



# James Nisbet Community School

*seeds of peace grow here*

January 2024

Principal: Sean McGillivray

Vice-Principal: Martina Vergata, Jennifer Lamoureux

## Principal's Message

To Our Nisbet Families,

On December 21st, our Nisbet school gathered for a Winter Solstice Celebration. This message from our divisional Elder, Derek Courchene, was shared:

*For Nokomis-Aki/Grandmother Earth, winter is a time of rest as a white blanket covers the land. It is during this time the Atsokanan are told. Atsokanan are the life teachings of relationships to each another, the animals, and the land. These stories are shared through the experiences of Nanabush or Wesakachak.*

*Winter solstice is a time to acknowledge and honour the Earth. Some consider this as the beginning of the New Year and as a time of reflection, a time of being close to family, and preparation for the future. Many Indigenous Nations acknowledge this day as an opportunity for our people to begin to reconnect to our ancestral blessings and ways of knowing. This year Winter Solstice is on December 21<sup>st</sup>, and as we celebrate this day with all the Indigenous people around the world, take time to acknowledge the Earth and the thankfulness of our place on the land, our shelters, our food, our water, and our medicines.*

We hope the time spent with family over the Winter Break is filled with gratitude, reflection, and love.

Wishing you all the best in 2024! We will welcome the children back to school January 8th.

Sean, Martina, and Jen

**REMINDER: PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL PRIOR TO 9 AM AT 204-633-8870 IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE AWAY FROM SCHOOL—EACH DAY: If leaving a voicemail, please include your child's first name, last name, classroom teacher or classroom number, and the reason. Thank you.**

# December Highlights



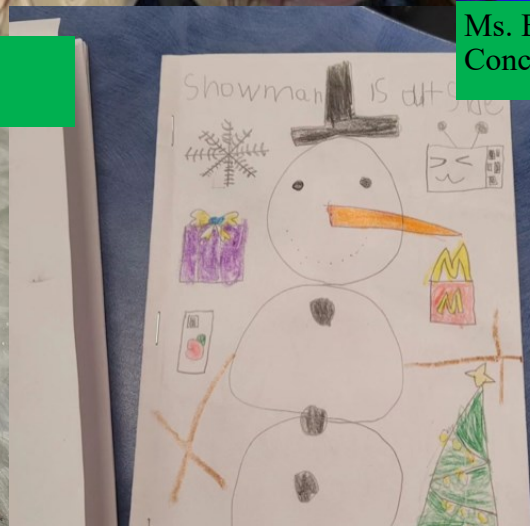
Ms. Badhan's class used *My Heart Fills with Happiness* by Monique Gray Smith as a mentor text to share what makes each child in the classroom happy.

Ms. Mel lead classrooms in a teaching that was gifted to her. The Buffalo Calling Song, shared by Dakota Sundance Chief Calvin Pompana, is sung from the Winter Solstice until spring! The words tell us "The Buffalo people are coming. The Buffalo People are here."



Ms. Esther and Mr. Eskin planned an amazing Winter Concert for our Kindergarten to Grade 3, 3/4 classes!

Check out our compostable bird feeders in our yards!



At Nisbet, we are writers! Ms. Dhanoa's class used *Snowmen at Night* to inspire their own snowman stories!



# Phys Ed News

The James Nisbet Nova's have been busy participating and preparing for different events within the school division. Grade 5's had the opportunity to attend the divisional circulation volleyball tournament at the Canada Games Sport for Life Centre. This was the finale to their volleyball intramurals. They participated with other schools from around the school division, and represented James Nisbet very well. Grade 5's will also have the opportunity to be a part of the 3-on-3 basketball jamboree at the end of January.

Middle years students have finished up the volleyball season and are in preparation for basketball leagues, which start in January. Thank you to all coaches who have agreed to volunteer time to coach a team! As 2023 comes to a close, we are excited to move into the New Year and continue to develop and build on our Nova's Phys Ed and Athletics programs!

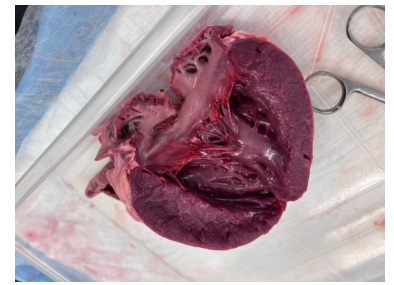
Mr. Winchar - Mme. Lussier - Mr. Catcher - Mr. Kammerlock



# Music News

We want to welcome back Mr. Campbell from his parental leave! We want to thank Ms. Esther for leading our early years music program while Mr. Campbell was spending time with his family. Ms. Esther lead us through a remarkable Winter Concert. We can't wait for all of the music to be shared with our community in the new year!

Kristin Werenich's class: 2023-2024  
Written by Zagel Aragon



On Friday December 8th, we, the class of Ms. Werenich, traveled to the St. Boniface hospital, Youth Bio Lab for a group excursion. The purpose of this expedition was to inquire more knowledge on the heart, the pump of the body holding utmost importance. Our class was divided into groups of 5, and received 5 hearts carved out of pigs. These 5 groups went on to dissect and identify the different parts of the heart.

This field trip showed its relevance as an educational field trip that taught us of the heart and its components, as well as an exemplary recreational experience.

