

June 5, 2009 Education Highlights

Our student athletes performed very well at the Provincial Track and Field competition in Dauphin on May 29th and 30th. This was a fantastic experience for our students as they were able to compete against others from across the province in front of much larger crowds than they are used to. All of our athletes did extremely well, of particular note were the following performances:

Michael Kolt-Baete – 400m 3rd; Connor Vrooman – 1500m 9th; Brett Vrooman – 1500m 16th; Tanya Van Damme – 1500m 16th;

Due to the fact that Michael Kolt-Baete placed in the top five in the 400 meters, he will be traveling to Winnipeg to compete in the McDonald's 4A Track & Field Championship on Friday, June 5th and 6th. Best of Luck Michael!

Our students were involved in a lot of activities this past week. The grade 5 – 8 Divisional Track meet in Glenboro took place on Tuesday. The day turned out to be perfect for track, and a number of our students placed in the top 3 in their categories. The list includes:

Chelsea Dearsley – 1st 200 m, 2nd 100 m, 2nd Triple Jump; Ginny Grenier – 1st Shot Put, 2nd 400 m; Mandy Hendrickson – 1st Ball Throw (***New Divisional Record***) 2nd Discus; Morgan Johnson 3rd Ball Throw; Kristen Labossiere – 1st Discus, 3rd Shotput; Samantha Van Damme – 1st Triple Jump, 2nd High Jump, 3rd Long Jump; 4x100 Relay – Gr. 5 Girls – 1st Savana Johnson, Ginny Grenier, Morgan Johnson, Chelsea Dearsley; Gr. 6 Girls – 3rd Erin Roeges, Mandy Hendrickson, Kristin Labossiere, Samantha Van Damme; Kenzie Dearsley – 1st Discus, 2nd Shot Put; Kali Martens – 3rd High Jump; Tamara Martens – 3rd 200 m; 3rd Discus; Thomas Vermeersch – 3rd 200 m; Riley Dalzell – 3rd Discus; Nathan Grenier – 1st Javelin; Raegan Johnson – 2nd 400 m.

Congratulations to all!!

On the June 5th our Grade 1/2 class participated in their field trip to the Reptile Gardens in Shilo. They have been looking forward to this for quite awhile, and initial reports are that the kids had a lot of fun. Hopefully, they will have reports to add to education highlights next week.

The high school staff would like to invite parents and students to an information meeting on Thursday, June 11th, starting at 7:00 p.m. At this session we will explain the current provincial high school program, the compulsory and optional courses, and the options that exist for students, especially in course selection pertaining to Math. At the Senior 2 level (grade 10), students must decide which math stream they will follow throughout high school. This can be a tough decision, and choices can impact post secondary options. This meeting will be of particular interest if your child is entering grade 9 or 10. This meeting will be informal in nature and the teachers will also be able to provide you with an idea as to what materials your child will require, and what some of the classroom expectations are.

We would also like to remind parents with children in grades 1 to 4 that the swim program starts on Friday the 12th. Let's all keep our fingers crossed that the weather warms up by then.

June 12, 2009 Education Highlights

One group at our school that has been very busy over the last few weeks is this year's graduating class. The grade 12 students will have completed their final exams by the 17th, and graduation will take place on June 19th, beginning with ceremonies that will take place at the school again this year. The agenda for the formal ceremony is as follows:

1. O Canada – Sharon Bannerman
2. Processional – Sharon Bannerman
3. Greetings from the School Board –
4. Teacher's Message – Susan Johnston
5. Presentation of Diplomas - Susan Johnston
6. Presentation of Awards and Scholarships
7. Valedictory Address – David Duncan
9. Closing Comments – Susan Johnston
10. Recessional – Sharon Bannerman

This year's Grads are Alanna Bellow, Michael Cramer, Justin Currie, Justin DeMeuleneire, David Duncan, Sam Greasley, Michael Kolt-Baete, Jordan Moore, Jenna Neufeld, Jordan Rockwell-Webb, Caitlin Tack, Alana Van Damme and Courtney Weddall. This baker's dozen is a wonderful group of students who have all worked extremely hard to reach this point in their lives. They are to be congratulated for their efforts. Each and every one of them is a fine human being and I know they will all make contributions that will help to make this a better world for all of us.

The last couple of weeks have also seen us wrapping up all of our field trips, with trips being taken by all the students in grades K to 4. The Kindergarten students travelled to Spruce Woods and enjoyed a day in the park and the covered wagon ride. Our grade 3 and 4 students travelled to Morden to visit the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre - they had planned to participate in a dig for fossilized remains, but muddy conditions made this impossible so they took part in projects at the lab in the museum. Both groups thoroughly enjoyed themselves despite the weather which was not ideal for either trip. Here are some recollections from students in the grade 3/4 class:

On Tuesday, we got to go to the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in Morden. Did you know Morden was completely under water in dinosaur time! Andrea, our tour guide, was very nice and she all of the names of the marine reptiles. At the start, she showed us a map of Canada before and where Morden was. Then, she told us about Plesiosaurs, Xiphactinoise (the very long squid), sharks, Mosasaurs and all kinds of things. Did you know that the biggest squid was found in Manitoba – it was 60 feet long! – Brooke R

On my field trip, we went to the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre. We learned that Morden was exactly in the middle of the sea. Bruce, a Mososaurus, was 43 feet long. We made fake teeth, got to go in the collection room which nobody else gets to go in. The largest North American squid was from Manitoba and the sea turtles were 12 feet wide. It was amazing! – Logan C

The Manitoba Community Services Council has awarded our Parent Advisory Council the opportunity to assist in funding many of the programs that they support at the school. The Council received a cheque for \$1000 dollars and they have also been provided with two bingos to work this summer which will allow them to earn \$3000 more. This money will be targeted specifically for the People Savers Program. The bingos are to take place on July 11th and August 9th. At least 7 volunteers will be required to run each bingo, if you can volunteer your time to help with this worthy cause, it would be greatly appreciated.

Upcoming dates to keep in mind include:

June 12th to 26th - K to 4 Swim program

June 15th - DARE graduation

June 17th - Pre-Kindergarten day

June 19th - Graduation

June 23rd - Grade 5 and 6 field trip

June 29th - Awards Day

June 30th - No classes for students.

June 19, 2009 Education Highlights

This week began with our grade 5/6 students celebrating their DARE graduation. DARE stands for Drug Awareness Resistance Education. This program, which has been operating for the past 17 weeks, has been a joint effort between the RCMP, the school, the parents and students to help kids deal with the pressures of drugs and violence. It is unfortunate that children in our society have to deal with issues such as this at their young age, but this is the current reality. Constable Richard Graham is to be thanked for the initiative he has shown in ensuring that this program continues to operate in our region. He has proven to be not only an exceptional educator of our children, but a true friend to them as well. We must also congratulate all of the students who have worked very hard for the past 17 weeks. All of their work and learning will pay off for them in the future. I am certain that all of them will also become excellent role models for the younger children in our school. Our local Parent Advisory Council must also be thanked; they made a contribution of \$200 this year to help ensure that the program continues to run in the future.

One of the culminating activities for the students was the writing of an essay to explain some of the information that they learned while participating in the program. This week's contributions come from Savana Johnson, whose essay was selected as the grade 5 classroom winner, and Mandy Hendrickson who was selected as the grade 6 classroom winner.

"DARE to be Remarkable" by Savana Johnson

DARE is a great program where kids learn about drugs and alcohol and how to resist it. DARE taught us why people do drugs and how they get addicted to it. DARE helps kids stay away from drugs and alcohol.

Our teacher Constable Graham is really nice and really funny. We did little skits and little races against the grade 6's. We also got little gifts at the end of each lesson.

I learned a lot of important facts from DARE, for example what DARE stands for: Drug, Abuse, Resist, and Education.

Peer pressure would hurt me because it's someone around your age trying to make you do something that you don't want to do. Constable Graham taught us how to avoid it by saying no.

Unbelievable! I didn't know drugs can hurt me in so many ways. Now because of DARE, I will never ever take them!

We talked a lot about marijuana, tobacco, and smoking. I know a guy who took drugs and he had a lot of different health problems with himself. You can tell he doesn't act the same as other people who don't take drugs.

I know there are a lot of alcohol advertisements but I didn't know there were this many. After I watched that video I was amazed how many advertisements there were on all sorts of different things.

Now that DARE taught me all these facts about drugs and alcohol I will never take them. DARE has made me confident that I am going to live my life drug free.

"Tasers and Guns and Whips! Oh My!" by Mandy Hendrickson

I sat at my desk waiting for him to walk in! D.A.R.E. Drug, Abuse, Resistance, Education. D.A.R.E. is so fun because Constable Graham made really funny jokes, almost as funny as Mr. Moore's, but Constable Graham still took it seriously.

D.A.R.E. has taught me that doing drugs are really bad for your health because it can give lung cancer, heart disease, and emphysema! Drinking alcohol is really bad too because it can get you and another innocent person in a crash or worse like a bar fight or even in a fight with the cops!

I think that D.A.R.E. is a great program because it will help people learn that drugs and alcohol are very bad for your health and safety of others.

I think D.A.R.E. will help me in life because it taught me that there are consequences for drinking under the age of 18 and as an adult. Drugs are very addictive and hard to quit. Drugs and alcohol can hurt your body in many ways like, it can wreck your nervous system and damage your brain, mouth, throat, lungs, heart, and liver.

In D.A.R.E. we had a D.A.R.E. decision making model and it helped when we tried to figure out a situation about drugs and alcohol.

D.A.R.E. also teaches people the right way to stand up to kids when they are pressuring you into things that you might or might not want to do and how to get out of those situations by saying "No thank you", giving a reason or excuse, keep saying "No", walking away, changing the subject, avoiding the situation if you see it coming, or using the cold shoulder and even strength in numbers.

I sat in my desk, so excited because I knew he was coming back next week for another great D.A.R.E. class. I was also sad because graduation was coming up and that meant D.A.R.E. was close to its end. I knew I would have lots of fun in the last couple of weeks of D.A.R.E.

We would like to thank Liana Dearsley for donating two sets of cross country skis and boots to the school. Liana came across these at a garage sale, and she remembered that we were trying to build up collection here at the school. If anyone else comes across skis during yard sale season, please keep us in mind. Thanks again Liana, I looked back in some of my old notes and noticed that you did the exact same thing two years ago.

The tennis court is finally ready for action, in between the frequent rain showers we have been experiencing we were finally able to get the lines painted. The school has bought some racquets and Mr. McLean will be incorporating tennis into his Phys. Ed programs next year. In the mean time all community members are welcome to utilize the facilities over the summer as we will be leaving the net set up.

Ms. Glenn-Martindale and the grade 7/8 class were hard at work on Wednesday. Laurie and the kids coordinated the planting of the flower bed in front of the school. This tradition was started years ago by Mrs. Johnston and has carried on to today. As time progresses the students are developing quite a collection of perennials and the flower bed is a source of beauty throughout the summer months. The flowers along with the fruit trees planted by the grade 5 to 8 students this year will definitely assist in the beautification of our community. The students and their teachers are to be thanked for implementing all of these programs that help to teach good citizenship while at the same time promoting environmental values.

Now that graduation is over the only event left this year is our Awards Day on Monday, June 29th. The ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the gym. All parents, relatives, and friends are invited to join us for this important day. The ceremony should be completed by 11:00. Students may then leave with their parents or they may go home on the buses, which will be running at 11:30.

June 26, 2009 Education Highlights

We held our graduation ceremonies on Friday, June 19th, the graduates, along with assistance from Susan Watson and Susan Johnston and other volunteers worked very hard to ensure that everything was perfect for this special evening. This year, the ceremony took place in the gym followed by a spectacular supper at the rink. Both events went off without any major hitches and everyone enjoyed the occasion.

Each graduate is to be congratulated; everyone is very proud of them. They all have a bright future ahead, and we all wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

The final event of the school year was the awards ceremony for our K – Senior 3 students, which took place on Monday morning. As usual, this ceremony was attended by many family members and friends, who came out to support the children, and to offer their congratulations to the winners. All of the award winners worked very hard this year to achieve their success and it was an honor to pay tribute to them. The following is a list of award winners:

Digital Photography (Sem1) – Larissa Van Damme (Sem2) – Megan Cramer; Digital Filmmaking (Sem1) – Larissa Van Damme, (Sem2) – Connor Vrooman; English 10F – Kelsey Labossiere; English 20F – Larissa Van Damme; English 30S – Tanya Van Damme; Home Ec 15G – Ashley Wickens; Home Ec 25G – Larissa Van Damme; Woodwork Technology 15G – Ashley Wickens; Woodwork Technology 25G – Larissa Van Damme; Life/Work Exploration 10S – Kelsey Labossiere; PreCalculus 20S – Larissa Van Damme; Consumer Math 20S – Larissa Van Damme; Consumer Math 30S – Brett Vrooman; Geography 10F – Larissa Van Damme; Math 10F – Kelsey Labossiere; Science 10F – Ashley Wickens; Science 20F – Larissa Van Damme; Phys. Ed 10F – Ashley Wickens; Phys. Ed 20F – Larissa Van Damme; Rae Rebecca Lodge #58 Etta Ober Memorial Scholarship – Brett Vrooman; High School Male Athlete of the Year – Michael Kolt-Baete; High School Female Athlete of the Year – Alyssa Vrooman; Middle Years Male Athlete of the Year – Drew Dearsley; Middle Years Female Athlete of the Year – Kenzie Dearsley; The Samuel Yaremchuk Academic Proficiency Award for Excellence in Grade 8 Science – Amanda Ronnquist; Highest Average Grade 7 – Tamara Martens; Highest Average Grade 8 – Amanda Ronnquist; Grade 3 Awards - Sena Gunnlaugson Spelling Award – Reece Johnson; Award of Merit – Brooke Roeges; General Proficiency – Reece Johnson; Highest Academic Standing – Brooke Roeges; Citizenship Award – Tayla Gudnason; Grade 4 Awards – Sena Gunnlaugson Spelling Award – Madison Chambers; Award of Merit – James Gillis; General Proficiency – Jessica Geeregat; Highest Academic Standing – Jack Vermeersch; Citizenship Award – Logan Cline; Perfect Attendance – Jessica Geeregat, Brooke Roeges, Kieven Martens; Grade 5 Awards – Highest Academic Average – Chelsea Dearsley; General Proficiency – Ginny Grenier; Award of Merit – Natasha Geeregat; Grade 6 Awards – Highest Academic Average – Samatha Van Damme; General Proficiency – Mandy Hendrickson; Award of Merit – Connor Johnson.

The students will not have to concern themselves with anything school related until Friday, September the 11th, which is the official start up date for students. All of our elementary students have been provided with supply lists so that they will be able to show up prepared in September. This list will assist the parents in purchasing the required items. As in past years we will also leave copies of these lists at the Gazette Office in Baldur. The lists are also on our web page www.baldur.prairiespirit.mb.ca. Go to School Links to obtain the information you require. When you are there, you will also be able to access the second semester Honor Roll for the Gr. 9-12 students as well as the year end Honor Roll for the Gr. 5-8 students. At the same site you may also view a copy of next year's school calendar and our community report.

From all the staff, have a safe and fun-filled summer.