

MARCH 2012

ELWICK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

S O S D

ELWICK COMMUNITY
SCHOOL

VERLAND FORCE, PRINCIPAL

BOBBI-LYNN HAEGEMAN, VICE-PRINCIPAL


FROM THE OFFICE.....



There was a lot of excitement at Elwick School during the month of February. Our evening Chilly Night was a huge success! Many families enjoyed cultural based activities such as crafts, henna tattoos, dance, and fiddling. Community members were very generous in sharing their gifts and talents with our students and families. Thank you to all our families who volunteered their time leading or assisting with sessions. The mild temperatures also allowed for us to enjoy ice skating and hot chocolate, snowshoeing, and oral stories in a tipi. Buffalo Bill was our honoured guest who worked with our middle years students during the afternoon to learn the tipi teachings. A group of middle years students also helped Buffalo Bill put up the tipi during the day. Our student Educational Assistants from Urban Circle also volunteered their time and energy leading a beading craft in the library. We saw many families proudly wearing their pins representing the colours from the Medicine Wheel. Many staff members from our school also devoted countless hours of

their time planning for the evening event as well as leading many of the sessions both indoors and outdoors. Chilly Night was a true representation of our families and school coming together to celebrate our diverse and multicultural community.

Chilly Night would not have been the same without the delicious food prepared by community members and staff. We hope everyone who attended the evening celebration took some time to enjoy a hot bowl of chili and bannock. Thank you very much to our community Village Center who prepared all the chili for the evening as well as Darlene Fisher who spent an entire day with students making her famous bannock recipe! We look forward to hosting future evening events at Elwick Community School.

We also hosted our second Parent Group Meeting in February. These meeting times are a wonderful opportunity for parents/caregivers to learn more about school programs, updates, and classroom programming. The evening also provides a chance for parents to connect with other families in the community. We welcome your suggestions, questions, and ideas and look forward to these monthly meeting times. Continue ... 

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

FROM THE OFFICE CONT'D.

Our next Parent Group meeting will be Monday, April 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the school library.

The month of March brings another opportunity for families to connect with school staff. Our Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held the evening of March 15th, as well as during the day on Friday, March 16th. Please return your yellow form indicating the time and day that works best for your schedule. We will do our best to accommodate your request. Just a reminder there are no classes on Friday, March 16th.

The last week of school before Spring Break will be our Elwick School Spirit Week. There will be many fun and exciting activities going on during the week of March 19-23rd. More information will follow in the near future.

We wish everyone a safe, relaxing, and fun Spring Break during the week of March 26-March 30th. The school will reopen Monday April 2nd, 2012.



MRS. SCOTT'S DRUM & SING GROUP



Elwick now has a drum/singing group that will be singing traditional Cree, Anishinabe and Dakota songs.

Our drum group spent the morning of January 31st, 2012 making deer hide drums for our school.

We gathered in the breakfast room for an entire morning to learn how to make a drum. I'm sure that no drum group member will tell you that drum making is easy work! Your hands are definitely sore after a morning of sanding tree rings and sewing the hide carefully into the ring. The waiting was the hardest part. Almost daily our drum group was wondering about their drums and if they were dry yet. I would let each child come and see the drums and before we knew it...we were ready to have a feast to celebrate our accomplishments.



My husband, Tyler Scott over the weeks that followed made drum sticks for the drums, so they could be played after they were blessed.



DRUM & SING GROUP CONT'D.

On Feb. 8th, we gathered in the pre-school room to eat together and to have a feast for the drums. We passed a pipe carrier tobacco to come smoke his pipe for the 10 new drums we made. After he finished smoking his pipe, he gave some teachings about the drums and how they were to be cared for. The drums were not played until after the feast was completed and the feast plate that was made was offered to the land.



Each drum group member has had the opportunity to learn about making a feast plate, offering tobacco to pipe carriers for their gifts and learning the skirt teachings. We have met a few times in Feb. to start learning the songs. We are currently working on the Grandmother Song and the Bear Song. It won't be long until we can share our songs with the school.

Richelle Scott

FROM THE MIDDLE YEARS

Middle Years Winter Fun Day

Our Middle Years students experienced an amazing leap day this year. Students from grades 6-8 had the option of attending Harbourview Park or Stony Mountain Ski Hill. About 50 Students chose Harbourview Park for our Winter Experiential Fun Day. They spent the day tobogganing and ice skating. Sixty two students attempted snowboarding while a smaller group of 12 got up on skis at Stony Mountain Ski Hill! Words of encouragement, laughter, and smiles were evident at both locations. We are so proud of our middle years students whose positive attitude helped make the day so enjoyable!

MANITOBA THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

This spring break, Manitoba Theatre for Young People is presenting *The Number 14*, one of Canada's most successful touring shows! A variety of interesting, funny, and just plain weird characters populate *The Number 14* bus. Masks, mayhem and peerless physical comedy delight all ages in this MTYP favourite.

Also, our theatre school offers one-week spring break camps for ages 5 - 12 from March 26 - 30. Campers will work with theatre professionals to build a show from the ground up in just five days.

Call 942-8898 or visit www.mtyp.ca for more information.

MRS. HUBER'S CLASS

Take Pride Assembly

On February 14th, 2012, Elwick was happy to have Tom Ethans from Take Pride Winnipeg come to our school for a special presentation. He even brought Lou the lion with him.

Every year Elwick school comes together for Take Pride Winnipeg's plastic bag contest. Here at Elwick, we won three benches made from the plastic bags we have collected and are on our way to the fourth bench. We also have received 150 frisbees made out of the same plastic bags.



Elwick was given a challenge to make a plastic bag jacket. The students that were picked for this challenge were Skyler and Sara. It took seventeen hours to make the jacket. There were 500 bags attached to the jacket and a lot of glue. One of the hardest parts was when there was so much static from the bags; this made it hard to keep all the bags where they needed to be.

By: Sara and Skyler

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR...

Families are Teachers Too!

Parents are a child's first and most important teacher. Children also learn from other family members, like siblings and grandparents. People with more than one child often comment on how the younger one picks up everything the older one does. Preschoolers are like little sponges, they absorb everything. Current research suggests that most of the brain's development occurs by age three. That's why it's so important to spend time with your children in their early years, exposing them to the world of literacy.



Q. Why is it important to develop literacy skills at a young age?

A. To ensure children become successful, life-long readers and learners. Introducing activities that develop literacy skills at an early age leads to higher academic achievement, healthier lifestyles, and a higher quality of life.

Q. What are Literacy skills?

A. Literacy skills include recognizing upper and lower case letters, the sounds they make and how they form words. Understanding books have a beginning, middle, and an ending. They are read left to right and top to bottom. Literacy skills also include speech, language, communication, directions and instructions.

Q. How can parents encourage and enhance literacy development?

A. Read to and with your child; books, poems, rhymes, magazines, comics. Talk and sing together. Turn off the TV and video games, go to the library, play board games, cook and follow a recipe together. Read together in the car, on the bus, in line at the grocery store.



There are lots of fun things families can do with their young children. The earlier you start the better. And it's never to late, so get started today!

David Mathers, community coordinator

Dates to Remember!

Wednesday	March	14	Report cards go home
Thursday	March	15	Evening parent teacher conferences
Friday	March	16	No classes – parent teacher conferences
Friday		23	Last day before spring break
Monday	April	2	School reopens
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

FROM BEFORE & AFTER PROGRAMS



Reminder

Monday, April 9- ALL O.K. Before & After School Programs CLOSED for Easter Monday
Friday, May 25- ALL O.K. Before & After School Programs CLOSED for Professional Development

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COMMUNITY
BEGINS HERE.

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Did you know that the YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg has a child care centre that services your school? The Garden City Y Clubhouse, located at the Garden City Community Centre at 725 Kingsbury Avenue, offers licensed after school child care for children aged 5 – 12 years. The Garden City Y program offers a variety of activities in an engaging, dynamic setting. Busing is available from your school to the Garden City Y Clubhouse and can be arranged by calling the Seven Oaks School Division Transportation Department

at 338-7051.

Ongoing registration is accepted for the current school year and registration for the 2012-2013 school year will begin in March. If you would like further information on the Garden City Y Child Care program please contact the Director, Amber Miller at 668-8140 or amiller@ymcaywca.mb.ca.

FROM THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

City of Winnipeg Transit Pass

Convenient for students in Grades 9 – 12.

Tax Deductible.

Use as often or as little as you like.

Same price as the Seven Oaks school bus.

See the Transit website for more information:

www.transitpass.ca or
www.cra.gc.ca

Seven Oaks Transportation Department does not issue receipts for your student's school bus fees as the service is not a tax deductible expense.



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. Jemielity
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
PARAS	
E. Lobchuk	J. Elsbrenner
K. Jemielity	B. Melnyk
C. Sault	L. Swack
D. Fisher	J. Weston
J. Ellison	
V. Czarnocki	Guidance
C. McMillan	Early Yrs .Guidance
J. Sanders	Learning Support
R. Scott	
Jenny Bilodeau	
W. Persowich	Psychologist
M. Hawula	Social Worker
C. Singbell	Speech Language
D. Mathers	Comm. Coordinator
A. Zabalotnuk	Comm. Connector