

École Robert H. Smith School

Newsletter



DECEMBER 2007
DÉCEMBRE 2007

ADMINISTRATOR'S HOLIDAY GREETING

It is hard to believe that we have only 15 teaching days left before your children are home for a 2 week Winter Holiday rest! It seems just like yesterday, that we greeted your children at our doors for the first day of classes. Our first reporting period was a success and our Parent Teacher Conferences were very informative and this year we had another exceptional turnout by our parents and/or guardians.

On Friday, November 10th, 2007, École Robert H. Smith School had a very moving Remembrance Day Service hosted by our Grade 6 students. A heartfelt thank you to all our grade 6 students that provided inspirational songs and reciting the poem "In Flanders Fields", Elena B., Shannon H. and Cleo S. for teaming up as Master of Ceremonies, and to Kennedy F., Gillian H. and Jack P. for sharing their thoughts about what Remembrance Day means to them. Thank you to all the classrooms for making beautiful wreaths and to the students who laid the wreaths on behalf of their classrooms and patrols. Thank you once again to Mr. Smee for volunteering his time and playing "Flowers of the Forest" on the bagpipes. Last but not least, thank you to our community guests that showed up for this significant service. I am sure the children in our school made you all very proud.

Thank you to all our wonderful parent and student volunteers that assisted with our Scholastic Book Fair. From the discussions we had with our volunteers, we did very well. The room looked great and many children and families went home with new reading material. Thank you to Cathy Dyck for organizing our Scholastic Book Fair along with the many parent volunteers that assisted. Your efforts are appreciated by our students and staff.

Our November Fun Lunch Day went very well and thank you to the volunteers for assisting. Thank you to the volunteers that show up on a regular basis to assist with classroom activities and/or school events. We know that our classroom teachers appreciate your help reading to and with our children. This is very nice to see and we welcome "all" volunteers when it comes to giving for École Robert H. Smith School students.

Thank you once again to the parents that showed up for our Parent Advisory Group Meeting. It was well attended once again and information shared was encouraging for parents, staff, and students. Our next general Parent Advisory Group Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 14th, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Congratulations to Mr. McCallum, who won a gift certificate for a "one night stay at the Lakeview Resort in Gimli, Manitoba. Our General P.A.G. Meetings are informal and an opportunity for you to meet other parents and have casual conversations.

Our Winter Concert this year is scheduled for Thursday, December 13th at 1:30 p.m for Nursery to Grade 4 Students and 7:00 p.m. for Grades 1-4 students. This year our Nursery to Grade 4 Classrooms will be participating in our Winter Concert.

In saying all this, December is a month in which we all try to spread good cheer to all. Lend a helping hand, in whatever way you can, to those in need and try to make their holiday special. École Robert H. Smith School is a wonderful school with a diverse community, which blankets our school with a rich fabric of culture. Share your warmth with all and happy holidays from our École Robert H. Smith School Staff.

**"At this time of year and always, may you have a smile in your heart,
A home filled with loved ones, and a life of peace and prosperity."**

MUSIC NEWS

Please ensure that your children are dressed appropriately for the cold weather.

With the onset of colder weather, we are reminding parents about the danger of children playing near the rivers, water retention ponds or any source of water. A thin film of ice may form on the water, giving the appearance the ice is safe.

Also, please review with your child the dangers of playing on snow banks and "bumper shining".

Please be advised that when temperatures (with windchill) reach -40°C , we will not be sending our grades 5 & 6 patrols out on duty. At those times we will attempt to have parent volunteers at

In order to reduce the overcrowding of the gym, École Robert H. Smith School will once again be having two separate Winter Concert performances.

Nursery, Kindergarten, and Grades 1 to 4 classes will be having their Holiday Concert on Thursday, December 13th at 1:30 p.m. in the gym.

Grades 1 to 4 will be performing on Thursday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the gym.

Silver Collection at the door for both performances.

We look forward to seeing you!

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Friday, November 10th, École Robert H. Smith School had a special Remembrance Day Program. We would like to express a thank you to **Elena B., Shannon H.** and **Cleo S.** for their excellent job as Masters of Ceremonies. Thanks also to the Grade 6 classes for reciting the poem "*In Flanders Fields*" and to the following students for sharing their own thoughts on Remembrance Day:

Kennedy F.

Gillian H.

Jack P.



A special thanks to all the students who laid wreaths on behalf of their classrooms. The choir sang "*When Piece Begins with Me*" under the direction of our music teacher Ms. Karen Mitchell and **Mr. Doug Smee** play "*Flowers of the Forest*" on the bagpipes.

Thank you to all the family members who attended our special program.

PICKING UP STUDENTS

We recognize that there are certain times of the year when parents need to pick up their children during the school day. On these occasions, we are asking you to report to the school office to sign them out. Please do not ask your child to leave the playground during recess times as we have no way of confirming that your child has left with you.

UNITED WAY KOATS FOR KIDS PROGRAM



United Way Koats for Kids Program is asking for donations of good quality used children's winter jackets/coats, ski pants and snowsuits. These donations can be dropped off at any fire station or any of the Perth's locations. If you have any questions, please call 586-5628.

KIDS HELP PHONE LINE CORRECTION

During the month of October, one of our grade 6 students, Davis MacA was recognized by Kids Help Phone Line for raising awareness and funds to the non-profit organization. Regional Director from Saskatchewan and Manitoba visited our school to acknowledge and present Davis with a gift certificate. Kids Help Phone Line phone number is 1-800-668-6868 and can be used for and by all students that need help with a crisis. All calls are confidential.

Once again, on behalf of École Roberet H. Smith School staff and students, we congratulate Davis for his outstanding work and dedication.

BABYSITTING PROGRAM FOR GRADE 6 STUDENTS

We hope to offer a babysitting course to our Grade 6 students (11 turning 12 or older) to prepare them to be reliable, responsible and self-assured babysitters. This course is taught by parent volunteers outside of class time (i.e. noon hour or after school). We will require one or two volunteer parents from each of the grade 6 classrooms (Rooms 201, 202 & 203). If you are interested in volunteering, please call the school office at 488-1137.



HEAD LICE PREVENTION

As parents, it is critical for you to:

- Check your child's hair regularly
- Treat your child immediately and nit pick daily until you are absolutely certain no nits have survived
- **Tell the school**, day care and your child's close friends' parents
- Pay particular attention to any letter sent home indicating there has been a case of head lice in your child's classroom. In these cases, all family members should be checked.

FACTS ABOUT LICE

- A child may have a lice infestation for three weeks or more before signs of the infestation are noticed. An itchy scalp is the most obvious sign, and some children will not even complain of this.
- A child may have more than 100 eggs, nymphs and adult lice before the infestation is discovered
- No current treatment product has been clinically proven to be 100% ovicidal, and as a result some eggs will hatch after the initial treatment.
- www.liceguide.com is a website that was developed to help parents, health educators and schools. It hosts three videos - "How to Check for Lice", and 2 - "Lice Treatment" videos.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

For the greater part of November, we have been concentrating on Volleyball, both in class and for intramurals. While grades 3, 4 and 5 play with beach balls, the grade 6's do all classes and intramurals with leather volleyballs. The grade 1's and 2's also play lead up volleyball games with both beach balls and gator balls. The grade 6's were preparing for the inter-school Volleyball Tournaments, which were held on Monday, November 26th in our gym, and on Tuesday, November 27th, at École J.B. Mitchell School. Fifty-two grade 6 students have been diligently attending 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. practices four times a week since November 6th. These fifty-two students were divided into six teams for the tournaments.

The intramural schedule will wrap up on December 6th, and will resume in early January. The January intramural activity has yet to be picked by the grade 6 leaders. Currently, there are 188 out of a possible 191 Grades 4, 5 & 6 students playing Intramural Volleyball (or 98% of the grades 4, 5 and 6 student population).

- D. Zajac, Phys. Ed. Teacher

CHRISTMAS CHEER BOARD

The Christmas Cheer Board of Greater Winnipeg has asked us for our help. From the listed suggestions, we have decided to take up a collection of groceries which will be delivered to the Cheer Board for hampers. Suggested items include: canned juice, soup, fruit and vegetables; boxed items such as macaroni, cake mix, jelly powder and noodles; packaged items such as rice, sugar, tea bags, cookies, oatmeal, etc. Donations should be brought to the school office any day until Friday, December 8th.

WHAT ABOUT HOMEWORK?

Homework - whether in the English or French Immersion Programs - has three main purposes: to finish work not completed in school; to provide extra time on task; to help students develop independent work and study skills. An elementary immersion student is not expected to have significantly more homework than other students at the same grade level.

Early in the school year, you should learn from your child's teacher approximately how much homework to expect. Of course, there will be variations from night to night, but if your child is consistently spending far more or far less time than expected, you should discuss this with the teacher. Your child might not be understanding the work or managing time effectively. Or he/she might be putting far more into the assignments than required. It's also important to advise the teacher if something has kept your child from completing the previous night's homework.

WINTER BREAK 2007

The last teaching day of the Fall Term will be Friday, December 21, 2007. Dismissal is at 3:30 p.m. The first teaching day of the new year will be Monday, January 7, 2008 (Day 1).

Parents are reminded that dogs, cats, etc. are not to be brought onto the playground or into the school unless special arrangements are made with the classroom teacher for "Show & Tell" events.

There are a number of students and staff members who have allergies to various animals.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found items are kept in a bin at the entrance to the gymnasium. Items not claimed by the end of each week are collected and donated to charity. We will make every attempt not to donate mitts.

PARTY INVITATIONS & CAKE

We would like to remind parents that students should not be handing out birthday invitations at school nor should the teachers be asked to hand them out to the students. Please keep in mind that many bad feelings are created when one or more students from a class are not invited to one of these parties.

We also encourage all parents to advance if you are bringing a cake to school, and please do not light any candles in our school.

P.A.G. NEWS

The P.A.G. had it's second meeting on Monday, November 12th and had a great parent turn out. I thank you all for participating.

Plans are underway for some of our P.A.G. sponsored events and activities, such as the Family Dance and Staff Appreciation, and the students have recently enjoyed their first Fun Lunch of the year. Our Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success during Parent-Teacher Conferences and we thank the families in our school and neighbourhood for participating. We would like to thank all of parent volunteers for their help thus far and you know we will call on your talents again in the new year.

Please join us at our next P.A.G. Meeting, scheduled for Monday, January 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Staffroom. All parents are encouraged and welcome to attend. On behalf of the P.A.G., I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and all the best in 2008.

-Pat Nitchie, P.A.G. Chairperson

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Scholastic Book Fair and our first Fun Lunch would not happen without the generous time commitment of our wonderful volunteers. Thank-you!

Welcome Back Volunteers! Stay Tuned for information on a Body Image Workshop Presented by Nori Korsunsky on Wednesday, January 16th from 9:15-11:30 a.m.

A Light Breakfast Hosted by your P.A.G. Volunteer Coordinators will be served.

Registration details will be in the upcoming January newsletter.

-Kathleen Reid & Tara McCallum, Volunteer Coordinators, P.A.G.

REMINDER

Parents should accompany their child when coming back to school after school hours to pick up personal effects.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Thanks to all for making our Scholastic Book Fair a great success! Because of your support we will be able to add over \$5,000.00 in new books to our school libraries. We achieved our goal with \$9,145.40 in sales.

We'd like to extend a special thank you to all our Book Fair volunteers: Karen Dalkie, Ainsley Croitor, Shannon Bowden, Patti Chiappetta-Sharpe, Heather Thompson, Sara Man, John Hints, Denise Gout-Smith, Lindsay Stevenson, Tara McCallum, Arlene Hints, Cecily O'Callaghan, Paula Hahlweg, Jo-Anne Stebbing, Belinda Loschiavo, John McConville, Patti Edmond, Sheila Reed, Allison Atkey, Gwen Campbell, David Campbell, and our student volunteers Katie Reed-Brown and Claire Atkey. We could not have done it without you, thanks for doing a great job!

Thank you for once again supporting our school!

- Cathy Dyck, Scholastic Book Fair Chair

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

The Environment Committee has been in the process of evaluating the green space at École Robert H. Smith School. If anyone has any thoughts on what they would like to see around the school from the flower beds to the play spaces send us an email (nkarpinski@shaw.ca or cromlech@mts.net). We will be looking into grants available to schools to aid with costs. If any parents have any good contacts for landscape design, let us know.

Take the kids & do some birdwatching at the entrance to the Nursery Program. We have purchased two new bird feeders & a whole lot of seed to get the birds through the winter. Enjoy!

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

LITTLE FEET CHILD CARE

Before & After School Program For École Robert H. Smith School

- Located at River Heights Community Center.
- Open 7:30-9:00 a.m. and 3:30-6:00 p.m.
- Walking children to and from school.
- Spaces available immediately.
- Call Debbie at 488-0329 or 782-3516 for information and applications.


R.H.S. CHILD CARE

- Located at St. Andrew's Church.
- Walking children to and from school.
- Call 488-1094 for information.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

The next Support Group Meeting for parents of children with special needs will take place on **Tuesday, December 4th** from **7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in the school staffroom. All are welcome to attend. For more information about the support group, please contact Anne Kresta at 487-2808 or kresta@shaw.ca.

DECEMBER/ DÉCEMBRE 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 Day 4	4 Day 5 7:00 p.m.: Parent Support Group Meeting	5 Day 6 HAPPY HANUKAH!	6 Day 1 9:30 a.m. : Assembly on "_____" Hosted by Room 208 in the Gym	7 Day 2	1/8
Room 202 Patrol Squad (Dec. 3-7)						
9	10 Day 3	11 Day 4 Room 124 Closed	12 Day 5 No a.m. N&K classes All N & K classes attend school in the afternoon p.m.: Rm. 205 @ Taché Center	13 Day 6 No a.m. N&K classes All a.m. N & K classes attend school p.m. only 1:30 p.m.- N,K & Grds. 1- 4 Winter Concert 7:00 p.m. - Grds. 1-4 Winter Concert	14 Day 1 P.M: All Classes Closed	15
Room 203 Patrol Squad (Dec. 10-11)						
16	17 Day 2 a.m.: Rm. 203 @ The Christmas Cheerboard	18 Day 3	19 Day 4	20 Day 5 No a.m. FRIM K class pm: Rm. 123 (Both a.m. & p.m.) @ Village du Père Noël	21 Day 6 Last Day of School 3:30 p.m. Dismissal	22
Rom 203 Patrol Squad (Dec. 17-21)						
23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29
30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE		Monday, January 7th (Day 1) School Reopens		CALLBACK 488-1139 Remember to call before 9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. if your child will be away. Thank you! 	

****Patrol Squad assignments for the entire week.****