



A GREAT PLACE TO GROW

# Westwood Word October 2017



IN THIS ISSUE

## Welcome Back

by Donna Johnston, Principal

As one school year ends and another begins, it is difficult to say good-bye to staff who transfer, resign, or retire, but we are excited to welcome new staff on board! This year we have many new faces of our staff roster: Ms. Pokotylo teaching gr. 1, Mrs. Dherdi teaching gr. 2, Mr. Dwyer teaching gr. 4, Mr. Weigert teaching gr. 6, Mr. Dottin teaching K-gr. 6 Phys. Ed, Mrs. Steeves is our new counsellor, Mrs. Hykawy is our new Early Literacy Intervention teacher, Mrs. Verhaeghe is teaching music in the afternoon, Susan Young is our new library clerk and Educational Assistants Amanda Bassett, Shannon Chaput, Kyle Loewen, Tiffany Sauve, Kristin Bigelow, Jessica Moisan, and Lydia Remic. We look forward to helping them learn the "Westwood Way".

September has passed in a flash with many start of the year activities getting under way. We had successful Strong Beginnings Assessment days used to help our teachers get to know their new students and to aid them in their planning for the next nine months. This

helps ensure that your child has a year of growth and success. Under the supervision of Mrs. Lowe, we undertook our first fundraiser with the Farm to School fresh vegetables bags that will arrive just in time for your Thanksgiving tables. Our junior high students have started their volleyball practices and the inter-school league games will begin soon. The Westwood Parent Council meets monthly as a way to support their children and the well-being of our school; their Annual General Meeting on Oct. 17 is a way to get involved to make Westwood "A Great Place to Grow!"

We look forward to seeing your children have an enjoyable year, meeting milestones in learning and growing into contributing members of our school community.



### Wolf Howl

Westwood staff and students represented our school and community in the AuroraFest Guinness Book of World Records Wolf Howl.

Page 3



### Pancake Party

Westwood celebrated one month of school with a pancake breakfast for all!

Page 4

# September: Back to the Grind

by Tricia Griffin, Vice Principal

September was a busy month at Westwood School. Not only did we welcome in a number of new staff members, we were also pleased to have several new students join our ranks.

## A few September highlights:

- Sept. 7 – First day back!
- Sept. 15 – Gr. 3 & 4 students attended Al Simmons show at RDPC.
- Sept. 19 – Gr. 5 Mile 20 Trip
- Sept. 19 - Parent Advisory Council Meeting
- Sept. 20 – Meet the Teacher
- Sept. 21 – Wolf Howl
- Sept. 22 – Farm to School Due
- Sept. 27 & 28 – Strong Beginnings
- Sept. 29 - Pancake Party
- Sept. 29 – Orange Shirt Day



## Looking to October:

- International Walk to School Month
- Oct. 9 – Thanksgiving Day (no school)
- Oct. 17 – WW PAC AGM
- Oct. 19 & 20 – MTS PD (no school)
- Oct. 23 – MB School Library Day
- Oct. 31 – Halloween Parade



## FARM TO SCHOOL

Farm to School orders will be distributed on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, from 3:30-4:30pm. Please be available to pick up your orders after school on that day.

WESTWOOD SCHOOL  
(204)677-6190



*Learning starts at home. Remember to read with your children, play board games and get active as a family. The rewards are endless!*

## Dot Day

by Zoe Bettess, Gr. 3 Teacher

On September 14th, both grade 1 and 3 classes participated in Dot Day in connection with the Peter Reynolds book **The Dot**. Dot Day is a day to celebrate creativity and courage. It is all about making your mark. We listened to the Dot song and the book before making our mark by creating dot art.



## Al Simmons

Gr. 1-4 staff and students were entertained by antics and musicality of Al Simmons. A wonderful kick-off to the AuroraFest activities.

## WESTWOOD CRAFT SALE

The annual Westwood Craft Sale will take place from 11am-3pm on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Please mark that date in your calendar. It is a great opportunity to socialize, support our school and get some Christmas shopping done!

Call 677-6190 to book a table

# Wolf Howl

by Donna Johnston, Principal

Sept. 21 was a lovely fall weather day when several of Westwood's teachers and students from gr. 1-8 walked over to the VRCC baseball fields to participate in AuroraFest's Wolf Howl, one of their events celebrating Canada's 150. The organizers of the event were hoping to break a Guinness World Record set in July by the residents of Niagara, Ontario at Great Wolf Lodge when 803 people gathered to howl.

Participants were asked to arrive by 1:30pm. When Westwood classes arrived at the site, we saw two very long lines waiting to enter the baseball fields; clearly the beautiful weather contributed to the fantastic turnout! The AuroraFest organizing committee had to follow strict Guinness World Record guidelines to qualify for the record. The line-ups slowly moved and we finally made it on to the baseball field where we waited patiently and enjoyed the last rays of the summer's sun waiting for the big event to happen. Once we were all moved on to the Red Sangster Field, the official howling had to last for one minute; we raised our faces to the sky and howled our way to a world record!



Grade 4 students play clapping games to pass the time as they wait to be counted into the staging area.

## IDEAL SITE

We are looking for donations of Silent Auction items for our annual fundraiser at the WW Craft Sale. Please drop items off at the WW IDEAL Site or make other arrangements by contacting Rits or Trish.

WW IDEAL SITE  
677-6108

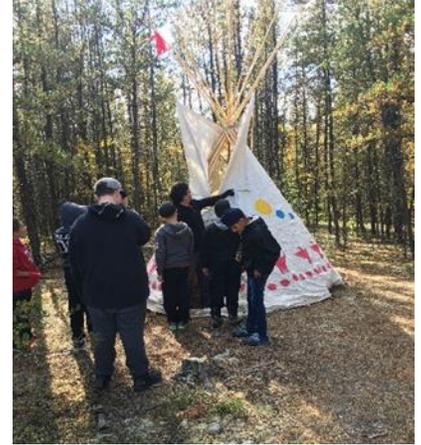
# Our Mile 20 Adventure

by Matthew Hirsh, Nick Elson & Ms. McCartney (Gr. 5)

It was a sunny and clear autumn day on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The grade fives were lucky enough to be invited to Mile 20 and spend the day learning about First Nations culture. Everyone was so kind and welcoming. We were greeted by elders and UCN students. After our day of learning and fun was explained to us we were put into groups and assigned a leader for the day.

We got to explore a variety of stations and learned all about important aspects of the First Nations culture. It was such a great and hands on way to learn about part of our social studies curriculum. One of the stations was so great and yummy because we got to learn how to make bannock and cook it over a fire. Poor Nick's bannock fell into the fire. Another station was building a tipi with Mr. Cook. Each part of the tipi is important and has meaning. We learned about medicines and plants in nature at the medicine wheel. We liked the station with the animal furs too because we had never seen one up close before. We actually got to feel the bear hide! Speaking

of bears...a real one visited the outskirts of our camp! We were very safe and protected at all times but it was so exciting and awesome because some of us have never seen one up close before.



Our day ended with the students thanking the elders and presenters with small wrapped packets/ties of tobacco. This is a culturally respectful gift to show gratitude for sharing their teachings. It was such a lovely way to end such a special day. We never thought we would have a chance to do something like this and we feel so lucky that we got to go on a field trip. We really liked that we got to finish the day thanking the elders because they had made the day so special for us. It was so much fun and we wish we could do it again.



## ATTENDANCE

89%

Thank you to all those in attendance that were able to take part in our Pancake Party.



## Pancake Party

All students and staff in attendance on Sept. 29th received 2 pancakes and a carton of milk for breakfast. Thank you to Mrs. Henderson, Superintendent of Educational Services, and the many Westwood staff members who helped mix, cook, serve and clean-up afterwards.

## Eggbies

by Karen McCartney & Trina Osberg (Gr. 5)

Westwood School's grade fives are reading a book by Jim McGugan called Project Egg, where a forgetful boy has to care for an egg like a real baby. Now our grade fives must care for, feed, bathe, and even sing lullabies for their eggbies. The twist at Westwood is that the students must create a design project using items from around their home to SAVE their eggbies! We had an Egg Toss at the end of the week! Projects got tossed from a very high location. Mr. Dwyer bravely went on the roof of the school to toss the projects...while Ms. McCartney and Ms. Osberg stayed below to

discover if their eggbies were safe or scrambled?!?! Students, staff and families came to see the Egg Toss. There were some really creative projects like the one filled with water, or the one with tons of bubble wrap. The ones with duct tape were especially hard to get into! It was quite a sight to see and a much loved tradition at our school.



# Westwood Word October 2017

46 Mallard Cres.  
Thompson, MB R8N1Z1



## Orange Shirt Day

by Cora Grant, Gr. 8 Teacher

Friday, September 29th we acknowledged 'Orange Shirt Day' which is a day that recognizes the harm done to generations of children by the Residential Schools and is an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that every child matters. The grade 8's were very honored to have a guest speaker named Grant Queskekapow from Norway House come to Westwood to share with them – his Residential School experiences. We would like to thank Grant and his family for taking the time to travel to Thompson and join us in such impactful and educational morning.

For over 150 years, Residential Schools operated in Canada. Over 150, 000 children attended these schools. At least 6,000 children died while in Residential Schools in Canada. The decision to invest in Residential Schools was based on a belief to break the bonds between parents and children.

This was a very traumatic time for indigenous people and their communities, and just because it happened in the past, does not mean it is forgotten. Awareness of the hidden truth about Residential Schools can create acceptance among cultures in Canada so history does not repeat itself.



Grade 3W - Orange Shirt Day Bulletin Board

