

Elwick Community School Newsletter

VERLAND FORCE, PRINCIPAL

BOBBI-LYNN HAEGEMAN, VICE-PRINCIPAL

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

From the Office

As we begin a new month at Elwick school let's take a moment to celebrate some of the wonderful opportunities we had in September to make connections with families and community members. Many families attended Orientation days at the start of the school year. These days gave families a chance to meet and talk with teachers. Ongoing communication between home and school is always supported and encouraged!

Our annual September BBQ was a huge success! Many students, friends, families, and staff members enjoyed a fun filled evening with food, games, and special activities. Thank you to Amanda Zabalotnuk for organizing such a memorable evening. A big thank you is also extended to the community volunteers as well as our Elwick staff in helping to make this night a huge hit!

Have you heard *Sistema Winnipeg* is coming to Elwick? *Sistema Winnipeg* is a free, daily after-school music program targeting students in **grades 1-3**. In partnership with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra children at Elwick school will have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument, be part of an orchestra, build confidence and self esteem, as well as learn to be part of a team. For more information please attend our evening info session on Thursday, October 6th at 6:00 in the music room.

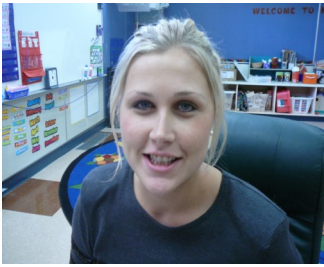
Reminder For Parents:

- Please remember kids are to go home for lunch unless a parent/guardian is at work or school. If alternate arrangements need to be made, please call Elwick school at 633-5641. Thank you very much for your support.
- Our school patrols are outside to help students cross the street safely. They go on duty at 8:45-9:00 every morning, 11:50-12:05 as well as 12:40-12:55 at lunch and 3:25-3:40 at the end of the day. **It is very important that students cross the street at the designated patrol corners.** Let's work together to help keep our children safe!
- Please inform the office regarding a change in telephone numbers for work, home, and emergency contacts.

Remember No School Friday, Oct. 7th!!



Meet Elwick's new Kindergarten teacher:



Hi my name is Lindsay Wepler and I am very excited to be the newest member of the Elwick School family. In my first year of teaching I look forward to building new relationships and sharing my passion and knowledge for early childhood education. I believe that the child should always be the center of our learning. Your child's interests and curiosities will guide my planning and our experiences that we will share together. I look forward to getting to know you and your child.

From Miss Risbey, Music Room:

The grade 4 and 5 students are hitting the stage early this year! They will be performing in the musical SQUIRM on Thursday, October 27, 2011 at 7:00pm. Save the date!

"Join the wiggles and squiggles as the Itsy Bitsy Spider, Daddy Long Legs, Hook Worm, Snake and a host of other critters take over the stage. But wait! No need to scream...just listen carefully and learn how things that make us squirm can be A-OK!"

-By John Jacobson and John Higgins

Looking forward to seeing you there!

From Miss White's Class:

Hi! I'm Kristine and I am in 7/8K. We had a guest speaker come to our class a couple weeks ago. Her name was Lindsay Warner from CTV news. She came because Miss White invited her so she could help us write our biographies. She talked to us about how to properly interview someone, we will need to know how to do this to collect the information we need when we write our biographies. We asked her a lot of questions such as who she interviewed, how she got her job and how she started in T.V. and more. She interviewed one of my classmates, Nikita as an example. We were all shy when she was here. She also told us that she had interviewed Brad Pitt, Justin Beiber, and a lot more!

From the Grade 1 Classes:

On Friday, September 30th both grade one classes had the amazing opportunity to attend an event sponsored by the Manitoba Cultural Days. After taking a transit bus to the beautiful Central Park both classes were treated to a day of singing, art and storytelling. The students and adults whom attended were in the presence of children and teachers from various schools around Winnipeg, and were entertained by traditional Aboriginal singers and



many different professional storytellers. Learning a lot about how oral storytelling is at the root of many cultures and the importance of these unique stories being passed on from generation to generation was a highlight of the day. The day ended with all of the students, from all of the different schools coming together to create a massive art piece. A long, large piece of white paper was unravelled and each student was given a marker and asked to draw a picture of one part of a story that they heard that truly spoke to them. This large collaborative art piece will then

be passed along to all of the schools who attended to put on display for the members of their own school to see. We cannot wait for it to come to Elwick!



Grade 1's from Mr. Mann and Ms. Nicole's class ➡

From Mr. Harding's Class:

Greetings from Mr. Harding's Grade 7/8 class!



We are pleased to welcome four new students to Elwick this year. Joining us on our journey to success are John , Dylan , Amber , and Jennifer . Welcome!

This year we are very excited to be involved in an Amazing Race project with our resource teacher, Mrs. Anderson, and Miss White and Ms. Evan's

Grade 7/8 classes. Each Monday, the classes watch an episode of The Amazing Race together. Throughout the rest of the week, they are engaged in a variety of research projects based on the location of that episode. The first episode takes place in Taipei, Taiwan so many students are learning about Confucius and Bhudda. This project promises to be an exciting way to learn about various cultures around the world. We are asking the co-operation of all students in not watching The Amazing Race until the Monday in class! No cheating!

"Neighbourhoods Alive"

Neighbourhoods Alive! is supporting locally-driven revitalization efforts in five new Winnipeg localities: Elwick, Weston, Osborne-Mayfair, Alpine-Lavallee and South Pembina. The Localized Improvement Fund for Tomorrow (LIFT) will provide \$90,000 in annual project-based funding in each of the localities over the next four years. A community committee will help make decisions on all projects.

There will be a community meeting in Elwick on Monday, October 24 at 7:00pm at Elwick School. LIFT will be introduced and the application process will be discussed. You will also be invited to apply to participate on the community committee. **Childcare will be provided and refreshments will be served.**

For more information on LIFT and the application process, please call 945-3379 and ask to speak to the Neighbourhoods Alive! staff responsible for LIFT.

From Mr. Weekes' Class:

Dear Mr. Fox...

In 1980, Terry Fox inspired the nation when he showed courage by attempting to run across Canada so he could raise awareness and fight cancer. On Wednesday, September 28th, 2011 schools all around Canada celebrated the life of Terry Fox by having a National School run day in his honor. After hearing the tremendous story of Terry Fox and seeing the video of the great courage that he had shown, room 11 took some time to answer a question... "If Terry Fox were alive today, what would we say to him?"

Thanks for running for all of the people who have cancer. - Darren

I hope that you raise enough money for cancer... And my Auntie has Cancer so I hope that you raise enough money for Cancer. - Natasha

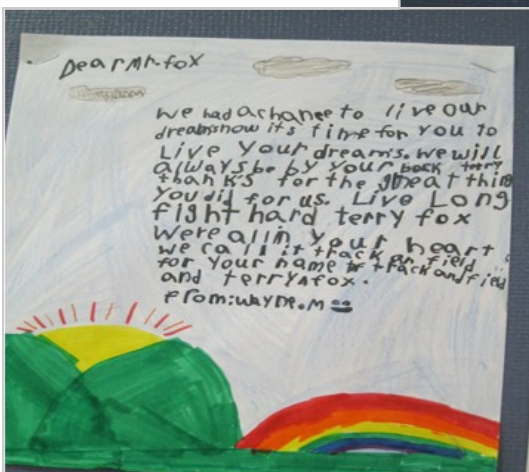
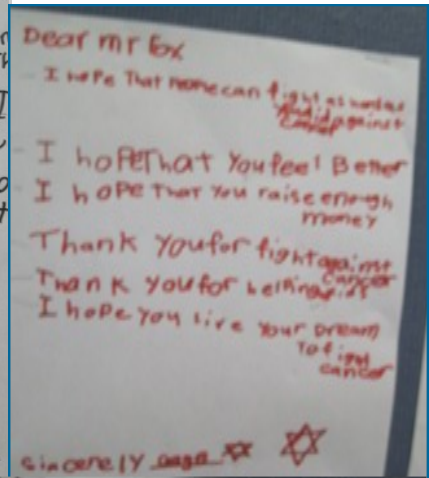
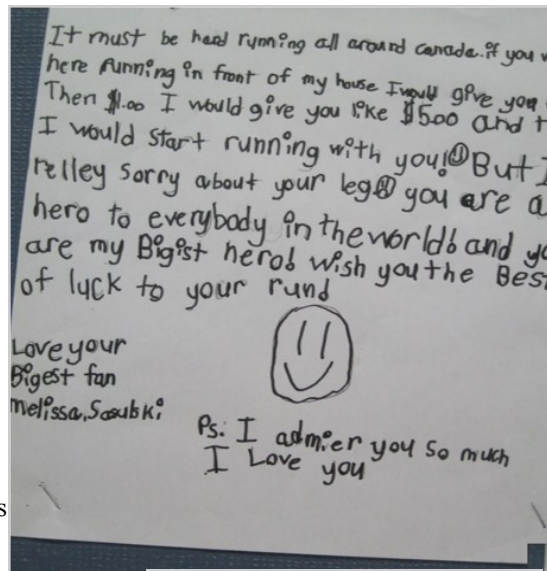
I'm so proud that you ran, 3,339 miles in 143 days. I hope that you can run more than 3,339 miles. I hope you feel better with your lungs. - Love Francisca

I hope that you make it across Canada and make your dream come true. I hope you feel better. - Love Rishu

I appreciate that you lived the dream that you wanted to. - Trinity

I hope that people can fight as hard against cancer. I hope that you raise enough money

All your dreams are all of our dreams - From Sam



From Ms Oleson (music specialist):
Sistema Winnipeg!



Sistema Winnipeg is an intensive after school youth orchestra program designed to promote community and social change. Thursday October 6, 2011 there will be a parent information session at 6 pm. Registration forms will be available at the information session. We only have 30 spots available so please come to the information session to ensure that you have your child's name and information in to us.

The program runs from 3:30-6:15 everyday from Monday to Friday. Snack is provided. Students must be picked up by a responsible adult on time. Students must commit to coming everyday.

Students will learn how to play either the violin, viola, cello or bass. They will perform and have fun developing new relationships with peers, performers from the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and the musical community in Winnipeg.

Please come Thursday, October 6, 2011 at 6 pm to the music room.
 Child care is available in the family room.



Thank you! Kristjanna Oleson

Please be aware that Elwick school is a nut free environment !

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. Jemlelty
R. Brar	G. Prout
A. Deprez	K. White
C. Parenteau	P. Harding
C. Splers	S. Evans
S. Clarke	E. Rlsby
K. Schettler	E. Lister
B. Wallace	K. Oleson
R. Dow	S. Henteleff
PARAS	
• E. Lobchuk	• J. Elsbrenner
• K. Jemlelty	• B. Melnyk
• C. Sault	• L. Swack
• D. Fisher	• J. Weston
• V. Czarnecki	GUIDANCE
• C. McMillan	Early Yrs .Guidance
• V. Sanders	} Learning Support
• R. Scott	
• Jenny Blodeau	
W. Persowich	} Psychologist
M. Hawula	
C. Singbell	} Social Worker
D. Mathers	
A. Zabalotnuk	} Speech Language
D. Mathers	
A. Zabalotnuk	Comm. Coordinator
A. Zabalotnuk	Comm. Connector

Dates to Remember!!!

<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>School Day</i>	<i>Event</i>
Friday	Oct 7	6	Divisional PD, No Classes
Monday	10		Thanksgiving
Friday	21	3	SAG, No Classes
Friday	Nov 4	1	Picture Retake Day
Friday	11		Remembrance Day, No Classes
Wednesday	23	1	Report cards home
Thursday	24	2	Evening parent teacher conferences
Friday	25	3	No Classes – parent teacher conferences
Thursday	Dec 8	6	Holiday luncheon
Thursday	22	4	Last day of school before winter break
Monday	Jan 9	5	School reopens
Monday	16	4	School PD, No Classes
Friday	Feb 3	6	PD
Thursday	16	3	I Love To Read – BSSAP
Monday	20		Louis Riel Day
Wednesday	March 14	3	Report cards go home
Thursday	March 15	4	Evening parent teacher conferences
Friday	March 16	5	No classes – parent teacher conferences
Friday	23	4	Last day before spring break
Monday	April 2	5	School reopens
Friday	6		Good Friday, No Classes
Friday	20	6	PD, No Classes
Monday	May 7	5	School PD, No Classes
Monday	21		Victoria Day, No Classes
Monday	June 11	5	PD/Admin Day, No Classes



SEVEN OAKS
SCHOOL DIVISION

Community begins here.

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

www.7oaks.org

A Gathering for Girls

There is an exciting opportunity happening for **Girls in grades 1, 2, and 3 and their Moms, Grandmas, Aunts and caregivers!**

We will be having a group for girls and the important women in their lives starting on **Tuesday October 11 from 5:00-7:00 pm!** The group will be a chance to get to know each other better, participate in fun activities like crafts and games and share a meal together!



The group will meet every other Tuesday at the School from 5:00 - 7:00 from October 11th until December 20th. We will be **servicing dinner to all group participants at no charge.** The group is being run by Richelle Scott, Carole McMillan and Dana Crawford.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school at 633-5641 and ask to speak to one of us!

Thanks!

Hearing and Vision Screening at Elwick



Hearing Screening will take place this year during the week of Oct.24th- Oct.28th. If you have any questions please contact one of the following Early Learning Support Teachers. Richelle Scott~ Grades K-1, Val Sanders~ Grades 2-3 (new students), Jenny Bilodeau~ Grades 4-5 (new students) and Amber Anderson ~ (new students). Please feel free to contact us at 633-5641.



Vision Screening will take place for the 2011-2012 school year on November 21st-28th. The following classes will be involved with vision screening: Kindergarten, Grades 1, 3, 5 and 7. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Richelle Scott ~Grades K-1, Val Sanders~ Grade 3, Jenny Bilodeau~ Grade 5 and Amber Anderson~ Grade 7. You can reach us at school at 633-5641.



When it comes to kids, let's play fair

by **Robert Rivard**, President, Manitoba School Boards Association

In the mid-1980s, Manitoba school boards asked the provincial government of the day for an ongoing commitment to fund 80% of public school operating costs. The remaining 20% of needed revenue would be raised locally, through the education property tax. Although we have made progress over the past decade, the goal of 80% provincial funding for education has remained elusive.

Over the years, school boards have not been alone in looking for this increase in provincial funding for K-12 education. Two major studies—the Association of Manitoba Municipalities task force report “Rethinking Education Funding: Challenges and Opportunities 2001,” and the Report of the Minister’s Working Group on Education Finance (2004)—both included, as a fundamental principle, an 80/20 split in provincial and local contributions to education funding.

The recently launched Let’s Pay Fair campaign seeks to eliminate all property taxes in support of education. As a school board member, I am unwilling to head down that path. Here’s why.

There is a widely held belief that Manitoba is the only province which uses property tax revenues to support public education. In fact, seven out of ten Canadian provinces currently derive a portion of public school revenues from property taxes. In Manitoba, these property taxes are levied primarily by the local school board; elsewhere, they are levied entirely by the province. The Let’s Pay Fair campaign assumes that the provincial government is both able and willing to ante up all funds needed to maintain the level of educational services currently offered by Manitoba’s public schools (and that it can do so without relying on any form of property tax).

However, if we look to other jurisdictions where an initial commitment to 100% provincial funding of education has been made, the story is not a positive one. Major commissions in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario have identified significant and chronic funding shortfalls for the operation of public schools in those provinces. In British Columbia, massive school closures and teacher layoffs have been the norm for the past decade. In this current year, school boards across the country have experienced sudden and often dramatic provincial funding cuts which have translated into program and service losses for students.

In Manitoba, \$750 million support for public education comes from property taxes. Can we simply assume that if we eliminate that source of revenue, some other source will be found that will enable school boards to maintain the level and quality of educational programming that our citizens have come to expect from public schools? The Let’s Pay Fair campaign would have us believe so. School boards have to “stand up and be counted,” “draw a line in the sand,” or “play hardball.” Pick your favourite cliché, they all amount to the same thing: school boards cutting services and programming in order to reduce costs and eliminate the need for increased property taxes. The government, the theory goes, will “see the error of its ways,” “come around to our way of thinking,” and “cough up the cash.” The theory may sound good, but can we afford to test it? I don’t think so.

I don’t think we can afford to play what amounts to a game of chicken with our children’s futures. Until and unless we have a commitment from the provincial government that the funds needed to maintain current educational standards are and will continue to be forthcoming, I will not be supporting calls for the elimination of property taxes in support of public education. Put another way, I am not prepared to abdicate my responsibility as a trustee of my community’s public schools, or my responsibility to the children they serve.

We can all agree that the long-standing pattern of adding more responsibilities to schools—social services, health care, mental health supports—without matching grants to support these new initiatives is unfair, that public education is everyone’s responsibility, and perhaps most importantly of all, that public education is priceless. School boards part company with Let’s Pay Fair supporters, however, when the discussion turns to what needs to be done to preserve the good and remedy the ills of our public school system. School trustees refuse to remove students from a discussion that all too often focuses on dollars before people, on costs before value. That doesn’t always make us popular, but trusteeship isn’t a popularity contest; it’s about doing the right thing for the right reason. That reason is the students and the communities whose interests we are elected to represent.



Education Funding and Taxation REALITY CHECK

There are a number of myths about education funding and property taxation in Manitoba that are frequently offered and accepted as fact. Here are some of the more common assumptions - or myths - and the realities behind them.

1. Myth:

Manitoba is the only province which uses property taxation to support public education.

Reality Check:

The majority of Canadian provinces utilize some level of property taxation revenues in support of public education. The exceptions are Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and New Brunswick.

2. Myth:

Education property taxation is a disincentive to home ownership.

Reality Check:

Housing sales in Manitoba in recent years have reached unprecedented highs and home buyers have not been deterred either by rising housing costs or property taxation levels. Provincial tax credit programs have been established and exemption levels increased to offset the impact of education property taxes on residential and agricultural properties. The Farmland Tax Rebate rate is now at 80%. The Seniors' Education Property Tax Credit will increase from \$950 in 2011 to \$1,100 in 2013.

3. Myth:

Education has no relationship with property ownership.

Reality Check:

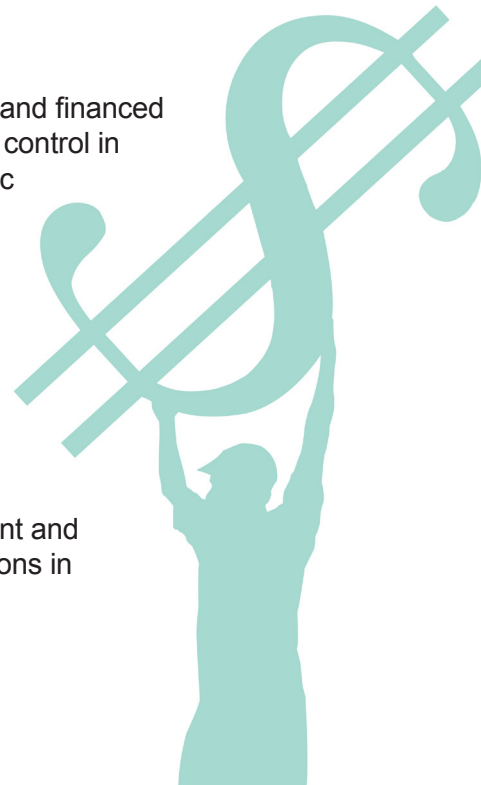
Historically, public education in both Canada and the US has been governed and financed by local property owners. This model allows for greater community voice and control in public education matters. Local dollars mean local choices for Manitoba public schools.

4. Myth:

Full provincial funding for education will ensure quality and equity for students in Manitoba public schools.

Reality Check:

Full provincial funding in several Canadian provinces has resulted in significant and chronic under-funding of public education with concurrent losses and restrictions in programming and service offerings for students.



5. Myth:

Full provincial funding will reduce high-priced administration costs for public education.

Reality Check:

School division administration costs in Manitoba are restricted to less than 5% of total operating expenditures. This percentage is lower than that of most Manitoba municipal governments for similar operating functions.

6. Myth:

Provincial funding increases for public education make property tax increases unnecessary.

Reality Check:

Provincial funding formula grants apply to a portion of total school division operating expenditures and may vary significantly from one division to another. The Tax Incentive Grant (TIG) introduced in 2008 provides additional funds to school divisions where tax rates are frozen at the previous year's level. School division property tax revenues address the gap between actual operating costs for public schools and total provincial grant support including the TIG.

7. Myth:

The province funds 75% of operating costs for Manitoba public schools.

Reality Check:

The 75% figure includes amounts for capital funding, property tax credits and the teachers' pension plan which are not part of school division operating budgets. The provincial contribution to school division operating budgets in 2010-2011 is 65.4%.

8. Myth:

If education property taxes are eliminated, home owners will experience significant tax savings.

Reality Check:

There is only one taxpayer. Revenues lost through the elimination of property taxes will have to be raised elsewhere. Moreover, there is no guarantee that municipal taxes will not increase to fill the tax room left by eliminating school tax levies.

9. Myth:

Higher property taxes are a result of school boards' unwillingness to control costs.

Reality Check:

Provincial policy directions and new legislation often introduce new and unfunded costs for school boards. Provincial policy and community expectations can also limit school board options for significant cost reductions. Moreover, proposed cost reduction strategies in school divisions are often met with strong and vocal community opposition.