

# Erickson Collegiate

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

WEDNESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 9, 2011

## *From the Desk of Mr. Lee....*

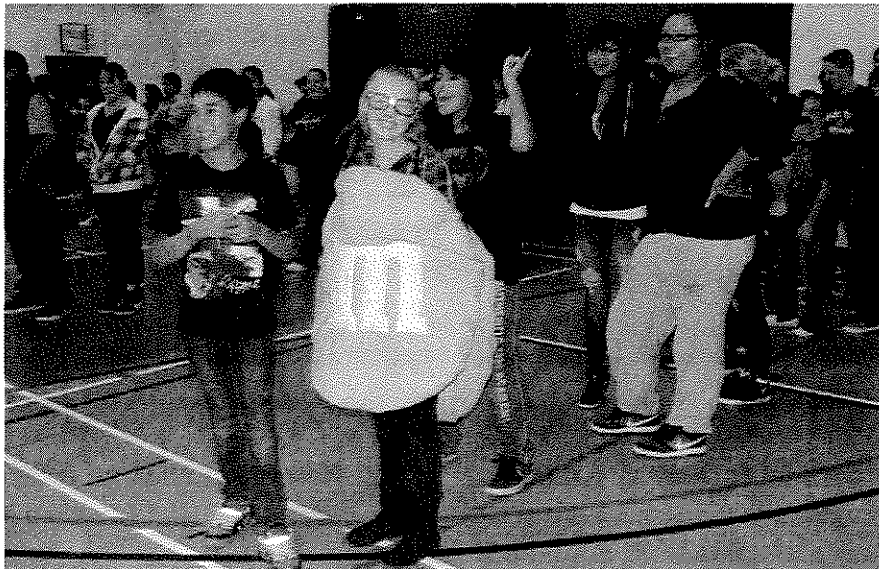
Hello, everyone! It just seems like yesterday that we were putting out the first newsletter – boy, how time flies! A lot has been happening at the collegiate since the end of September and the first part of October.

Mrs. Robson has met with the graduating students and they have formed their committees. Grad student Chair is Breanna Waterman. Mrs. Robson has also had two grad and parent/ guardian meetings. The next Grad/Parent meeting will be held Thursday, November 24. If you have any questions regarding graduation please contact Mrs. Robson. Scholarship information may also be found on the school's webpage.

Interim reports were mailed out the week of October 24. All students in Grades 7, 8, and 9 were to receive a report, and those stu-

dents in Grades 10, 11, and 12 that are experiencing academic, social, or behavioral difficulties also received one. If your daughter or son has an incomplete on the interim report, that means he or she has not completed all of the required/ essential assignments needed to receive a credit for that course. Please contact your daughter or son's teacher to discuss the incomplete assignments, and I also ask you to encourage your son or daughter to complete those assignments. If a student still has incomplete assignments at the end of semester one, he or she will not be receiving a credit until all essential work is satisfactorily completed.

*Continued on Page 2*



*Student Council helped ECI staff and students celebrate Halloween by planning numerous activities for the last period of Halloween day.*

## ERICKSON COLLEGIATE

*Principal*

*Barry Lee*

*Vice-Principal*

*Tricia Robson*

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www.rrsd.mb.ca/  
schools/  
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son\\_collegiate/  
index.html](http://www.rrsd.mb.ca/schools/erickson_collegiate/index.html)**



## *From the desk of Mr. Lee...*

### *Continued from Page 1*

Just a reminder, there is no formal midterm exam period as there has been in the past. Teachers may have an exam but the exam must take place in the regularly scheduled time and over a period of two days (if need be). Report cards will be ready on November 14 or 15. **Teachers will be reporting only on students' summative work (work for marks); the formative work (work completed on a daily basis and receives feedback to assist the student on the end of the unit piece) is not for marks.** Last month, I sent a letter home explaining formative and summative assessment. As the new assessment policy and practices are a change, we will continue to educate and inform parents and guardians. Parent – Teacher interviews are Wednesday, November 16 between 8:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m.

You don't have to wait until reporting periods to find out how your child is doing. You may have on-line access to your son or daughter's attendance and reported marks. If you are interested in being able to do this, please contact Mrs. Coulson to provide her with the information she needs to be able to give you a password. Also, if your son or daughter is going to be away, please notify the school.

Teachers have been continuing with their work on assessment and essential outcomes. During the month of October high school administrators and teachers got together in subject areas to discuss essential outcomes, curriculum, course outlines, and grading. This work will be on-going. Staff carried on with their professional development on November 7. We focused on team building. Thanks to Mrs. Gray for facilitating an interesting session.

The school was locked down on Tuesday, October 25 because there was

drug search conducted by a dog and his owner. I am pleased that no traces of any types of drugs were found.

Just a reminder to students, parents, and guardians: **Erickson Collegiate is a nut free environment.** We have students with nut allergies and we also have to be respectful of people from other schools that may also have allergies. Do not send peanut butter or any other food or candy with nuts. I appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

The Grade 9 students participated in Take Your Kid to Work Day (November 2), and Mrs. Henry, the Career Preparation and Exploration Coordinator, was very pleased with how well our students did. Grade 11 students go out on work experience from November 21 through November 25 – mark it on your calendar! Ask your son or daughter where they are going. It is a school expectation that all students participate in this program. The benefits are tremendous for our students. Our Grade 11 and 12 students attended a session at Minnedosa Collegiate in which universities, colleges, and the apprenticeship board made presentations and entertained questions. I encourage people to find out more about the apprenticeship

program. It is excellent for those students that are not academically interested in school, and it is a great way to keep them enrolled in school, make money, count hours towards a trade, and in the end receive their high school diploma. If you would like more information, please phone Mrs. Henry or myself at the school. Mrs. Henry and Mrs. Collyer have also spent time with the 11 and 12's on Career Cruising.

Staff continues to offer many different activities for students to extend their learning. Mrs. Boyd and Ms Dalton took a group of students to Winnipeg to the Art Gallery to see an exhibit on DaVinci and then they later attended the IMAX Theatre. Mrs. Boyd and Mrs. Dalton have planned a field trip to the Manitoba Theatre Centre for the students to view a modern day adaptation of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet". Ms Young and Mrs Boyd will be taking a group of students out to "the bush" to begin the process of chopping down trees for our tipi that students will be building and painting. They will be working under the guidance and supervision of people with

*Continued on Page 4*

*Coach,  
Mr. Waterman,  
and his Junior  
and Senior  
Varsity  
volleyball  
players are  
midway  
through their  
season*



## National Addictions Awareness Week:

During the week of November 13-19<sup>th</sup> the staff and students will be recognizing "National Addictions Awareness Week". Awareness activities have been planned that aim to promote and prevent various addictions that affect Manitobans. The TADD group will also be working in classrooms to educate students on the risks associated with Drinking and Driving.

## Signs & Symptoms of Teen Drinking and Drug Use

How can you tell if your child is using drugs or alcohol? It is difficult because changes in mood or attitudes, unusual temper outbursts, changes in sleeping habits and changes in hobbies or other interests are common in teens. What should you look for?

You can also look for signs of depression, withdrawal, carelessness with grooming or hostility. Also ask yourself, is your child doing well in school, getting along with friends, taking part in sports or other activities?

## Watch List for Parents

- Changes in friends
- Negative changes in schoolwork, missing school, or declining grades
- Increased secrecy about possessions or activities
- Use of incense, room deodorant, or perfume to hide smoke or chemical odors
- Subtle changes in conversations with friends, e.g. more secretive, using "coded" language
- Change in clothing choices: new fascination with clothes that highlight drug use
- Increase in borrowing money
- Evidence of drug paraphernalia such as pipes, rolling papers, etc.
- Evidence of use of inhalant products (such as hairspray, nail polish, correction fluid, common household products); Rags and paper bags are sometimes used as accessories
- Bottles of eye drops, which may be used to mask bloodshot eyes or dilated pupils
- New use of mouthwash or breath mints to cover up the smell of alcohol
- Missing prescription drugs—especially narcotics and mood stabilizers

Continued on Page 5

## ***A NOTE FROM CAREER PREPARATION AND EXPLORATION...***

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> the Grade 9 students went out with their parents, family or family friends to explore the workforce. Thank you to all businesses, employers and staff that took students for the day!

November 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> is the Grade 11 Career Placement dates. Please send in permission slips as soon as possible. Thank you. Do contact Melanie Henry if you have any questions about this program. You can reach me at 636-2605 or by email at [mhenry@rrsd.mb.ca](mailto:mhenry@rrsd.mb.ca).

A great volunteer opportunity is available for students in Grade 10 and 15 years or older. Career Trek is looking for volunteers to help on Saturdays in Brandon. Students would help instructors lead small groups of Grade 5 and 6 students with hands on career-based activities. This program is not only a great volunteer opportunity but it is a great chance to learn about 48 different careers in 19 different fields. Please see Mrs. Henry for the application.

## *From the office of Mr. Lee...*

experience from RRFN.

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Some students participated in assisting the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources in identifying various bird species. Students used GPS units to mark the location of the birds and then they logged the information into the Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas. On November 23 between 40 and 50 of our students will participate in the WE Day Conference being held at the MTS Centre in Winnipeg. It is a great opportunity for our students to hear some world leading speakers on being the change and making a difference in life. For more information I encourage you to check out the WE Day website. Ms Dalton and Mrs. Branconnier are taking our Grade 7 and 8 students to Brandon on November 24 to watch "Annie", and then on the 29<sup>th</sup> a group of students and staff are going to be off to the Capital Theatre to view the new "Breaking Dawn" movie. November 14 - 18 is Addictions Awareness Week and the school is planning different presentations and activities for our students. For more information, please read Mrs. Collyer's information further on in the newsletter. Ms McKay is making arrangements for Colby Tootoois, a well-known Aboriginal motivational speaker coming to work with our students. The date of this presenter just needs to be confirmed.

Sports continue to be busy. Mr. Sansom and the players for the ECI/MCI hockey team have played in a couple of tournaments already and it looks like they are going to be a very competitive team. Both girls' volleyball teams have participated in tournaments and leagues games, and

they have shown improvement throughout the season. As their season is winding down, I would like to thank them for being great representatives for our school, and I would like to thank Mr. Waterman for coaching the girls.

Student Council is off to a great start; they have had two dances since our last newsletter. The first one was held on October 6, and because the students had such a great time, the student council organized a Halloween dance last week. The student council also hosted some fun activities for all students on the afternoon of the 31<sup>st</sup>. There are also so many other groups or activities for your son or daughter to be involved with at ECI - TADD, Students Making a Difference, intramurals, Career Trek and Yearbook to name a few.

Erickson Collegiate is part of Study Manitoba - an organization that

works on the behalf of a consortium of rural school divisions to host students from foreign countries. I am pleased to announce that Juan Sanchez, a 15 year old from Colombia, will be here from November 21 - December 17. His host parents are Mr. and Mrs. Tammy and Harvey Sillen. If you are interested in hosting a student, please contact me at the school or Rhonda at Student Manitoba (rhonda@studymanitoba.ca).

**Our Remembrance Day service is scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. The public is welcome to attend.**

As you can tell from my report, there are lots of great things happening at ECI and I am very proud of the students and staff.

Respectfully,

Barry Lee

Principal

**Rolling River Health Office (NADAP) is offering information sessions to parents & caregivers during National Addictions Awareness Week.**

**Monday, Nov. 14th:** Solvent Workshop, 10am-12 noon (lunch provided and Door Prizes), Southquill Hall. Open to anyone- no prior registration required. (Presenter- Mike McKay)

**Thursday, Nov. 17th:** Drug and Alcohol Workshop, 10am-12noon (lunch Provided and Door Prizes), Southquill Board Room. Open to anyone -no prior registration required. (Presenter-Renita Paul)

**Friday, Nov.18th:** Prescription Drug Use, 10am-12noon (lunch provided and Door Prizes) Southquill Board Room. Open to anyone-no prior registration required. (Presenter- Debra Tacan)



## *From the Desk of Mrs. Gray... The Myth of Laziness*

With the first reporting period quickly approaching, students, parents and teachers alike are looking at marks and assessing the performance of students. For some students, this is a time of celebration and success. For others, it can be a stressful time, where phrases such as "not working up to potential" are heard. One of the reasons often cited as the cause of poor performance is laziness.

Mel Levine, in his book "The Myth of Laziness" challenges this notion that poor performance is caused by laziness. He explains that human beings are born with an innate desire to learn. Have you ever watched a baby learn? The look on an infant's face when they finally figure out that they can make adults repeatedly return the toys to them that they have thrown off their high chair is nothing but pure joy. When a child takes their first steps, they giggle and clap their hands. Even as children age, learning is intrinsically tied up in fun. It's fun to take apart the remote control and see what's inside. You can see pride beaming from the face of a child who has just learned to tie their shoes for the first time.

No one wakes up in the morning thinking "today, I want to be a failure." Why would any student who is capable of achieving good marks choose a path instead that's full of disappointment and nagging and consequences from home and school alike? If it's a basic human desire to succeed, why would people who appear capable not reach their potential?

Levine says that most often it is not personal shortcomings that cause failure. When someone doesn't achieve, it's more often an indication that a person is experiencing what he refers to as a "block".

Blocks can be things we are born with. It can just be that your brain is wired in a little bit of a different way, and that you may not learn in the same way as the majority of people. This is often the case with those people we know who were not successful in school, but who are very intelligent and successful in their lives.

Some blocks are caused by things that we have learned. For example, a common block is a lack of organizational skills. People aren't born knowing how to keep organized, and if they have not learned a system to keep themselves on top of multiple demands, no amount of intelligence will make up for this skill deficit.

Other common blocks are in the areas of memory, language (eg. putting your thoughts into words), stamina or attention, or fine motor (eg. The physical task of writing is challenging).

When students have a block that we are aware of, we don't label them as lazy. We don't call a child in a wheelchair "lazy" for not running in gym class. We don't call a student who is hard of hearing "lazy" for not listening to the teacher's lecture. But when the brain "block" is more hidden and difficult to understand, the label "lazy" is frequently applied to explain the lack of success.

So, if reporting period is causing you stress, don't write the problem off as laziness. There may be a block that is getting in the way of success that can be addressed.

## *Students Making a Difference projects planned...*

SMAD is a social justice group that educates students on global issues. SMAD will be having plenty of fundraisers in the hope of making a difference. The group will be frequently visiting the Samaritan house in Brandon throughout the year. We usually have weekly meetings held on Tuesday. New members are always welcome. If you would like to join, listen to the announcements for the date, and join us at the meeting.

This year SMAD is taking on two major projects, along with many minor ones. One of them is Kiva, an international microfinance program, in which we lend out money to entrepreneurs in developing countries. The goal is that they will end up getting a steady pay flow and eventually pay us back. When the money is returned, we will then lend it out to other entrepreneurs, and continue repeating this cycle.

The second project is We Day. We Day is a huge rally with thousands of students at the MTS centre, all wanting to make a difference. The main goal of the rally is to inspire all the students to come back to their school and begin to make a difference. Our school will be attending the rally on November 23. We will be taking 60 students. If you would like to attend the rally, you will have to fill out an application explaining why you want to go, and how you plan to make a difference. On Friday November 4 we will have a mini rally in our school to give you a better understanding of what will be going on. Mrs. Dalton will be giving a thorough explanation and showing videos from previous years.

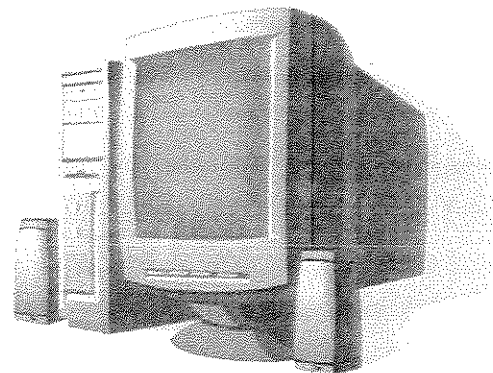
*Submitted by Breanna Waterman*

## ***Career Cruising...***

Mrs. Collyer and Mrs. Henry assisted the Grade 11 and 12 students log onto the Career Cruising program. This program helps students find the right career, explore education and training options, and build their own portfolio. Students have access to hundreds of detailed occupation profiles – everything from Actuary to Zoologist – including job descriptions, working conditions, education and training, earnings and job outlook. The *Career Matchmaker component* provides students with clear and helpful personal feedback. Career Matchmaker not only suggests suitable occupations, it also shows students how each of the occupations matches their personal and work interests. If students complete the *My Skills component*, Matchmaker will show them how their skills match up with those required for each occupation, helping students see which skills they may need to develop.

### **The Career Cruising program features:**

- » Interest Assessment
- » In-depth Occupation Profiles
- » Multimedia Informational Interviews
- » Comprehensive College, University, and Apprenticeship Information



Ask your son or daughter to take you on a tour of Career Cruising and show you what career options they are considering. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Collyer or Mrs. Henry with any questions about this helpful career exploration tool. This program can be found at [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com)

## ***Dates to remember...***

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| November 10, 9 a.m. – Remembrance Day Service              | November 21 – 25 – Gr. 11 Work Experience      |
| November 11 – Remembrance Day – No School                  | November 23 – WE DAY, Wpg.                     |
| Report Cards ready – November 14                           | November 24 – Jr. High's at "Annie" in Brandon |
| Parent Teacher Interviews – November 16                    | December 22 – Last Day of Class                |
| National Addictions Week – November 13-19                  | December 23 – January 6 – Christmas Break      |
| November 14 – Norbert Georget Addictions Week presentation | January 9 – Return to Classes                  |

## *Study Manitoba*

Students from around the world are choosing Manitoba as their preferred location to spend an academic program. Whether it be for a month or a full school year, they are excited about the calibre of education they are receiving and the friends they are making. The bonds they are forming with their homestay families and classmates are creating friendships that reach across miles and borders.

We are hosting a study tour of Colombian students from November 19 to December 17 and we want you to be a part of it! To find out more about Colombia and this program, please visit: <http://www.studymanitoba.ca/index.php/homestay-newsletters/>

Homestay families are the heart of our international student program. We are seeking families who are healthy in their lifestyle and active in their communities. All types of families are welcome to apply: families with children at home, no children at home, single parents, retired couples. If your family is excited about the opportunity of welcoming an international student into your home as they immerse themselves in the English language and Canadian culture, we encourage you to apply today. Visit our website at [www.studymanitoba.ca](http://www.studymanitoba.ca) to find out more about our programs and complete the online application or contact Rhonda Simon at 483-6252 or email [rhonda@studymanitoba.ca](mailto:rhonda@studymanitoba.ca)

## *“Take Our Kids to Work Day a success...”*

Take Our Kid to Work Day`` was a success. Students spent the day working with parents, family members or friends and had the opportunity to see what the workforce is like. Erickson had students in Clear Lake, Onanole, Shoal Lake, Erickson, Rolling River and Brandon. Thanks to all the businesses that took part in this program and to the supervisors that worked directly with our students.



# THE ONLY THING TOUGHER THAN BEING A TEENAGER IS HAVING TO PARENT ONE

The ADDICTIONS FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA Presents

## The **PARENT** INFORMATION PROGRAM

Do you want more information about adolescents and their chemical use? The Parent Information Program (PIP) was developed to **meet the needs of parents** struggling with their adolescent's use of alcohol or other drugs and to better equip parents to deal with this issue. **PIP is both educational and therapeutic.** It is **meant to provide parents with support and a safe place** for their questions and concerns.

This program will be held on **four (4) consecutive Wednesday evenings** from **7 pm – 9pm** at the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba Parkwood office located at **510 Frederick Street** (west entrance). This program runs biannually every year in November and April.

### SESSION SCHEDULE

November 2 2011 – Adolescents and their Use  
November 9 2011 – Levels of Involvement and Enabling  
November 16 2011 – Consequences and Communication  
November 23 2011 – Impact on Families & Self-Care

For more information or to register please call:

**Kristen Zegers** (Crocus Plains) 729-3939  
**Tessa Small** (Killarney, Neepawa, Carberry) 523-4696, ext.238  
**Julie Hockley, Supervisor** 729-3839

# Family Information Series

The Addictions Foundation of Manitoba is offering information sessions for anyone wishing to learn about the process of addiction and the effect this has on the other members of the family. The sessions are held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month** at **AFM Parkwood @ 510 Frederick St. in Brandon.**

If you are interested please feel free to attend, use the parking lot and entrance on the west side of the building.

*Building hope*

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1-866-767-3838  
Fax 204-729-3844

*Créer un climat d'espoir*

## 2011 Thursdays 7-9pm

September 15	The Addictive Process
September 22	The Impact on Families
October 13	The Addictive Process
October 20	The Impact on Families
November 10	The Addictive Process
November 17	The Impact on Families
December 8	The Addictive Process
December 15	The Impact on Families

## 2012 Thursdays 7-9pm

January 10	The Addictive Process
January 17	The Impact on Families
February 14	The Addictive Process
February 21	The Impact on Families
March 14	The Addictive Process
March 21	The Impact on Families
April 11	The Addictive Process
April 18	The Impact on Families
May 9	The Addictive Process
May 16	The Impact on Families
June 13	The Addictive Process
June 20	The Impact on Families

For more information phone 729 3838

