

September News

In addition to extending a warm welcome to all students and staff returning to West St. Paul after the summer break, we wish to acknowledge the arrival of fifteen new students and three new teachers. Mr. Jamie Gilbert is the new Middle Years Physical Education specialist. Ms Michelle Thompson is a new grade five teacher and Ms Rowena Matilla is a new grade six teacher on term until December. Mrs. Pat Fulcher returns as a Learning Support teacher in a term position until December 2016 and Mr. Warren Olson is completing a short term position in Grade 8. In the six-week absence of Mr. Bob McIntosh, Mrs. Angela Bubnowicz has been Acting Principal and Mr. Kevin Rempel has been Acting Vice Principal.

"How are the children?" is a traditional Masai greeting that was shared amongst staff at our first staff meeting. Apparently the Masai greatly value and base the well being of themselves as a society on the health of all of their children. When they ask the question they hope to hear, "All the children are well." The thought raised is what can we learn from thinking similarly. This is of particular significance as the theme of the Professional Development day held on September 21, 2016 was Making a Difference for the children within our care in all of our Seven Oaks schools. Further to this, using the phrase "Every Child Matters ", we joined all divisional staff in donning orange tshirts to show support to Residential school survivors.

Additionally at West St. Paul we were able to take advantage of the opportunity to invite members of a new family to help us with our September 30, 2016 tribute. Michael Esquash , Senior, is a talented singer and drummer who kindly agreed to share his Aboriginal teachings. He explained the significance of wearing orange to honour those who survived Residential Schools. Michael, Junior, and his sister, Alexis both danced and were later joined by our group of Pow Wow dancers.

