

VERLAND FORCE, PRINCIPAL

BOBBI-LYNN HAEGEMAN, VICE-PRINCIPAL

From the Office

We hope that everyone enjoyed a safe and relaxing Spring break. It is hard to believe that it is the first week of April already. We have many exciting things going on at Elwick this month.

As you may have noticed, our school patrols are now wearing bright yellow vests. Thank you to Mr. Weekes who has been working extremely hard helping our patrols learn the necessary skills to help safely cross our students. We would also like to extend a big thank you to our parent/community volunteers: Alexis White, Keely Kirby-MacAulay and Lisa Cook who are also working with our patrols to help children safely cross the busier streets throughout the day. If you are interested and able to volunteer your time to help assist our school patrols please contact the school office. We strongly encourage all of our families to cross the street at our corners with the patrols. Keeping our students safe while walking to and from school will continue to be our priority.



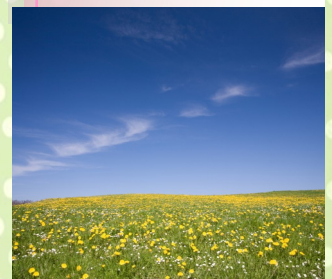
Elwick school will be participating in the national Day of Pink campaign on Wednesday April 11th. All of our staff and students will be on this day to help promote a safe, healthy, and respectful school and work environment. The t-shirts will be handed out on April 11th to all of our students. Please join us for a community walk on this day at 1:30. We will proudly wear our pink t-shirts as a collective group raising awareness about treating all people in a respectful and caring way. We will be meeting at the flagpole at the front of the school. If you are able, please wear something pink! We look forward to your participation!

Our next Parent Group is scheduled for Monday April 23rd at 6:00 in our school library. We are pleased to have a guest speaker named Rachael join us from the University of Manitoba. She is going to lead a session on learning the English language while fostering the use and growth of the first language spoken in the home. Please RSVP to Mrs. Phinney at 633-5641 if you are able to attend. Please let Mrs. Phinney know if you will be needing free childcare during the parent group meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

Just a reminder there is **no school on Friday, April 6th**. We hope that everyone enjoys the long weekend. Our next school professional development day is Friday April 20th. There will be no classes for students on this day.



*At Elwick
we are
learning
to live the
Seven
Teachings
everyday!
Respect,
Wisdom,
Courage,
Love,
Honesty,
Humility
& Truth.*





Wednesday April 11th is Elwick's Day of Pink

What is the Day of Pink?

April 11th marks the International Day of Pink. It is a day where communities across the country, and across the world, can unite in celebrating diversity and raising awareness to stop homophobic, transphobic & all forms of bullying.

The International Day of Pink was started in Nova Scotia when 2 straight high school students saw a gay student wearing a pink shirt being bullied. The 2 students intervened, but wanted to do more to prevent homophobic & transphobic bullying. They decided to purchase pink shirts, and a few days later got everyone at school to arrive wearing pink, standing in solidarity. The result was that an entire school stopped homophobic & transphobic bullying. The message was clear: anyone can bully, any can be victimized by bullying, but together we can stop it.



Each year on the second Wednesday of April, millions of people wear pink to remember that positive actions make a difference. And that the change starts with each one of us.

Our school will be marking the Day of Pink by having a School-Wide March. All staff and students will be wearing Pink T-Shirts. The entire student body will be marching through the community together to mark this important day. The media will be out to cover our event.



If you would like to join us to march and show your support for this important event, please join us on Wednesday April 11th at 1:30 pm at the Flagpole at the front of the school. We look forward to seeing you there!

Carole McMillan
School Counsellor Elwick School

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR NEWS

Dave Mathers

Make Reading a Learning Adventure

Being considered your child's first teacher of reading may sometimes seem overwhelming to many parents and caregivers. But remember, you have many advantages. Your young child naturally loves and trusts you, and (sometimes!) is an attentive audience that you can work with one-on-one. In many instances, you will be able to give your child individualized attention, even if you care for several children at the same time. Trust your instincts, be patient, and provide plenty of encouragement, and you can make learning to read adventurous and fun!

Be a reading role model. So, what is the key to helping your child become a reader? In one word – **READING!** Why? Because research shows that the most important thing parents and caregivers can do to help their children succeed in school is read aloud to them every day. Reading aloud to children also helps them...

Expand their vocabulary

- ✓ Appreciate the value of books and reading
- ✓ Understand new ideas and concepts
- ✓ Learn about the world around them

Along with reading, other fun activities could include...

- ⇒ making picture books and labelling the pictures
- ⇒ making rhymes with any objects found around the house
- ⇒ identifying letters/words on signs
- ⇒ pulling out a favourite recipe and cooking together
- telling jokes, kids love "knock-knock" jokes





EXTENDED DAY GROWTH EDUCATION

EDGE offers a variety of after school activities for middle year students. Parents and students who are looking to fill the gap between school and the supper hour can check out the affordable programs offered by **EDGE**. Our regular grade 6 – 8 Spring Program will start the week of April 30th.

EDGE IS EXTENDING AN INVITATION TO **GRADE 5** STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR SPRING SESSION OF **EDGE**!

If you are currently in Grade 5 and will be one of our Grade 6 students next year, try out some of our fun and affordable after-school programs.

EDGE information is available on the **Seven Oaks Website!**

On the site, click on **Programs**, scroll and click on **EDGE**. You will be able to view information on all available **EDGE** Spring programs, participating schools, calendars plus all registration materials.

If you are interested in joining any of the courses registration materials will be available at your school, or you can print them right off the site!

Courses are fun and educational, but spaces are limited...

So...don't delay, register soon to ensure participation in **EDGE**.

Questions? Contact Penny Raymond,
Extended Day Coordinator at:
885-4333 or 227-7136
e-mail: penny.raymond@7oaks.org





COMMUNITY
BEGINS HERE.

WWW.7OAKS.ORG

830 Power Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2V 4E7
Phone: 586-8061
Fax: 589-2504

Elwick Community School
30 Maberly Rd. Wpg., MB R2P 0E2
Telephone: 204 633-5641
Fax: 204 632-6034



Dates to Remember!

Friday 6 Good Friday, No Classes

Friday 20 PD, No Classes

Monday May 7 School PD, No Classes

Monday 21 Victoria Day, No Classes

Monday June 11 PD/Admin Day, No Classes



V. Force	Principal
B. Haegeman	Vice-Principal
C. Phinney	Secretary
M. Pirrie	Secretary
S. Howell	Library
B. Grubber	Head Custodian
B. Roccola	Night Custodian
TEACHING STAFF	
C. Shields	C. Weekes
M. Mann	D. Gebhardt
N. Reay	D. Vaarmeyer
C. Crawford	A. Huber
K. Lyons	N. Jemlilty
R. Brar	G. Prout
A. Deprez	K. White
C. Parenteau	P. Harding
C. Splers	S. Evans
S. Clarke	E. Risbey
K. Schettler	E. Lister
B. Wallace	K. Oleson
R. Dow	K. Warner
EA'S	
• E. Lobchuk	• J. Elsbrenner
• K. Jemlilty	• B. Melnyk
• C. Sault	• L.. Swack
• D. Fisher	• J. Weston
• J. Ellison	
• V. Czarnecki	Guidance
• C. McMillan	Early Yrs .Guidance
• V. Sanders	} Learning } Support
• R. Scott	
• Jenny Blodeau	
W. Persowich	Psychologist
M. Hawula	Social Worker
C. Singbell	Speech Language
D. Mathers	Comm. Coordinator
A. Zabalotnuk	Comm. Connector



More Students, More Opportunity in 2012-13 Seven Oaks Tables New Budget

More teachers, expanded spaces and an all-around improved experience are all planned for Seven Oaks School Division students registered for classes next year.

It *will* come at a price to community taxpayers – but it's the first real tax increase since 1999.

Seven Oaks Superintendent Brian O'Leary unveiled the Division's proposed 2012-13 budget on Feb 28 to a room of approximately 100 administrators, educators, parents and community members. He touted the vast strides the Division is making to accommodate a huge increase in enrollment with very minimal impact to the public.

The proposed budget marks a 5.56 per cent increase in expenditures, and six per cent increase to tax payers.

"We're happy to be growing and seeing more students receive a high-quality Seven Oaks education," O'Leary says. "The average household will see an increase of approximately \$96 on their taxes. But we can't be going up 4 per cent in enrollment and not see an increase on the tax side of things."

Registration in the Division has grown by more than 1,300 in the last three school years, jumping from 9,049 students in 2006 to the current 10,533. We estimate enrollment will jump to nearly 12,000 by 2015.

Administration has worked hard over the last few years of growth to ensure students receive the richest and fullest education possible, reorganizing schools and spaces to match students' needs.

Some schools have been reconfigured to better group students by age and proximity while others have been renovated, updated and – in the case of West Kildonan Collegiate and the new Edmund Partridge School – built and reopened, respectively.

Some 33 portable classrooms are in place, with eight more budgeted in 2012 to be installed at Arthur E Wright, OV Jewitt and James Nisbet Schools.

Construction will soon begin on a brand new, 600-student Kindergarten through Grade 8 English track school in Amber Trails, set for opening in 2014. We are also awaiting approval of a proposal to build a Kindergarten to Grade 5 French Immersion school in Riverbend, accommodating another 300 plus students.

Hot on the trails of 36 new teachers in 2011, we plan to hire 43.7 new teachers next year along with seven educational assistants and 3.4 non-teaching staff (that includes support, custodial, maintenance, etc.).

We've also developed major plans for boosting our schools and classrooms, paying special attention to target our directives to early, middle and senior years students.

A strong start

All our Early Years schools offer Parent Child programs to all members of the community, while many also have in-school Before and After programs or daycare facilities.

Average class size will continue to be 22 students with many classrooms set up to accommodate multi-age learning or looping tracks, where students and teachers sustain relationships over 2-3 years.

A healthy adolescence

Our proposed budget ensures Middle Years learners will also continue with an average class size of 22 and an "everyone plays" model of participation in band, exploration, technology, arts and sports.

All students will enjoy continued access to specialized literacy and numeracy programs as well as recreation and extended-day options to keep them engaged and growing as participating members of our community.

Relationships, rigor, relevance

When our students arrive in Senior Years, we want them to be as prepared as possible to continue that transition on to post-secondary education or training.

Every student is paired with a Teacher Advisor, who stays with them throughout high school and acts as a mentor, main point of contact and source of guidance on what sometimes is a bumpy road.

Continued funding for special initiatives will allow us to move forward with our current university preparation programs (First Year University Now, College and University Bound and Intro to University) as well as extracurricular programs and innovation and support tracks that engage those students who need a little extra attention and help to succeed.

One kid at a time in 2012

Our current budget sees us spend \$10,272 per student, ensuring access to school supplies, field trips and other everyday educational tools are consistent across the board and presented at a cost savings to parents. After all, we believe that all children should receive the same quality education regardless of the social, economic or cultural background they come from.

“We operate without fees for things like lunch supervision, lockers, agenda books, field trips, art and shop materials,” says O’Leary. “Those are essential to a quality education. Can you imagine your kid asking a teacher to help with a math question and being asked for \$5 in return? It would be absurd.”

For more information on the SOSD budget visit www.7oaks.org, email your questions to communitybeginshere@7oaks.org or call 586.8061.

“Now that we’re into our 13th year of NDP majorities can anyone explain why ... it’s an equitable public education system when Seven Oaks School Division has the highest property taxes in the city, yet spends less per student than the other five divisions which all have lower mill rates?”

***– Nick Martin, Winnipeg Free Press
Jan 31 2012***

**Strong Communities
Require Strong Support**

**A letter from Seven Oaks School
Division Board of Trustees**

Seven Oaks School Division is proud to offer a top-notch, quality education to all our students – one kid at a time.

We’ve been doing it for more than 50 years and look forward to 50 more.

Our students are among the brightest in the province.

Our educators are second to none, with unparalleled expertise and innovation in literacy and numeracy.

Our graduation success rate climbs every year and is rapidly approaching 90 per cent.

We play a role in creating first-rate community and global citizens.

But we’re nearing a very critical point in our Division’s development.

Our community has the highest property taxes in the city and the lowest mill rate. What that means is a lower investment in education by our province and a financial situation that grows direr by the day.

We want and need more teachers, expanded spaces and an all-around

improved experience – and our students deserve it.

Yet with a very limited commercial tax base and an unfair and unequal funding formula this will create undue pressure on taxpayers.

In this newsletter, you’ll read of our plans to improve the educational experience for our students ... and you’ll also read of our plans to issue the Division’s first real tax increase since 1999.

We know many in our community will feel the impact, but it’s necessary.

Without any increase in investment from the province, we’ve seen registration in the Division grow by more than 1,300 in the last three school years (jumping from 9,049 in 2006 to the current 10,533).

We are the fastest growing division in the city for three years running, with the nearly 16,000 new Manitobans who arrive in our province annually a main source of influx.

Our area tends to not be the first place new Canadians go when they arrive in the city, but the place they settle after few years. They know our housing is affordable, our communities are safe and our schools are good.

We welcome all learners and the rich experiences our diverse community fosters and estimate an enrollment of nearly 12,000 in a few years.

The time is fast approaching when we can no longer go on struggling to provide for our deserving students.

Our schools are growing. The level of education we offer is growing. The Seven Oaks community is growing.

And so must our investment ... so let’s all do our part to ensure our students receive the funding they deserve – both from our community and our province.

Seven Oaks School Division Board of Trustees

<p>Bill McGowan (Ward II) 694-0808 Evelyn C. Myskiw (Ward I) Chairperson 339-1242 Edward P. Ploszay (Ward III) Vice-Chairperson . . 339-1260 Claudia Sarbit (Ward III) 339-8758 Teresa Jaworski (Ward III) 334-3063 Richard Sawka (Ward III) 338-1199 Ric Dela Cruz (Ward II) 694-5692</p>	<p>Derek Dabee (Ward II) 779-6101 Socorro (Cory) Juan (Ward II) 694-8517</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Ward I – West St. Paul Ward II – Maples, Riverbend Ward III – Garden City, West Kildonan</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">note: all phone numbers provided are home phone numbers</p> <p>Website: www.7oaks.org Telephone Number: 586-8061</p>
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