

Special points of interest:

- Grade 7 students organized a UNICEF fundraiser and assembly. \$6000 was raised.
- Free the Children spokespersons Keith and Renee perform and share about their work in Africa.
- School Wide Bake Sale for Haiti earthquake relief lead by Grade 5 students.
- Students from Grades 5 - 8 participate in a UNESCO schools student forum.
- Student Voice group led a school-wide assembly to introduce UNESCO beliefs to the whole school.
- School video is created by students to put forth the ideals of what it means to be a UNESCO school.
- 26 Grade 8 students participated in the World Vision 39 Hour Famine raising awareness about poverty and global food issues.
- Three classes participated in a Walk for Water to learn how families in other parts of the world have challenges around access to clean drinking water.
- Students participated in an Earth Day Unite to Change conference.
- Classrooms investigated Child Labour issues around the world.
- Two garden plots were planned, built and planted by students.
- Teachers have been involved in a University of Manitoba Research Project that supports environmental stewardship for children and teachers.

Growing to Greatness

West St. Paul School

June 2010

Report to the Community

West St. Paul School Connecting to the World

UNESCO SCHOOLS

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a worldwide organization serving to promote peace. The purpose of UNESCO is to contribute to world peace by promoting collaboration between countries, via education, science and culture.

West St. Paul School joined the UNESCO Network in the fall of 2009. Throughout the year, we have been growing in our understanding of what it means to be a UNESCO School. We have been trying to live the beliefs written on the wall in the front foyer — Take Care of yourself. Take care of each other. Take care of this place.



The four themes of UNESCO include: world concerns, human rights, intercultural learning and sustainable living.

We have had support in connecting these themes to the social studies and science curriculum during two days of professional development. Ann McDarmid and Linda Mlodzinski, curriculum specialists from the Department of Education, led West St. Paul teachers through how the concepts of UNESCO schools are embedded in the Manitoba curriculum.



Connecting with Nature through Sustainable Development

With funds provided by a University of Manitoba study, classrooms have built two community gardens with the intention of providing students the opportunity to deepen their connections to nature and the outdoors. We see potential for these spaces as possible outdoor classrooms. Through a group visitation to the Discovery Centre, teachers explored the different teaching and learning possibilities that our school gardens can create.

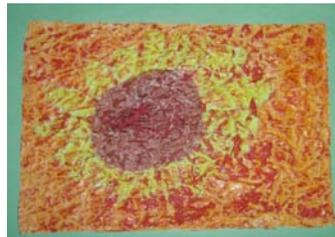


Seven Oaks Hockey Academy

This was the first year for West St. Paul students to participate in the Seven Oaks Hockey Academy. Twenty students from Grades 5–8 took part in this program.

The students went to West Kildonan Arena on the days of their Technology, Arts and Sports class. They had two hours of ice time with dryland training in September, April, May and June. Our classes were combined with students from H.C. Avery.

The teacher-coaches for this program are Mr. Farmer and Mr. Malaschuk. You can read more about the Seven Oaks Hockey Academy by checking out the web-site at www.7ohsa.com



Technology Plan

This year we posted all our newsletter on-line and gave parents a choice about receiving the newsletter in paper form. By January, families were receiving an email notice to notify them of the on-line posting.

We have also updated our school web-site. This is a work in progress and will continue in the next year. We are moving towards weekly updates of the calendar.

Several teachers have begun work on teacher web-sites as a vehicle for parent-teacher communication. Our last professional development day gave all teachers the tools to develop classroom websites as a means of communicating with parents.

Four classrooms were equipped with SMARTBOARD technology in this school year. Teachers have been using this technology to enhance curriculum for students. The school plan includes the addition of SMARTBOARDS in four more school spaces in the next school year.



Special points of interest:

- Manitoba Theatre for Young People presented two plays to West St. Paul Students.
- Over one hundred parents, grandparents and community members volunteered for the students of our school.
- Six members of the West St. Paul staff presented Professional Development sessions for other teachers in the province.
- Twenty young fathers with their children participated in the Dads and Play program.
- Thirty Four families regularly participate in the Advancing Community Schools Pre-School program. This program takes place Monday through Friday mornings with Community Coordinator Cheryl Rajfur.

Physical Education at West St. Paul

- Grade Four students had an opportunity to take swimming lessons as part of the Seven Oaks School Division Learn to Swim program.
- Grade One students took part in the Seven Oaks School Division Learn to Skate Program.
- Twenty Middle School students qualified to participate in the Provincial Track and Field Meet. Two of those students placed first and second in their individual events.
- Thirty Grades 5–8 students participated in the Marathon Club. Twenty four of those ran in the annual Manitoba Marathon.
- The following extra curricular sports were offered for Middle School students: Cross Country, volleyball, basketball, badminton, track and field, marathon and slow-pitch. These activities were coached by fourteen different teachers.
- Intramural activities were offered for all K–5 students.
- Grades 3–5 students participated in divisional tournaments in team handball and cross country.
- The Advancing Communities Schools Pre-School families had the opportunity to participate in a Learn to Skate program led by parent/coach Tanya Pilat.

2009– 2010 Special Events

Camp Stevens



Pancake Breakfast



Performing Arts

All students participated in the Concert in December. In addition to some great music from our Concert Band and Jazz Band, the K—5 students presented their version of "The Nutcracker,"

In February, our Grade 8 Concert Band participated in the Optimist Band Festival and in March, the Grade 7/8 Jazz Band had a terrific two days at the Brandon Jazz Festival. In April, the Grade 7 Band participated in the Beginner Band Festival.



The Bands capped off a terrific year by a Spring Concert performance that really highlighted their amazing musical growth throughout the year. The Spring Concert also highlighted a creative mix of musical development that the K-5 classes have made throughout the year.

Artist in the Schools



Artist Allison Moore with assistance from Alice Kulyk, spent a month with us in the early winter. Her focus was to help children think about using different media to create an environmental piece of art. This was an excellent way for children to demonstrate their environmental learning in a different medium.



Winter Olympics



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Report to the Community.

Every classroom is a storehouse of miracles. If we keep our eyes peeled and listen with care, we can apprehend moments of mystery, beauty, and wonder. These are the moments in which we feel most alive. They are always there, waiting to be caught and savored

Glynis Wilson Boulthée

Professional Learning

The West St. Paul staff had two school wide Professional Development days focussing on sustainable development and how the tenets of UNSECO schools are embedded into the social studies and science curricula

The Middle Years team had, as their focus, the implementation of the new assessment model. As this was our first year working with this model, the work with students and families will continue next year.

In addition the Middle Years teachers spent their professional development time working with Dr. Miriam Small and Trevor Brown incorporating math manipulatives into our Math teaching . The professional text for this group was Big Ideas with Dr. Small. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet the author and be able to work through the ideas with her.

The Early Years teaching team (K- 5) participated in various professional development opportunities over the course of the 2009/2010 school year. We had some Education Leave in which we collaborated with teachers from two other schools to deepen our understanding of how we look at and document children's work.

Several teachers also took part of a research study with the University of Manitoba around sustainable development. This study connected our work to the two days of in-servicing about the connections between sustainable development to the social studies and science curricula.

Nine teachers had the opportunity to attend a conference sponsored by the UNESCO schools network. This conference helped to further teacher knowledge of sustainable development and world issues such as child labour and child poverty and how those things are connected to the curriculum.

A group of teachers participated in an after-school book club, reading and discussing the professional text "Talking, Drawing, Writing: Lessons for Our Youngest Writers", by Martha Horn and Mary Ellen

Giacobbe. We were intrigued by the new ways of thinking about what the writing process can look and sound like in our classrooms.

Teachers from West St. Paul participated on the Seven Oaks School Division Information and Technology development team, the Middle Years Math team and the divisional Sustainable Development Team. These opportunities allow teachers to demonstrate leadership in the division as well as leadership among their West St. Paul colleagues.

We also had two days of in-servicing with Seven Oaks divisional staff leaders discussing what inclusion means, how to differentiate instruction for all learners and how to work effectively in collaborative teams.

