

Hamiota Schools Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had a good Christmas Holiday. As usual, there were many new activities and things taking place in both schools since our last newsletter.

At HES the Christmas concert went great and thanks to all staff, students and parents who volunteered to make it the success it was. A special thanks to the Hamiota Drama club for donating the stage we used. HES has been busy this winter with the grade 3 lilac visits, intramurals, curling, HESRAK, and our soon to be valentines activity. Also Val Caldwell came and did an internet safety presentation with our grade 5 and grade 6 students that the kids really enjoyed. Festival is coming up in March for our students in both Strathclair and Miniota. Finally information went home about the parent portal. If you are having troubles with this please give us a call and we will direct you to get some help.

At HCI our middle year's concert with the senior band went extremely well and again thanks to all staff, students and parents who made it a great show. Pictures of it could be seen in the crossroads. The high school musical, "Oklahoma" has had practices and the students are getting ready for their April show. Our

middle year's basketball team and senior teams are both busy at it and the girls had a home tournament on Feb 6/7th.

Congratulations to our curling teams who played so well at Zone playoffs. Alex Lints team needed one more win to get to a final playoff and Chelsea Lawn's team defeated Russell in the final and will go on to provincials.

I want to congratulate the student council on two things. They organized an amazing gym blast before Christmas that everyone really enjoyed, and they kicked off the relay for Life Campaign with Cody Hunter willing to have his head shaved. The donations were over \$3,000 so well done Council and well done Hamiota.

On an academic front, exams for the first semester are complete and the second semester has started. If you have any questions about the change please contact us. Kindergarten will now be fulltime at HES and again if you have any questions let us know. I want to thank all the parents for their support of Hamiota with everything we do. It is only possible because of you and your help. Till next time, take care.

Sincerely,
Jon Zilkey

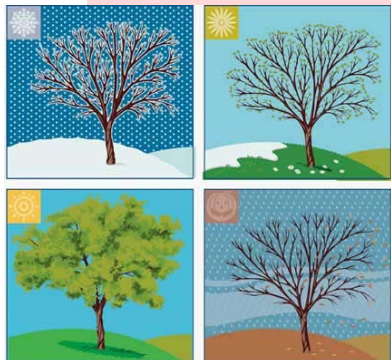
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KINDERGARTEN NEWS

January is my favorite time of year to be in the classroom....everyone came back refreshed after a fun holiday, ready to learn! There are lots of great learning activities that can revolve around a winter theme. We have been working on 2 main stories: The Mitten by: Jan Brett and Sadie and The Snowman by: Allen Morgan. The comprehension strategies we have been focusing on are retelling, sequencing and story mapping. In our class we have graphed whether we like to wear mittens, gloves, or bare hands when we play outside. Most of us wear mittens and thankfully nobody wears bare hands in the snow! Do you know what season we enjoy the best?

We like summer, winter, then fall, with spring being the season we like the least. Together, our class



created a book called, "Our Favorite Seasons." Graphs give us all sorts of information! In math, we are counting buttons to match the number on the snowmen and creating and extending patterns using our mittens.



Learning to read is so exciting for us. New sight words are being introduced at school and soon sight word books will be sent home. We have been to Letterland and have met Walter Walrus for Ww, Eddy Elephant for Ee, Impy Ink for the letter I and Vicky Violet for the letter Vv. Vicky Violet will help us to write valentine notes to our friends and family. We are noticing that some letters make more than one sound and that we can blend sounds together to read and write words!

Some other highlights this month have been: (according to the kinders): lots of independent writing, new abc centers, calendar



activities on our SMARTboard, fun games in gym like "Beat the Runner," and a Hot Chocolate stand at playtime.

A big thanks to our faithful volunteer, Jenna Stewart (Ava's mom), who comes in and helps us during abc center time.

Valentines Day is approaching quickly! We are looking forward to our Valentine Party!



GRADE ONE NEWS

It was nice to get back into a more normal routine in January! Everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday, and had many fun stories to share. I would like to thank all my students and families for the thoughtful gifts and cards I received on the last day before the break.



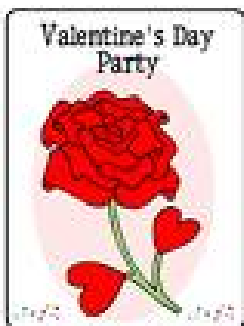
We have been working super hard on guided reading this month and have seen so much improvement in all our students! Great job grade 1s!! We did lots of activities with snowmen – writing the steps to build a snowman, and a story about what we think snowmen do at night. From reading their stories, we think our snowmen sure have a lot of fun! We also did some snowman crafts. In ELA we

read a story called, A Rumble and A Grumble. From this story, students had to be creative and write some ways to help the character stop snoring! These were lots of fun.

We are continuing with guided math and centers. We have started using the Happy Numbers program on the iPad's for one of our centers, and the students really enjoy it. We continue to work on breaking numbers apart, ways to make 10 numbers to 100 (or 120) and addition story problems.



The Mystery Box showed up this month for our unit on the 5 Senses. The students are LOVING sticking their hands in to try to guess what mystery item is in the box, using only their sense of touch. We are now listening to various sounds to try to guess what they are. Lots of fun!



February is a busy month with I Love to Read month, 100 Day Activities and Valentine's Day. We will be doing lots of different activities for each of these, so there will be lots of excitement happening.

Please remember to send extra mitts and socks with your child as on some of these warmer days we often get pretty wet.



FEBRUARY IS “I LOVE TO READ MONTH”.

This is an article from the Reading Recovery Newsletter that might be helpful to parents who are doing the important job of helping new readers at home.

Helping out the beginning reader at home: What can you say besides “Sound it out?”

There are many things you can say to help your child figure out a word. Being flexible in problem solving provides more information to allow the child to be successful.

To help a child use meaning (of the story or illustrations):

- ❑ Look at the picture to help yourself.
- ❑ Think about what would make sense.

To help a child use language structure (the way we talk):

- ❑ Does that sound right?
- ❑ Can we say it that way?

To help a child use information in print (the way the word looks):

- ❑ Look at how the word begins.
- ❑ Read the words up to the tricky word and start it.
- ❑ Say more of the word.
- ❑ Does that look right to you?

To help a child use two sources of information:

- ❑ Think about what would look right **and** make sense.
- ❑ Think about what would make sense **and** start like that.

A frustrated reader is a reader who is not going to take necessary risks to improve his skills. If your child is still struggling after 5-6 seconds, say the word.

Praise the child’s attempt by saying:

- ❑ I like the way you tried to help yourself.
- ❑ You were nearly right.
- ❑ You noticed it wasn’t right. What did you notice?

A reader is like an athlete. The more a child reads, the better his or her reading becomes.





Since Christmas break we have had a good balance of hard work and fun activities. In January our mini theme was on penguins. We read and learned many interesting facts about these birds. We wrote stories about penguins as well as researched a penguin of our choice.

In math we have been practising the different strategies for adding numbers up to 18. We have also been working on adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers using an empty number line. We have been learning different strategies for problem solving.

Our community is the topic we have been working on in social studies. We have learned about villages, towns and cities as well as urban and rural communities. We have written a story about an important place in our community. Creating a diorama of our natural resources was a project we enjoyed doing. We even interviewed someone we knew about their jobs in our community.

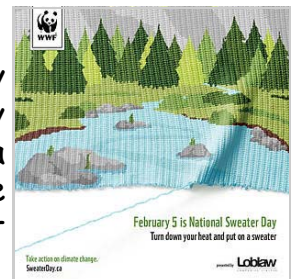
There are many exciting events coming up in the near future. We are looking forward to going skating for our Valentine's Party. We will also be celebrating the 100th day of school this month. February is I Love to Read month and Mrs. Smith always has some interesting and fun activities for us to do.



GRADE TWO NEWS by Mrs. Obach's Grade 2's

We have been busy in Grade 2. A lot has happened since our last newsletter. We are still having fun each day of Grade 2.

Our class planned National Sweater Day in our school on February 5th. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) organizes this special day every year and the OLCS Kindergartens told us about it. The idea was to wear our sweaters and turn down the heat. Turning down the heat saves power and helps the earth. To stay warm, we made hot chocolate for everyone in our school.



We have been studying fairy tales and fractured fairy tales. A fractured fairy tale is different than the original fairy tale. Fractured fairy tales are usually mixed up, silly and fun! We have been making our own fractured fairy tale book called The Six Little Chickens and the Big, Bad Coyotes.



February is I Love to Read Month. The Virden Oil Capitals came to our classroom to read with us. Even Digger came! Digger is the mascot who we helped name. There was a contest for picking his name and our class thought of the winning name (so did some other classes). February is also Valentine's and the 100th day of school. We are excited for these special days in February!

GRADE THREE NEWS

During the month of January we were able to focus on good old reading, writing and spelling during our L.A. groups. This group really enjoys the stories we read together during guided reading and they are excellent participants here!



In Math, we've been exploring different subtraction strategies for one, two and three digit numbers. I know this can make parents scratch their heads with this "new" way of thinking, but it's interesting to see students really work with numbers and be able to break them apart in various ways!

We've completed a unit about our life in Canada in Social Studies and will look forward to comparing our lives with those of other children around the world. We filled out our passport applications and are patiently awaiting the arrival of our "passports." Then, we're ready to fly around the world.

In the meantime, we're working on a Forces unit in Science. Right now, we're learning about magnetism and all the fun things we can do with magnets.



During our January Lilac visit, we interviewed our buddies about their winter memories of when they were kids. We enjoyed hearing their stories, especially those about riding to school in a van pulled by horses and playing outdoor hockey with "horse pucks!" We had a few fun rounds of BINGO, too.

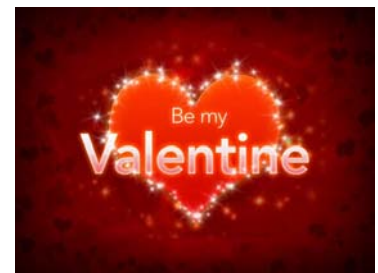


We drew winter wonderland scenes for our January reading program and in February, we'll be reading to mend our broken hearts. We've also completed some lovely winter art projects. We're especially proud of our snowflake quilt!

Grade 3's are working to complete various random acts of kindness on a kindness board and we're surprised to discover how something small, such as a smile or compliment can really make someone's day! Well done, kids!

We're looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day with a skate at the rink and other fun activities, too!

Happy Valentine's Day, everyone!



GRADE FOUR- A NEWS

January has been a busy month! In math we have finished up our unit on multiplication and division. A lot of facts were learned! Our class is now tackling fractions and decimals. We have been working hard on understanding how fractions work using real life examples. Fun was had by all during a fraction scavenger hunt all over the school.



Our social studies unit on the geography of Canada is wrapping up. We have done many different activities to learn about the things that make Canada special. We have made mountain ranges, different kinds of rocks and even a book about the Prairies. Our book can be found in the library. The next unit will be on

Canada's North.

This month we have been working on different techniques to create art. Our first project was using sponges to create a painted forest background. Next winter portraits with puffy snowsuits and a cup of warm hot chocolate were created and colored using only different kinds of lines. The end result looked just like the kids!



GRADE FOUR- R NEWS

We are actually sad to say good-bye to the month of January this year! January is always a great month of teaching. Everyone is refreshed after the Christmas break and ready to learn, not to mention the BEAUTIFUL weather Mother Nature sent our way! What a switch from all the indoor recesses we had in January last year.



GRADE FOUR- R NEWS (CONTINUED)

In ELA, the Grade 4 students have been working so hard on becoming strong writers. The 6 + 1 Traits of Writing have been our guide this year and so far we have learned all about IDEAS, ORGANIZATION, and WORD CHOICE. These are all important parts of the writing process and we are learning how to pay attention to these skills while we write. WORD CHOICE is our current focus and we have been talking a lot about using descriptive phrases and interesting words in our daily writing. Both classes have completed animal riddles, which they then shared with their class and are now being displayed



on our hallway bulletin board. We are now preparing to write a descriptive paragraph on a chosen animal. Ask your child what it means to create pictures in our readers' minds.



We have just started a new unit in Social Studies – Canada's Far North. The kids were so excited to have a visit from Cort Dog-niez, our aboriginal curriculum

facilitator. He visited our classroom and entertained us with a vigorous game of Northern Canada Jeopardy! What fun! We are going to be learning all about our most northern territory, Nunavut, and how the first nation's people of the north live and work in their communities.



The students are looking most forward to our school Valentine party, which will take place at the Hamiota Rink, on Friday, February 13th!

Reminder:

Please help your child remember to record home reading nightly in the agenda and initial daily.

Thank-you!



GRADE FIVE NEWS

What an exciting time! January...the month when we have several five day weeks, and nothing to do but learn! And that's exactly what we've been doing.

We came back after Christmas to start a measurement unit in math. We've been learning about perimeter, area, volume, and capacity. We're using plain units, square units, and cubic units...and sometimes it gets a little tricky in keeping them all straight!



In LA we've been doing some guided reading, and working on a strategy called synthesizing. Basically this means we're working on identifying the main ideas. We're also starting to work on persuasive writing and have brainstormed many things we would like to change!



Science has us working on 'Properties of and Changes in Substances'. We are doing many experiments, including ones to identify reversible and non-reversible changes, as well as physical and chemical changes. We are having lots of fun with this unit, and enjoy working in a group to do what we need to do.

In French we continue to work on 'Comment Y Aller', and are slowly but surely getting closer to videotaping our performance. Make sure you stop and watch them when you come in for Celebration of Learning!

**BIRDTAIL RIVER FESTIVAL
COMES TO MINIOTA, STRATHCLAIR AND HAMIOTA IN MARCH**



Students from both schools will be participating in various vocal, band, piano and dance classes. As well students have submitted art for adjudication as well.

The dates for the festival are as follows:

March 9 & 10:	Vocal	in Miniota
March 11:	Band & Instrumental	in Strathclair
March 13:	Dance	in Hamiota
March 16:	Piano	in Miniota
March 19—7:00 p.m.:	Final Concert	at Miniota School



"No Junk in the Trunk" Healthy Snacks on the Go!



"No Junk in the Trunk", Healthy Snacks on the Go, has been provided to you by DHAT, the Daily Health Awareness Team. This program is funded by Healthy Together Now, a Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative and Midwest Recreation.

Your feedback is very valuable to us and will provide information for future programs. Please take the time to fill out the quick and easy evaluation below and send to or drop off at:

Midwest Recreation

Box 568 Hamiota, MB R0M 0T0 or midwestrec@hamiota.com or fax 204-764-3055

1. Did you find that the format of the recipe booklet was user friendly?

YES NO SOMEWHAT _____

2. How did you receive a recipe booklet? Through.....

SCHOOL OTHER ORGANIZATION _____

3. Did you find that the recipes are ones that you will be able to use?

YES NO SOMEWHAT _____

4. Did you find the links and other information useful?

YES NO SOMEWHAT _____

5. Do you have any other feedback that you would like to share with us? Or other project ideas to improve the health wellbeing of people in our communities?

CHELSEA LAWN FOURSOME WINS ZONE CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP!!



L-R: Jaden Hemrica, Kaylee Daniel, Eveline Juce, Chelsea Lawn, Cassie Hunter (fifth) Back: Coach Allan Lawn

This year the Zone Curling Championships were held in Russell on Feb. 5 & 6.

The Varsity Girls team consisted of Lead Jaden Hemrica, Second Kaylee Daniel, Third Eveline Juce and Skip Chelsea Lawn. On Thursday they defeated Birtle and Russell. They returned on Friday and defeated Strathclair to win the Zone title and a berth in the MHSAA Provincial playoff to be held in The Pas on Feb. 26-28.

GOOD LUCK AT PROVINCIALS GIRLS!!!!



The Varsity Boys team consisted of Lead Kyle Feschuk, Second Quade Wood, Third Mark Lawn and Skip Alex Lints.

The boys began with a loss to Russell and a one-sided win over Rossburn. On Friday they met Russell again and lost by 1 point in a tight battle to be eliminated. This was the third time that Alex has lost in the Zone finals. As his dad and long-time coach said, "He is the Mike McEwen of our zone."



L-R: Coach Randy Lints, Kyle Feschuk, Quade Wood, Mark Lawn, and Alex Lints

Thanks to Mrs. Tana Huberdeau for accompanying the teams to Russell and to coaches Allan Lawn and Randy Lints.



VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The Varsity Girls placed third in their home tournament.

After a nail-biting 51-50 loss to Boissevain, they defeated Russell 51-42 and Elton 43-37. The Souris Sabres were the Tournament Champions.



VARSITY BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Monday, Feb. 9	Girls at Strathclair
Wednesday, Feb. 11	Boys and Girls at Hamiota vs. Strathclair
Wednesday, Feb. 18	Boys Playoffs (1st vs. 4th, 2nd vs. 3rd—Location TBA)
Monday, Feb. 23	Girls Playoffs (2nd vs. 3rd—Location TBA)
Wednesday, Feb. 25	Boys & Girls Finals—Location TBA



MYGIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

HCI has 2 Middle Years Girls Teams. Both teams will play on the following dates:

Tuesday, Jan. 20	At Hamiota vs. Inglis	Tuesday, Jan. 27	At Binscarth
Thursday, Feb. 5	At Hamiota vs. Major Pratt	Tuesday, Feb. 10	At Shoal Lake
Tuesday, Mar. 3	At Hamiota vs. WayWay	Tuesday, Mar 10	Playoffs—Location TBA



Unfortunately this year there were not enough boys to form a Middle Years team.

HAMIOTA HOSTS WESTMAN HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY ALL-STAR GAME

The Hamiota District Sports Complex was the site for the 2014-15 WSHL All Star Hockey game on Saturday, Feb. 7.

Currently we have only one HCI student, Sawyer Norrie, playing high school hockey out of Birtle. This year's representative from the team was Noah Lemoine from Birtle.



PWSD CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Each year Park West School Division invites each school to nominate an individual and group to be honoured at their Annual Citizenship Banquet. Hamiota Collegiate's nominees for 2014-15 were Jacquelyn Hawkins in the individual category and the We Act Committee in the group category.



JACQUELYN HAWKINS

Jacquelyn values the importance of volunteering at both her school and within her community. She is a peer mentor through the MHSAA Champion program and helps coach middle years volleyball. She is a committee member of the Relay for Life and is the Sports Rep on the student council. Jacquelyn assists in the elementary school and she has volunteered at community day camps.

WE ACT COMMITTEE

This newly formed group has successfully organized three fundraisers in the two months that they have been together. We Scare Hunger, We Create Change, and We Are Rafikis were the events held to help raise money for local and global causes. The group plans to host a fundraising event each month throughout the school year.



Back: Savanna Lynn, Emily Lints, Ashlyn Kirk, Logan Wilson, Kara Kent, Joun Abed Meshi, Montana Jackson

Front: Staff Advisor Mrs. Facey, Ashley Morden, Daisy Martinez, Korinne Alexander, Michelle Bell, Staff Advisor Miss Hammond.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS by Sawyer Norrie

The last month has been busy for student council with lots of events taking place. With basketball season beginning the student council has been very busy collecting fees and handing out jerseys. This year, they ordered new jerseys for the boys to wear. The boys greatly appreciated this because now they have jerseys that feel good and fit well. Last month the Relay for Life committee held their "Kick Off" assembly where the committee talked to the student body about how Relay for Life is going to work. They also were given statistics and other facts about cancer to motivate them to join a team and help in the fight against cancer. All the students were given forms to take home to their parents to discuss if they were going to join a team



and take part in relay for life. The student council would please ask that these forms be returned as soon as possible so we can get an idea of how many people plan to take part in this great event. The "Kick-Off" assembly was wrapped up by the auctioning off

of who was to be the one who cut Cody's hair. Over \$3,000.00 was raised for cancer research for this haircut.



Also instead of going to the Christmas Classic hockey game for the last day of school before Christmas break the Hamiota Collegiate put on a gym blast to celebrate the last day of school.



The entire school, most of staff included, were split up into four teams green, yellow, red and blue. The different activities included sling shooting rubber chickens through a tire tube in the middle of the gym and a smaller team mate being raised on a platform by the rest of the team who were laying on their backs and then moved down the length of the gym. They also took part in



relays where large numbers of people were crammed into an inner tube where they then ran the length of the gym. At the end of the day the teams were ranked from 1-4 with the winner, the



"Beat You Black and Blues, receiving the gym blast trophy. Lots of fun was had by all!!

I Love to Read

As part of Hamiota Collegiate's celebration of I Love to Read Month, we are proud to recognize one of our staff members.

Mrs. Ellice Lints, is a teacher, now working as an Educational Assistant at Hamiota Collegiate. She has recently had her first book published. Spitfire, Dragon of Hope is a fantasy book for young adults and older, featuring a bunch of memorable characters. The book is the first in a trilogy.

At noon hour on Thursday, February 19, we will be having a reception in the Collegiate Library, where Mrs. Lints will be reading from her book. There will also be a draw to win a copy of the book and refreshments will be served.



MIDDLE YEARS FUN DAY

To celebrate the end of exams and the end of January the Middle Years Student Council organized a fun day. Students enjoyed skating and snowshoeing at the Hamiota Sports Complex.



PAC DONATION



PAC donated \$1300 to the Grads for their work on the Middle Years playground.

2014-15 YEARBOOKS ON SALE NEXT WEEK

Yearbooks will be on sale
Tuesday and Thursday, Feb. 17 & 19 at noon in the front lobby.

Books will be delivered in the fall.

**COST IS \$35.00 OR \$37.00 IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOOK PERSONALIZED
WITH YOUR NAME ON THE COVER.**



ROOTS OF EMPATHY

January's Roots of Empathy theme was "Sleep". The Grade Six class discussed infant temperament and how that can affect the amount and type of sleep they get. Students tracked their own sleep patterns and learned that we are predisposed to requiring different amounts of sleep based on our age and activity level.



We enjoyed a visit from Baby Elle and her mom, Becky Birch. Students had a lot of questions to ask about Elle's sleep habits and her favorite "transition" objects. Elle brought her blanket to



show us and surprised us by being able to sit up all by herself!

We also talked about change and transitions in our own lives and how we deal with these events.

We look forward to continuing our visits with Baby Elle and tracking her milestones with her family.



Grade one students were participants in the fourth theme titled Emotions, identifying the basic emotions sad,

mad/angry, happy and scared. It was important that everyone realized that everyone has these feelings, and that these feelings are neither good nor bad, although some feelings make us feel unpleasant.



Many pleasant emotions were felt when Laura and Baby Dayton visited as the students observed Dayton's new accomplishments. Baby Dayton was filled with happiness and was very proud to show the Grade 1's how big she was by raising her arms, clapping, and there was a lot of excitement when she crawled off of the green blanket to get a little piece of paper!



February's theme is Sleep and we will be discussing a baby's need for sleep as well as the indicators of tiredness. Feelings of excitement to see Baby Dayton and Laura again are felt by all!

OKLAHOMA!

Rehearsals are well underway for this year's major production. The actors have been working on their 'Okie' accents. The "Farmers and Cowmen" are getting ready for a fight and the "Girls" are preparing for the 'Box Social'.



Under the capable direction of Mrs. Val Caldwell, Mrs. Janna Tannas and Mrs. Paula Kirkland, the acting, dancing and music is coming together.

The play will be onstage in April with afternoon performances on Thursday, April 9th and Sunday, April 12 and evening performances on the 10th and 11th. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!