



Middle News

February
2012

École William McDonald

Message From Acting Administrator Lynn Lalonde

As all of you know, I am not the principal here, just 'Acting' for a short time. Mrs. Simmons is in Ontario saying good-bye to her father. Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she passes through this difficult time and we expect her back soon.

While we say "good-bye" to January 2012, we say "hello" a new teacher here at William McDonald School. Danielle Payne joins us for four mornings a week to teach Math and Language Arts to a group of students from the 8A class.

January has been a busy and productive month. Our morning wake-ups continue to supply students with an active and social beginning to their day providing increased attentiveness and focus in the classroom. William McDonald students had plenty of opportunity to learn out of the classroom this month. Our grade 7 and 8 classes attended an inspiring presentation put on by Rick Hansen at Mildred Hall School.

As a result our school has registered to become a 'Rick Hansen' school and will be receiving, for free, many benefits for our students. (More information will follow). The two grade 7 classes participated in our District Aboriginal Culture Camps this month. Students were bused to

Dettah and had an opportunity for hands-on learning at a Fish Camp. Our own Camp Akaitcho students were treated with beautiful weather for their full day of camp site preparation. The snow is now piled and waiting to be turned into quinzee's. NACC put on a production of "Flying Bob - The One Man Circus" and our school was fortunate to view this amazing performance. The English students came back to school talking about his fantastic feats. The French Immersion students, however, did not come back to school after the NACC performance. Instead, they were dropped off at J.H. Sissons School for the opportunity to have lunch together and then witness a musical performance by Violon Dingué.

The end of the month arrived all too soon and the next thing we knew we were supervising the monthly school dance. Thank you to the Me to We parents who came out to help supervise. Although the dance was not well attended, the ones who were here had a good time.

The NWTTA has launched their "Thank You For Making A Difference" campaign. The forms are available on-line on their website, in the newspaper and here in the office. Parents and guardians, if an educator has made a positive impact on your life, this is your chance to let them know. These forms are not just for current students. Speaking of forms, the School Travel Planning Committee has distributed a follow up survey for parents regarding safe travel to and from school. Please take a moment, fill this out and send it back to school with your child.

February promises to be another fun-filled and eventful place here at William McDonald. Please check the calendar at the end of this newsletter for upcoming events, including photo retakes, the Junior Cager Basketball Tournament and dance, School Travel Planning's Winter Challenges, report cards and, all the students' favourite, our second round of exploratories. Until next month, stay warm and stay safe.

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Camp Akaitcho Update

Planning for Camp Akaitcho is well underway. Students have been to the site on one occasion so far. Quinzee's have been prepared and ready for digging out.

Students will be going to the site for exploratories to finalize all preparations for the camp in March.

This year all grade 6 students will get a chance to attend the camp during day trips to see the exciting activities that happen.

Stay tuned!



Above: Last years Camp A group poses with the camp's trailer.

Below: A traditional Quinzee being built.



Me to We Update

Raffle sales should be winding down in the next couple of weeks in anticipation of the draw which will be happening on February 14, 2012 and will include a presentation at the board office that your are invited to attend. Once this fundraiser is complete the group will start focusing on it's other goals, which include a joint venture with École Sir John High School which will happen during their week long Exploratory.



CPF *Canadian Parents for French*

YK1 Chapter

Canadian Parents for French - YK1 Chapter is proud to contribute \$1,700 to the Grade 8 French Immersion trip to Quebec City.

The Canadian Parents for French - YK1 Chapter is looking for Board members. The Board meets approximately eight times during the school year, so it is not a huge time commitment. Board members decide on how to promote French second language learning to children and families in the YK1 school community, which includes awarding monies to extra-curricular activity proposals received from schools, parents and students.

Check our website for details on:

upcoming events like our last FREE family swims on Feb 5 from 1-3 pm (the last of our series of 5 free swims). Watch for us at the Snow King Castle and the Youth Film Festival.

CPF's Concours d'Art Oratoire (French public speaking competition in French) in April. It's a great experience with wonderful prizes. Students in any YK1 French program (Intensive, Enhanced, Core and Immersion French) in middle and high school are encouraged to participate.

membership details. We support your child's school so many extra-curricular activities can be offered. Becoming a member ensures Canadian Parents for French continues to grow, receive funding and support your school.

For more information about CPF or the YK1 Chapter, please visit our websites at cpfnwt.ca or cpf.ca. Interested in supporting French programs? Questions? Contact Madelon Haener at madurb78@ssimicro.com or 873-3503.



Sir John Franklin High School

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February 2nd, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please accept this invitation to attend our Parent Information Evening at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 15th, 2012 at École Sir John Franklin High School. This Parent Information Evening is designed to provide information about our school to the parents of children moving from Grade 8 into Grade 9, and to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Staff and student representatives will be on hand to present information about our school program as well as the exciting extra-curricular and club activities coming up in the next year.

École Sir John Franklin High School is a dual-track school offering courses in French and English for students to excel in academics, the trades, athletics and fine arts. To help with your child's move into high school, our Transitions Liaison Counselor, Mrs. Doreen Cleary, meets with all the students when they are in Grade 8 and provides a familiar face to them when they arrive at our school for Grade 9.

I hope that you will join me and the teachers and staff at Sir John for what I know will be an enjoyable and informative evening.

Sincerely,

Ed Lippert, Principal

Attention NWT Students (K-12)
Are there educators in your school to whom you'd like to say...

Thank You

for making a difference!

Who? How do they make a difference?

Where do they work?

Tell us about them!

WIN PRIZES

- ✓ Students: Laptop computers
- ✓ Educators: Flights for two NWT to Edmonton



Winners will be notified after the draws on February 24, 2012

DEADLINE FEBRUARY 10, 2012

Submit nominations
TO YOUR SCHOOL
c/o Thank You for Making a Difference

Use this form or compose your own letter. To ensure winners can be identified, please include ALL requested information.

ENTRY FORM

*Electronic submission online at:
www.nwta.nt.ca

Educator's FIRST Name: _____

Educator's LAST Name: _____

Grade: _____

Educator's SCHOOL: _____

Community: _____

YOUR Comments: _____

YOUR Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

YOUR School: _____

NOTE: this form will be passed on to the person you nominate and excerpts may be published.



Northwest Territories
Teachers' Association
www.nwta.nt.ca



Northwest Territories Education, Culture and Employment

February/février 2012

| SUNDAY/ DIMANCHE | MONDAY/LUNDI | TUESDAY/MARDI | WEDNESDAY/ MERCREDI | THURSDAY/JEUDI | FRIDAY/VENDREDI | SATURDAY/SAMEDI |
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Correction

A letter went home stating that the date of the Parent Information Night as February 8th. The new date is February 15th at 7:00pm. See the revised letter on page 4.

Parent Teacher Interviews

If you would like to book a Parent Teacher Interview with any of your child's teachers please contact the school at 873-5814 or email: liz.west@yk1.nt.ca.

Coaches Corner MS Basketball

This years Jr. Basketball Cager will run February 17-19th at many schools in Yellowknife. École William McDonald Middle School will be hosting the grade 6 boys division. Students that are playing are asked to get their player fees in ASAP and schedules for all Cager venues will be released by Monday, February 13th. For more information about NT Basketball go to <http://www.bnwt.ca/>



Students participating in the Morning Wake-Up program