



# O. V. Jewitt Community School

Principal: Ms. T. Nishibata-Chan

Vice-Principal: Ms. D. Drabyk

Home - [O.V. Jewitt Community School \(7oaks.org\)](http://O.V. Jewitt Community School (7oaks.org))

## January/February 2024 Newsletter

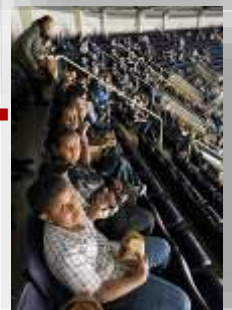
### Land Acknowledgement

**We would like to acknowledge that we are on Treaty 1 land, home to the original lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininewak (I-nee-nee-wawk), Anishinin (Ah-nish-ih-noon), Dakota and Dene peoples, and on the national homeland of the Red River Métis. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.**

### Letter from the Principals

**DIVERSITY** is recognizing and celebrating all the things that make up our students: culture, gender, family makeup, lifestyle choices and personal interests. These dimensions of diversity give meaning to our **IDENTITY**. We want our kids to see themselves reflected in the culture of our school and to feel a sense of belonging – “These are my people.” We want our students to feel seen, understood and to be given leadership roles throughout the school that celebrate who they are. Through literature, we challenge stereotypes and recognize that diversity is dynamic and multi-faceted. We want our students to vocalize positive and affirming messages that promote respect for diversity and advocate for **ACTION** to counter injustice. Here at O.V. Jewitt, we continually re-visit how this shows up in our classrooms and is embedded in our practices. We teach academics, but it is the relationship we nurture and the opportunities we give for students to share and celebrate who they are, that often has the biggest impact.

Join us on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, for an interactive session called SNACKS THAT GO THE LONG HAUL, with dietitian Nita Sharda. Please call the office to register, so you can secure a spot!



**W**e are very excited about starting up a BSU (Black Students Union) at O.V. Jewitt. Amber Trails BSU shared how they got their BSU started and the activities that they do when they meet. We started off with an initial group of older students who were keenly interested and plan to branch out to more students across the grades.

The Black Student Union (BSU) is a student-led group that aims to create a supportive and inclusive space for students of African descent within our school community. It serves as a platform for cultural expression, awareness and advocacy. BSU activities often include cultural celebrations, educational events, and discussions that promote a deeper understanding of African and African-Canadian/American history, heritage and contributions. By participating in BSU, students have the opportunity to connect with peers who share similar cultural backgrounds and engage in meaningful conversations that contribute to their overall personal development.

Our BSU celebrated Black History month along with the Winnipeg Jets. This game, recognized as Black History Night, celebrates diversity in hockey, past and current players and helps to drive positive social change and foster more inclusive communities. Big thanks to True North who donated tickets for us to attend with our BSU.



Why follow @ovjewitt on Instagram?  
Connection...Current information...Upcoming events...Classroom highlights



*FROM ROOM 3...* We have been exploring the 7 Teachings as a classroom community and discussing the ways in which they can help guide our words and actions, along with the way we treat ourselves, one another and the earth. We engaged in meaningful conversations about the values and intentions highlighted within each of the teachings and worked collaboratively to compose pieces of writing that allowed us to share our understanding in our own words.

As artists we experimented with printmaking and worked in pairs to create pictures of the seven symbols that represent each of the teachings. After some discussion and debate, we assigned a different colour to each image based on how we felt it connected with the teaching being represented.

When we look at the work we created together, we are reminded of our commitment to honour each of these teachings with our words and actions, and to approach all we do with courage, honesty, respect, humility, truth, wisdom and love.



### It Starts With An Idea: CHESS CLUB!

We are very fortunate to have one of our family members, Mr. Lally, who has initiated an interest for a Chess Club at lunch for our Grade 4/5 students. For our first few sessions, our library has been full with beginning and experienced chess players looking to learn more and play lots! This is a captivating and intellectually stimulating extracurricular option that we have also had Middle Years students as mentors and teachers – these kids love the game and are looking to share their passion with their younger friends. Joining our Chess Club not only offers instruction but enables your child to forge friendships with like-minded individuals who share their passion for the game.



**\*\*Please be sure to send forks and/or spoons daily with your child for their snacks/lunches as needed—thank you!\*\***

**Room 16** embarked on a “Passion Project,” to explore their interests and consider how their strengths, skills, and passions could lead to meaningful future careers.

Students began by identifying their values and researching careers connected to their interests. They then wrote letters to experts in the field of their choosing and generously heard back from nurses, astrophysicists, pilots, architects, engineers, astronauts, farmers, and artists about their first hand experiences. Students created and shared final products that reflected their learning and took part in a showcase to share their learning.



*“In the end, I’ve learned that I’m not as boring as I genuinely thought I was. By creating My World (art-based collage project), I’ve now seen all the things that I have a place in my heart for, which helps me understand myself a bit better.” – Jasmeet*

*“The most important thing I learned from this project is to try not to procrastinate, which is doing your work last minute before the deadline. Don’t underestimate how hard or easy your projects are because in the beginning of this project I thought it was easy so I didn’t do it until a week till the deadline and I regretted it.” – Adriel*

*“After all I learned about civil engineering I’d probably still be interested in becoming a civil engineer or an environmental engineer because I didn’t know it was a thing until the email came back from the expert. Environmental engineering sounds interesting and I want to make systems so that cities won’t flood.” – Sean*



## From Room 12...

Our class has been learning what diversity means.

Did you know that diversity is everything that makes people different from each other, such as race, ethnicity, gender, ability, culture and beliefs. Our class did an activity with jellybeans about diversity. We learnt that by separating colors that its race and the different flavors in those colors define ethnicity. After we wrote about our identity on a heart that defined who we are.

Also, we are recognizing as we study different animals and plants that they are diverse as well. We are understanding and classifying the variety of living species which helps us to better understand how to conserve and benefit from this diversity.



**R**oom 8 researched **Lunar New Year** traditions across Asian cultures, discovering diverse celebrations and beliefs. Since it's the year of the dragon in many cultures, we made dragon dance puppets!



**SNACKS THAT GO THE LONG HAUL**

**NITA SHARDA**  
REGISTERED DIETITIAN

TUESDAY, APRIL 9  
O.V. JEWITT SCHOOL  
5:00-6:30PM

**In this interactive session, Nita will share:**

- What exactly is a snack?
- Is snacking always necessary? And how can it support children?
- Tips and strategies to create balanced snacks
- Recipe demonstration

PLEASE RSVP @ 204-633-1714.  
CHILDREN ARE WELCOME (CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED) WHILE THE ADULTS GET TO LEARN AND TRY NEW RECIPES.  
PLEASE LET INGRID OR SUE KNOW IF YOU ARE NEEDING CHILD CARE.



## OVJ LOVES TO READ!

Linda Trinh, a Manitoban author of the Nguyen Kid series, came to O.V. Jewitt to engage in reading workshops with our Grades 3-5 students. Small groups of students have been meeting during their nutrition break to critically think about their experiences in relation to the book. Linda writes about topics related to anti-racism and social justice, with the Vietnamese Canadian characters in her story. Her stories are accessible but also relatable with students in this age grouping. We were able to ask questions about her books. Linda also had lunch with our staff and shared her journey as an author, as well as her inspiration behind the series she has written. She was certainly one of the highlights of our **I Love to Read** month!



**M**iddle Years Band students have been busy since returning from Winter break. Grade 7 and 8 students worked hard to prepare for their fantastic February 22 concert at SOPAC. The concert featured the Grade 7/8 Band, Jazz Band, as well as a student-led group of Grade 8 students called La La Band. During the month of February, we celebrated Black History Month by starting each band class with music by Black musical artists. After our Winter concert, middle years bands will begin learning new songs by artists such as **Laufey, K'NAAN and Daniel Caesar** in preparation for Arts in the Park (May 29 - 31 @ Maples Collegiate) and our Spring concert (June 4 @ O.V. Jewitt). In May, Grade 8 band students will also be invited to attend an evening performance of Star Wars: A New Hope, with the soundtrack played live by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. There is a lot of good music still to come in 2024!

## From Room 14...

The work we do in Room 14 is continuously framed by this overarching question: How do we understand the diversity of others?

In January, students began reading *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang. This allowed us to explore more deeply the themes of racism, poverty, stereotypes, and Chinese immigrant experiences. We paired this novel with Chimamanda Adichie's "The Danger of a Single Story" TED Talk, which discusses the harmful idea of a "single story" that is often attributed to diverse groups of people. Our work together as a classroom is centered in the ways that we can reject and push back against the idea of a single story, and instead, use the power of story to bring people together.

In continuing our anti-racism learning, we are collaborating with Anti-Racism Initiative Lead, Mr. Cliff Weekes, and diving into important conversations about race using *How to be a Young Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi and Nic Stone. We are using this text to help us grow in our understanding of how to acknowledge, identify, and dismantle systems of racism and injustice. This work allows us to turn inward and focus on identifying the paradigms that form our views of ourselves and other people. *To create justice, we have to be about justice. We do better when we know better.*



**POP IT & DROP IT!**  
Make a difference and collect tabs!

The Seven Oaks School Division Tabs Collection Committee collects tabs. Once enough funds have been received from the tabs collected, we will purchase a specialty piece of equipment for one of our Seven Oaks Students. Thank you for your continued support!

Drop off locations:  
"Saving the school year!"  
K.F. Marmann School (25 Marmann St.)  
Vistary School (195 Jefferson Ave.)  
Ardor Trails Community School (1375 Templeton Ave.)



**PLEASE NOTE THAT TABS  
MAY ALSO BE DROPPED OFF  
AT O.V. JEWITT SCHOOL**

### A FRIENDLY REMINDER...

Please call the office at 204-633-1714 if your child will be **absent or late**; you may leave a message if you call before or after hours.

## IN THE MUSIC ROOM!

Follow us on Instagram [ovj.music](https://www.instagram.com/ovj.music)

The music room has been full of energy and hard work these last few months! In December, Grade 1-8 students performed in a school wide Winter Assembly. This included singing, recorders, Boomwhackers, and the Jazz Band ending the assembly, led by Mr. Clendenan.

Since the New Year, Grade 1-5 students have been enjoying playing instruments and have recently begun preparing for their Musicals. Grade 4/5 students have also worked on transferring their recorder note reading skills to new instruments. Grades 6, 7, and 8 Choirs were busy perfecting their repertoire for the Middle Years Band & Choir Concert, where they sang a variety of songs for friends and family.

Please note the upcoming OVJ Music Performances:

- ♫ **Grade 4/5 Musical "It's Showtime!" on April 24, 6:00 pm at SOPAC**
- ♫ **Grade 1-3 Musical "Hats!" on May 3, 6:00 pm at SOPAC**

