



# AMBER TRAILS COMMUNITY SCHOOL



## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



### Dress for the Weather

Children are expected to play outdoors from 8:30 am – 8:55 am and during their two activity breaks. Many children walk to and from school. For children to be comfortable and enjoy being outside, proper outerwear is a necessity.

Winter Jacket Ski Pants Winter Boots  
Hat or Toque Mitts/Gloves Scarf /  
Neck Warmer

We will be using Environment Canada's reading at the Airport to make decisions.

Winnipeg, MB – 7 Day Forecast –  
Environment Canada

To summarize (all temperatures are inclusive of windchill):

- 26° and warmer: Outdoor recess, patrols, and walking school bus are all on as scheduled.
- 27° to -30° : Indoor recess and direct morning entry, shortened patrol time, walking school bus still on.
- 31° to -34°: Indoor recess, no patrols on post, walking school bus still on.
- 35° and colder: Indoor recess, no patrols on post, walking school bus cancelled for the day.

### Reporting Student Absences

Please call or email the school if your child will be absent or late.

call 204-697-5965  
(voicemail 24/7) or  
email

[ambertrails@7oaks.org](mailto:ambertrails@7oaks.org)

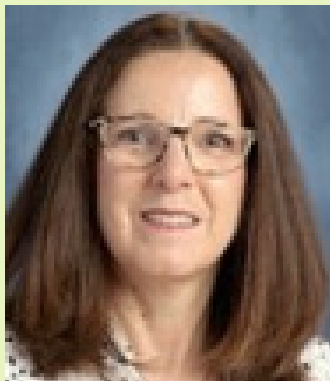


**December 22  
to  
January 2**

**Return to classes  
January 5**



# A fond farewell to an extraordinary educator.



## Mrs. Neduzak is retiring!

We are celebrating the wonderful teaching career of our friend and colleague, Gizele Neduzak. She is retiring after 35 years of teaching in Nova Scotia, Northern Manitoba, and Winnipeg. In her 22 years with Seven Oaks School Division, Mrs. Neduzak has taught at Elwick, Margaret Park and Amber Trails, where she taught grades 1 and 2. She has been a learning support teacher for the past ten years where in particular, she shared her passion for early childhood literacy development. Mrs. Neduzak has always been there to join a committee, plan a community event, and attend and help out at every music concert. We will miss her at Amber Trails and wish her the very best in her retirement!

**HANUKKAH – December 14th-22nd**  
**- Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights. For eight nights in December, Jews everywhere light their menorahs, spin dreidels, give each other gifts and spend quality time with one another. One thing that every Hanukkah celebration has in common is the gelt. The word “gelt” means money in both Hebrew and Yiddish. Chocolate gelt are the chocolate coins that are typically given to children during Hanukkah.**

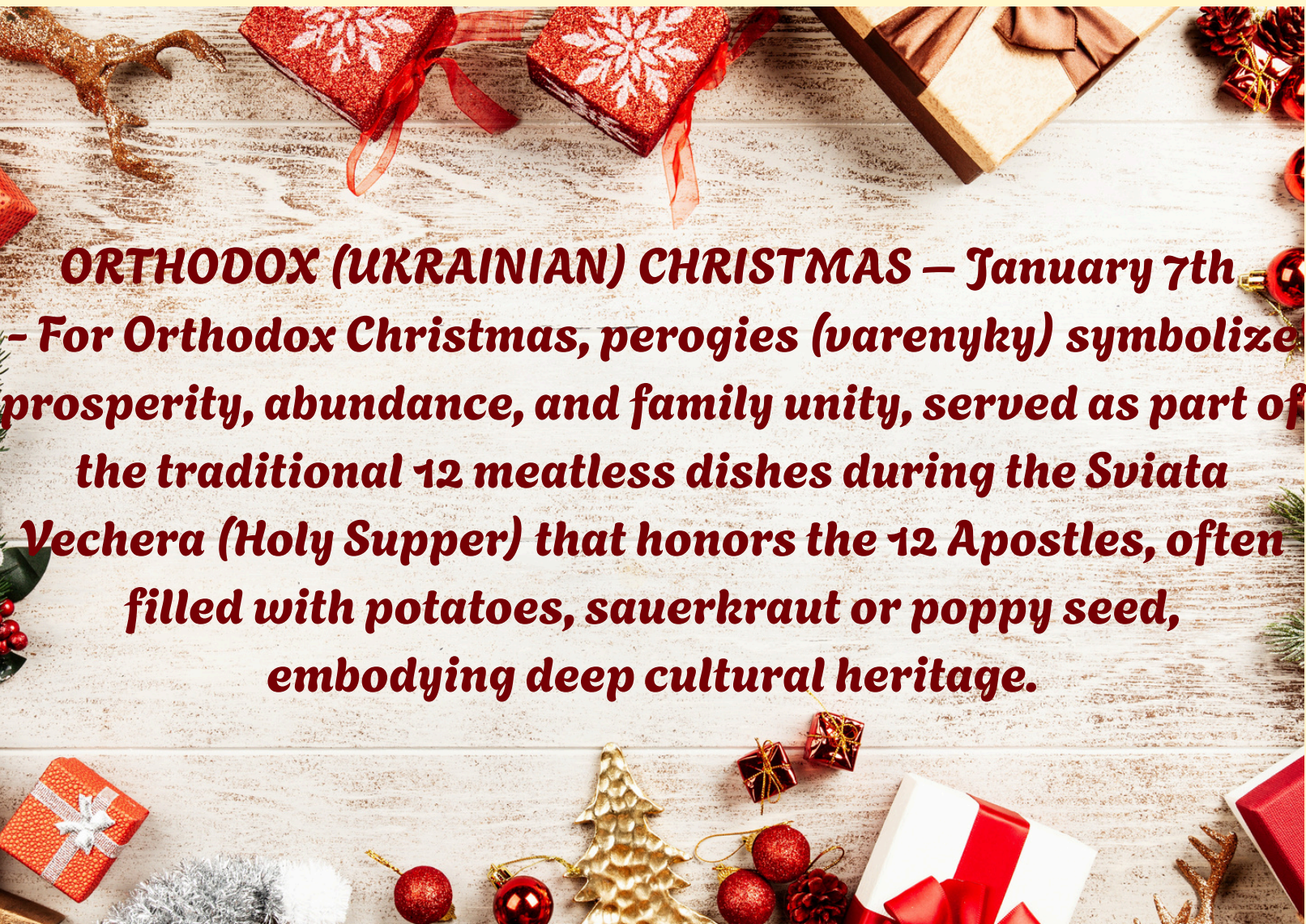


**CHRISTMAS DAY – December 25th**  
**- The candy cane symbolizes Christian beliefs, with its “J” shape representing Jesus, the white color signifying purity, and red stripes symbolizing His sacrifice and blood, while the shepherd’s crook shape points to Jesus as the Good Shepherd guiding His flock.**

**KWANZAA – December 26th-January 1st**  
**- Oranges hold significance in Kwanzaa as part of the Mazao (crops/harvest) displayed on the Kwanzaa table, symbolizing the bounty of the harvest and the fruits of collective labor, often alongside other traditional African diaspora foods like mangoes, pineapples, yams and corn, representing the fruits of African ancestral lands.**



**ORTHODOX (UKRAINIAN) CHRISTMAS – January 7th**  
**- For Orthodox Christmas, perogies (varenyky) symbolize prosperity, abundance, and family unity, served as part of the traditional 12 meatless dishes during the Sviata Vechera (Holy Supper) that honors the 12 Apostles, often filled with potatoes, sauerkraut or poppy seed, embodying deep cultural heritage.**





# MANITOBA MOOSE FIELD TRIP

Many classrooms in our school enjoyed field trip to the Manitoba Moose Game on November 25 at the Canada Life Centre. For some, it was their first time at the arena and watching a hockey game. Everyone had fun cheering on the team and visiting with the mascots!



# COOKING *in Room 220*

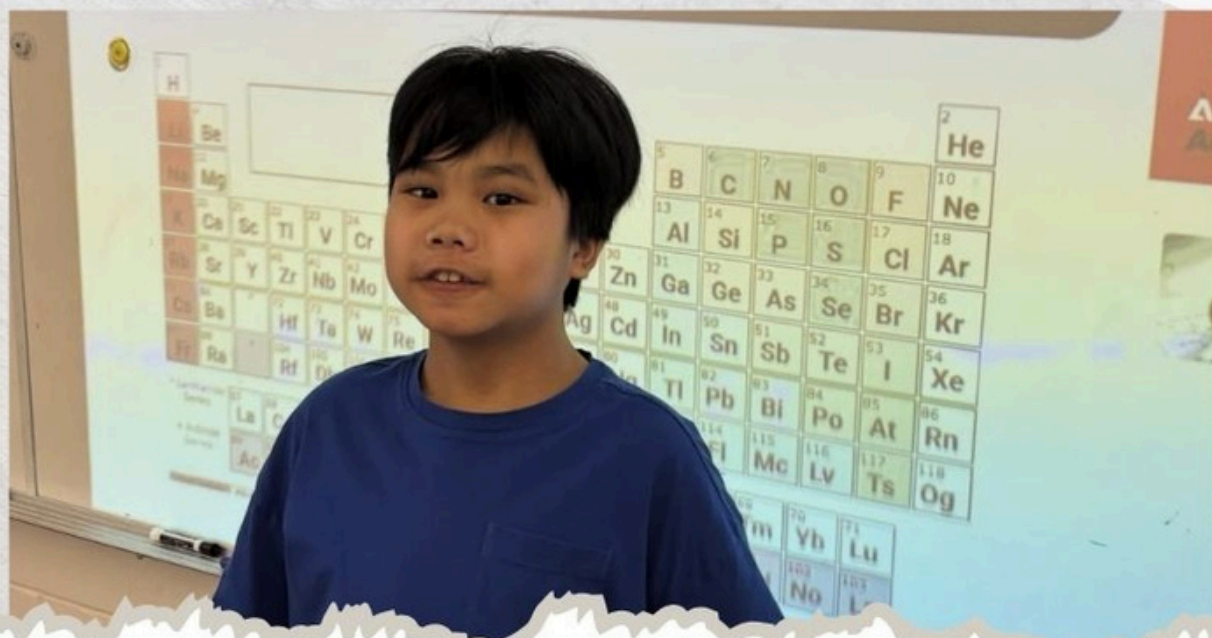
The Grade 8 class in Room 220 sharpened their cooking skill by making delicious chicken stir fry and veggie stir fry. They displayed so much generosity by making enough to serve at our lunch program in the canteen. Reminder: if you ever needed breakfast or lunch -food is always available in our canteen.



# STUDENT

# SHOWCASE

*Elijah Gabuna*



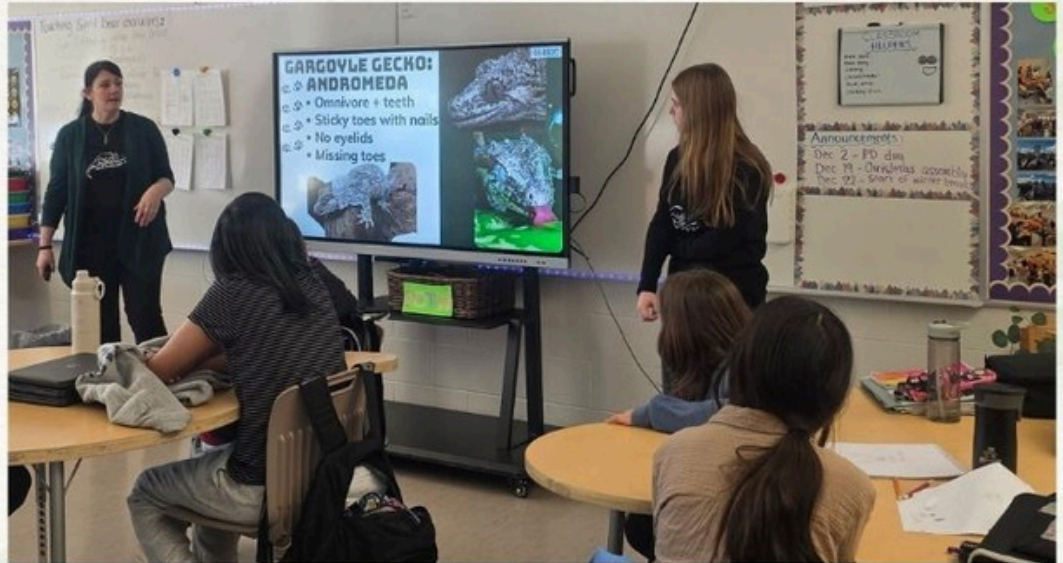
We are excited to celebrate Elijah from Room 215 this month! Elijah, a grade 6 student, has an incredible passion for science, especially the periodic table. He has memorized all 118 elements and can proudly recite them in under six minutes -an impressive achievement that reflects his dedication, focus, and love of learning. We are so proud of Elijah's hard work and enthusiasm for discovery!





# Zoology Club Visits Room 217

The Zoology Club from West Kildonan Collegiate came to Ms. Nonato's Grade 7 classroom! They brought a variety of animals for students to explore, touch, and learn about.





At **"Fun with Friends"** this month students made cookies and sock snowmen. We all had so much fun!



# Exploring Identity Through Our Names

This month, in room 105, Punjabi Bilingual program, our kindergarten students have been learning about identity, which often begins with understanding our names and the beautiful differences in our skin tones. A name is one of the first and most meaningful parts of who we are. Students have been practicing recognizing and writing their names in Punjabi language, building a strong sense of pride and belonging. By sharing the stories and feelings connected to their names, children are beginning to understand that every name and every person have value and that we all matter.

We have also begun exploring the art of storytelling through story vines!

A story vine is made from a long piece of yarn or ribbon with small objects attached, each symbolizing a part of a story. As children move along the vine and touch each object, they retell or create a story step by step. This will further enhance the skills of organizing their thoughts, recalling events, and building their confidence in speaking. The students are already enjoying this creative and engaging way to share their ideas!





# From Room 101

Students in Room 101 have been joyfully spreading Christmas cheer by supporting the Cheer Board this holiday season. With great enthusiasm, the children collected non-perishable food items and helped prepare contributions that will support families in need. They also poured their creativity and kindness into making beautifully crafted Christmas cards, hoping to bring warmth and smiles to those who receive them.

Throughout this project, students engaged in meaningful discussions about empathy, generosity, and the impact of giving back to the community. They learned that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference and that helping others creates a sense of peace, connection, and happiness. This experience allowed them to truly understand the spirit of the season—sharing, caring, and spreading joy.

**It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.” — Mother Teresa**



**We would like to share some exciting learning taking place in our classroom. Over the coming weeks, students will be learning Indigenous songs as part of their cultural learning experiences.**

**Through these songs, students are being introduced to the importance of music in Indigenous cultures. Indigenous songs often carry teachings, stories, and values connected to community, respect, and relationship to the land. Students will learn that these songs are not just for singing, but are meaningful expressions that have been shared across generations.**

**As part of this learning, students are also taught the importance of respect and protocol. This includes understanding when and why songs are sung, listening carefully, and showing appreciation for the cultural knowledge being shared. Our focus is on learning in a respectful and age-appropriate way that honors Indigenous traditions.**

**This learning supports our commitment to fostering understanding, respect, and appreciation for Indigenous cultures and ways of knowing. We are grateful for the opportunity to share this meaningful learning with students and help them develop empathy and cultural awareness.**

**If you have any questions about this learning or would like more information, please feel free to reach out.**

**Thank you for your continued support.**

## **The Turtle Song**

**Oh Gitchi bea ba**

**Majiann oh wabana**

**Mani Kei Mikinack da**

**We gee oh wabana  
Anishinabea**

**ya way ya way ho (x4)**

**ਜਲ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਆ ਕੇ,**

**ਚਲਿਆ ਕਛੂ ਕੁਮਾ,**

**ਧਰਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਆਰਾਮ ਦਿੰਦਿਆ**

**ਅਪਣੇ ਨਿੱਕੇ ਪੈਰਾਂ ਤੇ।  
ਆਪਾਂ ਵੀ ਨਾਲ ਚਲੀਏ,**

**ਆਪਾਂ ਵੀ ਨਾਲ ਚਲੀਏ,**

**ਮਾਤਾ ਧਰਤ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਣਾਮ,**

**ਮਾਤਾ ਧਰਤ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਣਾਮ।**



# School Reminders

Thank you to everyone for supporting our drop-off and pick-up routines. Please remember that the staff parking lot is staff only and cannot be used for pick up/drop off. The front parking loop is reserved for kindergarten and daycare families, as well as student who have mobility concerns. Please do not park/stop on left side of loop (fire lane) and by the intersection on Novara street. Parking passes are required to enter the loop. Please continue to park a minimum of one block away from the school to avoid traffic congestion.

If your child needs to be picked up early from school or you need to drop off something for the child, we request visitors check in at the office and not go directly to the classroom. Please call the school to inform who would be coming to pick up the child and call at least 15-20 minutes ahead of the pick-up time to give the student enough time to get ready. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Thank you for using the streets surrounding the perimeter of our school yard as a drop-off/pick-up location. Please be respectful of our community residences by not blocking or parking in driveways or using them to turn around. We thank you for your support!

## Calling the school to reach your child

With almost 850 children, we have been receiving a high number of phone calls where parents/guardians request to speak with their child during class. Please plan and discuss non-urgent matters with your child outside of school hours if at all possible. If it is an emergency or urgent matter, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We appreciate your help with this!