

Munroe Junior High School Newsletter

Winter Newsletter
2014-2015



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PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It really is hard to believe that we are one third of the way through this school year! With the first reporting period behind us, Ms. Nick-Johnson and I begin the task of preparing and planning for the 2015-2016 school year!

While we work behind the scenes preparing next year, I remain thrilled by all the wonderful things I see during this year. I watch the kindness of everyone in the building on a daily basis, such as teachers and students greeting each other in the morning and students holding doors open for each other and for guests entering the school.

Did you know that our students do the daily announcements? Our students do an excellent job of being clear and concise when sharing the daily news and events with their fellow students over the school's intercom system.

Congratulations to all our volleyball teams for their hard work in practice and for representing our school with grace and dignity at every game!

Congratulations also goes out to our Grade 7 band who impressed everyone at their first band concert. It is hard to believe how fast these students begin to master their new instruments.

On behalf of the wonderful staff of Munroe, I will conclude by wishing all the students and families of Munroe the very best during the holiday season, and may peace, health and happiness be with you all in the new year.

Mr. Kevin Mackay
Principal



GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS

School-Wide Positive Behaviour

One of our goals at Munroe is for all staff to engage in proactive strategies and programs that support a safe, respectful, inclusive school culture. Expectations for respectful, responsible, and safe behaviour in both the hallways and classrooms are taught, modeled and practiced in an ongoing way and signage is posted throughout the school.

In order to offer reinforcement for positive behaviour, we had a “hallway blitz” for three days in November. Students received draw tickets if they were seen or heard demonstrating the expected hallway behaviours. There were daily classroom draws for Munroe pencils and daily grade-level draws for other prizes. The daily draw winners were: Sam L. (7E), Aadi B. (7A), Michelle R. (7B), Adrian B. (8D), Peyton V. (8D), Logan V. (8E), Sterling M. (9B), Destinee S. (9B), and Andy F. (9D). At the end of the blitz there was a draw for a free lunch at the Watt Street Bistro. Roberto H. (7D), Georg S. (7B), Evgeniy K. (8A), Laura G. (8E), Sterling M. (9B) and Serena K. (9E) were joined by Ms. Plunkett and Ms. Nick-Johnson. We will continue to work on expanding the behavioural expectations to other areas and situations in and around the school. Thanks goes out to all students who are helping to make our school a safe and positive environment for all!

The Learning and Behaving Committee

Remembrance Day Service

On Friday, November 7th at 11:00 a.m., we honoured the Canadians who have served our great country in times of war and peace. Our service focused on remembering the sacrifices that many Canadians have made for us in order to enjoy a peaceful life. Our Peer Tutors helped to facilitate our program (Erik W., Gadi B., Alyssa B. and Hannah Y.), three of our cadets laid the wreath during the service (Henko D., Gabriel A. and Sander S), and our Grade 9 band students played their instruments, with Yarah B. deserving special recognition for playing the trumpet solo, “The Last Post”. All Munroe students have since created postcards that will be sent to our veterans.

Mme. LaFleur & Mme. Pastrick

Peer Tutors/ Les Tuteurs français

On Tuesday, November 18th, 2014, our Peer Tutors went to École Margaret Underhill to assist students in the Early Years French Literacy program. Students worked one-on-one with K-Grade 2 students in reading, writing and discussing various topics and books en français. It was an excellent experience and the benefits are numerous!



Munroe's amazing Peer Tutors are: Julissa R., Erin S., Alyssa B., Hannah Y., Nico Y., Jacob M., Ethan R., Erik W., Andrew B., Bennett S., Gadi B., Joseph L. and Gabriel A.

Hannah describes our day so richly!

My day at École Margaret Underhill was amazing! I spent the day reading, having conversations and even coloring with the Kindergarten to Grade 2 students. This was a great way to get more involved with kids. Not only did I make some new friends, I was able to improve my French skills by speaking more fluently. At some points during the day it felt awkward to speak even one word of English because the atmosphere was French, but that was natural. Reading with the kids was fun and I had a great time. Most of the kids I read with even read to me. This one girl made me laugh

because she said to me, "Hey did you know I am from France? Yeah, I can speak France." It felt good to show off my French in more ways than one. I hope all the kids had a great time reading and learning some new French words. I look forward to going back to École Margaret Underhill in March. I can't wait!

Alyssa writes about our day so vividly!

I had an amazing day at École Margaret Underhill because I was able to spend the day hanging out with kids in Kindergarten to Grade 2. This was an amazing experience for me because I was able to get more involved in the French language. On that note, when I was talking to two Grade 1 students in French, I had a girl ask me if I spoke English. I realized how easy it was to speak French when you're put in a situation where you may need it. I was into the French language so much that I found myself speaking in French at home for the next few hours. There were so many things that made my day at Margaret Underhill memorable, but here are a few things that really stood out for me: the kids there were so kind and fun to get to know; listening and reading to them; helping them pronounce certain words and being able to do all of this with my friend. My friend and I found ourselves easily talking to one another in French (Franglais when we didn't know a word) and fully being able to understand what one another said. These are just some of the reasons why I'll remember my day at Margaret Underhill for a while.

Voici une description exquise de notre journée de Gabriel Avendano.

Le 18 novembre, les élèves tuteurs de Munroe sont allés à l'école Margaret Underhill faire la lecture guidée avec la maternelle jusqu'à la deuxième année. Nous sommes partis de Munroe le matin avec seulement un peu de difficulté: trouvant cette école c'est un labyrinthe! Quand nous sommes arrivés à l'école Margaret Underhill, nous étions rencontrés par le sourire de Mme Hébert, une chère amie de Mme Pastrick et Mme La Fleur. La première classe qu'on a lu avec était la première année qui était bien élevée et qui avait beaucoup de questions curieuses. Les maternelles étaient un peu timide au début, mais lorsqu'on a commencé ils sont devenus plus ouvertes et enjouées. La deuxième année parle très bien le français! Nos professeures nous ont fournies la collation pendant la récréation et aussi un joli endroit à manger le dîner. Nous avons mangés au bureau de Mme Hébert, où nous nous sommes bien amusés à jouer le jeu de société « Twiddly-Winks ». Quand la belle journée a fini, les petits et Mme Hébert nous ont donnés un grand « Au revoir! » et nous sommes retournés à l'école Munroe. Je pense que c'est juste que nous disons merci aux Mesdames Lafleur et Pastrick, et Monsieur Mackay pour nous y rendre. Enfin c'était une excellente expérience et selon moi le groupe devrait retourner une deuxième, troisième (et peut-être une quatrième) fois!

Mme Hebert, who has been running this program with Mme. Pastrick and Mme. La Fleur for eight years, sent this message of thanks.:

Merci beaucoup, mes amies, pour une très bonne journée! Je sais que nos élèves d'EMU et de MJH ont réjouis de l'expérience! Un très gros MERCI" à vos élèves pour tout le travail qu'ils ont fait hier. C'est un groupe exceptionnel!!! J'ai hâte à la prochaine fois - 5 mars 2015.

We all look forward to going back March 5th, 2015!

Mme. Pastrick et Mme. La Fleur

We Care Club



The next project that We Care students will be working on is called "Computer Assisted Learning" (CAL) in Honduras; one of the developers of this project is a Munroe student's grandfather! This unique project involves building a school for 90 students in nine days for under \$9,000 by converting shipping containers into schools where students can be taught via computers.

Nutrition Breaks

This year we are using our Nutrition Grant to partner with the We Care group with the goal of providing healthy snacks to all students approximately once per month. So far students have indicated that they did enjoy having a healthy snack during the day, with comments of "It helped

me concentrate" and "I felt more awake after 'cause I usually don't eat breakfast".

Mme. LaFleur

Ski Trip

Just a heads up that on February 18-19, 2015, Munroe Jr. High hopes to be going on a ski trip to Asessippi, Manitoba. The ski trip is planned for two days of skiing/snowboarding to enhance your son/daughter's outdoor education experience and to foster the building of a community within the student body. This trip is open to all Grade 7, 8 and 9 students. The base cost is approximately \$200.00 and includes transportation, ski instruction, accommodations, lift tickets, one meal voucher and one breakfast. We will be staying at the Russell Inn located in Russell, Manitoba, approximately 15 minutes from the ski hill. This is always a fun trip and we encourage all students to take advantage of this opportunity. More information about this ski trip will be out soon, so stay tuned!

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.

Grade 9 Farewell

A heads-up to parents and students who may be shopping for an outfit for the Grade 9 Farewell at the end of June. As this is a farewell celebration of the students' experience at Munroe Junior High, please note that there is no need to buy or rent expensive formal clothing. Students may dress in semi-formal attire while still maintaining school dress code. Please keep in mind that if your child purchases an outfit that does not follow school dress code (ex. shoulder-less dress, spaghetti straps, muscle shirt), boleros, cardigans, scarves or shirts should accompany them during the formal ceremony.

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.

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 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.

LA FRENCH CONNECTION!

Movembre!



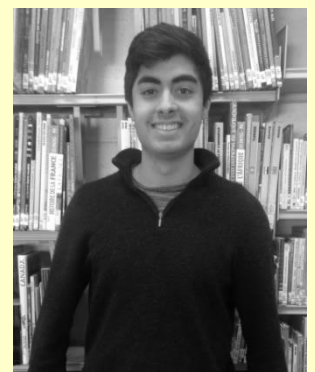
French Immersion Literacy Tutors



Bienvenue to Madame Roxanne and Monsieur Alex! They will be helping our FI students twice a week from now until June to improve their skills in reading, writing and speaking in French. You are both a wonderful addition to our team!

Chic Flick

French movie night was a success! Thirty-six students from grades 7-9 in both the English and FI programs enjoyed "Monsieur Lazhar" after school on a Friday night! Popcorn and juice were served! Stay tuned for the next Chic Flick night coming in the New Year!



Passeport Franco-Fun

Félicitations to the following grade 9's who have successfully completed three Francophonie activities during Term 1: Danielle L., Nina H. and Ben S. These students won a draw to accompany Mme. Léveillé to Inferno's Bistro on December 10th to celebrate their French engagement! Looking forward to enjoying some French-inspired cuisine in St. Boniface!

Noël

Our school will participate in an afternoon of winter craft activities on Thursday, December 18th. 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 and scrapbooking.

French Immersion Team Leader
Lise Léveillé

NEWS FROM THE GYM

The Munroe Stingers Report

It is an exciting and busy time for the Munroe Stingers! Volleyball season has wrapped. Each member of the volleyball teams should be congratulated for their commitment to their teams. Basketball tryouts started in early December. We are looking forward to the regular season games that will take place throughout January and February.

December 3rd marked the International Day for Persons with Disabilities. In the weeks of November 28th to December 9th, students will be participating in a "Games for Persons with Disabilities Unit" in their Phys. Ed classes; the theme of this unit is "No excuses! Overcome your limitations!" Students will examine how persons with disabilities overcome their daily challenges using an attitude of "I can". They will also discuss the opportunities for people with disabilities in Canada as compared to developing countries, and they will examine the issue of human rights as it relates to people with disabilities.

In the PE unit, students will have presentations made by Manitoba's Wheelchair Sport Association and Manitoba Sledge Hockey Association. Students will have opportunities to participate in wheelchair basketball, goal ball (a game for persons who are blind), sledge hockey (for wheelchair athletes), a blind obstacle course, and other games that explore what it is like to play sports with a physical or intellectual disability. This will be a great opportunity for students to not only have a lot of fun but to gain perspective and put themselves in someone else's (gym) shoes!

Mr. Bargaen and Ms. Penner



Munroe Junior High School Open House

Wednesday, February 11, 2014

7:00 p.m

Parents and potential Grade 7 students for the 2015-2016 school year are invited to an information evening to hear about both the English and Late French Immersion programs offered at our school. This is an opportunity to meet the staff, tour the school and address any questions you may have.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Grade 7 First Concert

The Grade 7 Band had its debut performance in front of a packed house on November 20th. The students showed off their skills as an ensemble and many students performed in a small group or as a soloist. Congratulations, Grade 7's, on putting on a fantastic concert!

Guitar Club

The Munroe music program has expanded this year to include guitar! Our guitar club meets every Monday from 3:15-4:15 in the band room and is open to all students. No experience is necessary and guitars are provided!

Upcoming Events*

- 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

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Brian Olynick	4	bolynick@retsd.mb.ca	
Peter Kotyk (Chair)	4	pkoty@retsd.mb.ca	204-668-4181
Michael West	5	mwest@retsd.mb.ca	

Upcoming Events

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)