

# MITCHELL MIDDLE SCHOOL



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MITCHELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

February, 2017

## Principal's Message

February is 'I Love to Read Month' at MMS. Along with students throughout Hanover School Division, as well as pretty much everywhere else in Manitoba, Canada, and throughout the world, we will be celebrating reading. MMS have planned a series of events throughout February to engage kids in reading including our Annual Book Fair (February 6 – 8 In the Library). Thank you to Mrs. Doerksen and other staff for working hard to bring this temporary bookstore right into our school. The profits from the books your kids and you purchase will be directly reinvested in the form of more new books for our library.

Thanks for your help!

The benefits of reading are proven. The more we read, the better we get at it.

Looking forward to a great February!

Mr. Mead

## **10 Benefits of Reading (from <http://www.best-books-for-kids.com/>)**

### **1. Kids who read often and widely get better at it**

This is pretty much just common sense. After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything we humans do and reading is no different from anything else.

### **2. Reading exercises our brains**

Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain than, say, watching TV is. Reading strengthens brain connections and actually builds new connections.

### **3. Reading improves concentration**

Again, this is a bit of a no-brainer. Children have to sit still and quietly so they can focus on the story when they're reading. If they read regularly, they develop the ability to do this for longer periods.

### **4. Reading teaches children about the world around them**

Through reading, children learn about people, places and events outside their own experience. They are exposed to ways of life, ideas and beliefs about the world which may be different from those which surround them.

This learning is important for its own sake however it also builds a store of background knowledge which helps younger children learn to read confidently and well.

### **5. Reading improves a child's vocabulary and leads to more highly-developed language skills**

This is because children learn new words as they read but also because they unconsciously absorb information as they read about things like how to structure sentences and how to use words and language effectively.

### **6. Reading develops a child's imagination**

This is because when we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. When we're engaged in a story, we're also imagining how the characters are feeling. We use our own experiences to imagine how we would feel in the same situation.

### **7. Reading helps kids develop empathy**

This is something I've only recently realized but it makes sense. As my fifteen-year-old son said to me when we were discussing it: 'Of course it does because you're identifying with the character in the story so you're feeling what he's feeling.'

### **8. Children who read do better at school**

And they don't just do better at subjects like reading, English and history. They do better at all subjects and they do better all the way through school.

### **9. Reading is a great form of entertainment**

A paperback book or an e-reader like the Amazon Kindle doesn't take up much space so you can take it anywhere and you'll never be lonely or bored if you have a book in your bag.

You can read while waiting in a queue, while waiting for a friend who's running late or during a flight delay at an airport.

## 10. Reading relaxes the body and calms the mind

This is an important point because these days we seem to have forgotten how to relax and especially how to be silent.

The constant movement, flashing lights and noise which bombard our senses when we're watching TV, looking at a computer or playing an electronic game are actually quite stressful for our brains.

When we read, we read in silence and the black print on a white page is much less stressful for our eyes and brains.

So there you have it – the Top 10 benefits of reading!

| <b>WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?</b>  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Student A Reads</b>   | <b>Student B Reads</b>  | <b>Student C Reads</b>  |
| ❖ 20 minutes per day.  | ❖ 5 minutes per day.  | ❖ 1 minute per day  |
| ❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.   | ❖ 900 minutes per school year.  | ❖ 180 minutes per school year.  |
| ❖ 1,800,000 words per year.  | ❖ 282,000 words per year.   | ❖ 8,000 words per year.   |
|   |  |  |
| ❖ Scores in the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.   | ❖ Scores in the 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests                 | ❖ Scores in the 10 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.                |
| If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6 <sup>th</sup> grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3. |   |   |
| <b>WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.</b>  |   |   |

## Welcome to MMS!

We would like to welcome Gordon (8H) who joined us recently. Welcome to Mitchell Middle School!

## I Love Literacy Month

February is "I Love Literacy" month at Mitchell Middle School. There are a bunch of great activities planned to get students thinking and reading.

We will have a book swap box at the front of the school so students can share their old books with our school community.

There will be a mystery author challenge, a reading contest, stop drop and read challenges, a literary crime scene, mini-mysteries, and many more great activities. Our kick off assembly February 1st will tell students how they can get involved in the month of February.

## Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to MMS! We invite you to visit the Book Fair on **Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 7:00 pm** in the school library. Enter a draw for a chance to win \$25.00 worth of books for you and your child's teacher. Students will be visiting the Book Fair during the school day (Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>).

Celebrate reading with us and visit the Book Fair!

## Home Ec.

Reminder for grade 7 & 8 students who are starting Human Ecology in February to bring their fabric and sewing supplies to school.

## Pottery Club

The Kiln is up and running! Pottery Club will begin February 6<sup>th</sup> and run till the end of April, depending on student interest. Pottery Club will be open to all students (a small fee may apply).

Grade 7/8 will be Mondays at lunch

Grade 5/6 will be Fridays at lunch

Stay tuned for a potential community drop-in night.

## Valentines

Candy Grams will be on sale from Feb 7-13, during lunch time in front of the canteen. The cost is \$1.00 each. Delivery to happen on Valentine's Day!

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held from 4:30 to 7:00 P.M. on **Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**. You should have already received a form which you can fill out to let us know if you want to see one or more of your child's teachers. We will put your responses together with teachers' requests and send you a confirmation note specifying the teachers you are scheduled to see. If neither you nor your students' teachers feel a conference is required, you will not receive a follow-up notice.

## Science Fair 2017

On behalf of Mitchell Middle School and the science program, we would like to personally invite you to the MMS Science Fair on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 from 7:00 – 7:45 p.m.

During the evening session from 7:00-7:45, **all students that can possibly attend** will be with their displays to show off their hard work.

Awards for the top 3 projects in each grade (7-8) will be presented at 7:45.

We hope to see you here!

**Athletic Department**  
**MITCHELL MIDDLE SCHOOL 2017**  
**BASKETBALL SCHEDULE**

\*All tournaments start at 5:30.

| DATE          | LOCATION                    | TEAM        |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Tues. Jan.24  | SCS                         | Gr. 7 girls |
| Thurs. Jan.26 | MMS                         | Gr. 8 boys  |
| Thurs. Jan.26 | Landmark                    | Gr. 7 boys  |
| Tues. Jan.31  | MMS                         | Gr. 7 girls |
| Thurs. Feb. 2 | Kleefeld                    | Gr. 8 boys  |
| Thurs. Feb. 2 | MMS                         | Gr. 7 boys  |
| Tues. Feb. 7  | CMS                         | Gr. 7 girls |
| Thurs. Feb. 9 | Blumenort                   | Gr. 8 boys  |
| Thurs. Feb.9  | SCS                         | Gr. 7 boys  |
| Mon. Feb.13   | Blumenort                   | Gr. 8 boys  |
| Tues. Feb.14  | MMS                         | Gr. 7 girls |
| Thurs. Feb.16 | GVS                         | Gr. 7 boys  |
| Tues. Feb.21  | MMS                         | Gr. 7 girls |
| Thurs. Feb.23 | GVS                         | Gr. 8 boys  |
| Thurs. Feb.23 | MMS                         | Gr. 7 boys  |
| Tues. Feb.28  | Blumenort                   | Gr. 7 girls |
| Thurs. Mar.2  | SCS                         | Gr. 8 boys  |
| Thurs. Mar.2  | NCI                         | Gr. 7 boys  |
| Mon. Mar. 6   | Play-in game?               | Gr. 8 boys  |
| Thurs. Mar.9  | Playoffs - TBA              | Gr. 8 boys  |
| Tues. Mar.14  | Championships @ NCI (7 pm.) | Gr. 8 boys  |

**From the Music Room**

**Dates and Details to Take**  **Of...**

**Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Grade 8 Band performs at Optimist Band Festival held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. We will be leaving school at 10:00am and returning by 3:15pm. Students must dress in Black Band shirts, Black pants and black shoes, and bring a bag lunch. Special thanks to Mrs. Reddekopp for driving the van to haul our “over-size instruments”, and to Mrs. Toews for joining us on the bus! Our performance time is at 1:30pm, and spectators are welcome to come cheer and encourage our group - \$2 admission charge.

**Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm** – Grade 7/8 Choir sings O Canada at the Manitoba Moose Hockey Game in Winnipeg. Bus leaves school at 5:00pm; reduced price tickets are available through Mrs. Sawatzky until Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. (\$17.00 per ticket)

**Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** – Grade 5 and 6 students will travel to Winnipeg to take part in the WSO’s “Adventures in Music” program – a live, interactive performance by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Parent volunteers are needed; please contact your child’s HOMEROOM teacher if you wish to join us!

**Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00pm** – Grade 5 and 6 Choir students will perform at the Southeast Manitoba Music Festival in Steinbach, held at Steinbach Mennonite Church. Parent volunteers are needed; please contact your child’s HOMEROOM teacher if you are able to travel on the bus with us.

**Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> @ 10:00am** – Grade 7 and 8 Choir students will perform at the Southeast Manitoba Music Festival in Steinbach, held at Steinbach Mennonite Church. Parent volunteers are needed; please contact your child’s HOMEROOM teacher if you are able to travel on the bus with us.

Newsletters have been sent home (paper) and emailed – please return your intention sheet ASAP so that we are able to confirm numbers! Please contact Mrs. Sawatzky directly with any questions arising from the newsletter.

### **Mitchell Soccer**

Registration for soccer will take place **March 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 8:00pm** at Mitchell Elementary School. The cost of registration is \$35. Please note there will be a \$10 late fee for registration received after March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Registration forms can be found on the Mitchell Soccer website <http://www.eteamz.com/mitchellsoccer/> and mailed to Mitchell Soccer, c/o 6 Chancellor Bay, Mitchell, MB, R5G 0A7, if you are unable to attend the registration night. The season will run Tuesdays starting on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. For more information contact Claudia Wollmann via email at [claudiawollmann12@gmail.com](mailto:claudiawollmann12@gmail.com). Volunteers are what make these types of programs a success! Please consider being part of this program by volunteering to coach

### Ground Hog Day

Old Groundhog stretched in his leafy bed.  
He turned over slowly and then he said,  
"I wonder if spring is on the way,  
I'll go and check the weather today.  
If I see my shadow between eleven and noon,  
I then will know that I'm out too soon.  
I'll crawl back in bed for six weeks more,  
Pull up the warm covers and snore and snore.  
But if no shadow gives me a scare,  
I know that spring is in the air,  
I'll wake my friends and wish them cheer,  
With glorious news that spring is here."

-Unknown

### **Parent Council**

If you have any questions or concerns please contact one of the PAC members.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Josie Unrau<br>204-381-3994<br><a href="mailto:ourodyssey@icloud.com">ourodyssey@icloud.com</a> | Jamie Karr<br>204-320-1663<br><a href="mailto:karmj@gmail.com">karmj@gmail.com</a> |
|---|--|

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Charmaine Toews<br>204-326-9699<br><a href="mailto:charmainetoews@gmail.com">charmainetoews@gmail.com</a> | Pam Kehler<br>204-326-9583<br><a href="mailto:pam@kebler.ca">pam@kebler.ca</a> |
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|  |   |
|--|---|
| Naomi Streit<br>204-371-9938<br><a href="mailto:naomiharder@hotmail.com">naomiharder@hotmail.com</a> | Andy Mead<br>204-371-6278<br><a href="mailto:amead@hsd.ca">amead@hsd.ca</a> |
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### **Red River College – Steinbach Campus**

#### **Red Cross Babysitting Course – GENI-1010**

This course is designed to prepare adolescents 11 years of age and older for babysitting. Participants will learn important child care skills, safety tips for children of all ages, how to cope with common problems, how to make the children's environment safe and enjoyable, some great games and what to do in case of an emergency.

Students need to bring a doll or teddy bear, pencil and eraser and a lunch. Students will need to be signed in and out by an adult.

\*Tuition: \$59.00

Date: Saturday, March 4, 2017

Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

\*\*Please REGISTER in person or by phone minimum 5 business days prior.

Phone Payment: Credit Card    In-Person Payment:  
Cash, Cheque, Debit or C/C

# FEBRUARY

# 2017

| Sun   | Mon  | Tues                                       | Wed   | Thurs   | Fri   | Sat   |  |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|
|   |  |  | 1 Day 6<br>Sub Sandwich<br>\$4.25   | 2 Day 1   | 3<br>Administration/<br>Professional<br>Development Day<br><br>No Classes | 4   |  |
| 5   | 6 Day 2<br>Scholastic Book Fair Feb. 6 - 8<br>Family Night Feb. 7, 4:30 - 7 pm | 7 Day 3<br>HSD Public Board Meeting        | 8 Day 4<br>Sub Sandwich<br>\$4.25   | 9 Day 5<br>Gr. 8 Camp Cedarwood Retreat<br>Feb. 8 - 10        | 10 Day<br>Pepperoni and<br>Bacon Pizza                                    | 11  |  |
| 12  | 13 Day 1   | 14 Day 2<br>Happy Valentine's Day          | 15 Day 3<br>Sub Sandwich<br>\$4.25  | 16 Day 4<br>Parent/Teacher<br>Conferences<br>4:30 - 7:00 P.M. | 17 Day 5<br>Steak and<br>Cheese Pizza<br>\$2.00                           | 18  |  |
| 19  | 20<br>Louis Riel Day<br>No Classes   | 21 Day 6<br>Grade 8 French<br>Activity Day | 22 Day 1<br>Gr. 8 Band at<br>Optimist Festival<br>in Winnipeg<br>Sub Sandwich<br>\$4.25 | 23 Day 2  | 24<br>Professional<br>Development Day<br>(HTA)<br><br>No Classes          | 25<br>Grade 7/8 Choir<br>At Manitoba Moose<br>Hockey Game |  |
| 26  | 27 Day 3   | 28 Day 4                                   | <i>February is...<br/>'I Love to Read Month'</i>  |   |   |   |  |
|  |  |  |   |   |   |   |  |