



# ARTHUR E. WRIGHT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

**April 2024  
Newsletter**

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Principal: Harpreet Panag

Vice-Principal: Jillian Green | Vice-Principal: Porfiria Pedrina

*We take time to acknowledge that we are here on Treaty 1 Territory, and to honour the Peoples and lands of Turtle Island. Treaty 1 land is on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, Inninewak, and Dakota peoples, and the national homeland of the Red River Metis.*

*Our water comes from Anishinaabe Treaty 3 territory from the waters of Shoal Lake First Nation #39 and #40.*

*The electricity powering our community comes from generating stations on river in Treaty territories 1, 3, and 5. The Northern Flood Agreement with five Indigenous communities in northern Manitoba remains unfulfilled.*

## **A Message From the Principals**

**Dear Families,**

*Spring greetings to all of you!*

*As April blossoms around us, we are delighted to send warm wishes to all. Our dedicated staff is working hard to create inclusive, safe, and caring learning experiences for our students.*

*In every corner of our school, learning is an adventure filled with discovery and growth. From math to music, literature to science, our students are diving into a diverse array of topics, enriching their understanding of the world. Our teachers inspire critical thinking, encouraging students to ponder how they can contribute to a better world. Some classrooms are even participating in the Future City competition, igniting creativity and project management skills.*

*Our badminton season is off to an energetic start. As players take to the courts, they're not just competing but learning valuable lessons in teamwork and collaboration. Our coaches nurture an environment where every voice matters and every player feels empowered to excel.*

*As the snow has melted and the weather is getting warmer, we invite you to consider supporting eco-friendly transportation options for your children by encouraging them to bike, walk, or roll to school. Not only does this promote physical activity and independence, but it also reduces carbon emissions, easing the strain on our environment. By choosing alternative modes of transportation, we not only contribute to a healthier planet but also foster a sense of responsibility and stewardship in our children.*

*Let's take small steps together to create a greener, more sustainable future for generations to come. Every pedal, step, or roll makes a difference!*

*Lasty, please stay in touch with us. Your insights and perspectives are crucial as we work together to shape the future of our children.*

**Harpreet Panag**

**Porfiria Pedrina**

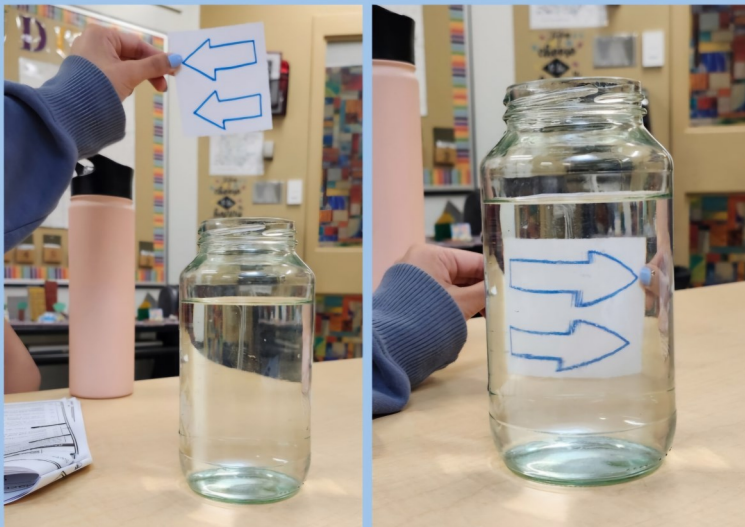
**Jillian Green**



# What happened at AE Wright this month?

**Room 15** students learnt about reflection and refraction of light using various hands-on experiments.

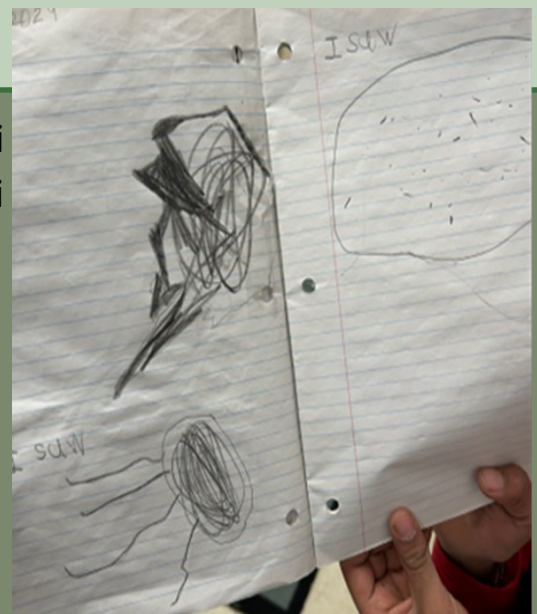
**Why did the arrows change direction when they were behind water?**



**Room 19** celebrated Filipino Food Month (April) by learning about Filipino food through Inquiry and by going to a Filipino restaurant



Students in **Room 5** participated in a fungi observation where they took a closer look at fungi that grows on strawberries .





Students in **Room 6** watched a news segment about a 6-year-old boy named Keegan who was made fun of on his birthday by the staff at Dairy Queen for wearing braids. The staff kept joking that he was a girl because of his long hair, even after Keegan's mother corrected them, they continued to giggle about his appearance. To understand more about the importance of hair in Indigenous culture, we read the book *My Powerful Hair* by Carole Lindstrom. We learned that their hair is sacred and connects them to Mother Earth, both boys, girls and 2spirited folks can choose to wear their hair long. We shared about our own cultures and the significance hair must each of our families. We then decided to write Keegan some letters because we wanted him to feel powerful for having long, braided hair. Long hair isn't just for girls and women, it's for everyone.

**P4** Filipino Bilingual students are infusing technology into their class learning. They created short skits using green screen technology and improved their mental math skills using the King of Math games. Students also sang and shared their learning to their families using Instagram.



# *Smartphones & The Use of Social Media in Children*



Writer and Psychologist Adam Grant noted that in a powerful natural experiment, banning smartphones in schools had long-term benefits. 3-4 years later, bullying was down by 43-46%. Girls had 29% fewer visits to their primary care doctor about psychological problems—and nearly 60% fewer visits to specialists. And the mental health and academic gains were greater for schools with stricter policies and girls from socioeconomically disadvantaged families.

Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy also released an advisory raising the alarm on the effects social media is having on youth mental health. "There are ample indicators that social media can also have a profound risk of harm to the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents. It's estimated that 95 percent of youth between 13 and 17 are using a social media platform, as are 40 percent of children between 8 and 12 years old." In the advisory, Murthy raised concern about how research shows that the period between ages 10 and 19 is a critical time for brain development, when risk-taking behaviors peak, and it's also a time when self-worth and identity are forming.



# Earth Day

*As a school community, students and staff helped clean up garbage around our school grounds on April 22nd for Earth Day.*



**ROOM 5** is studying composting & decomposers. Students buried plastic, paper, metal, banana peels, and orange peels to see how quickly they decompose. When we examined the buried materials after five days, we noticed banana peels decompose before other materials. Students learned that plastic wrappers are converted into microplastics over time but cannot be decomposed if not recycled.



## Hong Kong Umbrella Protest:

Standing in streets gaining more power  
Fighting for our rights, screaming louder,  
In the streets we march, voices loud and true,  
Protesting for a change the world will renew.

Starting a war over seas  
We all have the right to democracy,  
in colorful crowd,  
voice cheers so loud,  
kids united making their protest proud.

Hoping to get fair elections,  
leading our government on the right path  
expecting to change, unlike in the past.

People stand side by side,  
Protest what's fair, with hands full of pride.

## *Poems by Students in Room 18*

### **AIDS CRISIS**

**Starting little becoming large  
Infected with problems ready to barge.  
Immune breaks down, hurts a lot,  
feels like your body is going to rot.**

**The pain the sorrow the disbelief  
No one thinks it's really a disease.  
Yelling and screaming,  
Up and down the streets,  
Someone saying help us please.**

**After all, death is near,  
No running, no hiding, only accepting fear.  
Game over is what they say,  
Unless you find a cure your own way.**

**All the protest we had to do,  
Just for them to say who are you?  
Our voices are all gone,  
We'll be standing here till dawn.**





# May 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2 RM10 Swimming	3
6 <b>SCHOOL PD</b> <b>NO CLASSES</b>	7	8 <b>Kindergarten</b> <b>Open House</b>	9 RM10 Swimming Divisional badminton tournament	10 Boston Pizza Hot Lunch GR 1-8
13 Grade 5 flag football jamboree P5 Swimming	14 Grade 5 flag football jamboree	15 Parent Advisory Meeting	16 RM10 Swimming	17
20 <b>VICTORIA DAY</b> <b>NO CLASSES</b>	21	22 Grade 4/5 Track Meet	23 RM10 Swimming <b>Grade 6-8</b> <b>Immunization Clinic</b>	24 Grade 4/5 Track Meet
27 MY Track & Field P5 Swimming	28 MY Track & Field	29 <b>ARTS IN THE PARK</b>	30 <b>ARTS IN THE PARK</b> RM10 Swimming Last day of table classes	31 <b>ARTS IN THE PARK</b>

## Looking ahead...

Friday, June 7

Divisional P.D. Day— No Classes

Friday, June 28

Last day of classes

Follow us on Instagram!

[@aewrightcommunityschool](https://www.instagram.com/aewrightcommunityschool)

