



# ÉCOLE VISCOUNT ALEXANDER

AMBASSADEURS DU FUTUR ...

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## PRINCIPAL'S SCHOOL REPORT DECEMBER 2013

**Parent-student-teacher conference survey:** Thank you to all parents that have provided feedback to us through the conferenced feedback survey. The link was sent out to all parents via email earlier this month. The survey will close this week so if you have not already had an opportunity to respond, please do so as soon as possible. This feedback is very helpful for us to plan further conferences. The link is also on the school website under the Parent tab.

**Transition for new students:** In January, Mme Tipping will be visiting École St. Avila (January 14) and École Crane (January 20) to meet with prospective families. There is a survey that will be sent out to families of these communities this week in order to gather questions and concerns that parents would like addressed during the January meetings. Mme Tipping has also been working with Mme Zonneveld and Mme Chuckry/Mme Proulx to organize transitional activities. Currently the plan is to have one activity per month until June. The hope is to incorporate students, teachers and families in the transition process.

**Report Cards:** Report cards will be sent home on December 16. Teachers had a report card writing day on December 6. Once the reports are submitted, I review them before they are sent home. Report cards will be available on-line as the process that was used last year. In order to verify that all accounts are working, etc., the first report will be sent home as a hard copy format as well but we will be asking parents to check their on-line accounts as the second reports will be available on-line. This provides any parents with difficulties accessing the information time to contact us and work at rectifying the situation before the next reporting period. If you have any questions about your child's report card, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

**Hour of Code:** December 9-15 is designated Computer Science week and over 3 million students across 20,000 schools in over 150 schools around the world are registered to participate in the Hour of Code. This is to focus on the area of Computer Science and students learning how to write computer code. On Thursday of this week, various classes will be working with a professor from the University of Manitoba who will assist students working with coding activities. A video explaining further what the Hour of Code entails can be found at <http://hourofcode.com>.

**Spirit Week:** Grade six students in Mme Jarvie's class took the initiative to organize a school spirit week this week. They created posters and visited classes outlining the appropriate dress for each day next week. This is just what we need to forget about the cold weather. The spirit week is:

- Monday – Crazy Hat day
- Tuesday – Formal wear
- Wednesday- Twin Day
- Thursday- Pajama Day
- Friday – Green and Red Day

**Amazing Race Assembly:** Our next assembly will be held on December 10 at 8:40 in the gymnasium. We will have a guest speaker Mr. Tim Hague Sr., one of the Amazing Race Canada winners, speak to our students. We are very excited that Mr. Hague has made time in his busy schedule to meet with us. Parents are most welcome to attend.

**Band Concert:** Congratulations to the Grade 7 and 8 band students, as well as jazz band students, Mme Nowostawski and Mme Stangl for an outstanding performance on December 3. We have 120 students in the band program and although some of them just started playing an instrument in August, they were amazing!

Thank you to all the parents and staff that came to watch the concert, assist with the bake sale, silver collection, supervision, etc. It was nice to have such a great community event and have everyone together before the holidays!

**Winter Concerts:** Grades 5 and 6 students will be presenting their play that they created with Ms. Keller, Artist in the School, on December 19. We look forward to welcoming our parent community to this event.

**Holiday Video Contest:** Mr. Monin has created a challenge for students to create their own video for the holidays. Information about the contests is posted on the school website. Students are to submit their videos and on the last day of school, December 20, all students will go into the gym and the students and staff will vote on the videos. We will be using our new electronic screen using an applause meter to judge the videos. Good luck to all entries!

**Tell Them From Me Survey:** Students from Grades 5-8 have been completing a Tell Them from Me Survey where students are able to share how they are feeling about school. The survey was distributed and completed last year so we used the same survey to be able to compare the results. This survey will be given to students two times during the year- now and near the end of the year. This information will help us with school planning.

**Peer-Tutoring:** In order to have Grade 7 and 8 students take on leadership roles within the school, Mme Simard has been working with a group of Grade 7 and 8 students to assist younger grades. Grade 7 students are assisting in Mme Pepler's class in the area of Math and the Grade 8 students are assisting in Mme McMahon/Bevan's class. Before and after each session, Mme Simard meets with the students to plan and also debrief the sessions. We hope that this will continue in the New Year.

**Lunch Time Intramurals:** Mr. Spiers has started to organize intramural dodge ball over the lunch hour.

**Student Council Initiative:** Our Viscount Alexander Student Council has organized a project to help the less fortunate in Siloam Mission. The project involves preparing stockings/ Christmas socks full of items for those seeking shelter at the mission. Students are asking to have items brought to school by December 14 so that they can use time in class titulaire the last week to prepare the stockings.

**Museum of Man and Nature:** Mme Jarvie's Grade 6 class went to the Museum of Man and Nature as part of their Social Studies curriculum.

**Making "La Tire":** Mme Pepler's class celebrated the French cultural event of "Saint Catherine" by making taffy at school. Thank you to all the parents that participated and assisted with this activity.

**Painting Bulletin Boards:** Mme Dombek started to decorate some of our bulletin boards in the hallways working with Grade 5 students at the beginning of the school year. In order to be environmentally friendly, as well as adding colour to the halls, we are starting to paint the bulletin boards in the hallway and then will do so in the classrooms. If any parents are interested in assisting us with this initiative, please let Mme Tipping know.

**Enrichment Math Activities:** Mme Simard is starting to work with students in Math enrichment. She has been working with students in Grades 7 and 8 to prepare for the Gauss Mathematical competition in May and also exploring the Canadian Kangaroo Math competitions with Grades 5 to 8 in March.

**Yearbook:** Starting in January we will be starting to work on a yearbook to capture the school memories for this year. Students will be asked to participate in this initiative. If a parent would like to assist, please let the Mme Tipping know. Yearbook information will be sent home as they will need to be ordered for those interested in purchasing a yearbook. The cost will be approximately \$16.00.

**Upcoming School Events:**

December 16	Report Cards go home
December 19	Grade 5 and 6 Winter Concert
December 20	Last Day of Classes
January 6	Return to School