



Westwood Word

February 2018



A GREAT PLACE TO GROW

IN THIS ISSUE

February

by Donna Johnston, Principal

It is hard to believe that the school year is 50% complete! As the days of January come to a close and February begins to roll out, we are encouraged by the lengthening daylight hours which improves our mood and output!

In February, we will focus on 'I Love to Read' activities scheduled throughout the month that will culminate in a month end assembly when we will participate in Pink Shirt Day. Pink Shirt Day started with humble beginnings back in 2007 in a Nova Scotia high school when a group of teenage friends organized a high school protest to wear pink in support of a grade 9 boy who was being bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school. These young people took a stand that has turned into a global movement! The School District of Mystery Lake believes in five core ethical values: Humility, Responsibility, Honesty, Respect, & Empathy, and participating in Pink Shirt Day supports those values. As a school, we continuously focus on the consistent message that bullying in any form is not okay and this assembly is another way to share the message that small acts of kindness have long effects.



Louis Riel Day

by Tricia Griffin, Vice-Principal

In recognition of Louis Riel Day, there will be **no school** on February 19th. This day celebrates the achievements and life of Louis Riel, a Canadian politician who was a leader of the Métis people.

Louis Riel Day gives people in Manitoba the chance to enjoy some time with their families, to take a short winter break or to take part in outdoor sports events. It is also an opportunity to learn about the Métis people's culture, language, heritage and ancestral homeland.



Coins for Cancer

60 raising funds for cancer research

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We Love To Read

Westwood plans for "I Love to Read Month"

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Month at a Glance

by Tricia Griffin, Vice Principal

Although January was a short month, school-wise, we had a lot happening. We came back after the holiday to a number of new registrations and welcomed back some past students, as well. Grade 6's did their robots unit and the Junior Highs had the Reaching Out presentations.

We did not let extreme cold or a water main break slow us down. Like the true Northerners we all are, we bundled up and plowed through. That said...with February, comes numerous activities, events, and celebrations...and hopefully some warmer weather!

January highlights:

Jan. 8 – Back to school



Looking to February:

Feb. 2 – Read a shirt day

Feb. 7 – District PD (No School)

Feb. 12 – Gr. 7 Ski Trip

Feb. 14 – 1 Billion Rising Assembly

Feb. 16 – Read a shirt day

Feb. 19 – Louis Riel Day (No School)

Feb. 22 – Northern Skilled Trades & Tech Showcase for Gr. 8 Boys

Feb. 23 – End of Term 2

Feb. 26 – Jump Rope for Heart Assembly

Feb. 27 – Northern Young Women's Conference for Gr. 8 Girls

Feb. 28 – Pink Shirt Assembly

- Class Pictures
- Gr. 8 Promotion Pictures
- Picture Retakes

Coins for Cancer

by Debra Oleschak,
Gr. 6 Teacher

Miss Oleschak's grade six class has decided that they would like to collect money for the Canadian Cancer Society. They are calling it "Coins for Cancer". This fundraiser will last from January 8, until February 28, 2018. On February 28th the money will be counted and donated to the Canadian Cancer Society. We will be placing a jug in the main lobby so that the whole school can get involved and make donations. The grade six class would like to thank all parents and students in advance for their generous support for this worthwhile cause.



MB Inclusive Education Month

by Ian Wishart, Minister of Education and Training

Manitoba Education and Training is committed to fostering inclusion for all Manitobans;

Inclusion is a way of thinking and acting that allows every individual to feel accepted, valued, and safe. An inclusive community consciously evolves to meet the changing needs of its members;

Through recognition and support, an inclusive community provides meaningful involvement and equal access to the benefits of citizenship;

In Manitoba, we embrace inclusion as a means of enhancing the well-being of every member of the community. By working together, we strengthen our capacity to provide the foundation for a richer future for all of us.

For more, click :

[https://www.lrsd.net/SiteGovernImages/LRS D/News/Manitoba Inclusive Education Month 70cf25bf_2c9b_4cf5_a1c5_3f64e7ade974_cmp/Manitoba%20Inclusive%20Education%20Month%20-%20February%202017.pdf](https://www.lrsd.net/SiteGovernImages/LRS D/News/Manitoba%20Inclusive%20Education%20Month%20-%20February%202017.pdf)

“I love books.

I love that moment when you open one and sink into it you can escape from the world, into a story that's way more interesting than yours will ever be.

Elizabeth Scott

February is 'I Love to Read Month'

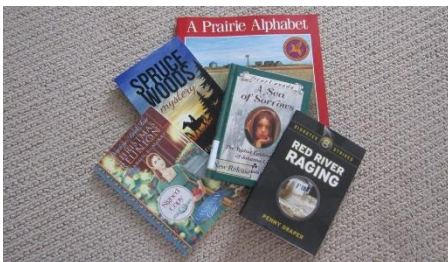
The idea of dedicating a whole month to reading is gaining popularity across North America

by Donna Gamache

In many parts of Canada and the United States, February means “I Love to Read Month,” an entire month dedicated to promoting a love of reading and being read to. This idea, started many years ago, has been gaining popularity among schools and libraries throughout North America. Parents, too, have adopted the idea of a month to promote reading as a shared family activity.

In Canada, February is an ideal time. Christmas and holiday celebrations are well in the past, interest in presents may be waning, the delight in outside activities could be wearing thin, and spring is still a long way off. It's the perfect time to renew an interest in books and storytelling.

Many Manitoba elementary schools schedule a variety of activities to promote books and reading.



There's a good selection of Canadian books for children. photo: Gamache Photos

Exert taken from:

Country Crossroads

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Donna Gamache writes from MacGregor, Manitoba

I Love to Read Month

by Karen McCartney, Gr. 5 Teacher

With February upon us, the **I Love to Read Month** activities have begun in full force. One of the activities classrooms have been encouraged to participate in is a literacy-based bulletin board to celebrate reading. It can focus on a genre, an author, a character, feelings about books, favourite books, etc...

A literacy scavenger hunt will then be created based on these bulletin boards. All classes will be encouraged to participate in the fun.

Throughout the month staff and students will be participating in DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) at scheduled times. Read a shirt days have also been scheduled, during which everyone is encouraged to wear a shirt with words on it.

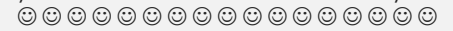
Students can sign-up to Rock 'n Read. A cozy reading area has been set up in the main hallway, where students can curl up in a rocking chair with a good book.

Staff has also been given a list of various other activities to choose from in order to engage students in the joy or reading.



PHOTOS

Life Touch will be in the school on Feb. 28 to do picture retakes, class pictures and Gr. 8 promotion pictures. Remember to have your child wear a nice smile on that day!



JANUARY ATTENDANCE

89.5%

Even during the bitterly cold months, Westwood School stays warm, keeping your child's mind active.



Winter Blues?

by Tricia Griffin, Vice Principal

At this time of year, it is easy to avoid the snow and cold by staying indoors. When temperatures reach below -30 degrees, this becomes inevitable. Unfortunately, children sometimes pay the price for all the cold weather.

All children need to active through physical and imaginative play. On cold winter days help keep them busy by arranging play dates with their friends, have a family game night, build a fort out of blankets, take them skating or to an indoor play structure.

Furthermore, take advantage of warmer days. Bundle them accordingly and send them out to play. Both you and your child will reap the benefits of fresh air and independent play time.



The Welcome to Kindergarten program (WTK) offers resources and strategies for families in support of children and early learning. Our school will be hosting our WTK Family Orientation session on June 12 at 6pm.

[Learning to Play and Playing to Learn: Getting Ready for School](#) is a wonderful booklet for families in helping their child prepare for a successful transition to kindergarten.

We look forward to seeing you on June 12th.

Talk Read Sing Play every day!

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