

Erickson Collegiate

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

WEDNESDAY, MARCH
16, 2011

From the Desk of Mr. Lee....

Hello, everyone! While it seems like winter has gone on forever, the school year is just racing by. The school continues to be a busy place – for students and staff.

Mrs. Frey, Mr. Sansom, and seventeen students are in their final preparations for their trip to Florida and NASA in April. They have got an exciting and jammed-packed agenda, but they are going to have a great time. What a fantastic opportunity for our students. Mrs. Griffiths, Owen and Alex's mom, and Mr. Wiley, Stephanie's dad, are also going along as chaperones for the trip.

The Minnedosa – Erickson hockey team capped off an excellent season by gaining a wildcard berth into the provincial hockey championships this past weekend in Morris. Thanks to Mike, Owen, Miles, Austin, and Mr. Sansom for representing our school and division so well.

About twenty of our Aboriginal students attended a student conference in Waywayseecappo last week. The focus of the session was suicide prevention. The students were hosted to tradition drum ceremonies, talks by elders, and a play that involved one actor interacting with others on a projected screen. Thanks to

Ms. McKay and Mr. Robertson for going on this trip.

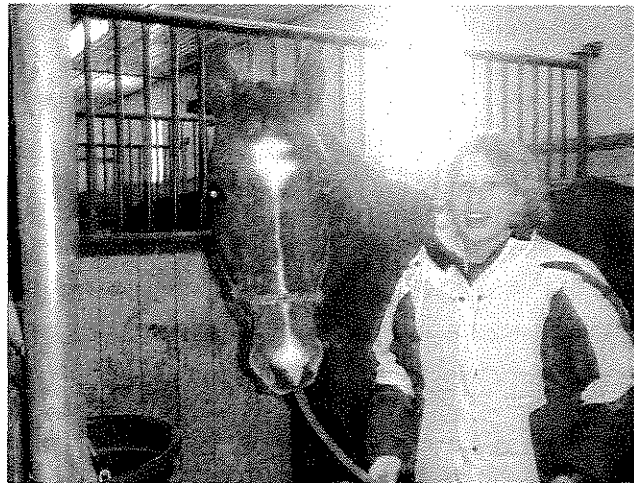
The Grade 10 students, along with Mrs. Soltys, Mrs. Collyer, and Mr. Mathews, took in the Career Symposium in Brandon. Mrs. Soltys also organized a presentation by Manitoba Hydro for the Grade 11's and the gentleman spoke about career and summer opportunities. The Grade 11 students are out on work experience March 16,

17, and 18; your son or daughter should have brought home a sheet from Mrs. Soltys explaining where your son or daughter is going on those days.

Basketball has concluded and I appreciate the time that Mr. Cornish and the boys spent improving throughout the season.

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ECI student takes to the stalls...



Pictured above, Megan Davis, and "Salty", one of the herd at Kim and Warren Boles' farm near Erickson. Under the supervision of Mrs. Ferguson, aided by her daughter, Laura, Megan has been gaining volunteer experience by helping do chores. Judging by the smile on Megan's face, this is definitely a worthwhile experience!

ERICKSON COLLEGIATE

Principal

Barry Lee

Vice-Principal

Tricia Robson

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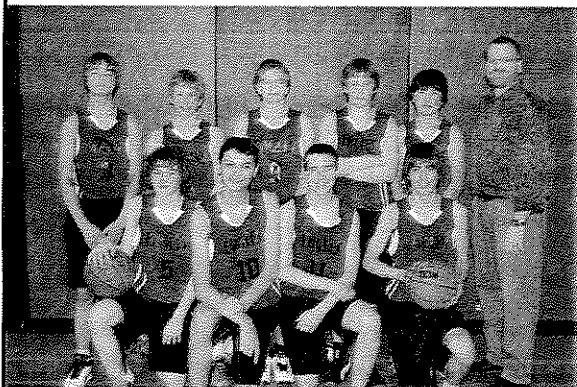
636-2383

Webpage:

**[http://
www.rrsd.mb.ca/
schools/
erick-
son_collegiate/
index.html](http://www.rrsd.mb.ca/schools/erickson_collegiate/index.html)**



From the desk of Mr. Lee...



Junior Varsity Basketball Team

Mr. Carefoot and the junior high team performed very well at the division tournament. The eight players on the team played four games in about three hours but despite being dogged tired, they still managed to come in second. Way to go 7 and 8's! The basketballs were barely put away and when badminton started. Mr. Waterman and Mrs. McLaughlin are coaching the team.

Ms Dalton and Mrs. Lindsay took a group of Grade 8 girls to a social justice conference at Strathclair and they really enjoyed themselves. The information I received was that our students were excellent and were leaders throughout the day. The students' interest in social justice issues and their leadership bodes well for our school in the future.

Mrs. Boyd and a group of Grade 11 and 12 French students were doing a unit on French music and they capped off their studies by going to Winnipeg and attending three different performances by French musicians. They also ate at a French restaurant! They had a great time.

On February 22, Mr. Carefoot, Ms Dalton, Mrs. Lindsay, Mrs. Preisinger, Mrs. McLaughlin, and parents – Mr. and Mrs. Maduke and Mrs. Popp, took the Grade 7 and 8 students to Festival de Voyageur in

Winnipeg. Although it was cold, the students and staff learned a great deal and had a fantastic time.

Mrs. Collyer and Mrs. Gray have created a social skills group that meets once a week at noon hour. Also, Mrs. Collyer and Mrs. Gray, in conjunction with Mrs. Hansen from the elementary school, have

started a mentorship program in which our students go to EES to work with younger students. It is an awesome opportunity for our students to grow and develop skills and to be good role models for the younger students.

Mr. Robertson and Mr. Waterman applied for and received three separate sustainable development grants. Mr. Robertson's proposal was a greener school initiative in which students would construct compost bins. Eventually the compost bins will be made available to the public, and it is also a goal of the project - as the students' construction skills improve – that bird feeders and bird houses will be constructed. Mr. Waterman's first project involves upgrades to the greenhouse by converting some existing benches to growing boxes. The boxes will be heated from below so the vegetables may be grown during the winter months and used by the school's Uncle Carl's Canteen. The final project involves taking students through all stages of growing bedding plants. The Horticulture students will order the seeds, prepare the seeds for germination, transplant them, and then sell them. The class project will contribute to the beautification of the Communities in Bloom program and the community garden at ECI. I appreciate the initiatives by Mr. Robertson and Waterman. Our students stand to benefit greatly – the experience of working together and contributing to community, improving their skills, and raising their awareness of local, global, and environmental issues.

If you attended last month's band concert, you were treated to an awesome display of talent. Mr. Wesley video-taped the performance and those DVD's are now ready to be picked up. If you did not sign up to receive a DVD but would like one, Mr. Wesley made some extras. If you would like a copy, please contact Mrs. Coulson via phone or email. The DVD's are \$20.00 and are of excellent quality.

At the February 28 in-service the superintendents from Evergreen School Division discussed assessment and the new provincial report card. As Rolling River continues its commitment to reviewing and implementing new assessment practices, it is reassuring to know that we are not unique in our struggles and it is also nice to know that we are further along the journey than other divisions. The new provincial report card is slated to be piloted by some schools (yet to be determined and not necessarily Rolling River schools) beginning this fall, with full implementation in September 2012.

Assistant Superintendent Marg Janssen and the trustees were here last week for a visit and lunch.

Interim reports go out this week for all Grade 9 students and those students in Grades 10, 11, and 12 that are having difficulty academically, socially, or behaviorally. There is no school on Friday, March 18 due to an in-school in-service. Staff will be continuing with the school goal that focuses on technology. The division has a new program – PowerSchool/ PowerTeacher – that teachers will be learning about.

The new system is replacing our previous one but parents and guardians will still have access to a parent portal.

Continued on Page 4

Grad 2011 fast approaching...

On March 1st the MAST representative Mr. Keith Thomas, who is in charge of Safegrad Manitoba, came and spoke to the Grade 12 parents. He addressed concerns and questions that parents had regarding Safegrad. The next Safegrad meeting is on April 4th at 7:00 in the Erickson Collegiate library, all parents and grads are requested to attend as each committee will be working on their assigned tasks that evening.

The next full class grad meeting is on Thursday, March 24th at 12:30 in Mrs. Robson's room. Students are to have their song selections there to preview so choices can be made. There will also be a vote about who is doing the various speeches at the banquet and the class guest speaker.

MINNEDOSA ADULT LEARNING CENTRE

High School Credit Courses

and

COMPUTER CLASSES



Contact Val Gawel at 867-2519

- 1. Intro to Computers.**
- 2. Advanced Computer Courses: Word or Excel.** (Prerequisite: Intro to Computers)

The computer courses start the week of April 4th, 2011 for 10 sessions. Spaces are limited. The cost is \$25 per computer course.

- 3. Other High School Credit Courses** can be started anytime.

****Note to Former Students **** Please help us to keep our costs down by returning all modules, books, and materials. Thank-you.

From the office of Mr. Lee...

Mrs. Coulson sent home a letter last week to all families explaining how to sign up. PowerSchool/ PowerTeacher still allow a parent or guardian to see their daughter or son's attendance and marks. If you need assistance, please call Mrs. Coulson at the school.

Teachers and administration have come up with a system that allows us to track and monitor students' incomplete assignments more effectively and efficiently. It is expected that all work assigned by teachers is completed by students on the due date. However, if a student does not complete an assignment, the teacher notifies administration through a program set up on the school's computer system.

Students will have three days to work with the teacher and to hand the assignment in. If a student still fails to complete the assignment, administration intervenes and the student loses their work periods or lunch hours until the assignment is complete. Teachers are also to notify parents and guardians if the assignment is not done within a week. So far this semester, the system is working quite well and we do not have many outstanding assignments.

Last week, we conducted a drug search. The dog identified two banks of lockers in which there may have been a trace of drugs. Mrs. Robson and I searched those lockers and we did not find any drugs. We spoke with the students and their parents/guardians. We encourage those students that do not have a lock on their locker to put one on. The administration is committed to keeping drugs out of the school, and students and parents are reminded that school administration may check a locker

and a student's person and belongings if there is reason to believe that there may be drugs in the locker or on the student's person or belongings.

Student Council is hosting a dance on Tuesday, March 22 from 7:00 – 11:00 p.m. We need parent/ guardian supervisors to assist on that night. If you are interested and can spare some time, please let me know.

Please plan to attend parent-teacher interviews on Wednesday, April 20 from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. and on Thursday, April 21 from 9:00 a.m. – noon. If you have questions about your child's education, please contact the teachers as soon as possible; do not wait until April.

Thanks for continued support and best wishes to those farming families with their Spring seeding.

Dates:

March 28 – April 1: Spring Break – no school

April 4: School resumes

April 11, 12, and 13: mid – term assessment

April 20: parent –teacher interviews

4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

**April 21: parent- teacher interviews
9:00 a.m. - noon**

April 22: Good Friday – no school

May 23: Victoria Day – no school

**June 15: Last classes for Grade 12
Pre Calculus, Biology, and Physics**

June 16: Grade 12 Pre Calculus Provincial Standards Exam 9:00 a.m.

**June 17: Grade 12 Biology Exam
9:00**

**June 17: Last day of classes for
Grades 9, 10, 11, Grade 12
(Saulteaux, French, Transactional
ELA)**

**June 20: Grade 12 Physics and IDS
Exams**

**June 20, 21, 22: Final Assessment
Week for Grade 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. Note:
there are no exemptions. All stu-
dents must write the final assess-
ment**

**June 24: Graduation Ceremony –
3:00 p.m. (at ECI)**

**Graduation Banquet – 6:00 p.m. (at
Erickson Rink)**

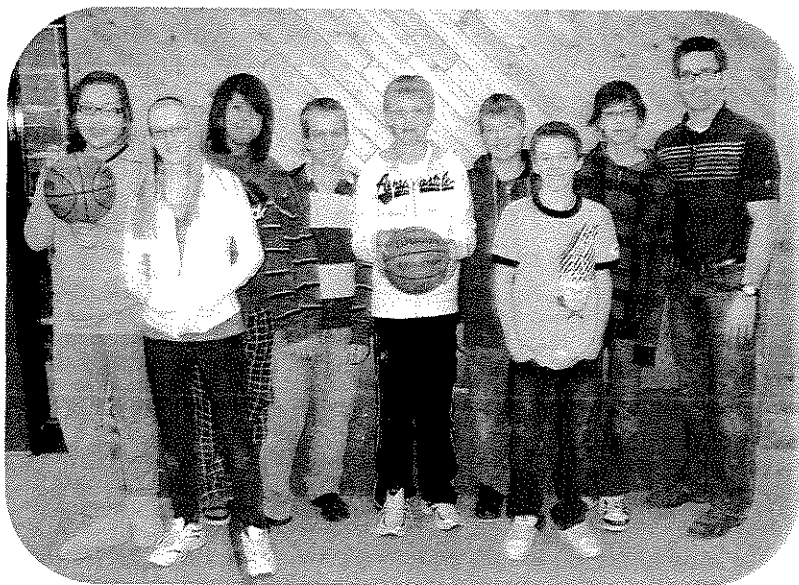
**June 28: Student Recognition Eve-
ning (for students in Grades 7 – 12)**

June 29, 30: Pick up Report Cards



The Space Education Committee recently held a successful lasagna dinner event as a fundraiser for the upcoming trip to Florida. Magician Dean Gunnarson provided much appreciated entertainment.

Junior High Basketball does well at tournament



Throughout January and February the Junior High basketball team took part in practices and a few games in preparation for the Junior High Divisional Tournament that took place on March 9th. Leading up to the divisional tournament the Junior High Eagles played exhibition games against Onanole and Minnedosa. At the divisional tournament in Minnedosa the team lost their first game against Tanners and won their second game against Rapid City. The Junior High Eagles managed to finish second in their pool and this resulted in a rematch against Tanners Crossing to see who would play Forrest in the finals. The Junior High Eagles battled hard and managed to beat Tanners in the semi which advanced them to the finals. In the finals The Forrest team was too much for the tired group from Erickson. The ECI Junior High Eagles came second in the A division of the Divisional tournament. A special thank you to Owen Griffiths and Mathew Wozney for helping out with the team. Thanks to Mr. Carefoot for coaching!



On Tuesday, February 22, The Grade 7 and 8's had the opportunity to go to Winnipeg and take part in Festival du Voyageur. The students took part in many different activities including snow shoeing, visiting Fort Gibraltar, and learning how the Fur Trade worked. Special thank you to Dave Maduke, Terry Maduke and Adele Popp for coming on the trip as chaperones.

Connect Before You Correct

By Rebecca Gray,
Behaviour Specialist

Relationships are tricky. Whether it's a friendship, romantic relationship, parent and youth, or teacher and student, we have all experienced those situations where we end up in a conflict over something incredibly small that turned into a big fight. When you step back, it can be confusing. After all, you care about each other, and both of you are reasonable people. So why does this happen?

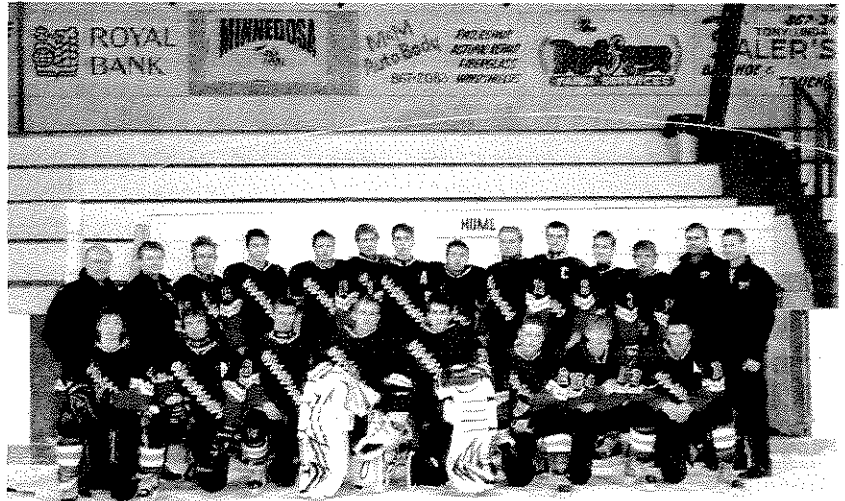
It all comes down to the way our brains are wired. In order to survive the complex world in which we live, humans must be part of a social group. As the old saying goes, "No man is an island", and it is literally true. Because of this, our brains are designed to help us connect with other people. You can see this instinct kick into action when someone brings a new baby into a room and everyone starts "goo-ing" and making faces at the baby to try to get it to respond. It's like we can't help acting like idiots to get the baby to smile – and really, that is not far from the truth!

The funny thing is, as we get older, other things can get in the way of our instincts. Parents and teachers are told to put kids in time-out when they are acting out, or to ignore them. A teen who feels wronged stops taking her friend's phone calls to "teach her that she can't get away with treating me like that." This idea that we must push people away when they have done something wrong is at the crux of why so many relationships that are important to us can be so difficult to manage sometimes. On top of this, when we are upset about something, we tend to get focused on what the other person has done, instead of recognizing that all problems at their core are problems of relationship. *Continued on Page 7*

Making The Grade

On Wednesday, March 9, five students were chosen to attend a conference in Strathclair called Making the Grade: Boys and Girls in the Global Classroom. It was about social justice and equity, and how the gender difference can affect many children educationally in developing and under developed countries. The students that attended the conference were Dorothy Courchene, Diana Dawson, Skye Rees, Kyra Rattlesnake and Vanessa Lariviere. Over the course of the day, we learned about different topics such as what kinds of different barriers that keep children, (mostly girls), from pursuing their educational goals, public speaking, and leadership. We also learned to organize and plan our own event that can help make a difference. At the end of the day, we took part in our choice of creative workshop, and for the five of us, it was theatre. The conference was inspiring as well as encouraging. We learned how WE as kids in developed countries can assist in helping children in a number of unfortunate places in the world. Expect to see us do something to make a difference. This is only the beginning!

High School Hockey season comes to a close



ECI/MCI High School hockey team lost in the North Division final against Neepawa 2 games to 0. Based on the very successful season that the team had, a decision was made to apply for the wildcard to enter the provincial tournament in Morris. The application was approved.

The team travelled to Morris and played their first game against the home team, losing 4 – 1. The next game was against Killarney. After a hard fought game the team came up short 4 – 3. The team played in the consolation final against Glenboro-Carberry losing 3 – 1. The team was competitive in all games and the Provincials were a nice finished to a very successful season.

Connect before you correct.... Continued from Page 5

And so, it starts.... A dad tells his son, "If you don't clean your room, you will be grounded", and the teen starts yelling that dad's always on his back. A daughter asks her mom to drive her to her friend's place, and mom angrily responds, "Do I look like a taxi-service?" The teacher tells a student to take off his hat in the school, and the student grumbles about teachers on powertrips. A girl confronts her boyfriend about how he's been ditching her to spend time with his buddies, and he feels smothered.

The trick is in "Connecting before Correcting"! Unless we feel connected to someone, our instincts direct us to not listen to what others are saying. It's part of that survival instinct – if we trusted everyone, we could get hurt, so instead we trust those we feel connected to. If dad has a conversation with his child about how his day went, and they make plans together to watch the hockey

game tonight, when the cleaning of the room is mentioned, the son probably won't feel so irritated. If the daughter hangs out with mom in the kitchen while they make supper together and they share about their respective days, giving a ride later doesn't seem like such a hardship. If the student feels like the teacher cares about him, and is genuinely interested in him, taking off the hat becomes no big deal. If the girl shows understanding about how difficult it is to find time in the day to fit in "private time" with "friend time", her boyfriend will feel understood instead of angry.

If we connect with people before we started talking about messy rooms, rides, taking off hats, or how we are feeling ignored, it's amazing how differently those interactions play out!

Based on the book "Hold On To Your Kids" by Gordon Neufeld and Gabor Mate

Senior French heads to Winnipeg....

On February 23rd, the Grade 11/12 French class traveled to Winnipeg for a whirlwind, jam-packed, out-of-this-world musical ride. Three concerts and a fabulous supper at Le Garage Café fit perfectly into our unit on Francophone musicians.

The first concert was the teen show at Festival de Voyageur. Four hundred students were packed into the auditorium at Le Collège St. Boniface to listen to a spirited rock band from Drumondville, Québec. They kept a lively pace and were a great way to start the day. We finished our Festival de Voyageur experience with a tour of the ice sculptures and a stick of the Festival's signature snow taffy (heated maple syrup poured on the snow and rolled onto a popsicle stick).

While we waited for the second concert, we took in the sights, sounds and shopping on Provencher Boulevard. French bookstores (À la Page Librairie), French jewelry (Bijou) and French food (Le Garage Café) were all part of the tour. Le Garage Café was offering specials for the Festival de Voyageur but most of us opted for a Quebecois classic, poutine. I was so proud of the students who all ordered in French and participated in a few French conversations around the table.

After supper we walked down to the Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain for a CD launch of Raphael Freynet. Raphael is originally from Winnipeg but currently lives in Edmonton, so the crowd was small but supportive. The music ranged from ballads to some fast pop tunes. The band played a real variety of instruments including the piano, trumpet and trombone.

By the time we reached our third destination, I was a bit concerned we would be tired of the music scene but the last musicians didn't give us any time to worry about overload. The last concert was produced by CBC and was recorded live for CBC Radio Two. Four incredible francophone artists were brought together to share their music with each other and the audience. The results were astounding; we were witness to beautiful duets, harmonies with all four artists and some spectacular solos.

Tired and overwhelmed by the excitement, ten students and two worn-out chaperones headed for home. As I drifted in and out of sleep on that bumpy bus ride, I realized it is days like this that teachers live for. Those ten students took their learning outside a classroom to the real world – deftly navigating a second language and gaining a real appreciation for 'la musique'.

Congratulations to DALE NEEPIN

The recent First
Place winner of The
Royal
Canadian Legion
Zone #24

Poster and Literary
Competition

For his black and
white poster entry
at the senior level!

SPRING HAS SPRUNG! OR ALMOST, and student council has plans to keep us all busy!

The Spring Dance will be held Tuesday, March 22nd from 7-11pm at the school. There will be a \$5 door fee, as well as Glow Sticks, Popcorn, Drinks, and Hot Dogs for sale. It is a semi-formal so you can come dressed up if you like! **Parent Chaperones are necessary for this dance to occur; please contact the school if you are able to lend your time.**

We are also planning a fun St. Patrick's Day activity involving all students on Thursday including a little friendly competition. We ask that all students cooperate and follow the rules to the best of their ability. If participation is high we will work up a school wide Easter Egg Hunt for after Spring Break.

With the strange winter of thawing and freezing we have had the Outdoor Ice Rink was sadly not a success. We have instead decided to use this money to fix up our back patio and improve the front lawn, through some paint, lumber, and a little elbow grease. Any parents willing to donate their time or any outdoor furniture (i.e. patio table, benches, lounge chairs, etc.) it would be greatly appreciated!

If it warms up soon and the patio gets completed with time to spare we are hoping to show of our new yard and put on a Community Carnival for the whole family!

Watch for this in newsletters to come!

Have a Safe and Happy Spring Break,

Ashley-Anne & The Student Council Team



ROLLING RIVER SCHOOL DIVISION PROPOSED 2011 / 2012 BUDGET



The Division continues to focus on maintaining quality educational programs to meet the needs of all students in a safe and positive environment. When developing the 2011-2012 proposed budget, the Board of Trustees reviewed programs, staffing levels, technology needs, building maintenance priorities and the school bus replacement plan and considered the long range impact on the Division of continued declining enrollment.

Expenditures: The proposed budget provides moderate enhancements to programming. Salaries and benefits make up approximately 80% of the expenditure budget. The Division continues to face infrastructure challenges related to maintaining a school bus transportation fleet, aging school buildings and technology.

Revenue: The Province of Manitoba has provided a guarantee of funding at 2.2% above the actual Funding for Schools Support for 2010/2011. A decrease in other revenue sources is expected.

Tax Incentive Grant (TIG):

The Tax Incentive Grant has been made available to Schools Divisions in each of the past three funding years. The TIG is designed to encourage school divisions to maintain tax levies at the real rate of assessment growth of the prior year.

Proposed 2011/2012: The Division is eligible for a 2011 TIG of \$692,296. The 2010 TIG of \$763,891 is higher than the 2011 TIG. The Division is eligible to continue to receive the 2010 TIG if it does not accept the 2011 TIG. The Division will decline the 2011 TIG.

School Property Taxes, Special Levy, and Mill Rate:

The Rolling River School Division portioned assessment increased overall by 2.2% with specific percentage changes from the 2010 assessment as follows:
Residential 2.7% Farm (-0.9%) Commercial 3.7%

The mill rate will increase by 0.1 mills from 16.7 mills (2010) to 16.8 mills (2011).

The increase from the 2010 Special Levy to the Special Levy (the School Division Education Property Tax) will be 2.8%.

Since the overall portioned assessment (the assessed tax base) in the Rolling River School Division increased by 2.2% from 2010 to 2011, the effect of reassessment on individual properties will be as follows:

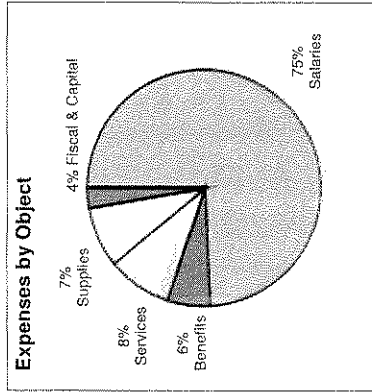
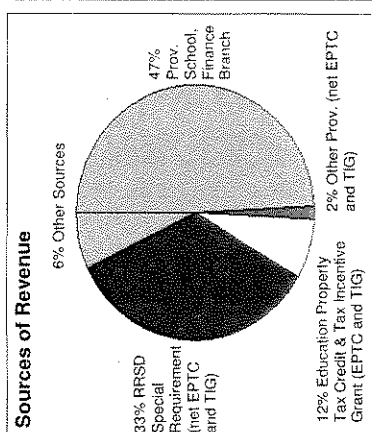
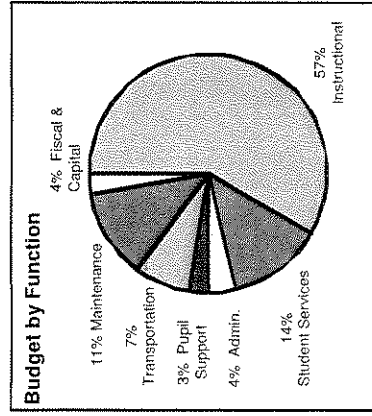
- If a property's assessed value for 2011 has not changed from 2010, the property owner will pay an increase of approximately 0.5% in education property taxes over 2010.
- If a property's assessed value for 2011 increased by 2.2% from 2010, the property owner will pay an increase of approximately 2.8% in education property taxes.

The chart below illustrates the approximate annual increase in Rolling River School Division taxes for properties valued at \$100,000 in 2010.

Approximate Annual RRSd School Tax Increase		
% increased in assessed value of property since 2010	Residential \$4.12	Farmland \$2.38
0%	Residential \$20.75	Farmland \$11.99
2.2%	Commercial \$5.96	Commercial \$29.97

The Education Support Levy (ESL) is the Provincial Education Property Tax. In 2010, the ESL was 16.08 mills. The ESL only applies to Commercial property. It does not apply to farmland or residential property. Any adjustments to ESL Mill rate for 2011 are not known at this time. The level of the ESL Mill will impact the total education property taxes paid on commercial property.

In 2011 Farmland property owners are eligible for a Provincial rebate of 75% of the school property taxes paid.



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS: Changes from 2010-2011 Budget to 2011-2012 PROPOSED BUDGET

REVENUE

- Provincial Education funding increases 2.2% from 10/11 Budget
- Other Sources Revenue decrease by (-1.0%)
- Special Requirement increases 4.2%

EXPENDITURE

- Expenditures increase 2.9% from 10/11 Budget
- Increased Speech Language Educational Assistant support
- Expand Reading Recovery program to 2 additional schools
- Implement a pilot Equine program
- Increase Professional Development budget for instructional staff with a focus on technology, inquiry based learning, assessment, curriculum, student engagement, and outcome based instruction
- Continue to upgrade computer technology equipment including computer network servers
- Continue to expand the Blended Approach to Teaching and Learning (BATL) project – additional 6 classrooms.
- Implement Power School Student Information system at Elementary schools
- Development of a Wide Area Network for technology connectivity and to support Distance Education within the Division (*finance over 10 years*)
- Water and Sewer upgrade at Elton Collegiate (*finance over 5 years*)
- Increase budget for minor capital renovations in schools
- Maintain SuccessMaker program
- Maintain vehicle replacement budget
- Purchase two school buses
- Decrease of 0.5 FTE Teacher positions from 10/11 Budget
- Overall decrease of funded special needs students (*decrease of 11.5 FTE Level II students and increase of 1 FTE Level III student*)

The Provincial Education Property Tax Credit (EPTC) of \$650,000 is applied on tax notices to reduce residential property owner's school taxes.

Property Tax	2010	Proposed 2011	% Change
RRSD Special Levy	\$8,504,178	\$8,744,604	2.8%
Portioned Assessment	\$509,275,800	\$520,523,070	2.2%
RRSD Mill (Tax) Rate	16.70	16.80	0.5%

REVENUE	Budget 2010-2011	Proposed Budget 2011-2012	% Increase (Decrease)
Provincial Education	\$9,935,301	\$10,152,977	2.2%
Other Provincial (net EPTC)	\$338,800	\$343,500	1.4%
Ed. Prop. Tax Credit (EPTC)	\$1,747,696	\$1,779,607	1.8%
Tax Incentive Grant (TIG)	\$763,891	\$763,891	0.0%
Special Requirement	\$6,797,107	\$7,156,915	5.3%
Other Sources	\$1,406,850	\$1,393,100	(-1.0%)
Total Revenue	\$20,989,645	\$21,589,990	2.9%
EXPENDITURE	Budget 2010-2011	Proposed Budget 2011-2012	% Increase (Decrease)
Instructional	\$11,955,995	\$12,209,265	2.1%
Student Services	\$3,063,935	\$3,079,505	0.5%
Community Education	\$22,570	\$23,705	5.0%
Business Admin.	\$869,125	\$895,885	3.1%
Pupil Support	\$552,475	\$612,970	10.9%
Transportation	\$1,455,985	\$1,519,180	4.3%
Maintenance	\$2,296,060	\$2,399,980	4.5%
Fiscal/Capital	\$773,500	\$849,500	9.8%
Total Expenditure	\$20,989,645	\$21,589,990	2.9%

A presentation on the 2011-2012 Budget will be made at Jamer's Crossing School, Minnedosa at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2, 2011. Interested individuals or representatives of groups are invited to attend. The Board of Trustees will approve the 2011-2012 Budget at the Board meeting scheduled for March 9, 2011.

March 2011

Dear Parents and Legal Guardians,

We are pleased to announce that the Microsoft Student Select Program is now available to provide savings on your child's software needs. This has been done in partnership between MERLIN, Microsoft, Acrodex, e-academy Inc. This program offers significant discounts on popular titles like:

Office for Mac 2011	\$95.00	Retail: \$149.99
Office Professional 2010	\$86.00	Retail: \$499.99
Windows 7 Professional	\$92.85	Retail: \$199.99
Microsoft Visio Professional 2010	\$96.97	Retail: \$319.99
And more....		

How to take advantage of these savings:

1. Go to <http://merlin.onthehub.com> and register by creating a student account with your child's school address email address. Choose the option 'I have an institutional issued e-mail address'
2. If your child does not have a division email address, we are able to provide you with a unique registration code that will allow you to register. Please contact elmsdirect@e-academy.com.

Sincerely,

Microsoft acrodex





AFM ANNOUNCES WEBSITE CONTEST

Dear School,

The Addictions Foundation of Manitoba has launched a new website geared towards youth and we need your help to make it better!

Our website www.youthgamblingfacts.ca is an educational website designed to show young people how gambling really works, provide information about problem gambling and helping resources, as well as activities to try out.

The purpose of the contest is to get as much creative feedback as possible from youth aged 14-20 years old on how to improve the website. Youth today are very knowledgeable when it comes to technology and website design and we are asking them to share their ideas with us before April 30th 2011.

PRIZES:

- First prize – Apple 13” MacBook Pro (approx. value \$1250)
- Second prize – 32 GB Apple iPad (approx. value \$650)
- Third prize – 32 GB Apple iTouch (approx. value \$320)
- Random draw of all entries – 16 GB Apple Nano (approx. value \$160)

How to Enter:

- Visit www.youthgamblingfacts.ca
- Review the website and make suggestions as to how to improve the site.
- Fill out the entry form. One entry per person but unlimited, creative suggestions permitted!

*See contest rules for details

See you at youthgamblingfacts.ca!!

Sincerely,

Ken Surovy
 Box 414, Minnedosa Court House
 Minnedosa, Manitoba
 R0J 1E0
 (204) 867-6100

ADDICTIONS
 FOUNDATION
 OF MANITOBA
 FONDATION MANITOBAINE
 DE LUTTE CONTRE
 LES DÉPENDANCES

Provincial Administration
 1031 Portage Avenue
 Winnipeg, MB R3G 0R8
 (204) 944-6200
 Fax (204) 786-7768

Northern Region
 23 Nickel Road
 Thompson, MB R8N 0Y4
 (204) 677-7300
 Fax (204) 677-7328

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 1031 Portage Avenue
 Winnipeg, MB R3G 0R8
 (204) 944-6200
 Fax (204) 779-9165

Western Region
 510 Frederick Street
 Brandon, MB R7A 6Z4
 (204) 729-3838
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www.afm.mb.ca



Building Hope

Risks

Recommended Strategies

- 1** Sexual offenders targeting online games that have chat rooms including interactive web games, computer and console games.



- Stay involved and know the games your child is playing.
- Pay particular attention to games that incorporate a chat component – caution should be used before permitting your child to engage in chat with their opponent(s).
- Reinforce the concept of keeping personal information private.
- Some gaming consoles come with built in parental controls – activate this feature if available.
- Pay attention to what features come with your gaming console. For example, you may not want to give your child the ability to voice chat with others.

- 2** Sexual offenders hijacking instant messaging accounts and coercing children to send nude or partially clothed images of themselves. Between 2005 and 2006, reports of this threat doubled.

- Follow computer best practices such as installing anti-virus programs, firewalls, and keeping your software up to date.
- Stress the importance of using appropriate passwords for instant messaging accounts. Obvious passwords are an easy way for others to gain access and control over accounts.
- Never enter your password into anything other than your IM program. Teach your child to check with you if unsure about the login area they are being asked to sign into.
- As the parent/guardian, you should be the only ones that knows your child's password.

- 3** Sexual offenders using 3D animated characters, referred to as Avatars, to engage youth in online conversations.



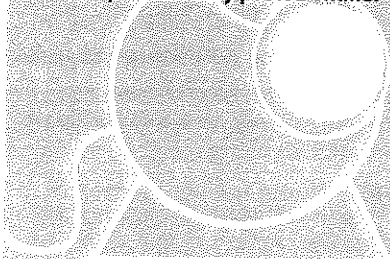
- Be aware of the IM/game program your child uses and any associated characters they have adopted to represent themselves (avatar).
- Ensure your child's avatar is age appropriate and non-descriptive. Recognize that avatars don't have to represent a person and can be used to mislead children/youth.
- Ensure they always get your permission before sharing personal information or accepting anything. Teach them what is meant by personal information and where on the Internet they may be asked for it.
- Be aware of all the contact names on your child's IM list and set the expectation that you must approve any new contacts added.

- 4** Sexual offenders targeting social networking sites where children and youth are encouraged to create online diaries and connect with new people.



- Review the social networking sites that your child visits and ensure that their online diary, profile, or photos do not contain identifying information.
- Be aware that your child can be exposed to inappropriate content as there is little or no moderation of content on social networking sites.
- Most social networking sites are designed for age 13 and up but do not require age verification to become a member. It is therefore very easy for young children to join.

- 5** Youth sending nude images to peers without understanding the images could be forwarded or permanently posted online.



- Reinforce the public nature of the Internet and make sure your child understands that you will monitor their online activity.
- Explain where it is appropriate for them to have privacy: confiding in close friends face-to-face, writing in a journal, private space in their bedroom (there is no privacy on the Internet).
- Monitor use of webcams, cell phones, posting and exchanging pictures online.
- Explain that once a picture is sent online they lose control of what is done with it (it may never be completely removed from the Internet).
- Monitor increased independence. Even though adolescents can appear as though they can "handle" things, they actually require and unconsciously seek adult guidance and supervision.

Cybertip.ca is partly funded by the Government of Canada under the national strategy to protect children from online sexual exploitation. For more information, please visit www.cybertip.ca.

Please make copies and post on your Community Bulletin Board

CELEBRATE CREATIVITY. HERITAGE. LEGACY.



CANADIAN ABORIGINAL WRITING & ARTS CHALLENGE



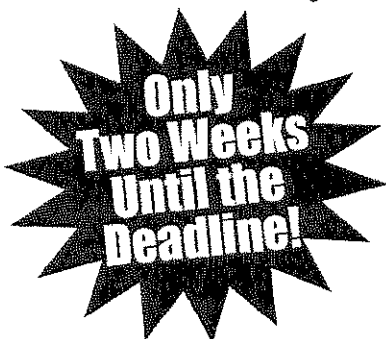
Stephanie Wood
2010 1st Place Winner
Age category 14-18
North Vancouver, BC
Squamish Nation



Nathan Adler
2010 1st Place Winner
Age category 19-29
Orangeville, ON
Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation

Are you between the ages of 14-29?
Showcase your creativity and explore your heritage.

WIN UP TO \$2,000 & OTHER GREAT PRIZES!



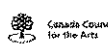
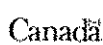
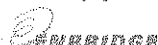
For details and contest deadlines:
www.GoToInfo.ca/WritingandArts
1.866.538.4704

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Scholarship Opportunities

W. Garfield Weston Awards

-recognizes and supports the outstanding *college*-bound student who is passionate about his or her field of study, curious, courageous, willing to try new things

Eligible Programs:

-Lead to a diploma or an applied degree (university transfer programs leading to university baccalaureate degrees are not eligible, nor are post-graduate certificate programs).

-Are full time (100% course load) and least 16 months in length

-Must be entering first year of full time college program

Deadline: March 29th, 2011

***See Mrs. Collyer for applications**

Business Council of Manitoba Aboriginal Education Awards

-Awards up to a maximum of \$3000 for university and \$1500 for college students

-must be of Aboriginal ancestry

-must plan to attend a Manitoba public post secondary institution in any discipline (trades, business, general studies, science etc) in the 2011/12 year

-must maintain a full time status (60% course load)

Deadline: March 30, 2011

***See Mrs. Collyer for applications**

University of Manitoba Centennial Entrance Scholarship

-Awards of \$2000

-must be pursuing a degree or diploma in the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences at University of Manitoba

-has achieved a minimum average of %75 on those courses considered for admission

-must provide a brief letter outlining the student's vision for rural Manitoba and her or his career goals in the agri-food and rural economy sectors

Deadline: April 8, 2011

***Applications available on- line at**

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/afs/awards/>