



# ÉCOLE VISCOUNT ALEXANDER

AMBASSADEURS DU FUTUR ...

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## Principal's Report March 14, 2016

**Welcome to our new staff member:** Mr. Elsayed Noureldin will be continuing in the role of Grades 6-8 physical education and bike workshop during Mr. Spiers parental leave. He started on February 17 and will continue the remainder of this year. We welcome Mr. Noureldin and wish him all the best in the upcoming months.

**Open House:** Thank you to all the parents that were involved in making our Open House such a great success. Thank you to Barbara Cahoon for speaking at the formal portion in the gymnasium, as well as all of the parents that attended to the table and baked for the occasion. The Open House started with our jazz ensemble playing as families entered the gym, a formal presentation about our school was shared by students, parents and staff presenting in the gym, followed by our school ambassadors touring new families. We did the open house with some staff from the new Ecole South Pointe School. We had a wonderful turnout, several new families attending and many positive comments. The cookies, treats, information and tours were greatly appreciated by our guests. Thank you so much!

**Grade 8 Transition:** Staff and students from Vincent Massey Collegiate met with students in February. Since the initial introduction and distribution of registration packages, staff returned several times to meet with each Grade 8 class and students to review the classes offered in Grade 9 and assist with registration. Our students also attended a tour of Vincent Massey on February 23 with other Grade 9 students that will be transiting next year from other schools.

**Festival du Voyageur:** We were very fortunate this year to be able to organize our entire school to attend the Festival du Voyageur activities at Fort Gibraltar. Students participated in various activities depending on their age. Activities included lacrosse, la tire/taffy, cabane à sucre, musical performances, snowshoeing, sleigh ride, historical presentations and storytelling. Thank you to the Advisory Council for School Leadership for assisting with contributing financially, along with our school budget, to minimize the cost to families. This was also the first school wide field trip that we used permission click.

**Tipi Joe:** On February 9 Tipi Joe erected a tipi in our courtyard area among the quinces. Each class in Grades 5-7 then learned about aboriginal culture for 40 minutes. The following day, each class participated in soapstone carving. A divisional Aboriginal grant assisted us with the costs of these workshops.

**Metis Family Fun Evening:** On February 10, we had approximately 200 participants that attended from Ecole Crane and Ecole Viscount Alexander school communities. We received many positive comments from parents for the family fun evening. Due to a divisional grant, we were able to minimize the cost to families. The Louis Riel Institute organized many activities such as bingo, maze, trivia game, playing the spoons and a dress up area where families enjoyed taking pictures with the different outfits. In addition, we had 50 people participate in the dinner of stew and bannock. Ca claque with professional musicians and dancers had everyone up and dancing during their energetic performance. At the end of the evening, we had door prizes of books and Ca Claque CDs were distributed.

**Grade 7/8 Robotics:** It went extremely well. The group on Tuesday evenings completed their projects on February 23 which included a competition with the robots. The Monday group, due to facilitator availability and holidays, completed their project on March 7.

**School Sign:** We did some more investigating into the sign and approached a company for an estimate. The cost is approximately \$16 000 dollars, not including tax. This is not something that could be supported through our school budget unless it was a cost share project. Is this something the Advisory Council to School Leadership would consider? Shannon has also approached the division and is looking into corporate sponsorship.

**Soccer Nets:** The soccer nets have arrived for installation in the spring. One set was purchased with divisional funds. The other set still needs to be financed.

**Mathletics:** Last year a presentation was shared regarding Mathletics and was mentioned as an area for financial assistance earlier this year (cost: \$3 378.24/ 3year contract). Is this something that Advisory Council would still consider to share the cost with us?

**Optimist Festival/Art Workshops:** Grade 8 band students, as well as the jazz ensembles, participated in the Optimist Festival in February. All bands had a great performance and were wonderful ambassadors for the school. On February 23 during the grade 8 band festival, the art students did a special clay/mirror project.

**Grade 6 Exploratory Band:** Grade 6 students have started their exploratory band program where they are starting to be introduced to various instruments. Due to the increased cost of using the band instruments, we have approached Ecole St Avila to assist us with the costs.

**World Vision: Bold as Lions Hunger Free Tour 2016:** On February 17, our students participated in the Hunger Free tour by Bold as Lions. They shared videos and songs outlining the importance of making a difference in the world. Afterwards, a permission slip went home with grade 7 and 8 students interested in participating in this event by raising funds to help others. For those interested, additional information will be sent home.

**Provincial Test Results:** Grades 7 and 8 students received a report outlining their achievement based on provincial standards. These reports are to identify where students are currently in relation to the provincial learning outcomes based on the specific subject area.

**Japan Student Exchange:** Sixteen student (8 from General Byng, 6 from Viscount and 2 former Viscount students at Massey) left on March 5 for their Japan exchange. They will be learning more about Japanese culture, visiting the Mayor of Setagaya, Superintendent of Education and participating in a tea ceremony. They will be returning on March 20. During this time, Mme Tipping and M. Monin will be away.

**Brandon Jazz Festival:** Jazz ensembles will be going to the Brandon Jazz Festival on March 17 &18.

**Pizza Day:** Pizza days this month will be on Thursday, March 10 & 24.

I would like to wish everyone a great break and I look forward to working with you again in April!

**UPCOMING DATES:**

- March 9<sup>th</sup> Louise Tondreau-Levert ( a Quebec born author) visits Gr6 students
- March 10&24 Pizza Lunch
- March 17 & 18 Brandon Jazz Festival
  
- March 18 Professional Development Day – no classes

March 24	Talent Show
March 25	Good Friday – no school
March 27 to April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Spring Break
April 11	ACSL
April 13	Level One Grade 7 Band Festival
April 14	Marie Geelen – working with students
April 14 & 28	Pizza Lunch
April 16-17	Eyes on Technology Grade 5 students
April 19 & 21	Tri-Conferences
April 22	Professional Development Day – no classes