

FEBRUARY 2010



STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES
*Our Student-Led Conferences will be held on
 Thursday, February 11th and Friday, February 12th.*
ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND!

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CALENDAR 2010

- Feb. 1 - 5 Kindergarten Registration
- Feb. 9 (Tues) - CPF Meeting at 7:00 pm
- Feb. 11 (Thurs) - Grade 8 Bake Sale & Giant Cookie Raffle
- Feb. 11 (Thurs) - Student-Led Conferences 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 12 (Fri) - Student-Led Conferences 10:00- 1:00 p.m.
- Feb. 15 (Mon) - Louis Riel Day
SCHOOLS CLOSED
- Feb. 26 (Fri) - Division P.D.
NO SCHOOL
- March 2 & 3 (Tues & Wed) - Drama performances of "Oz"
- March 8 - 12 Spring Break
PORTAGE DIVISION
ONLY SCHOOLS
CLOSED**

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The next meeting of the Home & School Association will be held in **March**. The actual date will be announced later. This will be a planning meeting for our annual Variety Night.

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH. PORTAGE

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 9th** at 7:00 pm. in the Library at EAMS.

We are in the midst of planning an evening event for April 15th at EAMS. Stay tuned for more details!

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

We will again be holding the Student-Led Conferences.

They will take place on: **Thursday, February 11th** from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m., and on **Friday, February 12th** 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.

SCHOOL NEWSPAPER "THE EAGLE"

EAMS is pleased to announce the creation of a school newspaper! The first issue is due out the middle of this month. Watch for more details in next month's Newsletter.

STUDENTS WHO ARE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

In view of the current flu season, we ask that parents or guardians please notify the school if your child(ren) are going to be absent from school for any reason, but, in particular, if they are sick.

Also, if you are taking your child out of school during the day for any reason, i.e. appointment etc., please notify the office so that the student can sign out.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

SPRING BREAK

Due to Portage la Prairie hosting the Manitoba Winter Games, the Spring Break for the year 2009-2010 will be from March 8 - 12, 2010.

FEBRUARY SWIMMING DATES:



Group #1 swims: Thursday, Feb. 4th, 18th & 25th
 ++++++

Departing at 9:20

- 5 - Guimond-Low
- 6 - Collett
- JLS - Mrs. Fraser

Departing at 10:05

- 5 - Diboll
- 6 - Crevier

Group #2 swims: Thursday, February 11th & Tuesday, February, 23rd
 ++++++

Departing at 9:20

- 5/6 - Gayoway
- 6/7 - Tessier
- JLS - Mrs. Fraser

Departing at 10:05

- 5 - Kelly

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.

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: Presley Bolton, Jenna Koroscil, and Frederique Tessier. Also, a huge thank you to our timekeeper, Mrs. Collett.

Best of luck to our teams and their coaches:

Boys' A Team: Miss Gayoway

Boys' B Team: Mr. Citulsky

Girls' A Team: Mr. B. Diboll & Mrs. Diboll

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

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FREE THROW COMPETITION**

Our students have been competing in the Knights of Columbus school free throw championship at our school. Students aged 10 - 14 as of January 1, 2010 are eligible to enter. School Champions advanced to the City Championships hosted by Ecole Arthur Meighen School on Friday, January 29 at 4:00 p.m. If they advance to the District Championships, Ecole Arthur Meighen School will also host that event on Thursday, February 18th at 5:00 p.m. The Snow Date will be Friday, February 19th at 5:00 p.m. District champions then go on to compete at the Provincial level in St. Boniface on Saturday, March 13th, 2010. If you have any questions, please call Miss Smith at school, 857-3405.

BAND NEWS

FUBUKI DAIKO: DVD's of our Fubuki Daiko performances are still available for purchase. If you are interested in purchasing or ordering a copy, please talk to Mr. Goertzen as soon as possible or leave a message at the office. The cost of the DVD will be \$5.00. Thank you for your support.

FRUIT FUNDRAISER: We are finishing our citrus fruit fundraiser. Order forms for the selling of boxes of oranges and grapefruits were sent home with students and the fruit will be delivered on February 10th. The proceeds raised from this sale will be used to offset the cost of their Band Trip to Camp Arnes in early May.

INSTRUMENTAL RENTAL: Just a reminder that students who are renting an instrument from the School need to pay the balance, or the full amount of the rental by Friday, February 5th, 2010. Please pay Mr. Goertzen or at the school office.

DRAMA CLUB

The Drama Club will be presenting their first ever Musical "**Oz**" on **Tuesday, March 2nd and Wednesday, March 3rd at 7:00p.m.** in the Music Room.

There will also be afternoon performances for the student body on the same days at 1:00 p.m.

We are looking for parent volunteers who could help out with lights and sound and we are still in need of the following costumes:

- Scarecrow
- Tinman
- Lion

If you have a costume and / or would like to assist in any way, please contact Lynn Mitchell at the school: 857-3405.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Thank you to all students who came out to our Dance on January 14th. Special thanks to the staff and parent volunteers from the schools involved, and to Mr. & Mrs. Ralph and Denyse Jack, who helped out with the canteen.

Congratulations to Jeremy Allen (6Co), who won the Winter Wonderland Basket!

At this time, Student Council has donated the proceeds of canteen items left over from our dance to Haiti! This has raised over \$100.00!

HAITI

Over the past couple of weeks, students and staff at EAMS have initiated several classroom fundraising projects. Many thanks go out to all who have supported the following endeavours:

- 5Ke Friendship Pins: \$224.61
- 5GL "Oscar" collecting Loonies & Toonies: \$502.04
- 5G6 Hats for Haiti: \$208.10
- Student Council: \$104.41
- Coming soon: Grade 8 students' Giant Cookie Raffle (in conjunction with their Bake Sale on February 11th)

GO FOR GOLD AT SCHOLASTIC'S**BOOK FAIR OLYMPICS****ON:**

FEBRUARY 11TH 5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

&

FEBRUARY 12TH 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 **Medals In The Jar**” Contest.

CALENDAR 2010

Mar. 19 (Fri) - Division Inservice
SCHOOLS CLOSED

Apr. 2 - GOOD FRIDAY
SCHOOLS CLOSED

Apr. 16 (Fri) - School Based P.D.
Day **NO SCHOOL**

May 24 - VICTORIA DAY
NO SCHOOL

June 25 (Fri) -Administration Day
NO SCHOOL

June 29 (Tues) - Last Day of School for Students. **Report Cards Go Home.**

June 30 (Wed) - Administration Day

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 Contest, D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read), Famous Lines, Olympic Campfire Story, Vocabulary Week, Reading Rocks, Random Reading Prize, and Free Book Day.

RAINBOWS PROGRAM

Ecole Arthur Meighen School will be offering its students an opportunity to participate in the Rainbows program.

The Rainbows program consists of a series of weekly support group meetings for children who have suffered a loss and / or who are living with a single parent or step family. These groups will be facilitated by specially trained staff that will work through the 12 week program and will respect the confidentiality of the children participating. If you would like more information or if you would like your child to participate in the Rainbows Program please contact Ms. Liz Sherritt, at our school. An information package has been made available to the students.

SSG REPORT

During the week of February 8 - 11, the Student Support Group will be selling packages which include gum, a brochure concerning HIV / AIDS and a red ribbon. Each package will be sold for #1.00 and all the proceeds will be donated to CANFAR for HIV / AIDS research.

CANFAR provided the packages in order to create awareness and for us to be able to assist with their fundraising. Teachers will allow the students to chew gum on the day of the sale only, as long as they are wearing the red ribbon that is included in the package.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Ms. Sherritt at the school.

SSG RETREAT

The second retreat which would normally takes place in March has been postponed until sometime in the spring and the students will be informed at a later date.

**CONCOURS d'ART ORATOIRE
FRENCH SPEECH COMPETITION)**

The Concours d'art oratoire is a public speaking event sponsored by Canadian Parents for French Manitoba. It has become a yearly event for many schools across the Province, including ours.

Our Grade 5 - 8 Basic French and Grade 6 - 8 French Immersion students will once again compete in their respective categories during the month of March. Specific dates and times for the competition will be announced shortly.

Winners will have the opportunity to participate in the Provincial contest held at St. Boniface College in May.

CONCOURS - JEUNE ARTISTE DU MANITOBA

Attention all students who are 13 - 19 years old!

Concours Jeune Artiste du Manitoba (JAM) is Manitoba's first French language singing competition for French-First-Language (FFL) and French-Second-Language (FSL) students aged 13 - 19 years. JAM performances will be entirely en francais! Participants will be evaluated by a panel of judges with French culture and musical expertise.

The third place winner will receive a plaque and \$250;

Second place winner will receive a plaque and \$500; and the Jeune Artiste (first place) will receive a trophy and \$1000.

The event will be held at College universitaire de Saint-Boniface on Saturday, March 13th and Sunday, March 14th, 2010.

For more information please contact our office at 857-3405 or visit: www.frenchforlife.ca

GRADE 8 BAKE SALE

The Grade 8 classes will be holding a Valentine's Bake Sale on **Thursday**, February 11th to raise funds for an upcoming field trip. There will be a large selection of sweet treats available, priced from 25 cents - \$1.00.

In addition to the Bake Sale, they will be raffling off a **GIANT** cookie. Raffle tickets will be 50 cents each, and the proceeds of the cookie raffle will be donated to the relief effort in **HAITI**.



ECOLE ARTHUR
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Our Website is:
www.plpsd.mb.ca/eams



COMMUNITY EVENTS

POWER SMART MANITOBA WINTER GAMES: March 2010 is an exciting time for Portage la Prairie this year as we are holding the Power Smart Manitoba Winter Games. This event requires at least 1200 volunteers and we need help in all areas. If you are interested in volunteering for any length of time please register by picking up a form at the games office in the Portage la Prairie Mall or online at: www.manitobagames.ca

Please come out and support your community in any way you can!

A Slice of Spring at Theatre Camp!

The Arts Centre is holding its Spring Break Theatre Camp! For one exciting week, March 8 to 12, 9:00am to 4:00pm, join Eddie Miller from the XCompany for an awesome and inspiring theatre experience! With a variety of fun classes to choose from, this is your child's chance to shine! Participants will learn new skills and show them off at the end of the week premiere. Theatre Camp is for children ages 8 to 12 and costs \$160 for PDAC members and \$170 for non-members. Call the Arts Centre at 239-6029 for more information and to register. Space is limited!

CANADIAN RED CROSS BABYSITTER'S COURSE: Red River College is holding a Babysitter's course for students 11—16 years old on Saturday, February 6 & 20, 2010 or April 10 & 17, 2010 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. The courses will be held at the Red River Portage Campus, 1800 Centenaire Drive, Southport. The cost is \$55.00 per student; textbook included. For more information or to register, contact the Portage Campus at 428-6322.

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



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.

ILLNESS

When a student is ill and cannot attend school, we request that the parent / guardian send a note to school explaining the absence when the student returns to school. If a student develops an illness during school hours, the student or someone from the school will phone home and report the situation. At that time a decision on the course of action will be made - either to send the child home, arrange for pick-up or make other arrangements.