

Erickson Collegiate

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 9, 2011

From the Desk of Mr. Lee....

Wow! What a busy month! And things aren't slowing down as we head into Christmas!

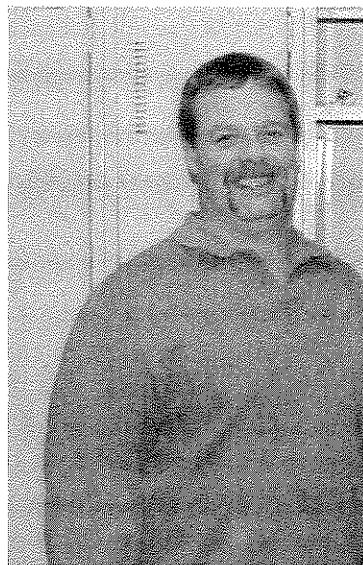
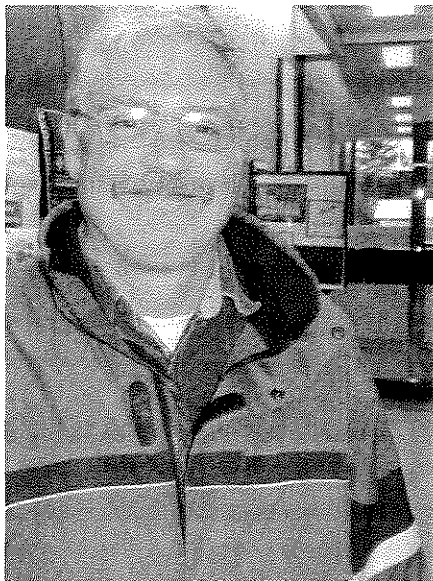
Grade 9's participated in Take Your Kid to Work Day on November 2, and we received many positive comments about the students. Also our Grade 11's also went out on their work experience November 21 - 25. I appreciate Mrs. Henry's efforts in coordinating these days and placements for our students.

Our Remembrance Day service was held on November 10 and we had veterans and members of the Legion present. Thanks to

Mr. Mathews and all other staff and students that participated. Congratulations to Morgan Dobroski who won the Legion's art contest.

Thanks to those parents and guardians that attended parent-teacher interviews. We continue to have a poor turnout for these days. The interviews are a great opportunity for teachers, students, and parents to get together; please consider attending in April. If you were unable to attend but would like to contact a teacher, please do so by phoning the school or sending an email via the school's

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A distant decade was back for our own Mr. Sansom, Mr. Waterman, Mr. Cornish, and Mr. Stephenson of Onanole Elementary, who formed "The Deadly Moustachios" in support of "Movember". Over \$500 was raised in support of prostate cancer treatment and research. Although Mr. Sansom may have come out on top of the moustache growing race, all but Mr. Cornish were quick to shave on December 1st.

ERICKSON COLLEGIATE

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index.html**



From the desk of Mr. Lee...

website. Also, if you are interested in signing up for the parent portal to see how your child is doing, contact Mrs. Coulson and she will get you set up. Please take note of the Grade 12 exam schedule that is posted later in the newsletter.

For the November professional development day, ECI staff focused on team building. Thanks to Mrs. Rebecca Gray for leading us through this process.

We also had several activities for National Addictions Awareness Week. The Erickson and Sandy Lake Credit Unions sponsored Norbert Gorget's presentation. He is a former paramedic who speaks to students and staffs about the danger of drinking, drugging, and texting while driving. Mrs. Collyer also organized a presentation by the RCMP, and she had students – Breanna Waterman, Rebecca Kingdon, and Crystal Belbas – do a survey/game with the students. Mr. Ken Surovy, from the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, spoke to the students about gambling. There was also a movie night for the students that was organized in conjunction with Rolling River First Nations. Thanks to Mrs. Collyer and the TADD group for putting together the week.

ECI students have had some great opportunities this past month. The Grade 7 and 8's (Mrs. Branconnier and Ms Dalton) attended Mecca Productions "Annie" and it featured our own Emma Gray. Congratulations on a job well done, Emma. The students from Grade 9 English (Ms Dalton) and the Grade 11 Citizenship and Social Diversity (Mrs. Boyd) classes traveled to Winnipeg to view a modern day version of "Romeo and Juliet". Ms McKay was able to secure a speaker from the Truth and Reconciliation

Committee to speak to our students about the impact that residential schools still have on our students today. Mr. Waterman and the volleyball teams held their windup in Brandon and attended a Brandon University Bobcats match. And for all those vampire fans, Mrs. McInnis organized a trip to watch the new Twilight movie. Mr. Sansom and the hockey guys are ranked seventh in the province, and Travis Erickson continues to light it up for the AAA Yellowhead Chiefs. Mrs. Gray and the Students Making Difference group traveled to Riding Mountain National Park to participate in a focus group, and the group also held an assembly to review how much garbage they picked up during the Shoreline Clean-up Project in September. However, a major event for the month for about 50 of our students and eight staff was the WE Day Conference held in Winnipeg on November 23. Thanks to Ms Dalton for being the main contact for this event. It featured some world famous speakers and they focused on sustainability, change, and the impact that students can have on

the local and world community. Each person who attended the conference had their own favorite and inspirational speaker and "ah ha" moment. Being part of the conference means a continued commitment and several students and a couple of our teachers – Ms Dalton and Mrs. Boyd - participated in the Vow of Silence activity. Our junior high students also participated in the divisional volleyball tournament on December 3. The Grade 7 – 12 band students had a fantastic opportunity when Mr. Mathews was able to bring in Grammy Award winning musician Sandip Burman to perform and work with the students. At the end of last year we purchased a new sewing machine, and the work that the students have been doing with Ms Young and Ms McKay is amazing. Mrs. Robson and the graduates have been meeting regularly to plan for June's big day.

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The Minnedosa Chancellors Hockey Team, which includes five ECI players: Mike Tarleton – G, Matt Gray – G, Myles Sansom – D, Austin Cornelsen – D, and Bryce Stephenson – D, and two affiliated players: Alex Griffiths and Brenden Kelly are doing well this season. Mr. Sansom manages the team and has included a report and standings, elsewhere in this newsletter.

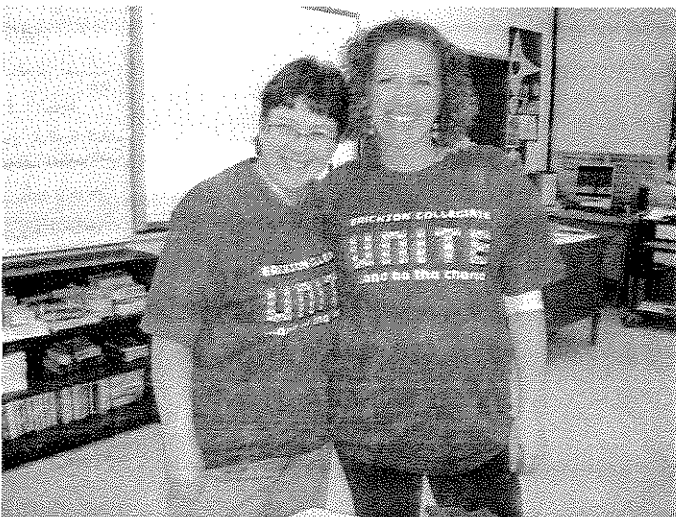


Report from SMAD...

By Rebecca Kingdon

The start of the second half of this semester has been a busy one of SMAD. This fall, Parks Canada approached SMAD to invite us to participate in a "Lake Group" meeting. The "Lake Group" was formed to bring together different stakeholders that have an interest in Clear Lake. We were invited to represent the youth of the area. While at the meeting we discussed environmental issues, how to involve community volunteers, recreational use, and water quality. SMAD will be meeting again with the "Lake Group" in March.

With the help of Ms Dalton and the rest of the staff, we organized the trip to the WE Day event in Winnipeg. 55 students and staff attended.

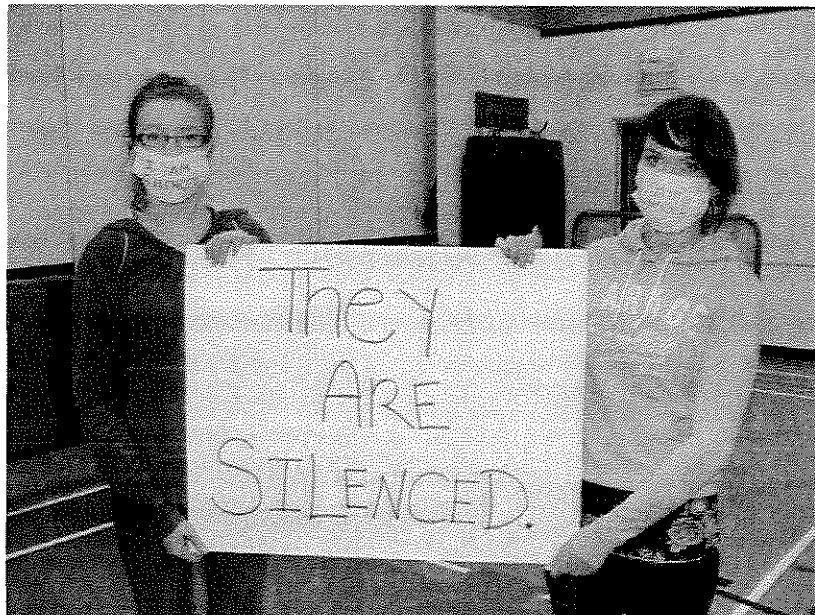


The day was a great one filled with many inspirational speakers including Al Gore, Spencer West, and the Kielburger brothers to name a few. We were very fortunate to be a part of the 16,000 youth filling the MTS center. As part of going WE Day, the school will be taking part in organizing, running, and/or participating in several exciting projects throughout the school year.

One of these projects being the "Vow of Silence". For a whole 24 hours, participating students and staff (all over the world) were silent. This meant that they weren't able to communicate in any way including speaking, gesturing, texting, facebooking, etc. for the duration. The purpose was to raise both pledg-

es and awareness for children's rights, as many children's voices are not "heard" (they cannot speak up for themselves without being mistreated). Thank you to everyone that took part.

SMAD is also very excited to have taken on "adopting" a family through the Salvation Army's "Adopt a Family" program in Brandon this Christmas. This involves shopping for "our" family's Christmas meal & gifts and presenting these to the family. Fundraising for this will include a bake sale at the Erickson Co-op on Saturday, December 10th from 10:00-4:00. We would appreciate any baking donations to help towards this cause. Baking can be dropped off at the school on Friday, December 9th. Please help us support this cause.



From the office of Mr. Lee...

Mr. Waterman's photography class has been taking some awesome pictures, and his Food and Nutrition students have tackled cake decorating and the results have been some pretty creative cakes. Mrs. Collyer continues to bring in speakers for our students, and the most recent person was here to make a presentation to our Grade 10 and 11's about sexually transmitted infections. Mr. Robertson and some students have cleared out part of the shed to make a workstation so they can continue to construct compost bins and birdhouses all year round. And finally, Mr. Allen and the Grade 11 and 12 students have been working on their CPR accreditation in Phys. Ed.

Mr. Cornish and the boys' basketball team have been practicing hard and Mrs. Frey has started curling with our students. Ms McKay has booked Colby Tootoosis, a young Aboriginal motivational speaker who concentrates on youth empowerment, to come and work with our students on December 16. We will also be hosting students from Strathclair, who are coming to hear Mr. Tootoosis. The SMAD group is adopting a family for Christmas and they are holding a bake sale on Saturday, December 10 at the Coop. Please get out to support them. Student Council is organizing a spirit week for the last week before break. On Thursday, December 22 they are arranging for a bus to go and cheer on the hockey team in Minnedosa when they take on Neepawa. There will be other activities planned for those students and staff that do not wish to attend the game. Last year's yearbook will be in shortly and Mrs. McLaughlin continues to take a zillion pictures for this

year's book. Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Collyer, and Ms McKay are in the final stages the preparation for the Kids Can Shop day. It is a great program and one I am particularly proud of; I would like to thank all those that have made contributions. The school will accept donations up until Friday, December 16.

As you can see, our students have been busy with some fantastic opportunities. I would just like to thank all staff who continue to go the extra mile in realizing that school for our students is more than just about books. So much learning takes place with the opportunities you provide. I appreciate your time and effort – be it organizing and/or supervising these activities, teams, or events.

I would also like to acknowledge our custodial staff – Mrs. Deb

McLaughlin and Mrs. Della Robinson – for doing a great job of keeping the school clean, and Mrs. Nancy Coulson for continuing to do a fantastic job in the front office.

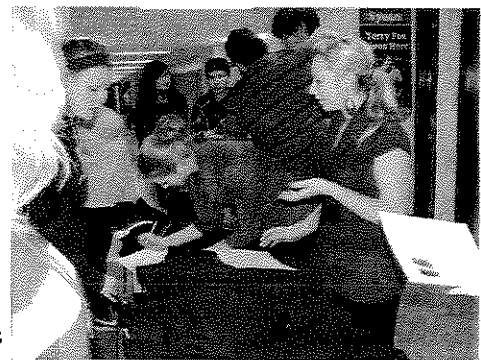
Congratulations to Mrs. Boyd and Mr. Robertson, who made presentations to the school board and senior administration on their respective new courses – Citizenship and Social Diversity and Current Topics in First Nations, Aboriginal, and Inuit Studies. They received some excellent responses from the board and the assistant superintendent. I attended the presentations and I was really proud of them. Both courses are different than anything we have offered before at ECI, and I would encourage all students to take them when they are taught again.

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Grad Update ...

A grad student and parent meeting was held on Thursday November 24th at 7pm. At this meeting it was decided that to offset fundraising costs each student would pay a fee of \$80. This is to be paid to Melissa no later than Dec 22nd. Cheques may be made payable to ECI Grad 2012. Next meeting is January 19th at 7pm. We need parents and students to be attending so we can plan Safe Grad. The banquet committee is in need of approximate numbers for the number of guests each grad will be bringing for supper. Final numbers and payment will be needed in May. Please see Janine or Shane with your approximate numbers.

Clothing orders have been submitted and should be arriving prior to Christmas. Thanks to the clothing committee for all of their hard work. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mrs. Robson at 636-2605 or trobson@rrsd.mb.ca.



Grads ordering their clothing...

High School Hockey News

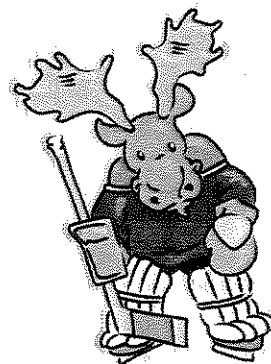
The hockey team has completed a good portion of the season to date. We have played in 3 tournaments and also have played 9 league games for a total of 18 games. We are currently 7 – 2 in league played and as of November 28 and ranked 7th in the province for A/AA High School rankings.

Following is league standings as of December 8, 2011

	GP	W	L	OT/SO L	GF	GA	PTS
Dauphin	8	8	0	0	54	15	16
Minnedosa	9	7	2	0	45	34	14
Boissevain	8	6	1	1	49	29	13
Glenboro/Carberry/Baldur	6	6	0	0	43	15	12
Crocus Plains	7	5	2	0	29	15	10
Neepawa	5	4	1	0	49	16	8
Major Pratt	5	3	1	1	34	29	7
Killarney/Wawanesa	6	3	3	0	26	21	6
Souris/Reston	9	2	6	1	25	42	5
Vincent Massey	6	2	4	0	21	22	4
Rivers/Elton	5	1	3	1	21	32	3
Virten	6	1	4	1	15	28	3
Deloraine/Hartney	7	1	5	1	21	48	3
Melita/Waskada	7	1	6	0	17	53	2
Hamiota	8	1	7	0	16	66	2

The team has one more tournament to attend on December 10th in Killarney. Below is the remaining home schedule. All games are played in the Minnedosa Arena. For more information on the league check out the Westman High School Hockey League site online.

Date	Opponent	Time	Rink/Town
Tuesday December 13	Hamiota	7:30	Minnedosa
Friday December 16	Vincent Massey	8:15	Minnedosa
Thursday December 22 (Christmas Classic)	Neepawa	12:30	Minnedosa
Friday January 13	Rivers/Elton	8:15	Minnedosa
Tuesday January 17	Souris/Reston	7:30	Minnedosa
Friday January 27	Major Pratt	8:15	Minnedosa



From the Desk of Mrs. Gray.... If only...

The craziness of the Christmas season is quickly descending! Each year when I flip over the calendar to December, I feel my stress level start to rise. Don't get me wrong – I love Christmas! But it's very easy to get caught up in all the hustle and bustle and get focussed on all those little things I'm sure will make this Christmas the best one yet. The house must be decorated, the tree trimmed, the perfect presents found, the dinner must leave everyone overstuffed. There is carolling to be done, cards to be sent, Christmas concerts to be attended, relatives to entertain.... We all have our own personal "if only" list – If only I can get all these things accomplished, then Christmas will be wonderful!

The funny thing is, that for many of us, Christmas can end up being a bit of a let-down. Things are never quite perfect. The relatives you looked so forward to visiting end up being kind of annoying. The gift you hunted high and low for was not really appreciated. The turkey was undercooked.

Reality is, however, that it's easy to fall into this trap at any time of the year. We get focussed on acquiring things or achieving things, with the thought that happiness will certainly follow. How many times today can you catch someone (or yourself!) saying "If only....?" If only I pass this test; if only I get asked to the dance; if only I get this credit card bill paid off; if only I get this pay raise.

The truth is that we tend to overestimate the impact that achieving these things will have on our lives. Passing the test and going to the dance don't seem so important a month down the road; the bills keep coming in and the new paycheck quickly gets eaten up.

Daniel Gilbert, in his book "Stumbling on Happiness" poses an interesting question: Which future would you prefer? One in which you win the lottery? Or one in which you become paraplegic? Which would make you happier? A study was done to find out the answer to this question, with surprising results. A year after losing their legs, and a year after winning the lotto, lottery winners and paraplegics are equally happy with their lives. So what does this mean?

It means that the vast majority of those things we desire really have very little effect on how happy we are. The perfect gift doesn't make Christmas. The undercooked turkey didn't ruin the day. (Actually, this one happened to me last year, and in the end, it made for a pretty funny story!) Those things we get focused on often don't matter as much as we think they will.

So what does matter? The research is clear on this. Dr. Gabor Mate sums it up nicely:

"In our own hearts, most of us know that we experience the greatest satisfaction not when we receive or acquire something but when we make an authentic contribution to the well-being of others."

So this holiday season, take a moment to think about what you can do for another person. Not only can you make a difference to them, but, as Karl Reilandt is quoted as saying; "In about the same degree as you are helpful, you will be happy."

Have a wonderful holiday!



From the desk of Mrs. Henry...

Career Preparation and Exploration Report

The Grade 11 students ventured out for their first Career Placement. Students travelled from Brandon to Rivers to Riding Mountain National Park. The placements were varied and gave these students an opportunity to try out future career options. Some students loved their placements and came back wanting to learn more about that career choice; others realized that this was not the right job for them.

Grade 11 students now have the task of journaling their Career Placement experience. Each student needs to write a brief entry in Career Cruising. This entry should include: where they were for the week, what activities they participated in, positive experiences, negative experiences and would they be interested in learning more about that line of work. These journal entries need to be completed by December 16, 2011. Students who did not complete their resume or cover letter need to complete that part of the assignment and upload it into Career Cruising.

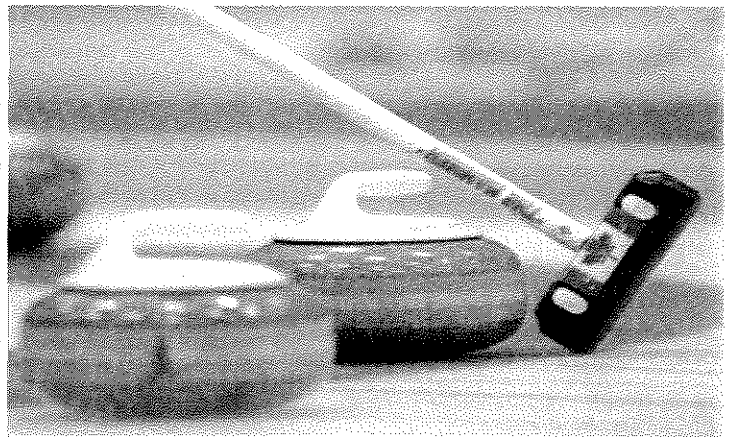
Grade 12 students go out on their Career Placement January 30 to February 3. I will touch-base with the Grade 12's this month and discuss placement options. Each student will be required to research businesses that they are interested in and give me the list so I can contact the supervisor to make arrangements. This will give the Grade 12 students a chance to get involved with their placement and learn how to search for a job.

Please contact me if you have any questions about career options, apprenticeship programs or work experience. You can reach me on my cell at 868 0417 or by email mhenry@rrsd.mb.ca or you can get up to date information on my webpage.

Curling ROCKS!!

Interested in Curling? Junior High and High School Curling will be starting soon. Come out and join in the fun. We will be working on skills, strategy and having fun.

Experienced and beginner curlers are welcome. A clean pair of runners (or curling shoes) is required and a curling broom. The day and time has not been set yet but will run after school likely from 4 -5 pm. Please contact Mrs. Frey for more information.



They're coming.....

The 2010 - 2011 yearbooks are do to arrive at the school very soon! Those who haven't paid must do so before you can pick up your book. Yearbooks are \$25.00 each.

From the desk of Mr. Lee....

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ECI has also had the pleasure of hosting Filipe, a young boy from Columbia, for the past four weeks. He is part of the HomeStay Manitoba program and he has been staying with Mr. and Mrs. Sillen. He has been with Mrs. Dalton's Grade 8 group and he has made many friends in his short stay. Filipe last day with us is December 16; I hope he has enjoyed his experience. If you are interested in hosting a student, please contact me at the school and I will give you the required information.

November 2012 will mark the introduction of the new mandated provincial report cards. Along with Assistant Superintendent Marg Janssen, I have attended two sessions regarding the reports and discussions have been held with principals and ECI teachers. Look for further information in future newsletters.

Parents of students in Grade 12, please take note of the following provincial standard exam dates:

- January 10 – January 13: English
- January 23: Pre-Calculus Math
- January 24: Consumer Math
- January 25 and 26: Applied Math

If students have not completed their resumes and cover letters for their work experience (January 30 – February 3), they are expected to be here on Friday, January 27 to work with Mrs. Henry.

Grade 9, 10, and 11 final assessments will be held on February 1, 2, and 3. A schedule will be sent home at a later date.

Monday, February 6 is an in-service day and the second semester will begin on Tuesday, February 7.

Also, please note the changes made to the school calendar in February and March. Monday, February 27 and Wednesday, March 8 are regular school days. Thursday, March 8 is an in-school in-service day and Friday, March 9 is a divisional in-service day. There is no school for students on those two days.

I would like to wish all students, staff, and their families a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season.

Merry Christmas,

Barry Lee, Principal

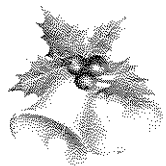


Morgan Dobroski, winner of the Legion Poster Contest



Grammy award winning musician, Sandip Burman

ECI will gratefully accept any new or gently used donations for Kids Can Shop up until December 16th. Erickson Elementary students the opportunity to shop for family members, at the ECI Library on December 19th.



ECI is collecting Christmas Cheer items to make Christmas brighter for families in our area.

Watch for bins around Erickson, Onanole and Sandy Lake as well!

