



FEBRUARY 2012

Feb. 1 (Wed) - Kindergarten Registration

Feb. 2 (Thurs) - "Minute to Win It" ECVS 6:30-7:30

Feb. 7 (Tues) - Grade 8 Shilo Trip

Feb. 17 (Fri) - Knights of Columbus Regionals 5 p.m.

Feb. 20 (Mon) - Louis Riel Day **SCHOOLS CLOSED**

Feb. 21 (Tues) - Grade 6-8 Skiing/Tubing Trip

Feb. 23 (Thurs) - Grade 5 Tubing Trip

Feb. 24 (Fri) - Division P.D. **NO SCHOOL**

March 1 (Thurs) - Student Led Conferences 5:00-7:30 pm

March 2 (Fri) - Student Led Conferences 10:00am -1:00pm **NO SCHOOL**

March 8 (Thurs) - Home and School Meeting 7p.m.

March 15 (Thurs) - Café Manitobain CPF activity, details to be announced.

March 20, 21 (Tues, Wed) - Drama Production "The Big Bad Musical"



STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES
Our Student-Led Conferences will be held on Thursday, March 1st and Friday, March 2nd.
ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND!

CANSPELL

Canspell will be continuing until May! Congratulations to the following students on their spelling test results:

- 1st—Tessa Lupkowski (won \$25.00)
- 2nd—Camilla Rose Kinnear (won \$20.00)
- 3rd—Louise Munoz, Yasi Shahidian (each won \$15.00)

Tessa will be writing another test that may qualify her for provincials! Well done to all the Canspell participants!

SNACK PROGRAM

Snack was yummy cheese and crackers on January 23rd. Thanks to Delnora Rice and Carol Lupkowski for the preparation.

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

Student-Led Conferences will take place on:

- Thursday, March 1st** from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m., and on
- Friday, March 2nd** from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Letters indicating conference times will be sent home at the beginning of February.

Please note that **STUDENTS MUST ATTEND** these conferences as they will be responsible for presenting their portfolio to you.

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH

CPF will be hosting a "Minute to Win It", en français evening on February 2nd at 6:30 in the Library at ECVS. This event will be for grades K-4 French Immersion and Basic French students in grade 4.

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Next Home and School meeting is March 8th at 7:00 p.m. This will be a planning meeting for the annual Variety Night.

BAND NEWS

The grade 8 music trip has been booked for March 5-7. We will be attending Camp Arnes again this year and **we are searching for some chaperones.** Please contact Mr. Goertzen if you are interested or have any questions. Grade 7 and 8 music/band classes are selling excellent boxes of oranges and grapefruits until February 9th. Don't miss out.

NEWS FROM THE GYM

Physical Education classes are in the midst of their Basketball Unit and the skills are definitely improving. Next after Basketball will be our second Manitoba Fitness Test.

FEBRUARY SWIMMING DATES:



Group #3 swims on:

February 2nd

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Departing at 9:10

- 6 - Collett
- 6 - Tessier
- JLS - Mrs. Fraser

Group #1, #2 swims on:

February 16th

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Departing at 9:10

- 5 - Lucko
- 6 - Crevier
- JLS - Mrs. Fraser

Departing at 9:50

- 5 - Diboll
- 5 - Kelly
- JLS - Mrs. Fraser

Group #3 swims on:

February 29th

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Departing at 9:10

- 6 - Collett
- 6 - Tessier
- JLS - Mrs. Fraser

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW
COMPETITION**

Congratulations to all our school's Free Throwers who competed at the City Championships! The following students will represent our school AND our city at the District Championships on February 17th at 5:00 in our gym.

Juliana Wright, Darren Reimer, Kalem McEachnie, Brett Taylor, Bruna Maciel, Paige Kernot. Way to go! We are proud of you!

EAMS BASKETBALL

Our 4 Basketball Teams have just reached the halfway point of the league play. All teams have shown marked improvement in their individual skills, understanding of team play and strategies. Special "thank yous" go out to our scorekeepers: Cassidy Killam, Matthew Jackson, Kari Miller, Yasi Shahidian, Maggie Duncan and Allie Nadeau Also, a huge "thank you" to our timekeeper, Mrs. Collett.

Best of luck to our teams and their coaches, also our staff liaisons; Mrs. Goertzen, Mrs. Davey and Mrs. Diboll.

Thank you coaches for your time, effort, and patience.

- Boys' A Team: Mr. McLeod
- Boys' B Team: Mr. Schmidt
- Girls' A Team: Constable Smith

RICK HANSEN RELAY

On Jan. 27, EAMS held an assembly at 11:00a.m. for the Rick Hansen Relay. Students learned about Rick's life and challenges, his Man in Motion Tour 25 years ago, and the 25th Anniversary Relay, "Many in Motion", being carried out at this time across Canada to commemorate Rick's world tour. EAMS was very proud to be part of this event and even more proud to have **Gareth Rice**, a Gr.7 student here, be a medal bearer, as well as our own teacher, Mr. Dan Rosset. After the assembly where Gareth received the medal, our students and staff lined the parking lot to watch Gareth begin his segment of the relay. There were lots of smiles, cheers, and much excitement and encouragement as Gareth took off and rounded the corner onto River Road. We are very proud of Gareth, he truly is a difference-maker! Congratulations to both Gareth and Mr. Rosset for their part in Rick's Anniversary Relay!

MARCH 26 - 30
SPRING BREAK
SCHOOLS CLOSED
 Apr. 6 (Fri) - Good Friday
SCHOOLS CLOSED
 Apr. 13 (Fri) - School P.D.
NO SCHOOL
 Apr. 26 (Thurs) - Variety Night
 May 21 (Mon) -
VICTORIA DAY
SCHOOLS CLOSED
 June 22 (Fri) - Admin. Day
NO SCHOOL
 June 28 (Thurs) -
LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS
 June 29 (Fri) - Admin. Day
NO SCHOOL



Say

Aloha

AT THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

MARCH 1st 5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

&

MARCH 2nd 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Do your **Birth**day shopping early - books make great gifts for students and teachers

Enter to win a **Door Prize**, and enter our "Guess How Many Contest"



PORTABLE COMMUNICATION DEVICES POLICY

IE: CELL PHONE, IPOD, MP3, ETC.

It is expected that students bringing cell phones to school use them in a responsible manner, i.e. they must remain in the student's locker, turned off, checked only at breaks and noon after books are put away or exchanged. I-pods may be used from 11:50 to 12:50. Students found with, or using these items in the classrooms or hallways during classes will have them confiscated until home time on the 1st offence. Subsequent and/or continued violations will result in a phone call to the parent/guardian to come and pick it up and may also result in suspension. For legal and privacy reasons students are prohibited from taking pictures of, or voice recording, or videotaping classroom activity or student and staff members without permission. **NOTE:** Any students found sharing pictures electronically, (internet, Facebook, etc.) without knowledge and consent from all participants will be subject to suspension or possible expulsion. The RCMP may also be involved. **Please note that this applies to all school functions (field trips, dances, etc.).**

CURLING NEWS

It's hard to believe but the majority of the Junior Curling season is now behind us. As of the end of January our curlers will have played 8 of the 10 scheduled games already. That means two more dates in February and playoffs not far behind. The curlers have been showing great improvement in their skills in both shot making and calling strategy. This should make for some exciting games during playoffs.

The playoffs are scheduled to begin the week of February 27th and the finals are scheduled for the week of March 12th. The end of year wind-up will also take place that final week and all curlers are invited to attend. Stay posted for more information.

There are no games scheduled for the week of February 20th as the Monday is Louis Riel Day – however, there is ice available on the 21st from 4:00-5:30 should any teams wish to practise or if there is a need to make up any games.

How would you like to win a new curling broom autographed by many provincial and world champion curlers? Buy a raffle ticket and you might be that lucky winner. Raffle tickets will be sold at the curling rink through the remainder of the season and will be awarded at the wind-up. Good Luck! And Good Curling!



I LOVE TO READ MONTH!

You are key to improving your child's reading ability
by placing a high priority on reading in your home.

Encourage family literacy in your home with these activities during "I Love to Read Month"

Book family time to read every day. "Stop, drop and read!"

Set a reading goal for the month with your whole family.

Create a special reading place in your home, with your child's favourite books within reach.

Encourage reading everywhere: TV, street signs, recipes, schedules, grocery stores, menus, billboards, etc.

Find a new story every week to read with your child - vary the length and subject matter.

Keep teens reading. Give them books, newspaper articles, and magazines that interest them.

Make everyday a learning day. Ask your children to write shopping lists, thank-you notes, or make schedules of weekly activities.

Babies benefit from reading too!

Visit the local library - it's open in the evenings and on Saturdays.

Have a written conversation for a few minutes each day with your child or as a family.

It's a Fact!

Literacy is the basis for the well-being of individuals, families, and the whole province. The ability to read, write and perform basic math has an impact well beyond those skills. Low literacy is, on the surface, an invisible handicap. Its effects, however, are not. Investing in literacy makes economic, social and political sense / cents.

School Activities: The school has a number of activities planned for the students, such as Poster Contest, Reading Challenge, D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read), Famous Lines, Fairytale Campfire Story, Vocabulary Week, dress like a story book character day, and decorating classrooms.

Attached to this Newsletter is a February calendar giving some more suggestions for daily activities at home regarding "I Love To Read Month!" Enjoy!



HOW FAR WOULD YOUR CHILD GO TO GET NOTICED?

Are you convinced that your child would never send inappropriate texts, photos or videos over their cell phone? You may want to think again. Research suggests that 30% of 17 year-olds and 15% of 12—17 year-olds who own cell phones have received a nude or nearly nude photo (“a sext”) on their phone from someone they know. (*Teens and Sexting, Pew Internet and American Life Project, 2009*)

This study by the Pew Research Centre found that there are three common sexting scenarios: the exchange of photos between two romantic partners; exchanges between one of those partners and other parties outside of the relationship; and finally, a scenario that sees one teen sexting another in hopes that a relationship will develop.

Teens also become victims when they send nude photos or videos through instant messaging, webcams, and social networking sites. Like sexting, all these scenarios can quickly spin out of control. Once a photo or video has been sent, there is no way to regain control over it. Posting a photo makes it permanent, not to mention the fact that manufacturing, possessing or distributing naked or sexually explicit pictures of children under 18 years of age is illegal (these photos or videos are considered child pornography).

While safety lessons for youth often focus on how to avoid victimization at the hands of “adult” sex offenders, studies like the one cited above are showing that it’s becoming more common for youth to be victimized by their peers and through self-exploitation. That’s why it’s important for parents to talk to their teens before it’s too late.

Beyond sexting or posting sexually explicit photos and videos, teens often post unflattering or disrespectful photos/videos of themselves and their friends. While photos may be funny between friends, posting them online for everyone to see can be embarrassing and hurtful. It’s important for teens to not only protect own photos but also those of family members and friends. Remind your teen to consider their friends’ feelings and privacy before uploading any photos. Reinforce to your adolescent the importance of protecting other people’s personal information and pictures. This should apply even when they are upset with a friend or family member.

In addition to respecting their friends, it’s important that your teen respects her/himself. Discuss the importance of considering the consequences of posting photos on social networking sites. While it can be fun to peruse last weekends party pictures, your adolescent needs to remember how those photos could affect their future. Discuss with them the concept of dignity and self-respect and how it can be preserved or destroyed by what they post online. How could a photo prevent them from gaining employment in the future? How would they feel if their grandparents saw some of those photos? How would their teacher feel about those photos? These are important considerations for your teen. By stopping and asking themselves just a few questions before posting a photo, a lifetime of embarrassment, shame and guilt can be easily avoided.

For more tips and other information, visit the Respect Yourself website at cybertip.ca/respectyourself

taken from volume 1, issue 3 of SAFE Safety Awareness For Everyone magazine

STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP INITIATIVES

The Student Support Group has been getting ready for Valentines. This year all of the girls in the school will be given a valentine that they will pin to their top. During breaks the boys will try to make them talk; when they succeed they will then take possession of the valentine. At the end of the day the boy with the most valentines will receive a prize and any girls who still have their hearts will get to put them in a draw for a prize. In the past, students have had a day of laughter and connectedness!

From January 30-February 3, the Student Support Group will be selling valentines (two for a quarter) that can be filled out and later sorted and delivered by the Student Support Group to the recipients’ home room on Valentines’ Day.

They also have a friendship bracelet initiative going on. A small group of students will be selected from each grade 5 class and taught how to make the bracelets. These students will then be able to bring in other students from their class and teach them how to make the bracelets. We will see how this works with the grade 5 classes and then we may continue the project with the grade 6s. Bracelets will be made in the outer counseling area.

On February 23rd, the annual fundraiser for AIDS research will be taking place. Each year students can assist in with the fundraising by buying a package that contains: gum, a brochure with information on HIV/AIDS, and a red ribbon for a dollar. All day long the students will be allowed to chew gum if they are wearing the red ribbon.

DRAMA CLUB

THE BIG BAD MUSICAL- A Howling Courtroom Comedy Book by Alec Strum Music and Lyrics by Bill Francoeur

The Drama Club at EAMS and several staff are spending Tuesdays and Thursday after school rehearsing for this production. Rehearsals will take place from November – March. Production dates are set for March 19-23. We look forward to seeing everyone out to watch the Big Bad Wolf as he goes on trial in the Enchanted Forest. Watch as the Evil Step-Mother defends Mr. Wolf and the Fairy God Mother brings a wide variety of Fairy Tale Characters to the stand against Mr. Wolf. Be part of the jury as an audience member and decide the fate of the Big Bad Wolf! If you have any costumes that you would like to lend the Drama Club, please feel free to contact Lisa Tessier or Angela Mills at 857-3405. Tickets will go on sale at the office starting February 27th.



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

PORTAGE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION: 2011 Spring Registration dates are: February 21st 7-9 p.m., March 5th 7-9 p.m. and March 8th 7-9:30 p.m. All at the PCU Centre. Registration fee is \$60.00 plus a \$25.00 (refundable) Jersey deposit. Please have separate cheques for each child. New players to PYSA need to bring a photocopy of their birth certificate and medical card.
NO LATE REGISTRATION AFTER MARCH 31st.

PINK LADIES SNOW RIDE FOR BREAST CANCER, at Canad Inns, Portage. Open at 8am to 10am. Ride leaves Canad Inns at 10, lunch in St. Claude, back at Canad Inns for Supper and evening. Chinese Auction and presentation. Bring your hubby and kids along for the ride. Ladies only need to register for regular packages. Call Tammy 204-871-0848 OR stop by Avenue Polaris and see Darlene.

CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES is asking 200 Portage and area residents, including 25 new donors to rally together to save lives at the upcoming blood donor clinic on Tuesday, February 28th. The blood collected at this clinic will benefit trauma, surgery, cancer and other patients requiring blood treatment. The clinic runs from 1:30 - 3:30 & 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Portage Alliance Church. Call now to make an appointment - 1 888 2 DONATE(1 888 236 6283, or now you can book on line at www.blood.ca. It's in you to give...

SCHOOL POLICY OF THE MONTH

TRUANCY

Truancy is defined as the absence from school for reasons not covered by the Public School's Attendance Act - (260.1(2)).

This Act states, "that for short periods of time, children may be legally absent from school because of sickness or other unavoidable cause...e.g., school sponsored activities; court appearances; death in the family; or because of a religious holiday." All other reasons for absenteeism could be considered as truancy.

Truancy shall be dealt with in the following manner:

1. Student may be required to make up missed time - morning, at noon, or after school. (Maximum detention time shall not exceed one hour per day unless special arrangements have been made with the parent / guardian).

2. For frequent or chronic truancy, the student will be placed on a special monitoring list and shall be reported to the School Division's Attendance Officer. Parents can be prosecuted for not ensuring their child attends school on a regular basis. In School or Out of School Suspensions may result from chronic truancy. In all cases of tardiness or truancy, the student is responsible for missed work. The assignments missed must be made up before the beginning of the next class.

ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance is of paramount importance to all students. This is not only basic to satisfactory achievement but it is an important factor in June for determining exemptions.

All student absenteeism must be covered by an explanation from the parent / guardian. This can be done either through a **telephone call** from the parent or guardian or a **written explanation** sent to the school. For lengthy absences, it is expected the home will contact the school prior to the **start** of the absence, whenever possible.

PERSONAL PHONE CALLS

A student phone is available to students for personal phone calls, to be used only at breaks. School policy is that we will not call students from class to the office phone, unless it is an emergency. Only calls from immediate family will be forwarded.

The school secretaries will take phone messages for students and have them return a call at break or noon hour if necessary.

