle of our final fundraiser of the year: Glenlea Greenhouses bedding plants and gift cards. Information about this exciting opportunity has been sent home with every student so please check their backpacks for a catalogue and order form! A huge thank-you goes out to the parent and staff volunteers who have worked hard to make these fundraisers possible!

Munroe Rock Band

Since October, a group of dedicated students have been meeting Tuesdays after school to participate in the new Munroe rock band: 'Waiting Outside'. The group had its debut performance at the Winter Concert and has since gone on to provide entertainment at the pancake breakfast in February. Look for their next performance at our Spring Concert!

Upcoming Events

April 7-10	Edmonton Cantando Festival (Grade 8 and 9 participating students)
May 1, 10:00 am	Level 1 Band Festival (Grade 7)
May 1, 1:20 pm	Level 1 Band Festival (Grade 8)
May 5	Music Monday
June 12, 7:00 pm	Spring Concert (Grade 7, 8, 9, and Jazz Band)

Attendance at our spring concert is mandatory, so please clear your calendars well in advance!

Board of Trustees 2013 – 2014

Name	Ward	Email Address	Phone
Colleen Carswell	1	ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca	204-222-1486
George Marshall	1	gmarshall@retsd.mb.ca	204-221-8464
John Toews	2	jtoews@retsd.mb.ca	204-663-0475
Robert Fraser	3	rfraser@retsd.mb.ca	204-667-9348
Eva Prysizney	4	eprysizney@retsd.mb.ca	204-668-3501
Wayne Ritcher (Vice-chair)	4	writcher@retsd.mb.ca	204-663-6669
Peter Kotyk (Chair)	5	pkoty@retsd.mb.ca	204-668-4181
Shirley Timm-Rudolph	5	stimmrudolph@retsd.mb.ca	204-414-8239
Greg Proch	6	gproch@retsd.mb.ca	204-663-1925

Upcoming Events

- ♦ March 29–April 6 Spring Break
- ♦ April 7 School resumes (Day 5)
- ♦ April 9 Early dismissal (2:26 pm)
- ♦ April 18 No School (Good Friday)
- ♦ April 25 No School (Co-ordinated day)
- ♦ May 14 Early dismissal (2:26 pm)
- ♦ May 16 No School (P.D. Day)
- ♦ May 19 No School (Victoria Day)
- ♦ May 23 Field Day
- ♦ June 12 Spring band concert
- ♦ June 23 No School (Admin. Day)
- ♦ June 24 Activity Day
- ♦ June 25 Activity Day
- ♦ June 26 Awards Day & Grade 9 Farewell
- ♦ June 27 Last day of school; Early dismissal (2:15 pm)