Happy New Year to everyone! We hope you had a restful holiday season.

We ask parents to pass this newsletter on to friends, neighbours, colleagues at work or any families who have children of Kindergarten or Grade 1 age so that they may learn about and consider our challenging French Immersion program. Please talk to them about the learning environment at École Assiniboine and the positive results related to French Immersion. To learn more about our school, please visit our website at http://assiniboine.sjsd.net. We also have a new blog which is currently under construction. We hope to have it fully functional in the near future. You can find the link on our website's home page.

Who Can Register for French Immersion?

The goal of the French Immersion program is to ensure that students become proud, engaged, plurilingual, global citizens. French Immersion is designed for children whose first language is not French and who have little or no knowledge of French prior to entering the program. Instruction in the French Immersion program will parallel the regular English program in structure, content and academic standards. Children can begin French Immersion in Kindergarten or Grade 1.

Did You Know?...

- Parents of children enrolled in French Immersion are not expected or required to understand or speak French.
- Learning a second language has been shown to have a positive impact on intellectual growth. Studies suggest that it can enhance cognitive and intellectual abilities.
- Learning another language strengthens vocabulary, listening & communication skills.
- No one ever regretted the opportunity to learn another language.

What Is the Entrance Age for Kindergarten?

Children who will be 5 years old by December 31, 2016 (born in 2011) are eligible to register for Kindergarten for September 2016.
Is School Busing Offered at École Assiniboine?

Yes. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 may be transported to École Assiniboine provided that the child resides within the St. James-Assiniboia School Division, in the École Assiniboine catchment area, and either north of Portage Ave., or 1 kilometre from the school if residing south of Portage Ave.

If you do not meet any of these criteria but would still like busing, you may apply for a purchased bus seat at a cost of $42.00 per month ($21.00 for one-way). Each additional child is half-price. Purchased seats must be applied for in advance and are subject to availability. Please call the school office for more information.

Information Nights

Kindergarten Information Evening
You are invited to attend a Parent Information Meeting on Monday, February 8, 2016 at 7:00 pm in room 16. The teachers will be there to tell you about teaching strategies in kindergarten and you will learn about activities in the school. Information kits and registration forms will be available. (Once registered, your child will be invited to attend an orientation evening in the spring.)

Middle School Information Evening
The information evening for French Immersion grade 5 students going into Middle School in the fall will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at Ness Middle School at 7:00 pm.
Check the St. James-Assiniboia School Division website for information on information evenings for other schools.

Registration

Registration for the 2016-2017 school year starts on Monday, February 22, 2016. École Assiniboine will be accepting registrations from of 8:00 am to 6:00 pm on February 22nd and then daily until 4:00 p.m. thereafter.

A custodial parent must register the child in person and provide the documents listed on the right.

Please call the school at 204-885-2216 if you have any questions about the program or about registration.

PLEASE NOTE: The following items are required to register your child for school:

- Birth Certificate (original)
- If not born in Canada: Citizenship papers or Permanent Resident card, Record of Landing, Valid Work Permit/Visa, Valid Study Permit
- Manitoba Health card showing child & parent names
- 2 Proofs of Residency (eg. MB medical card, valid Manitoba driver’s licence, lease agreement, house title or other official documents indicating address of residence.)

Congratulations to the following École Assiniboine students from grades 4 & 5 who will be participating in the Divisional Musical Theatre production of Disney’s “The Lion King, Jr.”: Aidan F., Belle S., Sarah G., Aidan I., Ava B., Bianca H. and Katya T. Students in rooms 11, 17, 21 & 22 will be going to see the production at Westwood Collegiate on February 2nd in the afternoon.

Thank you to all the families who contributed to the Christmas Hamper program, our Mitten Tree, Koats for Kids and The Canadian Red Cross. A special thank you to all teachers for coordinating the Christmas hamper program and to the teachers who delivered the hampers to the families.

Money collected at the door at our Winter Concerts will go to the Canadian Red Cross to help the newly arrived refugees.
Lunch Supervisors Needed

If you are interested in doing lunch supervision, please contact Mme Melo by calling the office at 204-885-2216 or by email at assiniboine@sjsd.net.

Lunch supervisors work 1 hour per day from 11:25 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. and are paid $12.45 per hour + vacation pay.

Project Fair

Project Fair is coming up in March and so it’s time to start thinking about what kind of project your child would like to do. We will once again host a variety of categories for the fair which will include: Creative Writing, Heritage, Research, Mathematics and Science. We encourage all students to participate in the fair!

Registration forms will be available later in January at the school office and on our school website at http://assiniboine.sjsd.net. We will have the categories posted on the website and you will be able to click on a category to view or download information about it. Watch for more information to be sent home later this month.

Counselor’s Corner

Students will continue to learn about personal safety and fair play as part of the physical education and health curriculum. Our focus this month will be to encourage students to talk to an adult they trust if something looks or feels dangerous to them.

Students will learn the differences between telling and tattling to encourage safe and fair play. Families might want to look up the following web page for more information: http://www.kidpower.org/resources/podcast/tattle-tell.html

Gym News


Or you can access it via our school website at http://assiniboine.sjsd.net. On the home page, click on the “Staff Online” link in the left hand column.

Head Lice

We encourage you to continue to check your child’s head for lice and nits (eggs) regularly. (Nits are tiny white eggs that are attached to the hair strand and are not easily removed.) The treatment shampoo only kills the live lice and not the eggs. If they are not removed, they may hatch within a week’s time. All nits should be removed before the child comes to school.

Teach and remind your children how head lice are spread and how they can avoid becoming infested. For more information on head lice, visit the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority website at: http://www.wrha.mb.ca/healthinfo/a-z/index.php. Once you are on that page, simply click on the file marked Head Lice.

Pottery Club

Mme DeSousa will be offering a pottery art club for grade 3 students during the lunch recess, starting sometime in January. Students will have the opportunity to create a piece of pottery out of clay and then paint it.

Students can listen to the announcements for more information and dates!
Congratulations to the following students who have been chosen as “Élèves du mois” for demonstrating responsibility throughout the months of November & December:

**K-12-AM:** Orest, Zepth, Catherine

**K-16-AM:** Elsa, Daniela, Annalilja, Erin

**K-16-PM:** Callaway, Nixon, Aidan, Oscar

**1-04:** Sara, Lucas, Felicia, Kinsey

**1-06:** Kai, Tucker, Bert, Madison

**1/2-05:** Joseph, Roquelle, Matthew, Florence

**2-01:** Aiden, Jennifer, Miguel, Jan

**2-03:** Madysen, Leila Ann, Bella, Easton

**3-15:** Venice, Aidan, Onan, Brielle

**3-102:** Layla, Kaitlyn, Nathan, Cayla, Shana

**3/4-17:** Brooklynn, Caitlyn, Kaila, Enzo

**4-11:** Ava, Peggy-Lee, Nicholas, Isabella

**5-21:** Cohen, Ebony, Carly, Chase, Belle

**5-22:** Colton, Nevéa, Elsir, Sara

These students will be invited to have juice and cookies with Mme Melo.

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**”I Love to Read”**

This year, we will again be celebrating "I love to Read" in January!

**Friday, January 22nd** is “Fuzzy Buddy Day”. Students can wear their pajamas and bring their favourite stuffed toy to school that day. In the morning, during periods 3 & 4, students will gather in the gym for 45 minutes to listen to a story read by Mme Melo.

**Tuesday, January 26th** is “Literacy Day”. Students can wear a shirt with letters, words or sayings (must be respectful). On this day, we will be having an activity day focusing on literacy: reading and writing in French. The activities will take place during periods 3, 4, 5 & 6. Students will be placed in "house" groups and will go from station to station to participate in a variety of activities and tasks.

**Friday, January 29th** at 2:15 we will have an “I Love to Read” assembly in the gym. Students will then read either with their buddy or independently.

Throughout the month of January, parents, grandparents and friends are invited to come and read and to a classroom of their choice. Please contact the teacher if you plan to come in.

Visit the ABC Life Literacy Canada website at [http://abclifeliteracy.ca/fld/family-literacy-day](http://abclifeliteracy.ca/fld/family-literacy-day)
Family Fun Bingo Night

École Assiniboine Parent Council's Annual Family Fun Bingo Night is quickly approaching. Mark your calendars for February 25, 2016 at 6:30pm! Doors open at 6:00pm.

For those who haven’t been before, we have regular number bingo cards as well as picture bingo for the little ones. It isn’t called "family" fun night for nothing. So bring the family and we'll provide the fun!! There are prizes for every game, door prizes and a little something for everyone throughout the night. But we can’t do this without your support!

We are asking families to please donate prize items. Remember any small donation counts! Canadian Tire money, gift cards, employer or local businesses promotional items can all be obtained with your help. Keep your eyes open for an excellent deal that you can’t pass up and donate it!

Please have you child bring in small items and Canadian Tire money to the school office or call Cheryl at 204-981-7948 to arrange for pick up.

Thanks in advance for prizes donated and see you there!

Reminder: Next Parent Council Meeting is Wednesday, February 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

The Assiniboine School Library is Looking for Volunteers…

If you can spare a couple of hours a week, please contact Joanne at the school at 204-885-2216 on school days 1, 3 or 5 or email jjeanson@sjsd.net.

STUDENT BIRTHDAYS

Due to various food allergies, please refrain from sending treats to school on your child’s birthday. We acknowledge every child’s birthday on the P.A. system.

Thank you for your understanding.
“Parenting Today” Workshops

Workshops will be held from 6 – 8 p.m. at Educational Support Services – Jameswood School, 1 Braintree Crescent (off Olive & Ness). Free pizza supper will be offered from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. and session will take place from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. To register please contact Arlie Williams-Taylor at 204-885-9555 or email ptregistrations@sjsd.net.

Tuesday, February 2, 2016   Coaching For Confidence  
Presented by: Dr. John Walker

Tuesday, March 8, 2016   Trafficking and Human Exploitation  
Presented by: TBA

Tuesday, April 19, 2016   Supporting Speech and Language Development at Home  
Presented by: Speech-Language Pathologists, Educational Support Services, St James Assiniboia School Division

Tuesday, May 10, 2016   Science of the Developing Brain  
Presented by Dr. Maria Phelps, Educational Support Services, St. James Assiniboia School Division

**FREE CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED FOR ALL SESSIONS. When registering, please indicate for how many children and their ages.**

Once registered, if you cannot attend, please be sure to contact Arlie Williams-Taylor at 204-885-9555 or email ptregistrations@sjsd.net

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Outdoor Recess Guidelines

On days when the wind chill hazard is at or over –28, or the temperature is below –29°C with no wind chill, all students will be staying inside for recess.

If the temperature or the wind chill hazard is between –25 and –28, outdoor recess may be allowed, but not for longer than 10 minutes.

School bussing will be cancelled if the wind chill is –45 or colder at 6:00 a.m. at The Forks according to Environment Canada.

The Division will send out a SynreVoice phone message to all parents to advise them that the buses will be cancelled for the day.
**January 2016**

**Assiniboine**

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<td>8:25 AM CLASSES RESUME</td>
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<td>2:45 PM EARLY DISMISSAL</td>
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<td>FUZZY BUDDY &amp; P.J. DAY (Wear pyjamas and bring a stuffed toy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LITERACY DAY - wear a t-shirt with words on it</td>
<td>9:00 AM Gr. 4 Meningococcal vaccine</td>
<td>10:15 AM LITERACY ACTIVITY DAY (students rotate through various literacy stations)</td>
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<td>2:15 PM I LOVE TO READ ASSEMBLY (students will gather in the gym to read)</td>
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<td>12:20 PM Rms. 11, 17, 21 &amp; 22 go to see &quot;The Lion King, Jr.&quot; at Westwood Collegiate</td>
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<td>7:00 PM NESS MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE</td>
<td>INSERVICE DAY (NO SCHOOL)</td>
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Hello Parents,

Every year the École Assiniboine Parent Council is pleased to offer a milk program for the students eating their lunch at the school.

The link between good nutrition and learning is well known. Students learn better and are more alert when they are well-fed with a balance of foods from the four food groups. Milk at lunch helps provide the energy and nutrition children need to grow and perform their best physically and mentally.

The milk program is not a fundraiser. The money you pay for milk stays within the milk program to ensure its continued success.

To order milk please fill out the form below and send in to school with your child. Orders are processed on Thursdays and Milk tickets are sent home by Friday of each week.

Tickets are sold in sheets of 20 at $20 per sheet. If you would like to have both white and chocolate milk, you will need to purchase at least 2 sheets of tickets.

Payment can be made in cash or by cheque payable to École Assiniboine Parent Council.

---------------------------------------------Detach and send in with your child---------------------------------------------

Child’s Name

Teacher’s Name

My Child would like _____x 20 tickets of white milk

My Child would like _____x 20 tickets of chocolate milk

Total _____x $20 =$_______ Enclosed