



Melita School News



October 2009

From the Office:

Hello again from Melita School. This month we have been busy with follow-up activities from Rachel's Challenge as well as volleyball games both at home and away for our Junior, Junior Varsity and Senior teams. Our grade 11s went to Virden to hear Big Daddy Tazz, a comedian whose talk was about Mental Health Awareness. Our Roots of Empathy program is up and running with Kai Skidmore visiting our Grade 7 classroom. This week we hosted our "Made in Manitoba" breakfast. Look for more about it in this newsletter. Also, our Pro Dog was here to search the school for drugs. We know that we are keeping students in a safe atmosphere when we randomly ask the dog to search our school and parking lot. At-risks will go home this week. Students in grade 9-12 with marks under 60% will receive a mark statement in the mail. Feel free to give the teacher a call to discuss the issues. Reports will go home November 20th. Two evenings, Nov. 25 (6:00-9:00) and Nov. 26 (6:00-8:30) have been set aside for student/parent/teacher conferences. Please plan to attend as this is an important part of your child's education.

We would like to remind parents that there is no supervision at the school until 8:35. As previously, we are having doors remain locked until that time. Students coming early will be unsupervised on the playground. We recognize that parents have to get to work early, but the school cannot be your day care. Thanks for your understanding in this matter.

Our Remembrance Service will be held November 10th at 10:45 and is open to the public.

After our Annual General Meeting of the Parent Advisory, the following are our executive for the 09-10 school year: Chairperson-Julie Chase, Vice Chair- Angie McNish, Secretary- Laurie Dalziel, Treasurer- Vicki Renwick. Room reps are as follows:

K-Jennifer Harmon, Grade 1- still looking, Grade 2- Buffy Barnesky, Grade 3- Janis Slack/Shannon Gervin, Grade 4- Yolanda Costa, Grade 5- Angie McNish, Grade 6- Julie Chase, Grade 7- Laurie Dalziel, Grade 8- Sherri Murray, Grade 9-Alana Loutit, Grade 10-Vicki Renwick, Grade 11- Penny Oliver, Grade 12- Diane Loucks. Thank you to these people for their dedication to a great school experience for their child and others. If you have items for the agenda, please give your room rep or the chairperson or school office a call. Agendas are developed a week in advance of the meeting and posted publicly.

The meetings are held the third Monday of the month. Nov. 16th at 7pm will be the next meeting. Visit our website any time. We try to keep it current. www.shmb.ca.mci

Sandra Clark

1-866-422-5113

1-204-483-6241

Melita School Phone #'s 1-866-422-5113 or 483-6293

Melita Nursery School Phone # 1-204-483-6264



Made in Manitoba Breakfast

The Made in Manitoba Breakfast was held at Melita School for Kindergarten –Grade12 students on Tuesday, October 27, 2009. Students viewed a twenty minute power point presentation designed to connect students with Manitoba Agriculture and its significance to the Manitoba economy. Following the educational presentation, students were served a breakfast of chocolate milk, flax pancakes, pork sausage, hard cooked eggs and honey by volunteer producers. Students were given the opportunity to make a real connection with the following producers and farming industry workers: Bill Dickinson, David Day, Brian Greig, Scott Chalmers, Scott Day and Lyle Forsyth. Cooking flax pancakes were Darryll Breemersch, Garry Serruys, Gloria Vanbeslaere, Sheila Harmon, Lyle Forsyth and Kevin Harmon. Thank you to Sheila Harmon for cooking sausages and to Deb Green for keeping things running smoothly. The school would like to thank Karen Hill for bringing the breakfast to our school.

REMEMBER TO THANK A FARMER!!



Take our Kids to Work...

On Wednesday, November 4, 2009 the grade 9 students will join grade 9s across the country in taking part in the 15th Annual Take Our Kids to Work program. Students will spend the day at the work place of a parent, relative, or other community member to take a look at what is done in a typical day in their work places. This initiative is sponsored by The Learning Partnership; more information is available at their website at www.thelearningpartnership.ca.

Grade 9s need to remember to return their permission sheets to participate in this program to Mrs. Greig before November 3.

On November 1 to November 30, 2009 Melita & Area PAC will be fundraising to help with supporting activities and worthwhile causes in our school. We ask for your help with this fundraiser. The youngest child in each family will be bringing home a Sunset Gourmet book along with a letter and a order form please help us continue to support our school.

YWCA Young Women's Conference

On Saturday, October 17, five girls from Melita attended the YWCA Young Women's Conference. These girls were Kelsey Schuddemat, Brei Jones, Kelly Harmon, Mikayla Long, and Mackenzie Loucks. The theme of the conference was "The Power of Being a Girl" and was held at Harrison Middle School. The goal of this conference was "to promote awareness to the fact that many life situations young women go through are universal. And while we may have differences in beliefs, cultures and values, we do share common bonds as well." This day was full of information, activities, food, and fun! Thanks for coming girls!

Mrs. Debbie Leslie

MUSIC/BAND NEWS

The Christmas Band Concert has been changed to Tues. Dec. 1st at 7pm

- all band members, grades 6-12 are asked to wear black pants and a white shirt (no printing - all white only)

Congratulations to Hanna Bambridge for her participation in the Westman Honour Choir. This group is an audition choir of grades 10-12 from the S.W. area (37 towns represented) which toured from October 17-20. Sixty members were chosen from 110 auditions.

ARHA Unmasking Mental Health Events

On October 15, the Grade 11's traveled to Virden for the ARHA's Unmasking Mental Health Events. The purpose of the event was to educate students in the region on a variety of topics such as anxiety disorders, depression, ADHD, eating disorders, and schizophrenia. A human side of mental illness was seen when a panel of guests spoke about their experiences and recovery with mental illness. Students also got a chance to do a Service Navigation exercise which allowed them to visit booths from services and resources that are available in our area. Another goal of the day was to help reduce the stigma that is attached to mental illness. The day ended with a stand up comedy routine by Big Daddy Tazz. Once home from the event, students participated in a Blue Ribbon campaign in which they were given two blue ribbons. Students were asked to give each ribbon someone who has made a difference in their lives.

Mrs. Debbie Leslie and Mr. Brad Vandenberghe

Power Smart Manitoba Winter Games 2010

The Power Smart Manitoba Winter Games are going to be in Portage la Prairie March 7th to 13th, 2010. Compete in your favourite sport for a chance to represent Westman as a part of Team Westman at the Games!

Sport	Age Category	Qualifier Date & Location	
Artistic Gymnastics	10 – 18 years old	Jan. 16	Southport
Badminton	10 – 18 years old	Dec. 12 & 13	Souris
Cross Country Ski	Born between 1994 – 1999	Jan. 31	Ski Birch
Curling	12 – 17 years old	Jan. 15 – 17	Rivers
Figure Skating	10 – 17 years old	Visit website for dates and locations	
Five-Pin Bowling	10 – 21 years old	Nov. 15	Brandon
Female Hockey	16 years old and under	TBD	TBD
Male Hockey	14 years old and under	TBD	TBD
Ringette	19 years old and under	TBD	TBD
Special Olympics Bowling	10 years old and over	Jan. 16	Brandon
Female Volleyball	16 years old and under	TBD	TBD
Male Volleyball	16 years old and under	TBD	TBD

For more information, please visit www.powersmartmanitobagames.ca or call the Sport Manitoba – Westman Region office at 726-6072 or 1-866-774-2220 ext. 4.



Proud Presenting Sponsors of the 2010 Power Smart Manitoba Winter Games



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Melita School Parent Advisory Council Financial Report Oct 1, 2008 to Oct 1, 2009

OPENING BALANCE \$ 3024.37

REVENUE:

Fundraising \$6259.69
 Equipment Rent 50.00
 Bank (misc) 24.00
 Bank Int. 2.77
Total \$6336.19

\$ 9360.83

EXPENSES:

Voch Tech 4297.50
 Fundraising 3158.60
 Newsletters 343.74
 Donations 250.00
 Shovels 210.33
 Rachel's Challenge &
 Parenting class 67.35
 Misc (fruit basket) 25.00
 Dare Cake 25.00
 Bank Fees 15.00
Total \$8392.52

Balance \$ 968.31

Bank Balance (Oct 1, 2009) \$ 968.31

Senior Student Council

Our magazine fundraiser has come to a close with a gross total sales of \$3256.81. This means that our school will make \$4300.00. Thanks to everyone for selling magazines. We will be having our top 20 sellers luncheon soon.

On Monday October 26, 2009 we are having a Senior Student Council Leadership meeting in Hartney. Student Councils from Melita, Souris and Deloraine will be there.

Middle Years News

The Middle Years Student Council hosted a *Welcome Back* Dance on Friday, September 25th. A huge thank you goes out to our parent chaperones: Lana Tilbury, Melanie Sanderson, Heather McCutcheon, Angela Jacobson, Alana Louttit, Cindy & Brian Spurrill. Also, our appreciation to Allison Armstrong and Natalie Snyder for being our DJs. Great job ladies!

For the week of October 26th-30th, a K-12 Spirit Week was planned by the Middle Years Student Council. Monday – PJ Day, Tuesday – Geek/Nerd Day, Wednesday – Senior Day, Thursday – Fashion Disaster Day and Friday – Halloween. Thank you to everyone that participated in this event. Stay tuned for future activities and events planned by your Student Council. If you have any ideas or thoughts, please feel free to pass them onto one of the council members.

Melita Nursery School

Our classroom in the BIG school was ready to welcome the children in September. New helpers, Chris Kissinger and Sharon Kirkup and I have enjoyed getting to know everyone. During our garden and harvest theme the children painted fall pictures with vegetables, sang apple songs and made new friends. In early October we made Thanksgiving place mats and turkey handprints. Halloween is here and the children are excited to show off their costumes. Thanks to all those who helped make their parties so spooktacular.

The Nursery School Phone number is 1-204-483-6264

Mrs. Jones.

Kindergarten –Grade 6

Students estimated the weight of a large pumpkin grown and donated by Denise Benton. The student with the closest estimate to the actual weight will be awarded a prize at the annual Halloween parade on the morning of October 30, 2009

Kindergarten

Thank you to Barker's Agri Centre for another selection of books for the Kindergarten class. Deb Barker presented the books from the class wish list from the Melita School Book Fair. The student's appreciated the new titles for their classroom library.

Thank you to Elizabeth, Cheyanne and Rylee for the pumpkins for the classroom.

The Kindergarten students will be having their Halloween Party at the Melita & Area Personal Care Home.

Thank you to Donna Fletcher, Jennifer Harmon and Jonina Elliott for their time assisting at the Party.

Grade One News

Grade One students colored Mallard ducks for the Melita & Area Ducks Unlimited banquet. This month students continued to learn about the life cycle of the pumpkin. Students measured, weighed, drew and wrote riddles about pumpkins.

Early in October students celebrated Thanksgiving at a "Pilgrim Lunch" students made centerpieces, a napkin holder and a placemat for the celebration. Each child wrote and illustrated a story about a turkey called strut. After reading a book entitled, "Albert's Thanksgiving, students made a pumpkin pizza.

Happenings in Grade Five:

The Grade five class has settled in and are actively involved in a variety of activities. First off the class is "Reading Across Canada". Each page read is a kilometre on our trek around Canada. It takes about 17 835km to go around Canada, stopping in each of the provinces and territories. So far the grade five students have read a total of 2 078 pages. Keep up the great reading Grade five!!

The Grade five students are putting their "Words into Action" by fundraising for Trick or Treat UNICEF. The students held a bake table at the Kinsmen Craft Sale on Saturday, October 18th. All funds raised went towards UNICEF. They raised \$233.50, plus a \$20.00 donation from the Melita Golf Club for our table, and two \$25.00 donations, so a total of \$303.50 was raised for UNICEF. These funds will help children of Rwanda and Malawi, Africa with school supplies, books, teaching supplies, desk, schools and even clean drinking water. We would like to thank Lana Tilbury and Connie Mallo for their help with this activity. We will also be hosting a Halloween Hoot for Grades one to four. We are creating games for these students to play. The grade one to four students are asked to bring a loonie or toonie as a donation for UNICEF. These donations will also go toward UNICEF.

We enjoyed a Made in Manitoba Breakfast on October 27. Thanks to the cooks and the servers for this yummy start to the day.

The grade five class is off to High School Musical Jr. production in Virden on Wednesday, October 28. This should be a great experience.

The magazine campaign is over for another year. The Grade five class sold a lot of magazines and should be proud of their efforts.

Well folks that is all for now from the grade five class. Have a great November and remember to "Wear a Poppy".



WE CHALLENGE YOU! Hockey players, power skaters, figure skaters or anyone with good character and skating experience - The Melita Skating Club needs responsible volunteers to help out on our CanSkate/Learn-to-Skate session each Tuesday and Thursday from 5:00-5:45 pm. If you enjoy working with children of various skating abilities, please talk with Mrs. McCutcheon at school or call Marie at 522-3155. There will be a regional program assistant clinic on Sunday, November 8th if interested. Again, we challenge you to be a big skater brother/sister and be an inspiration to upcoming skaters in our community.

Grade 7 News:

The Gr 7 Class had had a busy couple of months. We have had Mrs. Joan Trott, a local artist, visit our classroom on 2 occasions. The Gr 7's were studying about identity and creating their own autobiographies, so as an aside to this assignment, Mrs. Trott had the student's create their own identity masks.

The class also volunteered their time in helping set up tables for the Made in Manitoba breakfast, your help was greatly appreciated.

The Gr. 7's had the opportunity to attend the High School Musical Presentation at Virden on Oct 28th. A fun time was had by all. That's all for now, Happy Fall/Halloween!!!!

Grade 7 News - Words into Action Project

This year the Grade 7 Class will be asking for the communities help in supporting the "Funds for Furry Friends" organization. This group is based out of Brandon, and has helped rescue many animals who are being abused, neglected or who are in ill health. The average cost to support or care for an animal per day is estimated at around \$65.00. This goes towards the cost of food, medical attention, toys, clothing, etc. We have decided to organize a bake sale during the Parent-Teacher Conferences for the evenings of Wed, Nov 25 and Thurs, Nov 26/09 - each one of the students will be contributing a bake sale item for our cause. The students will have a collection box set up at the bake tables, for those wishing to donate some pet food, pet toys, etc. The Grade 7 Class appreciates and thank you for your support!!

Mrs. Jodie Kersten and the Gr. 7 Class

Grade 7/8 Girls Volleyball

The girls volleyball season is drawing to an end. We have had lots of interest this year with 18 girls in total. We played with two teams who competed against Hartney, Waskada, Pierson and Deloraine. Maddie Loucks volunteered her time to coach these teams. We go to the league tournament on Thurs. Oct. 29 in Deloraine and our grade 8's will be going to the Zone tournament on Monday Nov. 9th in Deloraine. These girls represented our school very well and had lots of fun this season.

Grade 7 Players: Brynn Kirkup, Amber Tilbury, Alysha Von Richter, Sydney Vanhove, Brei-Anne Jones, Kelly Harmon, Mikayla Long, Mackenzie Loucks, Kelsey Schuddemat

Grade 8 Players: Keesha McCutheon, Katie Trussler, Maddison Larouche, Sam Beauchamp, Kylan Tilbury, Kaelei Rink, Cheyenne Ryland, Mardelle Tilbury, Hayley Schuddemat)

Linda Harmon

Homestay Families Needed

In October of 2008, the five school divisions in Southwestern Manitoba: Beautiful Plains, Fort la Bosse, Rolling River, Southwest Horizon and Turtle Mountain, formed a consortium to bring international students to our area. Over the past 12 months, we have worked to build a program and recruit students. The program is moving forward and we are getting many inquires about studying at our schools.

A very important piece to our program is homestay families. We are now actively seeking families to open their homes to students from other countries. Over the summer, our office has had many inquires from families requesting information. We would like to encourage anyone interested in becoming a homestay family to please apply now. Visit www.studymanitoba to find out more about homestay family guidelines. You can apply to host a student for one or two semesters. You may apply online. Once registered, you will need to provide the following:

- Criminal Record Checks for family members over the age of 18, living at home
- Child Abuse Registry Checks for family members over the age of 18, living at home
- 2 Letters of recommendation
- Home site visit

We will be placing students with eligible homestay families in the next 4-12 months. The only limit we have to our international student program is the number of families we have to place students with. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office:

Rhonda Simon, International Student Program Coordinator

Study Manitoba School Divisions
100-2nd Street South, P.O. Box 820
Souris, Manitoba R0K 2C0

Phone: 483-6252

Email: rhonda@studymanitoba.ca

Dates to remember:

November 3	Blood Donor Clinic 4:00-8:00
November 4	Take our Kids to Work Grade 9's
November 10	Remembrance Service 10:45
November 11	No School
November 12	No School (Admin. Day)
November 17	Post Secondary Day 1:00
November 20	Reports go home
November 25	Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences 6:00-9:00
November 26	Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences 6:00-8:30
November 27	No School
December 1	Band Concert 7:00 pm
December 7	Christmas Concert (Strand Theatre) Kindergarten, Grade 2 & 4
December 8	Christmas Concert (Strand Theatre) Grade 1, 3 & 5
December 18	Last Day of Classes
January 4	Welcome Back

Westman Girls Volleyball Team

We are looking for Girls born in 1996 or later who are interested in playing on the Westman volleyball team in the 2010 Manitoba Power Smart Winter Games in Portage la Prairie, March 11, 12, 13.

Head Coach: Jeff Maxwell jmaxwell@rrsd.mb.ca Assistant Coach: Greg Beckwith beckwith@mts.net
Manager: Barb Birch bbirch@wcgwave.ca

The Manitoba Games are the largest ongoing multisport event in Manitoba that brings together the best developmental age athletes from each region in the province. The Power Smart Manitoba Winter Games follow the Olympic cycle, taking place every two years, alternating between summer and winter. Participants' registration fees, Sports Manitoba, Manitoba's corporate community, and local fundraising efforts fund the Manitoba Games.

Once the team is selected we will practice twice a week for January and February: Sundays from 12:00-2:00 and Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 at Elton Collegiate.

We will arrange exhibition games in February and try to schedule them during our practice times. We strongly encourage the athletes to play age class club volleyball to help develop their skills and complement our Westman team program.

Costs:	Tryouts	\$30	everyone that attends
	MVA Fee	\$100	once selected to the team
	<u>Manitoba Games Fee</u>	<u>\$100</u>	once selected to the team
	Total	\$230	

Tryout: Date: Sunday December 13
Time: 10:00-12:00
2:00-4:00 Athletes must attend both sessions

Location: Forrest Elementary, Forrest, Manitoba

Team Selection will be posted on www.bigbearvball@piczo.com on Monday Dec. 14th

You can find more information about the Games at www.manitobagames.ca and if you have any questions please contact one of the coaches.

If you are interested in trying out for the team (\$30 tryout fee) please register by emailing Jeff Maxwell at jmaxwell@rrsd.mb.ca before December 11.