

CheckMark

A report on the work of The Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division Vol. 11, No. 1

BAGEL & BOOK BREAKFAST AT W.P. SANDIN

A Bagel and Book Breakfast was held on January 28 at **W.P. Sandin Public High School**. The event was planned to celebrate Family Literacy Day and the beginning of semester 2 at the school. Students, family and staff were invited to enjoy bagels, fruit, juice and browse the resources in the library. The School Community Council sponsored the school event, and many families enjoyed it.



Enjoying breakfast & a book

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

On January 21 **John Diefenbaker Public School** held a muffin morning to support awareness of Literacy Week. The event was supported by the School Community Council who provided muffins, juice and coffee for the event. Division I students were joined by family members who came to enjoy breakfast and a book. The event was well attended with many families participating. The smiles on the faces of our students and parents indicate that this event was a huge success! The John Diefenbaker Staff and SCC look forward to hosting additional

muffin mornings later in the year to allow Division II & III students an opportunity to enjoy a good book over breakfast.



Families spending time reading

LITERACY FLASH MOB

At noon on January 25, students from **East Central Public School** showed their love of reading by participating in a Literacy Day Flash Mob at the Gateway Mall. The surprised public heard music begin to blast and then saw a few students hop on the stage to begin some choreographed moves (each student with a favorite book in hand). As the song continued, more and more students joined in until the stage and floor area in front were filled with energetic students moving to the music.

The students reported that it was



an awesome experience, which finished off with lunch at the food court!

The tune was the well-known song by the Black-Eyed Peas, I've Got a Feeling. In support of literacy, the lyrics had been previously adapted by another school. The adapted title was "Gotta' Keep Reading".

The students were very excited and also a little nervous to be part of the flash mob. Media coverage, many parents with cameras and a brief speech from Mayor Greg Dionne added to the event. Literacy Day is an annual event in Canada when people of all ages are encouraged to increase their literacy skills so that they can live a fully engaged life.

WE DAY SASKATCHEWAN RIVERS' STYLE

Free The Children is an international charity and educational partner that has more than 1.7 million young people involved. Free the Children believes in a not just a day, but a movement sweeping the nation. Saskatchewan's We Day



W.P. Sandin Public High School students participated in this awesome day. Students earned the opportunity to attend this day by volunteering and community service, locally and globally.



Saskatchewan Rivers' students

world where all young people are free to achieve their fullest potential and empowers youth to remove barriers that prevent them from being active local and global citizens.

"We Day" is a stadium-sized educational event - a movement of young people leading local and global change in the world. It is

was held on February 27, 2013 in Saskatoon. **Arthur Pechey Public School, Birch Hills Public School, Carlton Comprehensive Public High School, Ecole Vickers Public School, P.A.C.I., Red Wing Public School, Riverside Community Public School, T.D. Michel Community Public School and**

Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division is proud of our students that have been active in the community to make Prince Albert a better place. From collecting pennies, to helping the SPCA, and even building schools overseas! We see our young people involved and making a positive difference.

LEARNING EMPATHY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based classroom program that has shown significant effect in reducing aggression among elementary school students while raising social/emotional competence and increasing empathy. Since its inception in 1996, Roots of Empathy has reached over 450,000 Kindergarten to Grade 8 students across Canada.

At the heart of the program are a neighborhood parent and baby (2 to 4 months at the start) who visit a classroom 9 times over the course of a school year. A trained instructor coaches the students to observe the baby's development and label the baby's feelings. In this experiential learning, the baby is the "teacher" and a catalyst that the instructor uses to help students identify and reflect on their feelings



Jaedon being measured with Paisley

and feelings of others – empathy. The instructor visits that classroom 27 times in the program.



Xavier & Maxim spending time together

Queen Mary Community Public School and **King George Community Public School** are piloting the program this year.

Students at Queen Mary Community Public School & King George Community Public School have been experiencing child development and learning empathy this year as their schools pilot a new program.

Building A Better Community Through Drama

Members of **Carlton Comprehensive's** extra-curricular drama program, The Mad Hatter Theatre Company (MHTC), under the direction of drama teacher **David Zulkoskey**, are taking a proactive role in building better school communities within the SRPSD urban schools. In April, the students will be conducting a total of six anti-bullying workshops for students in grades 5-9. The Carlton students were involved in a Red Cross anti-bullying training session, *Beyond the Hurt*. The goal is to stop bullying behaviour, prevent it from occurring and to empower those who are victims to seek assistance and in turn enable the bullying individual to change their behaviour. The wonderful aspect of this program is that it is youth helping youth in a meaningful exchange of ideas and through positive role models.

The grade 9-12 students have been very active in developing community initiatives within Prince Albert. In 2011, they were approached by Community Mobilization PA to create a theatrical presentation on

was shot in various locations in the city. The DVD of *Invincible* was released with rave reviews to schools in the north and surrounding area by the Community Mobilization program.

the 2012 Red Cross Pink Shirt Anti-bullying film festival held in Saskatchewan last April.



Jena, Peyton & Cole

The drama students donated some of their prize money as well as funds raised from a general public staging of their play and the two film projects to the Prince Albert Women's Shelter.

Currently, the group is not only preparing for their anti-bullying workshops but also developing an interactive project focusing on binge drinking to be shown to high school students and an entry into the 2013 Pink Shirt Film Festival. Theatre provides an excellent means to connect with people in a tangible, emotional thought provoking manner. In the words of grade 11 student Jordyn Ferguson, "We've all become really good friends and we've all realized that our hard work through something we think is so small can make a huge impact on other people . . . even though we're only in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12, we can still make a huge impact on our community."



Jordan, Jordyn, Tiarra, Natasha & Fiona

domestic violence. Their play, *Invincible*, was performed for all students in grades 5-9 within both school divisions in the city. The success of the play encouraged the group, with the assistance of Carlton teacher **Ian Hecht**, to develop a film version of the story which

In keeping with the anti-bullying theme, the MHTC students created an original short film, *Unbeatable*, which followed the life of several students as they endured the hardship of online, verbal and physical abuse. This film won the People's Choice Award in

CULTURAL DAY AT WESMOR

Wesmor Community Public High School staff planned a Culture Day for students. The staff wanted to change the format from previous years and decided to have a Mini Round Dance.

This activity was smaller than traditional Round Dances that are held in communities surrounding Prince Albert. It was intended to be a time where students can learn about the meaning and the reason why communities host Round Dances. The Round Dance songs were provided by a well-known group within Round Dance and Pow Wow circles, Ironswing from Sturgeon Lake. Along with the dancing and singing, traditional teachings (i.e., Tipi Teachings) were done by Mr. Howard Walker, Elder.

We were very fortunate to have these people come to teach our students about the ways of Round Dances and traditional teachings.

A yummy buffalo stew and bannock made by members of the parent group was enjoyed by all. Horse driven sleigh rides and art were also

part of this event. This event received a positive response from students and school staffs who attended.



Students participating in Round Dance

INSPIRED BY INDSPIRE

Recently students from the Mentorship Program from PACI, Wesmor and Carlton participated in Indspire at the University of Saskatchewan. The day included campus tours, workshops, and trade shows.

Workshops were provided by various companies and presenters spoke about the opportunities for employment within their companies. The speakers provided information on required schooling for these positions. These workshops assisted our students on decisions regarding their future career paths. At the end of the day students left with increased knowledge about career choices available to them.

The students were great ambassadors of Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division. All students agreed that this was a conference they would participate in again.



Tanisha winning an ipad

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