



GENERAL BYNG SCHOOL

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MARCH

2009

Dear Families,

As we draw nearer to spring, we are hopeful that the weather will finally become more 'spring-like'. Thank-you to our early years teachers and students for dealing with the numerous indoor recesses so well.

Notwithstanding the frosty weather, our students and teachers remained busy and active throughout February. Some of the events that took place during the month of February were:

- Winter Activity Day (including the ski trip)
- Festival du Voyageur Day for early years students—thanks to Outdoor Ed students and Mr. Smith
- Early Years 100 Day Celebration
- Grades 7-9 Band Concert—thanks to band students and Ms. Canto
- Optimist Band Festival
- Grade 7-9 Dance—thanks to Leadership students and Mr. Sahulka as well as all adult supervisors

The transition of students moving from Grade 9 to Grade 10 has already begun, with our students having visited Vincent Massey Collegiate for an information session early in the month as well as visits to our school by Mr. Martin, Principal of Vincent Massey, and other school representatives who assist students with the registration process. Course selection in high school should be regarded as a serious matter and parents are encouraged to discuss course choices with their Grade 9 children.

Our Kindergarten Information Evening has taken place and registration is now open for the 2009-2010 school year. If you, or anyone you know, has children of Kindergarten age (born in 2004), please contact the school office for information on registration.

We are now in the final stages of having a school age day care operational at General Byng for the 2009-2010 school year. Information on the daycare and how to register will be sent to you with your school registration package. This endeavour was made possible through your input (thank you for your responses to our Day Care Needs surveys) and the support and assistance of the Parent Council.

Our next set of Tri-Conferences will be on April 16th and 17th. We have received feedback indicating a need to improve the registration process for Tri-Conferences. In an effort to make this process timelier and to better meet the needs of our community, registration for the April Conferences will be done on-line. This will eliminate the need for paper to be shuffled back and forth between home and school, support our efforts to be more sustainable (less paper used), and allow families to book their conferences at their leisure. Information on how to access the system will be emailed to families, sent home with children, and if needed, verified through a personal phone call.

Thank you for your ongoing support of your child(ren)'s education and development.

Mr. D. Juby
Principal

Mrs. G. Walker
Vice Principal

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REMINDERS:

- **NO CLASSES**—Kindergarten to Gr. 9 School P.D.
- **SPRING BREAK**—March 30 to April 3

Daily Routine—(K-Grade 4)

8:40am	Student entry
8:45am	Attendance
8:50am	Announcements/O Canada
10:10-10:25am	Recess
11:35-12:40pm	Lunch
1:55-2:10pm	Recess
3:20pm	Dismissal

Daily Routine—(Grade 5-9)

8:30am	Student entry
8:45am	Attendance
8:54-10:35am	Classes
10:35-10:45am	Locker Break
10:45-11:35am	Classes
11:35am Lunch/12:30pm	Entry
12:40-2:20pm	Classes
2:20-2:30pm	Locker Break
2:30-3:20pm	Classes
3:20pm	Dismissal

ATTENDANCE POLICY

STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents/Guardians are asked to phone the school before 8:15 a.m. to report a student who will be absent for the morning or the full day and before 12:15 p.m. to report an afternoon absence. A note is required only when the office has not been informed by phone or when a student will be leaving early for an appointment. **The note must be signed by a parent/guardian and brought to the office before morning/afternoon attendance.**

LATE ARRIVALS

All students are expected to be on time and to be ready for the start of class. Students who are late either at 8:45 a.m. or 12:40 p.m. are to report to the office upon arrival.

ILLNESS

If your child becomes ill at school, you will be phoned. Your child will not be able to leave the school until we have contacted you; therefore it is very important that we have your current home and work phone numbers, as well as the numbers for an emergency back-up friend or relative. We **cannot** administer any medication unless we have a completed **Medication or Treatment Request** form signed by a Physician.

MESSAGES

Messages of an urgent or emergency nature will be delivered to students, however, **classes will not be interrupted for social arrangements or reminders.**



STUDENT INFORMATION

Please inform the office of any changes in address or phone numbers as soon as possible. Keeping this information updated helps to ensure the safety of your child. Please call the office at 452-3040.

Parents—Please send us your e-mail address.

GRADE 6 CAMP STEPHENS FUNDRAISER - HAM AND BUNNY SALE

The Grade 6 students will be organizing the annual "Ham and Bunny Sale" with all proceeds applied to reduce the cost of sending students to Camp Stephens. Details of the fundraiser will be distributed in the coming weeks. Any parents wishing to help with this fundraiser are asked to contact Miss Brennan, Ms. Collins or Mrs. Tibbs.

PATROL NEWS

It has been very cold lately and the patrols have been on post when possible. Congratulations to the patrol of the week winners, Sarah G., Megan S. and Kana T. . Thank you for all your efforts everyone.

ELEMENTARY MUSIC

Our "Fun-Raiser" Spring Concert will be held this year at 7pm on Wednesday, April 22, 2009. We will be having our next "FUN-RAISER" meeting on Wednesday, March 18 at 3:30 pm in the MUSIC Room. All are welcome. Special thanks to our co-ordinators this year: Mrs. DeMoissac and Mrs. McDougal !!

The grade 3-4 classes will be attending the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's Elementary Concert on March 26. We will be studying the instruments of the orchestra.



Do you love to sing? Would you love to sing with others who share your passion for choral music? Pembina Trails Voices, Pembina Trails School Division's honour choirs program for talented choristers in K-12 invite you to consider auditioning for the 2009 - 2010 season. Audition packages will be available from your school office or your school's music specialist April 6. For detailed information about PTV, check the website at <http://www.pembinatrails.ca/program/pembinatrailsvoices>.

DID YOU KNOW?

Evidence from the brain sciences and evolutionary psychology increasingly suggests that the arts (along with such functions as language and math) play an important role in brain development and maintenance - **SO IT'S A SERIOUS MATTER FOR SCHOOLS TO DENY CHILDREN DIRECT CURRICULAR ACCESS TO THE ARTS.**

Robert Sylvester, University of Oregon Brain Researcher November 1998

Mr. D. Carroll
Elementary Music



A PAGE FROM THE LIBRARY

Cleaning and shopping....that's what spring is all about. Well, ok, so we skipped the cleaning and went right to the shopping.... as usual. Our library is once again very fortunate to have received extra money to rejuvenate/renew our library collection. We are very busy shopping and welcome suggestions from parents, teachers and students....you can email me at jdavies@peminatrails.ca.

We had a great We Seriesly Love to Read Month....we guessed series snippets, and we seriesly jumped into reading. We were very fortunate to once again have our MLA, Kerri Irvin-Ross help us celebrate We "Seriesly" Love to Read Month. We introduced one-of-our-favourite-now-her-favourite series....**If you Give a Mouse a Cookie**, with its latest instalment....**If You Give a Cat a Cupcake**. She seriesly loved reading to the grades 1-4. Thanks to Mr. Tamblyn we also had some "series" athletes (in to talk about the Olympics and series reading.....(thanks to Marina Hamblin who brought in athletes Monica Fife and Alana Miller) and to top it all off....Thanks to Ms. McCann's grade 9's who made cookies (you know what happens if you give one to a mouse....) for the k-4's....seriesly yum!

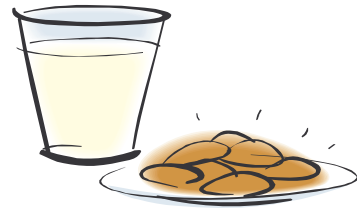
And the winner is.....?!?! This is your last month to read MYRCA 2009! Voting for MYRCA (Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award) will take place on Monday, April 6th -- the day we get back from Spring Break. Grade 5 - 8 students who have read a minimum of three titles will be voting for their personal favourite. Their votes will be sent in to determine the MYRCA winner for 2008. It's a difficult choice..... always. Books will circulate over Spring Break for those wanting to finish off the list.

Got a book? You're set for Spring Break. Seriesly,

Ms. J. Davies - Teacher Librarian
Mrs. P. Poirier - Library Technician



Food For Thought



News from the Foods Lab

Ms. B. McCann

The Foods Lab has been cooking this month. The grade nine students have made a chicken dish from a recipe they chose. They prepared homemade waffles and perogies. Two classes baked cookies for "I love to Read month". They even made bannock for the GB Festival du Voyageur.

The grades eights have baked Banana Chocolate chip muffins, scones and Blast from the Pasta with veggies with Skinny dip. Next on the menu is a "Death by Chocolate" brownie.

The grade seven cooks have also been busy preparing Pasta and Tacos.

Three great grade nine students; Montana D., Morgan G. and Ryan F. are helping me with a cooking club for the grade five and six students on Day three at lunch. For the first class we made chocolate chip cookies from a recipe that Montana brought in. They were fast, easy and delicious. Try it at home.

Montana's Mom's Chocolate Chip Cookies

Preheat oven to 375 F

Mix the following ingredients: 175 ml Margarine with 125 ml white sugar, 125 ml brown sugar, 1 egg and 5 ml vanilla.

Sift into this mixture the following ingredients: 275 ml flour, 3 ml baking soda and 125 ml chocolate chips. Mix then form into 25 ml balls. Bake on greased cookie sheet for 8 to 10 minutes.

Serve with Chocolate milk!

OUR WALK TO SETAGAYA

We are slowing down! Unfortunately, I must report that we are behind in meeting our goal of 1000 km per month. We are more than half way done the school year, but have only walked almost 3200 km. As you may recall the distance from Winnipeg to Setagay, Japan is 8987 km. Step to it General Byng!

Ms. Renic
Teacher

OPERATION DONATION 2009

For the second year in a row, General Byng is participating in Operation Donation. Operation Donation is a province-wide, school-based food drive for Winnipeg Harvest. The one-week long campaign originated 10 years ago. It has evolved, over the years, to the point where Winnipeg Harvest considers Operation Donation to be amongst its most important activities of the year. This is especially true, considering that this campaign occurs at a time of year when Winnipeg Harvest is faced with great demand and empty shelves.

Operation Donation is inclusive. It encourages student participation and stresses the importance of caring for others. Every donation, no matter the size, is important. Each school is challenged to raise one food item per student.

This year Operation Donation will run from Monday, March 2nd to Friday, March 6th.

Winnipeg Harvest seeks non-perishable food items.

The top 10 items include:

1. Baby food
2. Canned meat (fish, ham, poultry, etc...)
3. Canned fruit or vegetables
4. Canned beans, chili or stew
5. Pasta
6. Peanut butter
7. Canned spaghetti sauce or tomatoes
8. Cereal
9. Canned soup
10. Rice

Remember every donation, no matter the size, is important.
Thank you for your support.

Ms. Renic
Teacher



BAND NEWS—MRS. CANTO

Congratulations to the Grade 8 and 9 Band for their performance at the 4th Annual Optimist Band Festival on February 10th and 20th. The three adjudicators' comments were extremely positive and the students have reason to be proud of their performances.

Congratulations to ALL band students for a very fine performance at our annual Winter Concert on February 10th. The audience enjoyed the show very much.

Many clarinet and saxophone players owe money for reeds that they have received throughout the first and second term. Also, some students still owe band rental on school-owned instruments. A form letter will be sent home to those still owing. It would be appreciated if there "tabs" could be looked after as soon as possible.

Congratulations to Grace G., Alex P., Kendra F., Ryan B. and Rachel B., who have been selected to participate in the Pembina Trails School Division Middle Years Honour Band. These five grade eight students will spend March 11—12th, 2009, rehearsing along with other student in the division at Immanuel Pentecostal Church. The Pembina Trails Middle Years Honour Band will host a concert for family and friends at Immanuel Pentecostal Church on March 12th at 7:30 p.m.



NEWS FROM PARENT COUNCIL . . .

We are very pleased with the progress that we're making with the Before and After School program starting at the school. We are continuing the forward motion and will be sending out more information in the up coming registration packages.

We have purchased with the help of the school/board a new climbing rope for the play structure and hope to have it installed in the Spring. Also, the school has purchased new crazy carpets for the students to enjoy on the hill.

With the Campbell's Soup labels program at the school we will be redeeming some points to get the early years children some new outside toys. We need you to continue to bring in your labels; there is a list of items we accept on both the front and back Parent Council bulletin boards.

In looking ahead to Spring we were considering a Walk-a-thon fundraiser for the school to put towards the many beautification projects that are on going. If anyone is interested in taking charge of this event or has questions or concerns please feel free to contact us at byng_pc@mts.net. Our next meeting will be April 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Vincent Massey Collegiate will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary Reunion May 27-30, 2010. We are looking for over 12,000 alumni. All alumni, former and current teachers are asked to submit your (and alumni siblings, kids or parents!) full contact information (last year attended, name, maiden, address, phone, and email) ASAP to masseys50th@hotmail.com or 832-5599 to receive Reunion news. Website www.vmc50threunion.ca

Viscount Alexander Collegiate alumni 1950-1960 will reminisce on the Friday May 28th, 2010 during Reunion Weekend. Please send your contact information to normandee1@shaw.ca or through the shared website www.vmc50threunion.ca

The Manitoba Museum welcomes you to Spring Break!

March 28 - April 5, 2009 open 10 AM - 5 PM

Dinosaur Dynasty - 20 full skeletons from China - to April 19th only!

Science Demonstrations - 1:15, 2:15, 3:15 daily

Tour the Solar System with three different shows, hourly from 11 - 4 daily

Spring Break Day Camp Information at 988-0626

Membership sale March 1 - April 6: 20% off 1 year Family Membership!

ADVANTAGE TENNIS & SPORTS CAMP

July & August

Ages 4-16 yrs old

Camp is offered half day 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or full day 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Session 1 July 6-17

Session 2 July 20-31

Session 3 Aug. 4-14

Session 4 Aug. 17-28

Tiny Tots (ages 4-6)

Session 1 July 13-17


Session 2 July 27-31

Session 3 Aug. 10-14

Early drop off and late pick up are available.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL MARCIE 489-1152

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 2—6, 2009	Operation Donation (Winnipeg Harvest Food Drive)
March 16—20, 2009	Gr. 5—9— SPIRIT WEEK
Friday, March 13, 2009	NO CLASSES (K—Gr. 9) School P.D. 
March 30—April 3, 2009	SPRING BREAK—NO CLASSES
Monday, April 6, 2009	Classes Resume
Tuesday, April 7, 2009	A.M.—Gr. 9—Booster Shot
Friday, April 10, 2009	NO CLASSES (K—Gr. 9) - Good Friday
Monday, April 13, 2009	NO CLASSES (K—Gr. 9) Divisional P.D.
Tuesday, April 14, 2009	7:00 p.m.—Parent Council Meeting
Friday, April 17, 2009	P.M.—Tri-Conferences NO CLASSES (Gr. 1—9)
Wednesday, April 22, 2009	7:00 p.m.—K—Gr. 6 Spring "Fun-Raiser" Concert
Tuesday, May 5, 2009	P.M.—Gr. 4 HEP B and Gr. 6 Girls HPV Innoculation
Friday, May 15, 2009	P.M.—NO CLASSES (Gr. 1—9)
Friday, June 12, 2009	NO CLASSES (K—Gr. 9)
Tuesday, June 30, 2009	Last Day of School



MARCH 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2—DAY 3	3—DAY 4	4—DAY 5	5—DAY 6	6—DAY 1
OPERATION DONATION (Winnipeg Harvest Food Drive)				
9—DAY 2	10—DAY 3	11—DAY 4	12—DAY 5	13—DAY 6 NO CLASSES K—Grade 9 SCHOOL P.D.
16—DAY 1	17—DAY 2 	18—DAY 3	19—DAY 4	20—DAY 5 
Gr. 5—9 SPIRIT WEEK				
23—DAY 6	24—DAY 1	25—DAY 2	26—DAY 3	27—DAY 4
30	31	April 1	April 2	April 3
SPRING BREAK—Classes resume April 6				