



Melita School News



January 2010

Good Bye....

It will be a sad day at Melita School on Friday January 29 as we say good-bye to Jo-Ann Tomalin Thompson. Jo-Ann started teaching in the fall of 1976. Her career began teaching Junior high in the Portage la Prairie school division. After taking time off to travel, she began work in the Antler River School Division in 1982 to the present day. Some of the courses she has taught over the years are: Junior High English, most gr. 8 subjects, 4 - 12 French. She developed and taught a Career course and a Peer Mentoring course for Melita School. She has taught French on the IITV system to Deloraine, Waskada and Pierson schools for several years. At the request of the superintendent, she became an itinerant teacher of gr. 4 - 9 French for one year at Pierson School due to a maternity leave. She also worked as the Melita School Counsellor while teaching full time.

Jo-Ann did much more than just teach, she has been an important part of the Melita School happenings and extra curricular since she started in 1982. Roles such as student council advisor, looking after the drink machine (filling, ordering and counting), welcoming new staff members with a home cooked meal, planning and organizing trips, taking the French kids to Festival du Voyageur and to her home for a complete French meal. An important figure in the Grade 12's lives, she met with each one to go over their plans, helped with applications for post secondary and just gave encouragement when needed. Jo-Ann was a principal person on the graduation scholarship selection committee. She is leaving big boots for someone to fill.

We wish you well Jo-Ann enjoy your retirement!!

Retirement Supper for Jo-Ann Tomalin-Thompson

on

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

at

Melita Curling Club

Cocktails: 5:30

Supper: 7:00

Cost: \$18.00/person

Tickets available from the Melita School office, contact Sheila at 1-866-422-5113 or 204-483-6293

RSVP: February 15th, 2010

If you are interested in contributing to the gift - \$5.00/person

Sorry....

We apologize for missing Ryan Fletcher's name from the Honor Roll list that was published in the December newsletter. Congratulations Ryan on achieving 80% or higher average.

From the Office:

Happy New Year from everyone at Melita School. Our graduates have completed the Provincial ELA exam. Although our marks will not be included in the Provincial stats because of the completion on Monday, the marks will be worth the same percentage and marked in the same manner. The Provincial Applied Math exam has also been written and marks have been tabulated. Last week we hosted out Artist-in-the-School, Jay Stoller. We had a windup concert on Friday. The drumming was awesome! Yearbooks are in progress. If you haven't purchased yours yet, please do so by sending a cheque for \$35.00 to the school, indicating who the yearbook is for. This week we will hold a "Hats & Hoodies for Haiti" fundraiser on Friday, January 29th. Students may wear hats and hoods for the day and make a donation to the relief efforts in Haiti. February is gearing up to be an exciting month with Olympic activities and "Love to Read" month. I'm sure it will be spring before we know it! Sadly, we must bid farewell to 2 teachers. Mrs. Laine Campbell will be leaving us for a year as she enters the role of motherhood and Mrs. Jo-Ann Thompson leaves us as she enters the role of retirement. We wish them all the best and look forward to seeing Laine back this time next year. We also have received a resignation from Julie Chase as PAC chairperson. The next PAC meeting is Monday, February 22nd at 7pm. Angie McNish, our vice chairperson, will run the meetings until a new chairperson is elected. Please feel free to come out and see what's happening around Melita School. I would like to remind parents and students about the dismissal policy. In order to cut down on hallway and locker congestion as well as traffic concerns, town students are asked to remain in the school until the 3:20 bell. Bus students are dismissed at 3:15. If grade 11 or 12 students are driving a vehicle, they may leave at 3:15 provided they are parked on the east side of the school (not in front) and they leave through the east exit roads. Grade 9 or 10 students may leave at 3:15 if they are riding with a sibling leaving in the eastbound vehicle and provided it has been prearranged. Town students may not leave at 3:15 and randomly look for a ride home. We hope everyone can understand our safety concerns for your child. We would like to encourage students who can eat lunch at home to do so. This cuts down on supervision issues at school and gives students a break from others.

We bid farewell to Mr. Dale Peake who has been our Superintendent for the past 8 years. I know many have met and interacted with Dale and know that his visionary ideas will be missed. We welcome our new Superintendent, Mr. Brad Kyle who will take over his duties beginning the second semester (February 8).

Sandra Clark

Grade 7 Words into Action Project - has been completed. The students raised a total of \$622.00, which they donated to Funds for Furry Friends of Brandon. This donation was sent to Brandon prior to the Christmas Break. Various pet foods and misc. items were also collected and donated to the group. The Grade 7 Class would like to thank all those people who helped contribute toward the success of our project. Much appreciated.

Melita School Grade 7 Class
Mrs. J Kersten



Exam Schedule Feb. 2010

Monday Feb.1	Tuesday Feb. 2	Wed. Feb.3	Thurs. Feb 4
Chem 30 Pre Cal 20 Consumer 20 Social Studies 9	Consumer 40 Applied 30 ELA 20 Math 9	Bio 30 Business 20	American History 20

Friday January 29th – last day regular classes for all students
 We will write in the a.m. only – teachers available for extra help in the p.m.
 Exams will be written in the library

Exam Rules:

- *All exams begin at 9:00 am
- *Students (Gr. 9-12) are not required to be at school when they are not writing exams but must have parent permission (same as a regular school day), if they are leaving after exams.
- *Bus students not going home are expected to be in the school
- *Students in the school will be expected to be studying
- *Students requiring help may make arrangements with their teachers. This should be done in advance as we still have Kindergarten-Grade 8 classes.
- *In case of storm, the order of the exams does not change and moves in order. (ex. Storm Feb. 1- then Feb. 2nd and so on)
- *A Dr's note will need to be provided for illness.
- *Any exams necessary outside the schedule must be pre-arranged at the office.

Mr. Trussler's T.A.G. group would like to thank Mr. D. Charles for his assistance in cleaning the outdoor rink of snow on Dec. 27. There was over 3 feet of snow on the surface and we would not have been able to clear it without him. We would also like to thank the Melita and Area Arena board for allowing the old groomer to be used to scrape the surface of the outdoor rink. Mr. D Shannon has volunteered to perform the surfacing on his own time, and we would like to also acknowledge his assistance.

Turtle Mountain Bible Camp

Registration forms for the Turtle Mountain Bible Camp are available in the office now for anyone interested in attending.

I would like to thank **Bob and Donna Brown** from Brown Accounting for taking the time to come in to our consumer math class to talk to us about income tax and help us do some returns. It was a very informative session and we really appreciated the information.

Linda Harmon and Consumer 40 Class

Congratulations to **Randy Loucks** for making the **All Star Team for High School Hockey** - Randy participated in a banquet and game in Neepawa on Saturday January 23rd.

Artist in the School:

Artist in the School Jay Stoller spent last week in Melita School teaching the Kindergarten – Grade 4 students how to drum!! Jay is an African drumming specialist and his drumming program is a favorite among school children of all ages. Living and studying drumming in Ghana for almost 4 years has given him a deep understanding of African music and culture that he has been sharing with students in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario over the past 9 years. In addition to being an extremely enjoyable experience, it incorporates elements of music and social studies curricula. On the final day, students presented a demonstration of their skills in drumming for the school and parents. Thank you Jay

Student Council

Before Christmas break the Senior Student Council held the "Winter Olympics" This consisted of six events, both indoor and outdoor. It all started with the "Opening Ceremonies" where each Tag team paraded around the gym dressed in costumes and carrying their team flag. After all of the events were over, the teams came in for hot chocolate and short bread cookies. Everyone showed lots of school spirit and sportsmanship! A big thank you to Mrs. Trider and Mrs. Green for judging the flags, making the hot chocolate and tallying the points. Our winner was Mrs. Campbell's tag group! Congratulations

Soon we hope to have a pep rally for the High School Hockey team and Varsity Boys Basketball.

BAND NEWS

For any band parents who have missed out on what we've been up to in the band room, here is an update:

An open meeting was held for all band parents on Wednesday Oct. 7th with a total of 10 parents in attendance. The following executive was confirmed:

President/Treasurer: Melanie Renwick

Secretary: Deb. Tilbury

Class Reps:

Gr. 6: Deb Frasier

Gr. 7: Sandra Brigden

Gr. 8: Marilyn Roe

Gr. 9: Lana Trider

Gr. 10: Andrea Riach

Gr. 11/12: Maureen Baird

Our Second parent meeting was held Wed. Jan 6th with the following plans put forward:

- **Band Concert - Thurs. March 4th at 7pm in the gym**
- Virden Festival (during the day - go by bus) - March 8.9.10, all bands
- "Lunch and Listen" - Spring Concert - Friday June 4th at 12:00 noon
- Gr. 6, Morrow Park Noon Concert - Wed. June 23rd or rain date of June 24th
- Steak Fry Fund Raiser - Friday April 9th (details to be discussed at the next meeting)

Our remaining band parent meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month as Maureen is now busy with community play practices on Wednesdays.

NEXT BAND PARENT MEETING: TUESDAY FEB. 2nd at 7pm -everyone is welcome

Grade 4

The Grade 4's had a Christmas party just before the break. We would like to thank Caden, Dante, Dane, Rachel and Blake for bringing in the goodies for this party. We enjoyed the movie Monsters VS Aliens in the afternoon at the theatre. We have been working on painting with watercolours in Art class. Mrs. Greig and her Grade 11 Art class have helped us out a couple of times with some projects. The grade 4's enjoyed this time with the grade 11's and would like to thank them for sharing their knowledge. We enjoyed a week with Artist in the School Jay Stoller. The grade 4's learned lots of rhythms on the African drums Mr. Stoller brought with him.



Kindergarten Newsletter

Thank you to Graham, Meagan and Alisha for the candycanes for the Kindergarten students in December. The students enjoyed them during a Christmas story. We thank you for your time in the classroom at noon.

The students study Canada, while working in the Social Studies curriculum. During November the students painted the Canadian flag and placed poppies on their picture for the members of the Melita Legion Club. The students thank the members for the beautiful bookmarks titled "In Flanders Fields".

The Melita 4-H Club Members: Mikaela Benton, Hilary Renwick , Allie Beauchamp and Leader, Karen Beauchamp will be entertaining the students on a Valentine's theme. We thank them in advance for their time in our classroom.

The Kindergarten Students will be traveling to the Melita & Area Personal Care Home on February 12 to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Dates to Remember:

Feb 1-4	Exams
Feb 2	Band Parent Meeting
Feb 5	PD Day No classes
Feb 8	Term 2 begins
Feb. 11	Youth Conference – Souris Grade 10's
Feb 15	Louis Riel Day No classes
Feb. 22	PAC meeting 7:00 pm
Feb. 24	Jo-Ann's Retirement Supper
Feb 26	PD Day No classes
March 2	Blood Donor Clinic 4 pm -8 pm
March 4	Band Concert 7 pm gym
March 8/9/10	Virden Music Festival
March 12	Admin. Day No classes
March 15/16/17	Community Theatre
March 16	Report Cards go home
March 22	Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences 5:00-8:00 pm (note time change)
March 23	Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences 5:30-8:00 pm (note time change)
March 26	Admin. Day No classes
March 29-April 2	Spring Break



