



James Nisbet Community School

Report to Community 2023-2024

At James Nisbet...

At James Nisbet, we are proud to call ourselves Novas. Novas are bright, new stars and astronomical phenomena. To say that our learners shine bright is an understatement because they are scientists, authors, artists, Eco-Warriors, mathematicians, advocates, and so much more.

Please enjoy our Report to Community where we highlight the incredible moments that made 2023-2024 a year to remember.



You Belong At James Nisbet

At James Nisbet Community School, we work daily to ensure that all of our children and adults are celebrated for who they are and the gifts they contribute to our Nisbet community. We are grateful to our staff and student leadership teams who have provided opportunities for all of us to learn and grow together while always keeping at the forefront:

You Belong At James Nisbet



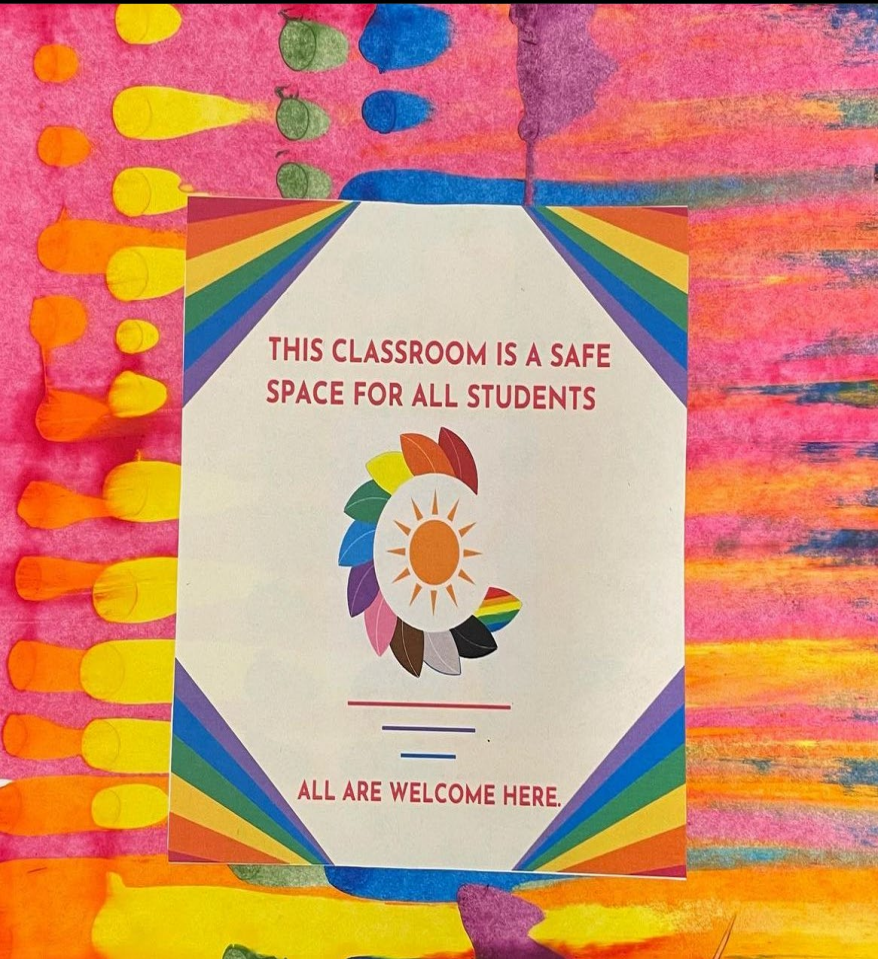
Turban Day



Manitoba's second annual Turban Day was held on April 13th. Turban Day is a day meant to inspire many things: recognize and promote the significance of the turban to Sikh Canadians, awareness of Sikh and Punjabi cultures, the contributions of minorities to Manitoba and a connection to the rich diversity in society.



Room 3 and 28 (Ms. Badhan and Ms. De Claro's rooms) were able to attend Turban Day at the Manitoba Legislative Building. We heard speeches from MLAs Diljeet Brar, JD Devgan, and Mintu Sandhu. Students had the opportunity to meet with the MLAs and have a turban tied as well!



Colours of Nisbet

This year, Colours of Nisbet focused on the theme of Visibility. What does visibility mean to us? It means being seen, acknowledged, respected, and listened to. It's about standing tall and embracing our true selves because there is nothing more beautiful than being who you truly are. During our LGBTQ book club, divisional and city-wide gatherings, Day of Pink, and Pride Month our Colours of Nisbet members worked to spread a message of love and acceptance for all.

The students and staff of James Nisbet Community School united in a remarkable display of creativity, crafting more than 500 beautiful Diyas for our school's Diwali Celebration assembly. As we joined forces to create this spectacular Diya art installation in November, we witnessed how these little lights symbolize the triumph of light over darkness, a powerful reminder that goodness always prevails. These radiant Diyas illuminated our school's small gym, guiding each child to the grand celebration in our school's large gym. This serves as a reminder that even in the darkest of times, light always prevails.



Diwali

Asian Heritage Month



This year, the grade 7/8s in room 28 took leadership to help set up our event to honour and celebrate Asian Heritage Month here at James Nisbet Community School. They created a beautiful sign for the bulletin board in front of the office. They made packages of a variety of Asian treats for students and teachers to try, and they created a list of words for the Language Learning Station. Some students also took part in being the leaders for other stations such as the Origami Station, as well as being the hosts as classrooms entered the event. We look forward to continuing our leadership during Asian Heritage Month next year!

Dear Lillie

My wish for you is to
talk and say
new words.



From Jasmine

Dear Lillie

My wish for you can speak
more than one
language.



From Samaksh

ROOTS OF EMPATHY

*Grade 1/2 - Room 4 - Miss Priya
 2023-2024*

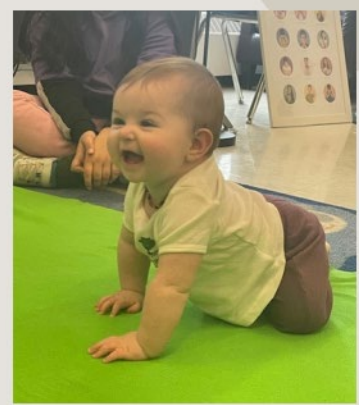


Dear Lillie

My wish for you is to be
happy



From Fasman



Dear Lillie

My wish for you is to grow
up to be kind



From Azmeen

Roots of Empathy is a program designed to build empathy and emotional intelligence in schools. Each month an infant visits the classroom. Students learn about caring for a baby, safety and communication while observing milestone along the way. This year Room 4 watched Lillie learn to crawl, grow teeth, eat solid food, say her first words, and walk her first steps! Following is some of the writing students did for Lillie's memory book.

Dear Lillie

My wish for you is to have
good sleep



From Prison

Dear Lillie

My wish for you is to make
lots of friends



From KALIA

Nova's Phys Ed and Athletics

It's been a year of growth and change in the gym at James Nisbet. As we continue establishing our middle years phys ed and athletics program, we are continually presented with opportunities for growth. The James Nisbet Novas have spent so much time preparing for, and participating in, different events within the school division at both the early and middle year's levels. Some of the highlights of our year in Novas Phys Ed and Athletics include:

We had an incredible amount of participation from students wanting to play school sports. Our hope is that this promotes the further development of our program with the goal of creating interest for students who wouldn't otherwise be involved in organized sports.

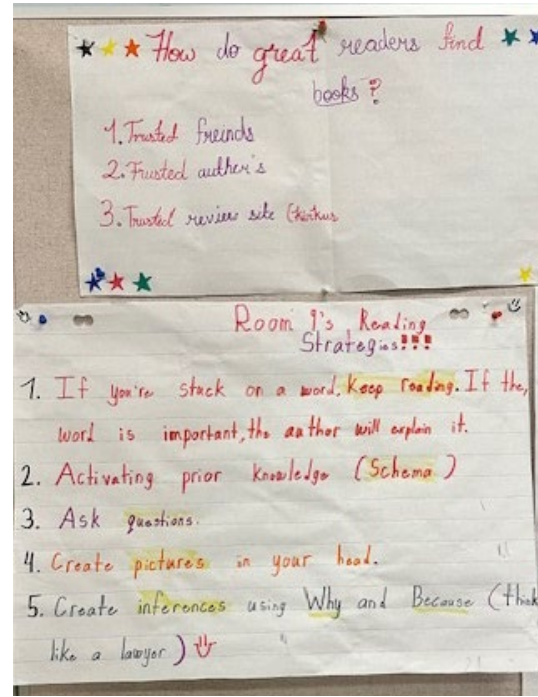
We had a tremendous amount of support from staff around the school in coaching our students and making these valuable experiences possible.

We had a group of grade 8 students who committed the time to get certified as basketball referees and timekeepers. We are going to build on this moving forward by establishing a James Nisbet Novas Athletic Council which will provide more student leadership opportunities within our program.

We added a full set of high-quality leather basketballs to our program.

These team and individual experiences contribute to healthy lifestyle practices and create a school culture that promotes student and staff leadership, wellness, and inclusion.

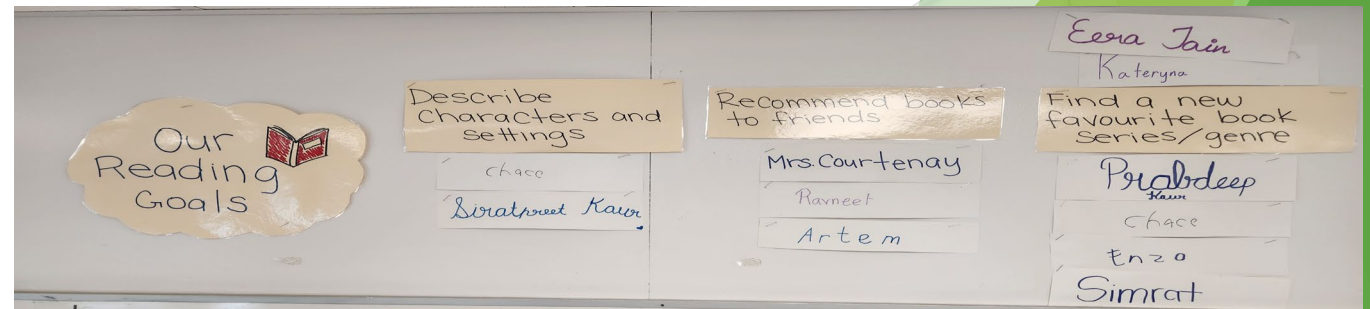
We are so excited to continue to develop and build on our Novas Phys Ed and Athletics programs together as we move into the 2024-2025 school year.



We Are Readers and Writers

At James Nisbet, we strive to have all learners see themselves as readers and writers. From buddy reading to comic book writing, all children are given space to thrive as readers and writers.

Let us highlight some of our literacy journey for you...



Mindfulness through Art and Literacy

This year, our Mindful Moments Club collaborated with our school librarian, Deb Krupa, on a mission to bring more art into our school library, transforming it into a calm environment for both learning, relaxation, and reflection.

Emotions and Art: Last fall, we focused on emotions and artistry. We explored the works of Piet Mondrian, a Dutch painter celebrated for his use of primary colours. We looked at how each primary colour makes us feel. We engaged in creative expression, infusing our personal narratives into vibrant works of art, which now hang in our library space.

A Poppy Is to Remember: In November, our focus turned to the theme of "Cultivating Peace." Collaborating with the library once again, we embarked on a reflective journey exploring the significance of peace symbols, specifically the poppy. Through discussion and hands-on activities, we crafted poppies using newspaper clippings from the 1900s and red paint.

"My Story": February saw us embracing the theme of resilience. Drawing inspiration from Ross Burach's story, "The Little Butterfly that Could," we explored themes of perseverance and self-belief. Through the meditative practice of origami, we used the butterfly as a symbol for growth and transformation, contributing to an inspiring installation.





Comics, Comics, and More Comics!

This year in Mrs. Goyal's class the students created their very own COMIC BOOKS! For months, they studied different writing techniques and strategies and then applied their learning to their writing pieces. The students worked very hard to make their comics exciting and colourful. They then had the opportunity to read their comic books to other classrooms at James Nisbet school.



Reader's Theatre

Our favorite thing from grade 4 was Reader's Theatre. Reader's Theatre is about reading scripts and showing people fun stories to watch. When it's our turn to speak we would read sentences from a script. There is one job called the Narrator and they lead the story. The scripts are often from movie cuts and scenes from books. Our job was to speak using expression so that the audience can understand the emotions for that character. This taught us to read with expression. It also helped us be more comfortable speaking in front of people. Most of the Reader's Theatres were funny. We even made the cool kids in Middle School laugh! (Our teacher laughed out loud). The last performance were scripts we made ourselves! They were fun to make but it was hard work. We hope that we get to do this in Grade 5-or at least come back and watch the next group.



Writers of Room 9



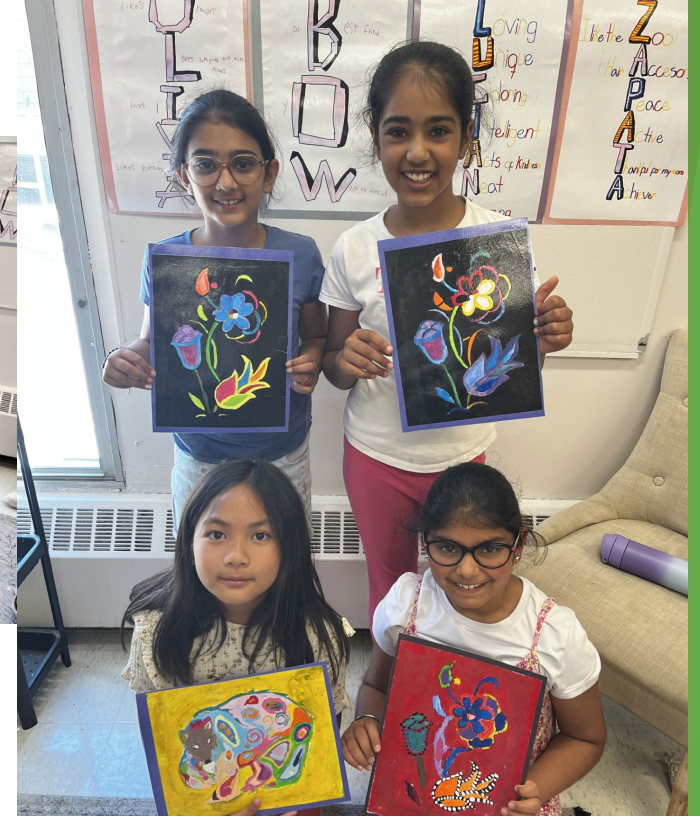
One of the projects Room 9 participated in was the Historical Thinking Writing Project. Students were tasked with studying a specific point in time and writing a narrative piece from a person's point of view.

They had to employ the writing techniques we had been studying.

The picture shows some of the students proudly holding their class magazine, which contains their published work.

Anishinaabe Floral Paintings

This term the students in Ms. Annaka's class did an art project around Anishinaabe Floral Painting. They originally had a session for floral painting at Arts in the Park, but when it got cancelled due to the rain we brought the history of Anishinaabe floral painting back to the classroom. We learned that in the Anishinaabe culture flowers have many meanings. Some of the symbolic meanings include; beauty and life, healing and medicine, spirituality and cultural identity, and lastly, the cycle of life.





Sophia J

This year, I learned a lot of things that helped me in improving my skills and relationships. Mathematical problems and practices allowed me to understand adding fractions as well as complicated division and multiplication. I learned to appreciate the experiences of indigenous people in the residential schools in my social studies subjects. Light moves in a straight line and the clouds start to form together and becoming darker means rain and thunder will follow, facts that I remember from my science lessons. I also learned to speak french and tagalog language. In Music, I learned confidently in front of people and play ukulele. In Gym drills, I will remember the excitement of track and field, running games and cross-country.

The memorable things that happened to me in Grad 4 are gaining new friends and having a supportive mentor. I shared enjoyable, inspiring and worthwhile learning experiences with my best friends, Kathy and Rona. Mr Marz encouraged me to give my best always, in particular in doing advance Math, and to develop my leadership attitude with my classmate.

I am thankful for all their time and Effort.



Mr. Marzo's Class

The Threads That Tie Us Together – A Storytelling Project

Ms. Alice's Kindergarten AM & PM Classes (and Mr. Reilly's Grade 5 Class)

This year, we've been exploring our own stories through writing, oral storytelling, and a multi-modal sewing project.

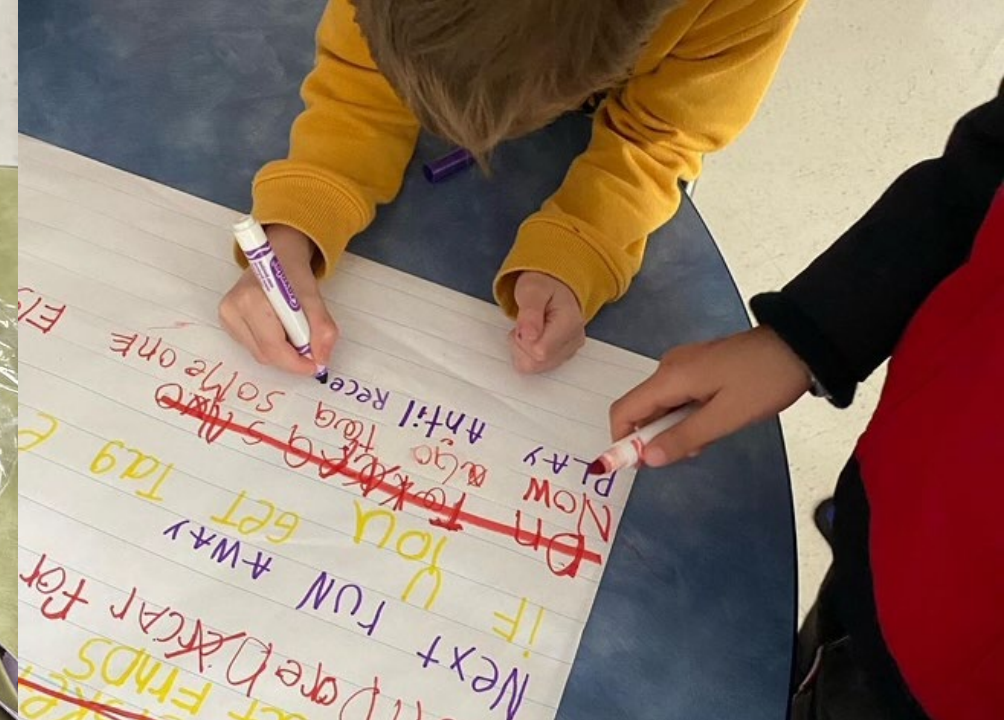
1. Write your origin story. What's in your past? What makes you special? What's your superpower?
2. Choose your favourite square as our quilt design. Why is it your favourite?
3. Cut squares 20cm x 20cm squares out of old t-shirts and upcycled fabric.
4. Draw your design on fabric.
5. Special guests visit! Ms. Alice's mom and grandma came to teach us about quilting!
6. Practice with cardboard and yarn.
7. Some students embroidered their squares, while other students used fabric paint.
8. As we finished our squares, we sewed them together in to rows of 8.
9. Ms. Alice's mom helped us sew our rows together.
10. We displayed our quilt at Arts in the Park and are planning on mounting it in our school for everyone to see.

This project taught us perseverance, storytelling skills, collaboration, and so much more!



How-To Writing

Ms. Priya's Grade 1/2 class has been learning about How-To Writing. We learned how the order we complete steps in matters and used "bossy language" to help us write our directions. We got to be hands-on and test out a topic before we wrote about how to do it. We also did small group writing where we all got to pitch in and help each other write. We learned that we are experts on so many topics!



Ms. Lee's grade 4 and 5 classroom have published a monthly newsletter in their classroom for the entire school year. You can read exciting pieces about what's been happening in the classroom, with different features depending on the time of year. Here's a small peek at Volume 8, Issue 8.

Room 25 News

April 2024
Volume 8, Issue 8

THE SEVEN TEACHINGS

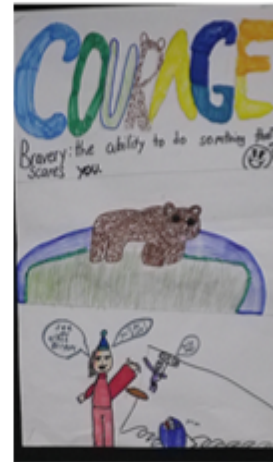
In this month we learned all about the Seven Grandfather Teachings from Indigenous cultures. The seven teachings are: truth, love, wisdom, honesty, humility, respect and courage. Each teaching has an animal that goes with it. The eagle represents love. The wolf shows humility, the bison shows respect and the beaver is for wisdom. We learned that the turtle represents truth, the sasquatch is for honesty and the bear is for courage. Later, we chose one of the teachings and we made a poster about it. Yurii made a poster about truth and the turtle and Tejas made a poster about wisdom. We read some other books to learn about Ojibway life. One of the books is called Nanabosho Dances. It is a story about how hoop dancing came to be part of the culture. The other book is called Nanabosho, Soaring Eagle. We also did some poetry writing. It was called Spine Book Poetry. For this writing we looked at all of the books in the classroom and chose the book titles that would fit together to make an interesting poem. It was a lot of fun!

By Tejas and Yurii

NOVEL STUDIES

We are reading novels in our class. Each group has 4 or 5 people in it. Each group has a different novel to read. As we read, we put a sticky note on a page if it has a word on it that we don't know the meaning of, then we look up that word in the dictionary. We also did some work sheets about the characters in the book. Sometimes we can read independently and sometimes we read out loud together in our groups. Miss Lee will quiz us about what we are reading and ask us what we think about the story. Our novels are good!

By Ashneer and Gursahir



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

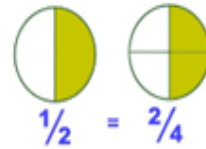
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MATH

We are learning a lot of math. Some of us have been learning about dividing and some of us are working on adding and subtracting. Abhijot gets some hard math questions and Farah gets some math that is a little bit easy. We are also working on our times table. When the numbers get big, we use cubes to help us with counting. Now we are all working on fractions. We like math!

By Abhijot and Farah



FRENCH

We are learning how to say the names of the seasons and how to write them in French. Sometimes we use weather dice and roll them. Whoever the dice lands in front of is the person that has to say the name of the weather that is pictured on the dice. We also learned all about the family names and what they mean. We learned how to say some

words that are the quality of the person and how we would describe each person in our family. When we learn French, we also play games. For the family words, we played a game called "Pioche" and "Lotto". Lotto is like bingo. To play Pioche, each person at the table takes turns asking for a family member. The person who

has the card would give it to the person asking. If they don't have it, then they say "pioche" and have to pick up a new card. French is fun!

By Prableen and Ysha



ART

In art, we used watercolor paints and paper to make some flowers in a vase. First, we designed a vase with some black paper and made some designs on the vase. Then we used the watercolor paint to paint blobs around the vase. When the paint was dry, we used a Sharpie marker to make the petals on the blobs, so that they would look like flowers. Afterward, we painted stems and a table around the vase. Another art activity we did was an etching of a Canadian animal. First, we

practiced drawing the animal in our art journals and making some texture on them to look like fur or feathers. Our second draft was on a small piece of paper, which we cut out and traced onto special black paper. When you traced onto it, the black stuff came off and it was golden underneath. We added the fur and then the ground. It was fun and amazing!

By Jas and Tim



ROOM 27 GRADE 4/5

Habitats and Communities

One of the highlights of our Habitats and Communities unit has been the creation of dioramas by our students. These miniature worlds have been meticulously crafted, each one depicting a different habitat and the unique community of plants and animals that call it home. Students poured their hearts and minds into researching their chosen habitats and bringing their creations to life with vibrant colors and intricate details.



Writer's workshop

Over the past few weeks, our budding authors have been hard at work crafting their own books, pouring their creativity and imagination onto the pages. From captivating stories to informative non-fiction texts, our students have explored a wide range of genres and topics, each one reflecting their unique interests and personalities.



Room 11 News!

These are just a few samples of the weekly recap that room 11 produced for their Instagram followers. It was always a pleasure to read the recaps!

ROOM 11 NEWS

THIS WEEK'S RECAP: BY TESSA!

This week in room 11 , on monday the students edited and filmed all week with room 9! , mary showed us her her short film on wednesday thursday room 11 and room 9 went on a field trip to the humans rights museum we learned a lot of things about our rights , hope all room 11 students have a great weekend !

REMINDERS & UPCOMING EVENTS

March 13th
Term 2 Reports
Available Online

March 14 & 15
Student-Lead
Conferences

PIC OF THE WEEK



ROOM 11 NEWS

THIS WEEK'S RECAP: BY EDWARD!

I am really excited for telling everyone about our experience. Firstly, we have math and woohoo we just finished fractions, decimal and integers and next week is the beginning of pre-algebra. in science, it is still a mystery. Speaking about social studies, we are doing advocacy.(pssst... it means standing up for someone). as we begin to adjust after spring break , the more we find our weaknesses and eliminating them.

Room 11 looks forward to meet you.

REMINDERS & UPCOMING EVENTS

April 12th-26th
Artist-In-School

May 2nd
BAND CONCERT

May 16th
Film Festival

PIC OF THE WEEK



ROOM 11 NEWS

THIS WEEK'S RECAP: BY JASKEERAT!

This week we did artist in school this is our last artist in school we made our movie this took a long time to make but in the end it was good. We also did our Energy Prototypes!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7th
Room 11 & 9 Energy
Exhibition
5:00-6:00

May 23rd
7Oaks Film Festival

May 24th
STEAM Fest!

PIC OF THE WEEK





Learning Beyond the Pages

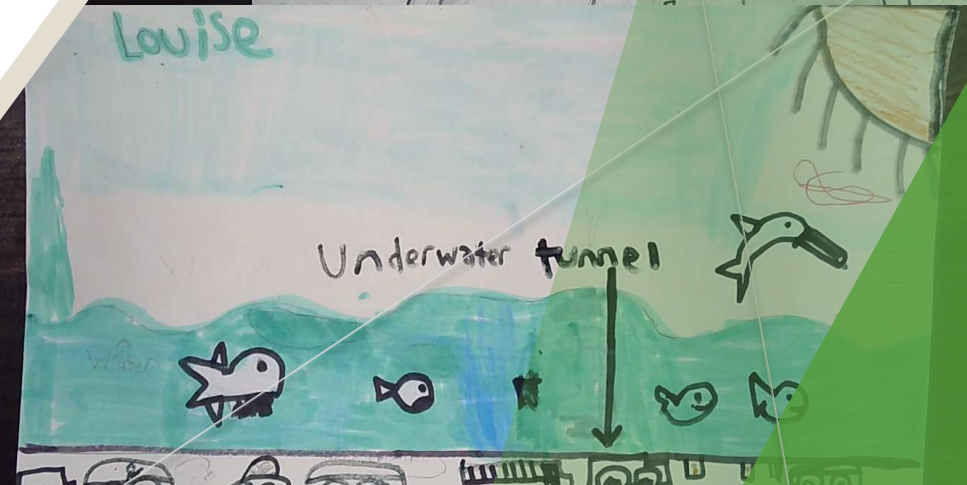
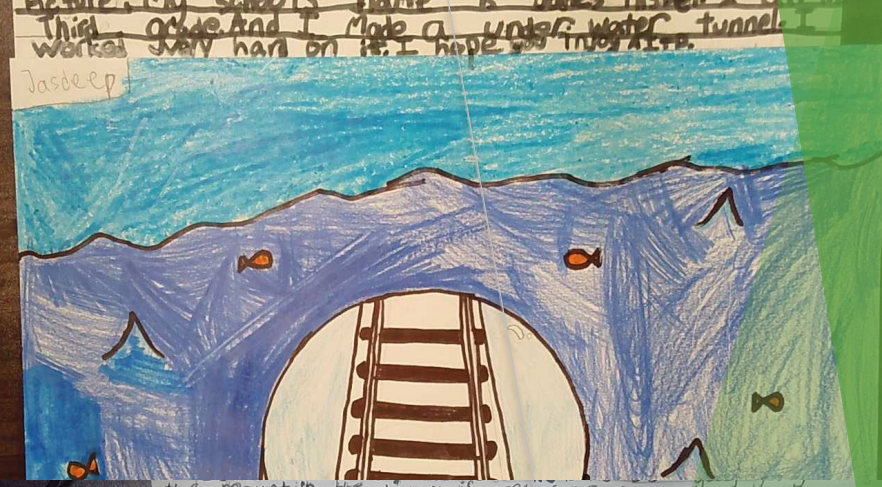
Whether it's a science experiment or a trip outside the classroom, the teaching and learning at James Nisbet is hands-on, diverse, and can even make a memory for a lifetime. The ways in which the curriculum can be delivered seems endless; for now, let's explore a few moments of learning beyond the pages.

The Science of Creativity

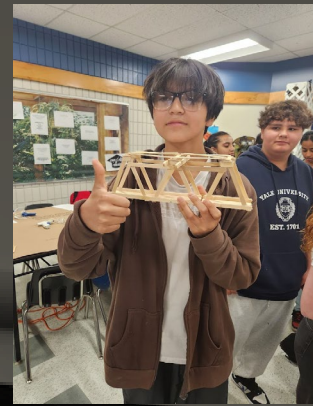
In term 3, the students of Mr. Hochman's Grade 3 class in Room 10 had been learning all about Structures and Materials in Science. We had learned about Skyscrapers, Bridges and Tunnels in particular. We viewed several interesting videos from YouTube and every student had the opportunity to be creative and to build whatever their imaginations inspired them by using Lego and other found materials. Many of them made birdfeeders from plastic 2 L bottles, while others designed and built games or toys.

Their latest creations and examples of their learning are their very own design and drawings of Tunnels and how they connect travel from one place to another. Some of their tunnels go through mountains while other are underground or underwater. The students have also learned how some animals and insects use tunnels for specific purposes like food storage, protection from predators, hibernation, and many other reasons.

We are pleased share that their learning was displayed for all to see at the Arts in the Park celebration the last three days of May 2024.



Science in Room 29



In Mrs. Courtenay's class, we firmly believe that science should be hands-on and interactive because it allows students to develop a deeper understanding of concepts, encourages critical thinking skills, and instills a lifelong love for learning. By actively engaging in experiments and activities, students not only grasp theoretical concepts but also develop practical skills that are essential for success in the scientific field and beyond. Through hands-on exploration, students are empowered to ask questions, make discoveries, and become active participants in their own education, fostering a sense of ownership and curiosity that extends far beyond the classroom.



Ms. Dhanoa's Mathematicians

Ms. Dhanoa's grade 1/2 learners became mathematicians, designers, engineers, and builders as they used base-10 blocks to explore place value. What would you design with base-10 blocks?

Learn2fish program - Room 6

Today, we went fishing at Selkirk. Once we got there we put on our life jackets and went down to the shore and they casted our rods for us. One group caught a fish almost immediately! The fish they caught was pretty small though. About 15



inches. This got everyone fired up and now everybody wanted to catch a fish. A few minutes after the first fish, we hear a scream. "There's a fish! There's a fish! Our rods bending!!" their rod was BENDING. Like A LOT. They reel it in and it was a 33 inch catfish.



That was our biggest fish of the day!

Maybe even the biggest fish out of the whole derby thing. A runner up after the 33 inch catfish was a 30 inch catfish from another one of our classmates. We were all proud and overjoyed because of what we caught. Except for some people who didn't catch anything.



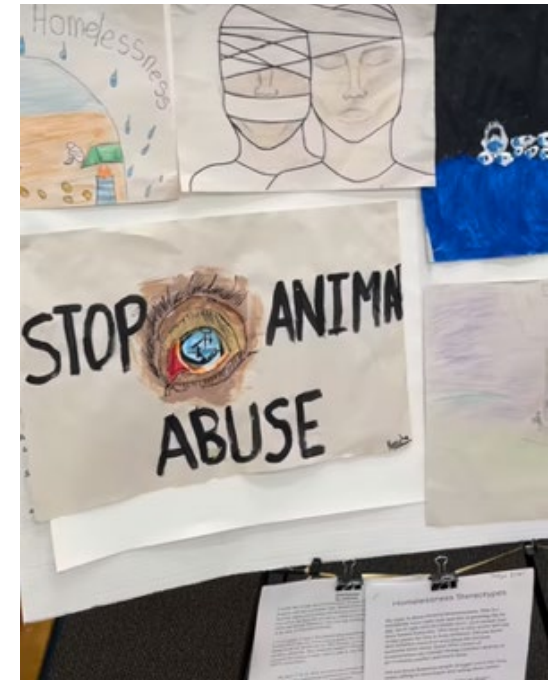
They were DEVASTATED. About an hour goes

by and no fishes bite anymore. We were wondering if we caught them all or if the pelicans in the water ate them. Some classmates caught a few fishes. We had a few bendy rods but they were only sticks floating above the fishing lines and had some fishes on the line that got away. When we were nearing the end of our session, a

classmate got 2 fish on one rod! We were cheering because they said we only needed one more fish to take the lead. The lead for what you may ask? The lead for the competition! Winner gets a class pizza party! I'm sure we're getting that because as we were leaving and reeling in all the rods, we were all sad since nobody got the last fish we needed to get the lead but then our classmate, our savior, reeled in a fish.! Woohoo! We finished our session with a class picture and went back to school very happy.



(hoping that no one gets more fish than us)



Activism and Action at James Nisbet

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.” – Barack Obama

As Novas, we not only believe but we *know* that our kids can be the change for a better tomorrow. How we move in this world and how we walk alongside each other is in mindfulness, kindness, and striving toward equity for all. The steps that we take on this Earth should be in gratitude for all the Earth has to offer.

At James Nisbet, we are better together. Our future is better together.

“Not long ago countless Bashkode-bizhiki (buffalo) roamed the west. I said he would disappear if he was not respected. Is respect like Bashkode-bizhiki, disappearing from Turtle Island.” - David Bouchard

Earth Week at James Nisbet shed light on how our actions and respect can greatly impact Mother Earth. The students of room 17 worked together to analyze their own actions. As a challenge for Earth Week, students worked together to collect and weigh their waste that would have ended up in the garbage and ultimately back into the Earth. We began the week with a weight of 256g and reduced our waste down to below 60g within three days. We continue to be mindful of how our small actions can have a great impact on Mother Earth.

In culminating our week, room 17 worked together to create a collaborative piece as a reminder of the importance of showing respect to the Earth. Using only recycled and reusable materials collected from home and around the school, students cut, organized, and pasted tiles to form a mosaic piece inspired by Jim Oskineegish’s Woodland Art of Bashkode-bizhiki.

We look to Bashkode-bizhiki, to remind us of our continued efforts to take care of Mother Earth and will not let respect disappear like Bashkode-bizhiki almost once did.



MMIWG2S+: Activism and Action from a Grade 1/2 and 7 Partnership



This year, James Nisbet came together as a community to remember and honour all the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2-Spiritied Individuals. At James Nisbet, we recognize that MMIWG2S+ is a national crisis that impacts the lives of innumerable Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse+ peoples and want to bring awareness to this crisis. The MMIWG2S+ crisis connects with other social justice concerns such as racism, poverty, and environmental destruction. At James Nisbet, we stand in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and take reconciliation measures to create a fairer, more equitable society for everyone.

Here is a look at Ms. Hodge and Mr. Militano's classes at the Forks learning and reflecting together at the MMIWG2S+ monuments.



Songwriting with Raine



Upcycled art



Waste audit with Heather Eckton

Songwriting for Climate Action

This year room 18 worked with the amazing Raine Hamilton to create an all-original song!

We chose to write our song about Climate Change, we chose this topic to help spread the message that Climate Change is happening.

We learned this year that Global Warming is causing Climate Change and it's making the Earth become very hot. This will lead to many humans and animals suffering, low lying areas will be flooded, there will be massive wild fires, and food shortages around the world

Our song, *There is No Planet B*, is a call to action to save the planet and all the animal and plant life on it.