

ÉCOLE ROBERT H. SMITH SCHOOL



ADMINISTRATOR'S GREETING

Only 19 days of school left before we say bye to our winter season. This year for the most part it was milder than last year, but you wouldn't know it from the cold spell we had over the last number of weeks. We are all certainly looking forward to all the snow melting, birds chirping, extensive washer fluid to wash our car windshields, and most of all, longer days for our children to enjoy warmer weather conditions. Speaking of longer days, this year we are setting our clocks ahead on Sunday, March 9th, 2008. Yes, spring has sprung, and our final four months will be filled with many outdoor activities, field trips, preparation of our Grade 6 Farewell Celebration in June along with our Community Picnic. Last day of school before Spring Break is Friday, March 28th, 2008 with dismissal at 3:30 p.m. for all students, and school starts again on Monday, April 7th, 2008 (Day 5) on the school day calendar.

Congratulations to all our students for being actively involved in the school by joining clubs, participating in intramurals, being a reading buddy and/or computer buddy, taking part in Robotics, Mad Science, Inquiry/Science Fair, Seussical Auditions, Speedskating, etc. Participants are winners and children make the difference!

Administration would like to thank Hannah Guttormson, the children at our school, and the volunteers that put on a wonderful Community Breakfast. We had over 1000 people attend and the Movement Centre will be receiving a cheque over \$5000 for your efforts. The atmosphere that we had in our building that day, was just electric! A good time was had by all and all the special guests that were here serving and working genuinely enjoyed themselves. Thanks again to all the individuals and/or companies that supported our 1st ever Community Breakfast by donating their time and/or donations. Without your support our school event would not have been successful. Thank you for the positive comments and suggestions that will enable us to improve our event next year.

We would also like to thank Pat Nitchie our Parent Advisory Group Chairperson and her Parent Advisory Group representatives for doing an outstanding job supporting the children and programs in our school. Our volunteer base is second best to none and the time that you all give is greatly appreciated by our students and staff! It is so important that a school and community work together and in a short period of time it is evident that you all care about the learning that takes place for children. Keep it up and we encourage more parents to attend our P.A.G. Meetings. Your P.A.G. is your vehicle for communication and information. Do not be shy to get involved, it is a lot of fun and certainly you meet new families and make new friends!

Last but not least, thank you to a wonderful community for being supportive of our school activities and events, school curriculum, and getting your children to school on time. Your dedicated effort at home enables our school to be safe and successful. I can reassure you that together, we will continue to make our school a safe and positive educational institution.

Please do not hesitate to telephone 488-1137 with any recommendations, suggestions, concerns or positive remarks about our children or staff. Our school will always be committed to maintaining a positive relationship with our community.

**“All children need a little help, a little hope, and somebody that believes in them.
I can reassure you that at École Robert H. Smith School, we believe in all children.”**

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST SUPPORTERS

Thank you to the people and businesses who contributed to the Community Breakfast:

The Movement Centre	De Luca's	City TV
92 City FM	Shaw TV	Tom & Joe
Original Pancake House –Clarion Hotel		McCain's
Rob & Adelle Burton	Rosanna De Luca-Poole	Daryla Christie
Sheila Reed	Dimple's Hair Salon	Cookies By George
Bob Cox	Richardson Family Financial	Tessa Diack
Lauren Gawletz	McKenzie Hryciuk	Catherine Jaworski
Paul Krestanowich	Lilly Lancaster	The MacAulay Family
McDiarmid Flowers	Reina Younka McLeod	Midtown Car Wash
Tony's Academy Auto	Gail Asper Family Foundation	
Bump And Nose Clown Alley	Heather & Doug Sharpe	Winnipeg Blue Bombers
Winnipeg Goldeyes	Chantelle Deslauriers-Gray	
Bonnie L. Reid-Canada Trust	Darla Christie	Via Rail
C.D.I. Computers	Tavern in the Park	
Kelvin High School Jazz Band	Cha Cha Palace	Fresh Café
D.I.Y. Framing	Splitz	Dr. Phil Poon
Atomic	École Robert H. Smith School Parent Volunteers	Academy Florist
The Leather Ranch	Cornelia Bean	Enoraé Bistro
Moulé	Aveda	Glitz
Bejewled	Café Kohler	Chestnut Boutique
Sharon's Linen & Gift Shop	Saucers	Ag925
Casa Idea (Kitchen Ware)	Starbuck's	Pineridge Hollow
Loka	Lindsey Steek	Lake Life
The Garden Room	Madison Hair Design	Tiber River Naturals
European Shoe Store	Bonaventure	
Buttercup Beauty Bar	Shoppirl	Stephen & Andrews
Eyelet Dove	Academy Optical	Balloon Empire
Jimmy Kinsman	Trevor Kennard	
McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Limited		

Thank you for your generosity, it made the Breakfast a huge success!!! Due to the overwhelming response from our supporters, we may have not intentionally missed your name. If so, please let us know and we will make the corrections in our next newsletter.

MATH-A-THON

We will be having our annual Math-A-Thon next month on Friday, April 18th. This event is meant to be a school fundraiser, but also acts as a supplemental educational experience which hopefully motivates the child to learn his/her math facts. Students will be given a pretest approximately one week prior to the Math-athon. There are no limits as to the amount an individual student can get in pledges, yet there is **no** competitive aspect attached to this event. We strongly **discourage** door-to-door recruiting. Lump sum donations can be accepted, thus eliminating any further contacts for collecting pledges. Money from the Math-athon will be accepted at the school April 21st-May 2nd. Funds raised from this event will help defray costs for field trips, transportation and related entrance fees. Your cooperation and support are much appreciated.

ROBOTICS

Ms. Guld, Mme Hellmuth and Mr. Reynolds would like to thank all the Grade 4's and their parents who spent 3 evenings making and training their robo-critters. Some students will bring their robo-critters to the Manitoba Robot Games to be held on March 15th and 16th at Tec Voc High School. All students are welcome to attend.

ENRICHMENT OPEN HOUSE

Students involved in Invent an Alien, the Enrichment Heritage Fair and the United Nations Speech Competition will be holding an Enrichment Open House on Thursday, March 13th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. They will also be holding a Silent Auction to raise money for The Children's Wish Foundation.

SCIENCE/INQUIRY FAIR

École Robert H. Smith School will be holding its Science and Inquiry Fair on Wednesday, March 19th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. There will be a bake sale in conjunction with this event. All students in Grades 4-6 are encouraged to bring in 2-3 dozen treats (no nuts) that will be sold to raise money for the Children's Wish Foundation.

FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR DAY

The staff and students of École Robert H. Smith School would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the Festival du Voyageur Day held on February 15th a great success.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

The Support Group for Parents of Children with Special Needs will be meeting on Tuesday, March 4th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the school staffroom. All are welcome to attend. For more information about the Parent Support Group, please contact Anne Kresta at 487-2808.

GRADE 6 BABYSITTING COURSE

Mark your Calendar!

The grade 6 Babysitting Course will be held on Saturday, April 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. John's Ambulance Office.

Please watch for an application form to be sent home later in March.

-H. Sharpe & N. Hansel,
Babysitting Course Coords.

A NOTE FROM THE RESOURCE ROOM

Our Kindergarten students were recently screened for their hearing in February. Thanks to our volunteer parents, Jan Siemens and Martha Farley.

C.P.R. TRAINING FOR OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Limited to 12 participants only.

Saturday April 19th, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at École Robert H. Smith School.

Participants will receive their Red Cross Emergency First Aid Certification, C.P.R. Level C, including responding to choking, heart attack and stroke emergencies.

Call Yutta Fricke at 488-0612 if interested. "It is worth saving 1 life".

MUSIC NEWS

Our choirs have been busy preparing for the annual Winnipeg Music Festival and we hope many of you will be able to come and hear them perform. Please mark the following dates on your calendar:

- Thursday, February 28th at 12:30 p.m. - Grade 4 Choir @ Westminster United Church.
- Monday, March 3rd at 10:00 p.m. - Room P5 Grade 3 Classroom Choir @ Knox United Church.

During the past few weeks the Winnipeg School Division has hosted two exciting arts conferences for elementary school students. On January 24th grade 4 students Jennie Baragar-Petrash, Hanna Bohm, Mackenzie Blydt-Hansen, Jonathan Fennell and Maria Nallim attended an Orff day at Rockwood School which focused on Metis music, dance and story telling. The unanimous highlight of the morning was learning to jig from Tony Lindo, a 12-year old from Cecil Rhodes School who was accompanied by the Gaudry Boys, a 5-Piece band of young people.

On February 11th grade 3 students Megan Fry, Tess Greenlay, Ryan Poitras, Dylaney Sharpe, Kenzie Skoglund, Dylan Thompson and Maddie Van Aert accompanied Ms. Tan and Ms. Mitchell to "Starts With the Arts", a Literacy the Arts Conference for students and teachers held at Carpathia School. Focusing on the content of the new provincial arts curriculum, the students experienced activities in the areas of visual art, drama, dance and music. The enthusiasm and creativity our students displayed at the workshop was truly inspiring.

- K. Mitchell, Music Teacher



Parents,
family and
friends are all
welcome.

PHYS. ED. NEWS

Ringette intramurals finished on Thursday, February 7th and basketball intramurals started on Monday, February 25th. Our indoor track practices continue on various mornings for the grades 5 and 6 athletes, who are now training for the Athletics Manitoba Elementary Relays which will be held on March 14th at the University of Manitoba. At our first track meet, the Cargill Games, our athletes did very well. Here are the results.

- Grade 6 Girls Shuttle Relay Team "A" 2nd Place
- Grade 6 Girls 4 X 200 Relay Team "A" 4th Place
- Grade 6 Girls Shot Put Relay Team "A" 4th Place
- Grade 6 Boys Shot Put Relay Team "A" 1st Place
- Grade 6 Boys Shot Put Relay Team "B" 4th Place
- Grade 6 Boys Shuttle Relay Team "A" 1st Place
- Grade 6 Boys 4 X 200 Relay Team "A" 1st Place
- Grade 6 Boys 4 X 200 Relay Team "B" 4th Place
- Grade 5 Girls 4 X 200 Relay Team "A" 1st Place
- Grade 5 Girls 4 X 200 Relay Team "B" 4th Place
- Grade 5 Girls Shot Put Relay Team "A" 1st Place
- Grade 5 Girls Shot Put Relay Team "B" 3rd Place
- Grade 5 Girls Shuttle Relay Team "A" 1st Place
- Grade 5 Girls Shuttle Relay Team "B" 5th Place
- Grade 5 Boys Shot Put Relay Team "A" 2nd Place
- Grade 5 Boys Shot Put Relay Team "A" 3rd Place
- Grade 5 Boys 4 X 200 Relay Team "A" 2nd Place

Congratulations to all of our athletes.

The grade 4's have been working hard preparing for the Boeing Elementary Relays which took place on Tuesday, February 26th, at the Max Bell Centre at the University of Manitoba. Results of this meet were not available at time of printing.

Speed Skating practices started on February 5th, in preparation for the 89th Annual Speedskating Races. The races were held on the evening of February 26th, at the M.T.S. Centre. This year we entered 12 teams made up of 48 grade 5 and 6 student athletes. This is a participation event so all participants were winners!

Outdoor Education - The Grade 6's went to Fort Whyte Centre on Monday, February 4th for their winter outdoor education excursion. We had a beautiful day and the students were kept busy and warm with snowshoeing, bannoch making, shelter building, nature hikes, and a survival game. Thanks to all the parents who helped us with this activity.

-D. Zajac, Phys. Ed. Teacher



Thank you
Mr. Zajac for your
dedicated coaching and for
providing our students with
such a wide range of
activities.

PARENT ADVISORY GROUP NEWS

Congratulations to Mr. Rossi on a great Community Breakfast. I know I had fun flipping pancakes and seeing so many members of our school community in attendance.

Our South End Advisory Committee Chair, Bonnie Cadieux, also presented a detailed outline of the present W.S.D. Budget. Trisha Wainikka presented us with her exciting plans for the upcoming Staff Appreciation celebrations and she is always looking for volunteers to help pamper our great staff. Picnic plans are underway Arlene Hintsas has agreed to plan this great family event. This event does require several volunteers so if you want to help out, please leave a message at the school for Arlene. Our much anticipated Plant Sale is also in the planning stages and many volunteers will be necessary to ensure we all get our plants and flowers. Please contact Jane McSwiggan or Nadine Karpinski if you can lend a much needed hand at this great fundraising, environmentally-friendly event in May.

For all parents' information, please see the letter from M.L.A. Ron Schuler regarding "*Bill 2: The Public Schools Amendment Act (Trans Fats and Nutrition)*" and the accompanying articles, as posted on our bulletin board. Parent/room representatives were given the opportunity to respond to this information and should any other parents wish to review the information and send their thoughts along, Mr. Schuler's e-mail address is on the above-noted letter".

We are in the process of looking at our P.A.G. Roster for 2008-2009 and we have some positions coming available for parents who are interested. Joining the P.A.G. involves a minimum time commitment to attend five evening meetings per year. Each portfolio has certain demands and responsibilities that need to be considered and new ideas and energy are always welcomed and encouraged. Please watch for the openings in the April Newsletter and don't hesitate to speak to any of your current P.A.G. members if you have any questions or wish any information on any of the positions.

Our next P.A.G. Meeting is Monday, April 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the Staffroom. Please come and join us and find out more about your Parent Advisory Group.

-Pat Nitchie, P.A.G. Chairperson

VOLUNTEER CORNER

We are so proud of the sheer number of volunteers that came out to support the school's newest event – The Community Breakfast. You came, without prior knowledge of the 'job' requirements. The help and encouragement you provided for this event is why it was so successful. We both appreciate the trust placed in us as the Coordinators of the school's volunteers, and the trust in the administration.

Further to our Body Image Workshop. We have a list of reference material which will be placed on the P.A.G. bulletin board by the front doors. We are hoping to have a reference library available to parents in the future.

Please take the time to fill out what you are interested in doing for Staff Appreciation. More detailed information will be delivered to your door via your mail carrier at the school. There are so many different opportunities. Take a look.

Always remember that we are available for you to contact if the need arises.

*-Kathleen Reid (475-6888 or kathleenreid@epicnet.ca) & Tara McCallum (489-9797),
Volunteer Coordinators, P.A.G.*

P.A.G. – CALLBACK UPDATE

Thank you to Suzanne Gray for her many years of service on the P.A.G. as our Callback Coordinator. Suzanne recently resigned her position as Callback Coordinator and Penny McMorris has agreed to step in for the remainder of this school year. Please do not hesitate to contact Penny at 489-1881 if you have any questions or concerns regarding Callback.

We are looking for a Callback Coordinator for the 2008-2009 school year. Please contact Penny (above) or Pat Nitchie at 487-6234 if you are interested in this voting position on the PAG. It is a great opportunity for a new parent to get to know many of our fine staff, teachers, students and fellow parents. Younger siblings are more than welcome to join you in the Callback Room.

**ÉCOLE ROBERT H.
SMITH SCHOOL
BEDDING PLANT
SALE!**

*Spring is around the
corner....Bedding Plant Sale and
More*

Glenlea Greenhouses is again working in partnership with the Parent's Advisory Group of École Robert H. Smith School to raise funds for the Field of Dreams and the School Gardens.

Catalogues and order forms have been send home. Please return orders to the school on or before April 7th, 2008, the first day of school after Spring Break.

Plants can be picked up on Tuesday, May 13th from 1:15 to 3:45 p.m. Please bring boxes to pick up your order.

Thank you for your support of the school and happy gardening, at least dream of it!

*-Jane McSwiggan & Nadine
Karpinski, Environment
Committee Reps., P.A.G.*

**STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK
March 24th to 28th**

If you can bake, buy, be creative, or be at an event, we need you the week of March 24 to 28!

Each year we plan a week of activities to show our appreciation to the dedicated school staff. The schedule of activities is being finalized and we will be looking for volunteers to bring in food (ex. baking, fruit platters, salads, desserts, etc.), cover recess duty, volunteer in the nursery and kindergarten classes, and help out for an hour or two at the different events. We also welcome new appreciation ideas! **Contact Trish Wainikka (956-5406/trish@qnet.mb.ca)** if you can help out or would like more information. There is also a sign up poster on the bulletin board across from the library.

Looking for creative ideas...

We are looking for a few volunteers to help organize a school wide staff appreciation project that is a collective effort of all students (nursery to grade six). If you have ideas and/or are willing to help organize volunteers and students, please **contact Trish Wainikka (956-5406/trish@qnet.mb.ca)**.

*-Trish Wainikka,
Staff Appreciation Committee, P.A.G.*

INSERVICES FOR PARENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

To Register Call: 474-1513

Register early to ensure your place!

Children with Diabetes and How We Can Support Them: Wednesday, March 12th, 2008 from 1:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m., At: Luxton School - 111 Polson Avenue, Presenter: Kerry Heather, Nurse Educator, W.S.D.

R.H.S. FAMILY DANCE A HUGE SUCCESS!!!!

Once again, our family dance was a great success and we would like to say thanks to everyone who donated their time, baked goods and silent auction prizes for the dance. Also, thanks to everyone who supported our dance by attending, making purchases and having a great time and showing their enthusiasm.

We would like to give special thanks to our Family Dance Committee: Debbie Choate, Lisa Lawrence, Tracey Sneesby, Kathleen Reid and Tara Mc Callum. This year's dance raised \$3,700.00 for our school. We could not have done this without everyone's help. Thank you parents and children of École Robert H. Smith School.

Upcoming in March we are planning to sell chocolate bars. There will be more information to follow in regards to this event.

-Rosanna DeLuca-Poole & Heather Paré, Fundraising Coordinators, P.A.G.

Thank you to the people and businesses who donated to the School Dance Silent Auction:

Adam & Eve Spa

Martha Farley

Heather & Doug Sharpe

Vittorio Rossi Clothiers

Lisa & John MacAulay

Lyla Sweet Boutique

Tally Pollard

Jane McSwiggin

Shawn Bjornson

Brian & Kirsten Schmidt

Dr. John Gerrard

Southern Skies Tanning & Hair Salon

Bre Hamilton

Rosanna, Brad & Brayden De Luca-Poole

Fehr-Way Tours

Sweet Pea Jewellery

Lifestyle Spa & Boutique

Hugh & Jen McFayden

Saloranta Family

Ed, Danielle & Evan Friesen

Salin Guttormsson

Mavro Spa

De Luca's Specialty Foods

Style'n Paw

Tom Rossi

Allison, Scott & Cameron McKay

Cathy Ateah

Pat & Glenn Nitchie

Grant Winnikka & Linnae Mackenzie

Dylan Thompson & Family

Tracey Sneesby

Thank you for your generosity, it made the auction a huge success!!!

SPRING INTO HEALTH

2nd Annual River Heights/Fort Rouge Health Fair



When: March 18th 2008

Where: Fort Rouge Leisure Center
635 Osborne St.

Time: 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

GAMES

DOOR
PRIZES

SNACKS

FACE
PAINTING

Come and Learn about:

- Diabetes
- KidSport
- Parks & Recreation
- City of Winnipeg – Library Services
- Smoking Cessation
- Quick, Simple & Healthy Family Meal Ideas
- Physical Activity with “In Motion”
- Community Resources
- Nutrition Jeopardy
- “Kids in the Kitchen” with Lord Roberts School
- SMILE program and so much more!!!!!!

Hosted by the WRHA River Heights Public Health Team

MARCH/MARS 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CALLBACK - 488-1139 Remember to call before 9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. if your child will be away.		<i>When using the driveway to the school's parking lot, please do not back out onto the street as this makes it difficult for the driver to see children crossing the sidewalk.</i>				
2	3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> School Wide Inservice Classes Closed </div> 10:00 a.m.: Room P5 (Gr. 3) Choir Performs @ Music Festival @ Knox United Church	4 7:00 p.m. Parent Support Group Meeting in the Staffroom **Room 202 Patrol Squad (March 4-7)**	5 1:15 p.m.: Grds. 5&6 United Nations Speeches in the M.P.R. 3:45-4:45 p.m. Mad Science	6 1:15-2:45 p.m.: Rock N' Read Program in the M.P.R.	7	8
9 Daylight Saving Time Begins/l'heure d'été commence	10 2:00 p.m.: Grds. 5&6 Human Rights Presentation in the M.P.R. with Gail Asper	11 a.m.: Assembly on "Friendship" Hosted by Rooms P4 & 113 in the Gym a.m.: Rms. 201,202&203 @ the M.T.S. Centre	12 3:45-4:45 p.m. Mad Science	13 1:15-2:45 p.m.: Rock N' Read Program in the M.P.R. 5:30-7:30 p.m.: Grds. 5&6 L.A. & Alien Enrichment Open House in the M.P.R.	14 ad: Grds. 5&6 Track Meet @ the U. of M.	15
Room 202 Patrol Squad (March 10-14)						
16	17 St. Patrick's Day/ St. Patrice	18	19 3:45-4:45 p.m. Mad Science Science/Inquiry Fair 6:00-8:00 p.m.: Parents are invited to view Inquiry/Science Fair Projects	20 a.m.: Gr. 6 Patrol Rollerskating @ Wheelies Roller Rink 1:15-2:45 p.m.: Rock N' Read Program in the M.P.R.	21 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Good Friday/Vendredi Saint Classes Closed No School </div>	22
Room 203 Patrol Squad (March 17-20)						
23 Easter/Pâques	24	25 6:30 p.m.: Divisional Concours d'art Oratoire @ École Robert H. Smith School	26 1:15: K-Gr. 6 Jordan Hansen Presentation in the Gym 3:45-4:45 p.m. Mad Science	27 1:15-2:45 p.m.: Rock N' Read Program in the M.P.R.	28 Last Day of Term NO EARLY DISMISSAL	29
STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK						
Room 203 Patrol Squad (March 24-28)						
30	31 <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; letter-spacing: 0.5em;">S P R I N G</div>	B R E A K				

TAKE OUR ADVICE — STAY OFF THE ICE! As spring arrives and temperatures warm, ice will begin to melt on all open bodies of water, creating extremely dangerous situations. Falling into ice-cold water can be deadly. Be WaterSafe this spring! Keep away from all ice-covered lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, ponds and ditches. WaterSafe is a City of Winnipeg Safety Initiative.