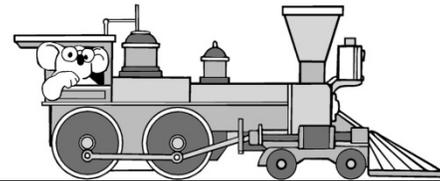


The R. B. Express

École Robert Browning News & Information
130 Browning Boulevard



Principal – M. Gomes
Vice-Principal – A. Tyler

Administrative Assistant – J. Sawyer
Secretarial Assistant – A. Toothill
School Website: <http://robertbrowning.sjsd.net>

January, 2017



Telephone:
(204) 837-8381
Fax:
(204) 837-8382

St. James Assiniboia
School Division
Website:
<http://www.sjsd.net>

Mission Statement:

École Robert Browning is a bilingual setting where we respect ourselves and others. We accept responsibility for our actions and our learning.

L'École Robert Browning est un milieu français où nous respectons nous-mêmes et les autres. Nous acceptons la responsabilité de nos actions et de notre apprentissage.

DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY

10 Early Dismissal 3:30 pm
24 Early Dismissal 3:30 pm

FEBRUARY

3 Admin/Inservice – No School
7 Early Dismissal 3:30pm
20 Louis Riel Day – No School
21 Early Dismissal – 3:30pm
24 Admin/Inservice – No School

It's 2017!



A HUGE HOLIDAY THANK YOU!!!

“Merci beaucoup” to all of the friends and family members who attended this year's Winter Concert; “Bring On The Snow”, held at Immanuel Pentecostal Church on December 20th, 2016.

It is always such a wonderful time to come together, celebrate the season and enjoy the talents of our children and staff!

Kindergarten Information Evening

We will be hosting our Kindergarten Information evening on Monday, January 23rd at 7:00 p.m. The evening is designed to provide parents with information about our French Immersion Program.

Kindergarten Registration Day

All catchment area Kindergarten registrations will be held on Friday, January 27th, 2017 with extended hours from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please call the school at 204-837-8381 if you have any questions about the program or about registration.

***Please remember to bring your child's birth certificate and proof of residency.**

Who Can Register for French Immersion?

French Immersion is designed for families who have little or no knowledge of French and who wish to provide their children with the opportunity to learn French. Children can begin French Immersion in Kindergarten or Grade 1.

Can Children of French Language Families Register for French Immersion?

Yes. The program offers them the opportunity to learn to read and write in both French and English in a school near their home, but it will not offer as great a challenge for students who already speak French.

What Do Children Learn in Immersion?

The goals of the program are to make students functionally bilingual and to teach all program content and social skills of the English program. The content of the French Immersion program is identical to that of the English program, but the delivery is in French.

Is School Bussing Offered at Robert Browning?

Yes. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 are transported to and from Robert Browning provided that the child's residence is **in the Robert Browning catchment area**. Students must live 1.0 km or greater from the school. Please call us to verify if your address is on the eligibility list. Sometimes, students who do not reside in the catchment area have an opportunity to purchase a seat on the bus **if** space allows. Purchased seats are not usually offered until November.

Attention Parents- "After School Plans"

We are receiving an increasing number of telephone requests from parents regarding plans for their children after school. We ask that whenever possible, these arrangements be made prior to class starting. Passing messages on to the classrooms during class time interrupts the learning. We do understand that things happen and sometimes there are emergencies and special

arrangements must be made. We are happy to help in those circumstances. Your cooperation in keeping the learning uninterrupted is much appreciated.

Cold Weather Dress

Please ensure that children come to school dressed for the cold weather. Many have been missing their hats and mitts. Students will have outdoor recess when less than -25°C or short recess at -25 to -27°C. Indoor recess is at -28°C or colder. These are Environment Canada guidelines for schools. Our temperature guideline is The Forks.

I Love To Read at Robert Browning

January is I Love to Read Month at Robert Browning. The school will be having lots of reading activities during the month of January.

I love to READ month encourages activities both at home and the school to support literacy. Teachers at École Robert Browning would love to invite parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents etc. to make a date with a teacher and come in to read and share their favourite book(s).



Head Lice

We encourage you to please **check your child's head for lice and nits (eggs) on a regular basis.** (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**. A letter goes home with every student in the classroom if there is a known case of head lice.

Boys and Books

Choice of Materials

An area that seems to be critical to stimulating reading success among young male readers is the choice of materials. According to Smith and Wilhelm in *Reading Don't Fix No Chevys: Literacy in the Lives of Young Men*, boys differ from girls in the choices they make of reading material

- Boys are more inclined to read informational texts, magazines, and newspaper articles
- Boys are more inclined to read graphic novels and comic books
- Boys tend to resist reading stories about girls, whereas girls do not tend to resist reading stories about boys
- Boys like to read about hobbies, sports, and things they might do or be interested in doing
- Boys like to collect things and tend to like to collect series of books

-Boys read less fiction than girls
-Boys tend to enjoy escapism and humour, and some boys are passionate about science fiction or fantasy

On his Guys Read website, Jon Scieszka concurs with this research, saying that adults need to "let boys know that nonfiction reading is reading. Magazines, newspapers, websites, biographies, science books, comic books, graphic novels are all reading material."



Males needed as role models for reading

An additional issue that comes up in virtually all resources on male literacy is the shortage of male reader role models. As Jan Greer of New Brunswick, Canada, says in one of her "The Literacy Post" columns, "Research states that young males see reading as a feminine activity and therefore steer away from it. There is only one way to change this perception and that is for men both at home and in the community to read aloud to boys and to show that reading is an activity of value." "It would also help if men's organizations made literacy one of their primary aims by following the example of Wayne Gretzky, who publicly supports literacy and lifelong learning. A boy will follow the lead of his male role model, usually his father or other significant man in his life. If that man values reading, the boy will too."



Remind 101

Want to be the most informed parent on the block? Be the one to know when it's Early Dismissal, when busses are running late...or when a special event is taking place! Join RB Remind by texting the message @rbremind to 204-817-1206. Your information remains confidential while you get all the info you need!

Concours d'art oratoire 2017

The Concours d'art oratoire will be taking place once again at École Robert Browning. The students from grades 3 to 5 will be working hard on preparing a speech for this competition. For those who are new to the event, « le Concours d'art oratoire » is a public speaking event sponsored by the Canadian Parents for French (CPF). The objective is to stimulate interest of English speaking students in the learning of the French language. There will be classroom/grade level-based competitions in the upcoming weeks. Selected students will be chosen to participate at the school level competition on **Thursday, February 16th at 1:30 pm in the gym**. Parents are welcome to join us for the presentations. One student from every grade level will be sent to represent École Robert Browning at the divisional competition on Wednesday, March 8th at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate. **Bons discours!**

Expo-Projets/Project Fair 2017

Participation in the Project Fair is optional due to the amount of required work to be completed at home. However, students are encouraged to enter a display or project. The project fair will include a variety of project categories in order to appeal to the different interests and multiple intelligences: Creative Writing, Research, Science, Heritage and Mathematics.

Judging will take place on **Wednesday, March 15th** during the morning. We invite all parents and friends to come and view the projects from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. that evening. Door prize and divisional winners will be announced between 6:15 – 6:30 p.m. You must be in attendance to win door prizes and all projects are to be taken home following the draws and special announcements.

Students wishing to participate in the Project Fair must complete an entry form, after which they will receive the guideline booklet for that category. Projects can be prepared by an individual or group (maximum of 2 students). Students may choose to work with a sibling from the school or someone from a different class, however, the project will be judged at the higher grade level of the two students.

Information packages for the Project Fair will be sent home in the next couple of weeks.

Reminder to Parents:

If your child is sick, please do not send them to school. It is important to limit the amount of germs that we expose each other to. Thank you!



Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you for all your support at the Fall 2016 Scholastic Book Fair!

We raised \$1942.84 in Book rewards to purchase new books and supplies for our library!

See you all at the Spring 2017 Book Fair – March 16-17, 2017



**École Ness Middle School
Open House Evening**
(for students continuing in French Immersion)
**January 19
7 p.m.**

Bus Safety

To ensure the safety of all bus students, please share some reminders with your child(ren). Arrive at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled pick up time, punctuality is important! Bus riders are not permitted to switch buses to ride home with a friend. With our winter weather, please expect some delays to the buses. Every effort will be made to notify parents of significant delays or cancellations through Synervoice and/or Remind 101. Parents must submit all changes regarding bussing to the office. Well in advance to allow for processing time.

Arriving Late or Leaving Early?

The Student Sign In/Out Binder

is for students who may arrive late or have to leave early.

This binder is for parent signatures

only, to ensure that we know where a student is at all times. If your child normally takes the school bus, **please** inform the office when signing out, as we do bus attendance daily. Many thanks to parents for calling our absentee phone line.



Please check the lost and found for items your child may have misplaced.



7 Tips to help your readers at home

1) Set aside time to read at least 4-5 times a week. Yes...this will be a struggle since they're going to buck you. Be consistent... this should be a non-negotiable. **These are the types of kids to set page goals** with, not minutes. They will know every trick in the book to waste time. By setting a page goal of say... 5-10 pages per day, this gives them some power. When the pages are read, they are done for the day.

2) Use incentives such as...

- Trade time for something they love to do... certain number of pages read translate into minutes to spend watching TV or playing video games.
- Or so many books read= a trip to McDonalds or a park.
- Or just down and out bribe them (yes I went there...) there are some summers I have paid a buck a book that was read (with guidelines). But sometimes, desperate times call for desperate measures.

3) Read WITH your child...he reads a page, you read a page. (I know at times this will be painful... just keep reminding yourself... Reading is important, reading is important... and who knows...maybe you'll really get into the book!)

4) Have "reading parties" where everyone brings a book and snuggles in a spot to read their book. Sometimes just snuggling in next to mom or dad is enough motivation to read for a while.

5) If your struggling reader has a younger brother or sister, you have just scored big time! Get them to read to their younger sibling(s).

If you have an older reader in your home, have them read a picture book. **This means the stories are usually shorter (and less intimidating) and probably at a lower reading level (which will make them feel successful when they read it).** They get practice reading and the younger sibling gets the benefit of being read to... also very important!

6) Make sure your struggling reader is reading books that are interesting to them. Kids will read if they find the book interesting. Don't worry about reading "high quality literature". At this point, the goal is to get them reading... and the best way to do that is make sure they are interested in what they read.

7) If the book your kid is reading (and enjoying) is part of a series, try sticking to the series. A series gives your reader the same format, the same characters, and often the same setting for several books. These familiar things will help them understand the story more quickly.



Parents of Ecole Robert Browning have now established our own local chapter of 'Canadian Parents for French'.

We DID it! JOIN US!

Members* gain access to resources for their families (students of all ages and parents!) as well as programs and interaction with other families seeking to build greater confidence in supporting their children with their French Second-language (FSL) learning.

Having a local chapter gives us access to:

Camp Soleil – French Immersion Summer Camp (for kids ages 6-10)

FSL Incentive Initiative Fund - ~\$200/year toward hosting French community events (French movie night; Home Reading Club; French entertainment, etc.)

Scholarship Support – funds for French Immersion graduates who go on to take post-secondary studies in French
...and more!

Planning is now underway for a local French summer camp.

Email cpf.sjac@gmail.com for information.

Join the CPF-St. James Assiniboia Chapter and share your ideas.

Visit the CPF – Manitoba website (<http://mb.cpf.ca>)

for more information or to **sign-up**.

*Membership is \$25/year or \$60 for 3 years.

Camp Soleil 2017

- What?** A summer camp for French Immersion students ages 6-10 years, run by CPF-Manitoba*
- When?** August 8-11, 2017, running daily from 9:00am-4:00pm
- Where?** Here in the neighbourhood (location to be determined, hopefully at Browning)
- Why?** To have fun, do something new and different, to prevent summer learning loss and help students be better prepared for the new school year.
- How Much?** CPF Members \$85/student; Non-members \$125/student (includes membership fee)

Camp Soleil:

- helps reinforce and develop French language skills over the summer months;
- provides an opportunity for students to use their French language skills outside of the classroom in a fun atmosphere
- encourages creativity and imagination through games, sports, story-telling, song, arts & crafts, etc.
- enhances awareness of French as a day-to-day language and culture to be enjoyed.
- is facilitated by a bilingual camp coordinator and counselor, in French, using themes that motivate students to use and enhance their connection with the language.
- 20 spaces only! Spots will be available on a first-come first-served basis.

Contact CPF - St. James Assiniboia Chapter for information at cpf.sjac@gmail.com.

** CPF-Manitoba = Canadian Parents for French. Go to mb.cpf.ca for information.*

Are you a member yet? Join the new local chapter - St. James Assiniboia Chapter - and take an active part in your families' French language learning!