



# École Viscount Alexander

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## Principal's Report May 9, 2016

**Staff Appreciation:** Thank you to all of our parent community for their generous contributions during our staff appreciation week last week. We were overwhelmed with the generosity, kindness and appreciation from our parents. This reminded us once again how fortunate we are in working in such a wonderful school community. Merci beaucoup!

### **Next Year Planning:**

**Staffing:** Additional announcements about staff changes for next year:

- Mme Nowostawski has accepted a position in River East Transcona School Division. We are currently looking for another music/band bilingual teacher. We are very sad with the news that Mme Nowostawski is leaving and we wish her well in her new position.
- Mme Singer started her maternity leave in April, Mme Jennifer Tessier has continued in this role. She will continue until Mme Singer's maternity leave next year.

**Visits from Schools:** Grade 7 students from Ecole St. Avila will be invited to come to the school on May 27. The afternoon of June 3 we will be inviting students from École Crane and École Bonnycastle to visit the school and continue the transition process.

**Class Formation:** Our class formation process will be starting soon. When students are arriving from other schools, we work with the students' current school to create classes as they know the students best. Thank you to parents that have sent in information to assist us in creating these classes. Although this information will be considered, and we do our best to accommodate these requests, other factors may need to be considered and therefore the requests are not always guaranteed.

**Marie Geelen:** Marie Geelen worked with our Grade 5 and 7 students on April 14. She reviewed our respect agreements – we include everyone, we respect everyone, we accept everyone. Her work with the Grade 7 students will also focus on student leadership for next year.

**Level One Band Festival/Art Studio Workshop:** April 13 Grade 7 band students participated in the Level One Band Festival. Students were great representatives for our school. Grade 7 art students created clay mugs during the time the band students were away.

**Conferences:** Thank you to all parents and students that attended the conferences in April. This was an opportunity to meet the teachers, as well as having teachers share student work. If there are any feedback or suggestions for future conferences, please do not hesitate to contact Mme Tipping or Mme Proulx. We understand that at Grade 7/8 level the time is limited due to the larger number of student families that teachers need to meet. We have tried to address this concern by having the teachers starting to meet with families earlier in the day to ensure there are the appropriate number of times for each family.

**Free the Children Initiatives/Volunteering:** In our recent Free the Children initiatives, students collected over 500 books for the Children's Hospital, as well as collecting a box of pet supplies. Mme Wieringa also organized a volunteering opportunity at Winnipeg Harvest for students from this group that were interested. Mme Tessier, during the social action workshop for grade 8s, has also been doing volunteering on a regular basis with Ecole Crane.

**Girls in Technology:** Mme Wieringa organized girls in grades 7 and 8 who are interested in technology, to attend a session at Red River College for Girls in Technology.

**Math Enrichment:** Mme Wieringa, one of our resource teachers, organized the Gauss Math test for students interested in participating which will be held on May 11 in the afternoon. Parents were sent an email asking if their child would be interested. We will be having 35 students participating in grades 5-8. The school has covered the cost of students writing the exam.

**Festival Theatre Jeunesse:** Mme Leclercq organized grade 7 and 8 students to create their own French play to present at Festival Theatre Jeunesse. Students performed at Centre Culturel Franco Manitobain. Congratulations to all students. One of the students won best actor. They will be presenting their play to our school on May 12 during our first period. Thank you to our divisional French Immersion Consultant who assisted with financing this initiative.

**30 Hour Famine:** Mme Quigley worked with over 21 students, and several staff members, to organize a new school initiative. The World Vision initiative was held on April 29 and students stayed overnight at school and participated in various activities. In order to participate, students needed to raise at least \$50 per person. The events included some of our students being interviewed on news programs, students participating in a large breakfast to prepare for the event, activities in the gym Friday evening until Saturday at noon. The students were able to surpass their fundraising goal and raised over \$2400 for this initiative to raise awareness of world famine.

**Grade 5 Science Fair:** On Wednesday, April 13, the Grade 5 students had an Invent an Alien Science Fair. Divisional judges including other administrators, as well as our Pembina Trails French Immersion Language Coordinator, were very impressed by our students work and their oral French skills. We had some students that continued to the Manitoba Science Symposium and we had four of our students that won awards at the provincial level – 2 with gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze. Congratulations to all of our grade 5 students!

**Yearbook:** We have started to create our 2015-2016 school yearbook. On June 6, 2016 all sports and musical groups will be having professional photos taken for the yearbook. Information will be sent home to ask our coaches and students to bring their uniforms for the pictures.

**Earth Day:** To highlight Earth Day, we had several initiatives over the month of April. We had a battery and cell phone drive. This was a very popular initiative and thank you to all those that participated. Our community clean-up was held on April 26. Students cleaned up the area around the school and in various areas in the community.

**Volunteer Tea:** We will be having an opportunity to thank all of our community members that have helped our various activities and initiatives over the year. This will be held on May 25 from 2-4 pm. We will be inviting our parents that have assisted with coaching, art/musical events, as well as our breakfast program volunteers.

**Professional Development Day:** Staff will be participated in a PD day where our focus was working with our Indigenous Student Success Teachers and Manitoba Teachers' Society to focus on diversity and inclusion to deepen our work in cultural proficiency. We worked collaboratively with the Ecole Crane staff.

**Badminton/Marathon Running Club:** M. Nouredin and Mme Leclercq organized badminton teams for Grade 7 and 8. Our students did very well winning the following titles in the division. We won the first place for boys single in Grade 8. Also, for doubles gr 8 we had 3 teams for boys and 2 teams for girls. Two boys' teams qualified for playoffs and we won the second and fifth place. All the kids had fun participating in this season.

Mme Marriott, Mme Weiringa, Mme Leclercq, M. Monin and Mme Boock will be starting up the running club. This is in preparation for various running activities coming up in the next few months. This club is open to all students in grade 5 and 8 and there is still time to join!

**Divisional Track:** Several of our students will be participating in our divisional track meets that will be held on May 31 for grades 5/6 and June 2 for grades 7 and 8. Students have been participating in events during their gym classes in order to determine who will continue to the divisional meet. Those that will be participating will be receiving information from the gym teachers in the near future. Some of our grade 7/8 students will be using their leadership skills as they assist with the Ecole St. Avila track meet on May 10.

**Jump Rope for Heart:** Grade 5 classes have been working with Mme McMahon with Jump Rope for Heart. They had a skipping demonstration team present during their gym classes and have been practicing their skipping ever since!

**Instrumental Evening for new students:** New band students will be invited to school on May 25 to try different instruments.

**School Sign:** After our last meeting, we have received additional quotes for our school sign. All of the additional quotes were higher than our original quote. We have started to make arrangements to replace the sign as currently it does not close and we're concerned it's posing a safety risk to the community. If the Advisory Council for School Leadership could assist with funds this year and next year, it would be greatly appreciated.

**Life Days:** Life Days information booklet is being finalized and this will be sent home in the near future. The camp activity was sent out already since the numbers had to be confirmed. Teachers organize these days starting in August so there is a lot of organization in planning these days. Activities vary to include various student interests. As this is a regular school day, students are expected to attend. Students are able to access their student accounts to pay for these activities. We attempt to minimize the cost to families as much as possible.

**Fun Mountain:** Our Fun Mountain day will be organized for June 24. In the past, parents have assisted with transportation costs. The costs will be approximately \$300-400.

**Community Celebration for School Transformation Committee:** Mr. Chris Lepa has coordinated a date with the school. We have decided that the celebration will take place on June 20 – the first day of summer. Invitations to the political dignitaries will be sent out and will ask to rsvp before June 6. We hope many of our parents will be able to participate in this celebration!

**Pizza Day:** Pizza days this month will be on May 12 and 26.

**Spring Concert:** Our Spring Concert is scheduled for May 18. This will be for our Grades 5-6 choir and our band groups. This has been confirmed that it will be at Vincent Massey Collegiate. Please remember that parking is limited and we are unable to park in areas that are for other businesses.

**Upcoming Dates:**

May 12	Pizza Day
May 18	Spring Band Concert
May 25	Volunteer Tea
May 26	Pizza Day
May 27	St. Avila students visit
May 30	Jazz Band auditions
May 31	Grades 5/6 Divisional Track Meet
June 2	Grades 7/8 Divisional Track Meet
	Grade 5 Concert in the evening
June 3	Bonnycastle/Crane students visit
June 9	Jazz Cabaret
June 13	ACSL Meeting
June 16	Community Jazz Tour
June 17	No Classes
June 20	School Grounds Transformation Celebration – 10:00 a.m.
June 21	School Sports Day
June 24	Fun Mountain
June 27-28	Life Days
June 28	Grade 8 farewell
June 29	Assembly
	Report Cards Go Home
June 30	No classes