



# École Viscount Alexander

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## Principal's Report June 13, 2016

**Thank you to the Advisory Council for School Leadership for all their support this year!** Supporting Fun Mountain travel, Festival du Voyageur activities, Staff Appreciation, and Water Polo. We couldn't provide our programming without your support and assistance. As a school staff, we also want to sincerely thank Neil Arnason, Co-Chair of the Advisory Council for School Leadership, over the past several years for his continued support of our school.

### May/June Highlights:

**Grade 5-8 Spring Concert:** Our Spring schoolwide concert on May 18<sup>th</sup> featuring our Grades 5-8 students was very well attended and was an exciting initiative for our school. Thanks to the talents of Mme Nowostawski and Mr. Wehrle, they were able to have all of our students participating at one time. We were fortunate to be able to use Vincent Massey Collegiate for this performance. A special thank you to all the parents and community members who attended the performance.

**Grade 5 History of Canada play:** Congratulations to our Grade 5 students, along with their talented teachers Mme Lafleche-Turnbull and Mme Pepler, who entertained parents and students from Oakenwald, Chancellor and St. Avila with a fabulous historical journey across Canada on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The students showcased their many talents from singing, dancing, playing musical instruments and speaking. Thank you to all the parents, friends and family that attended the performance. The play was written by both teachers and highlights the social studies outcomes in the curriculum. Everyone was very impressed!

**Jazz Cabaret:** June 9 was a night for jazz. This event was well attended with the Grade 7 and 8 jazz students, along with the Vincent Massey Intermediate Jazz Ensemble playing during the evening. It was a great evening for everyone in attendance. There was also a tribute to Mme Nowostawski by students and parents at the end of the evening to mark the last official concert at École Viscount Alexander. She will truly be missed by all! Thank you to all the parents and community members that not only attended this event but also assisted with returning the tables and chairs to the appropriate locations. We are so grateful for a school community that is so helpful following these concerts and performances as it assists staff at the end of the evening. A special thank you is also extended to staff who assisted.

**Volunteer Tea:** On May 25<sup>th</sup> we had an opportunity to thank all of our school volunteers. We hosted approximately 30 volunteers from our community during our "come and go" tea. The food was provided by staff, entertainment from the grade 8 jazz ensemble and representatives from the Grade 5 classes sharing poem that they had written, as well as a thank you speech from two students to the volunteers. Each volunteer left with a thank you card created by grade 8 students and some gifts of appreciation.

**Divisional Track Day:** Unfortunately our grades 5 and 6 students were unable to participate in their divisional track day this year due to rain. However, our grades 7 and 8 representatives had a great standing in the divisional track on June 2. Thank you to Mme McMahon and Mr. Noureldin who organized and planned for these events.

**Babysitting Course:** During our PD day on June 17<sup>th</sup>, Grade 6 students will have the opportunity to participate in the babysitting course. We have 12 students who will be participating. Thank you to Mme Proulx who coordinated with the South Winnipeg Family Information Centre to be able to offer this course to our students.

**Gauss Math Competition:** Fifty of our students participated in the Gauss Math Competition. Several of our students were recognized for their accomplishments at our assembly on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Jump Rope for Heart:** Mme McMahon, and the grade 5 students, had a fundraising activity for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, as well as benefiting our own students through additional physical educational equipment. The students raised over \$1,300.00 for this great cause. A video of this activity was shown at our assembly in June.

**Sports Day:** On June 21<sup>st</sup>, Mme McMahon and Mr. Noureldin have been organizing an all-day fun sporting event for students. Events will include beach ball volleyball in the gym, soccer baseball, etc. The day will be organized in the student family groups. Mme Wieringa will be offering a canteen between 12:00 – 12:30 pm to supplement students' lunches on this day. Items will cost between 50¢ and \$2.00. All proceeds will be going to the Free the Children initiative of We Volunteer.

### Next Year Planning:

**Staffing:** We will be sending out a final letter before the end of the year outlining any additional staff changes. To date the changes are as follows:

Changes for next year:

- Mme Proulx will be retiring from Pembina Trails and moving to Quebec with her husband. Mme Zonneveld will be continuing in the Vice-Principal/Resource role next year.
- Mme Dombek, our art teacher, will be retiring at the end of June. Mme Broughton, currently teaching at École Dieppe, will be continuing in this role next year.
- Mme Nowostawski has accepted a position in River East Transcona School Division for next year. Mr. Pelletier, currently at Ryerson School and has previous band experience at River West Park and HGI, will be continuing in this role next year.
- Mme Dupont, who was on a French Teacher Exchange this year, will be returning to France next year. Mr. Slashinsky, who previously taught in grade 7, will be returning and working with Mme Jarvie in grade 6 next year.
- Mr. Noureldin, who continued in the Physical Education role after Mr. Spiers paternity leave, has accepted positions at Beaverlodge and Laidlaw Schools next year.
- Mr. Spiers will moving to École South Pointe School in September. Although he will be visiting our school, as he will be teaching the one grade 7 class in our building, he will be working at South Pointe once the school is open. Mme Leslie Duhamel, who is currently working at École River Heights School, will be continuing in the Physical Education role next year.
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We wish all of our staff “bonne chance” as they move into their new roles. A wonderful opportunity for each of them towards their professional and personal growth but it will be sad for École Viscount Alexander to lose such great staff.

Grade level teams for next year:

- Grade 5 team – Mme Pepler, Mme Lafleche–Turnbull, Mme Caughy
- Grade 6 team – Mme Jarvie, Mr. Slashinsky
- Grade 7 team – Mme Boock, M. Bissonnette, Mme Huot
- Grade 8 team – Mme McMahon, M. Monin, Mme Leclercq, Mme Tessier (Mme Singer will return at the end of her maternity leave)

Specialists/Administration for next year:

- Mme Duhamel – Education Physique
- Mr. Pelletier – Music/Band
- Mme Broughton – Art
- Mme Mercer – Home Ec
- Mr. Monin – Bibliothecaire
- Mme Wieringa – Resource grades 6-8
- Mme Marriott – Counsellor
- Mme Zonneveld – Vice-Principal/Resource grade 5
- Mme Tipping - Principal

**Class Formation:** Our first draft of class lists has been completed. Any requests were taken into consideration but not always possible due to other factors when organizing the classes. We review the lists several more times before they are finalized. When finalized, your child's class placement information will be placed in their report card so they are aware of their teacher for the following year.

### Upcoming Events:

**Grade 8 Farewell:** Grade 8 farewell will be on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Due to the number of students this year, we will be having the evening in the gymnasium. Students have been very involved with organizing this event, decorations, etc. The day will consist of activities for grade 8 students only and then the evening activities with the family.

**Calendar Next Year:** We have completed our calendar for next year. These dates will be placed in our Trumba calendar on the school website in the near future.

Here are a few highlights of the upcoming school year:

6 Sept	Admin Day
7 Sept	First Day of School
13 Sept	Meet The Teacher
16 & 19 Sept	Strong Beginnings
11, 13 & 14 Oct	Tri-Conferences
14 Oct	PD Day
21 Oct	SAGE
14 Nov	PD Day
25 Nov	Admin Day
3 Feb	PD Day
21 & 23 Feb	Tri-conferences
2 March	Open House – New Families
17 March	Admin Day
21 April	PD Day
16 June	Admin Day
30 June	Admin Day

**Life Days:** Our life day's activities will be held on June 27-28. Students will be having an introductory session with the staff members facilitating these events this week. They will visit with the teachers for 15 minutes for them to outline any specific clothing, requirements, and additional permissions they may require for them to participate. The school has funded the transportation cost for this initiative. Some activities will have parent/staff drivers but others will have school bus transportation.

**Fun Mountain:** A school-wide celebration will be at Fun Mountain on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. We would like to thank Advisory Council of School Leadership for assisting with the cost of transportation for this event.

**Awards Assembly:** Our awards assembly will be held on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:10 am. Awards for students in all grades will be presented during this time. Following the assembly, classes will continue as scheduled until the end of the day, when the report cards will be distributed. If you and your family are leaving early, your child will require written permission to leave before the end of the day.

**Administrative Day (June 30):** On June 30<sup>th</sup> there will no classes. Teachers will be sharing transition information to next year's teachers, as well as preparing for our next year's school plan.

**Return to School:** First Day of Classes - September 7, 2016.

**New Family Drop-In Visit:** On September 1<sup>st</sup>, we will invite new families to the school to visit the school prior to the start of the school.

**SGTC Assembly:** Our School Ground Transformation Committee have scheduled their assembly on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**Yearbook:** Yearbook orders are now being taken and must be in as soon as possible so we can complete the order. The yearbooks will be delivered in September and any current grade 8 students can come and pick them up or send us their address to mail them out. The music and sports groups were photographed by a professional photographer on June 6<sup>th</sup>. These will be showcased in the yearbook, as well as photos from the grade 8 farewell and other school activities throughout the year.

#### **Over the summer:**

**Painting over the summer:** Over the summer our Grade 5/6 classes, library and music/art staircase will be painted. This will complement the painting completed last year in the multipurpose and gym area.

**Digital "Reader Board" Sign:** As mentioned at previous meetings, we received 3 quotes regarding our sign. The quote that we shared at \$16,900.00 is the most cost effective. As the sign can be changed and keep the community up to date with information, as well as the increased safety concerns as the current sign does not close, we will be going ahead over the summer. Although we will need to continue the financing into next year the sign will be installed over the summer. We appreciate the support of the Advisory Council for School Leadership Support as mentioned at our last meeting and any future support that would be possible in order to provide this resource for our community news.

**School "Tiger" Wear:** We have met with a representative that is able to provide school wear (t-shirts, hoodies, sweats) for next year. We have organized this so that there will be representative available during our Meet The Teacher on September 13<sup>th</sup>. He will have sizing available and able to take orders at that time. Orders will remain open for the entire week. It will take 2-3 weeks to receive the clothing so we can have a school wear day in October.

### **Upcoming Dates:**

- June 15 Students will be meeting with their Life Days activity leaders last period
- June 16 Jazz Community Tour
- June 20 School Grounds Transformation Assembly at 10:00 am
- June 21 Schools Sports Day (Rain Date June 23<sup>rd</sup>) students wear their family colours
- June 23 Farewell assembly to staff (last period)
- June 24 Fun Mountain
- June 27-28 Life Days (forms already sent home in April)
- June 24 Fun Mountain
- June 29 Final Celebration/Award Assembly at 10:10 am /Report Cards go home at end of the day
- June 30 Admin Day – Transition planning
- September 1 Drop-In Open House for New Families
- September 6 No School for students – Admin Day for staff
- September 7 Return to School
- September 13 Meet The Teacher 5pm-7pm