

NIVERVILLE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

<http://nci.hsd.ca>

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2010



I Love to Read!



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

by Michael Koester

If you want your children to have a good shake at succeeding in life, the best thing to do is to encourage them to read. Reading is one skill that's essential in all areas of achievement. Here are a few tips:

- Read aloud to your children often. Start reading to your children when they are babies, and keep reading as they grow up. Talk with your children about what you read. Encourage them to ask questions and to predict what will come next.
- Encourage your children to read on their own. Children who spend at least 30 minutes a day reading for fun develop the skills to be better readers at school.
- Set aside quiet time for family reading. Some families even enjoy reading aloud to each other, with each family member choosing a book, story, poem, or article to read to the others. Helping children become--and remain--readers is the single most important thing that parents and families can do to help their children succeed in school and in life.
- Buy a dictionary and start the "let's look it up" habit.
- Make writing materials, such as crayons, pencils, and paper, available.
- Visit the library often. Begin making weekly trips to a library. See that they get their own library card as soon as possible.
- Ask family members and friends to consider giving your children books and magazine subscriptions as gifts for birthdays or other special occasions. Set aside a special place for your children to keep their own library of books.



NEWSLETTER

A newsletter will be prepared each month and sent home with students. Prefer to receive the newsletter in the mail? Contact the school office at 388-4731. For a nominal fee your name will be added to our mailing list.

Inserts for the 2009 Yearbook are in!

If you purchased a yearbook last year, you may pick up your insert from Mrs. Nickel in the library.

Mrs. Nickel is also taking orders for the 2010 yearbook. Once again, a June release!
\$30 UNTIL SPRING BREAK! (\$35 after...)
This year, in Full Colour!

TRUSTEE'S MESSAGE

by Ruby Wiens

February... Be Inspired!

The Olympic Creed states: "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered, but to have fought well."

The flame of the Olympic Torch lit up the city of Steinbach where it made an official relay stop in January. Many of our Hanover School Division students from the surrounding area were thrilled to be a part of the exciting festivities. Though the torch didn't quite make it to Niverville, I have no doubt that the Olympian spirit of hope and sportsmanship did!



Here in our schools and our community we'll be cheering on our Canadian athletes this month, so get yourselves some red mittens to show support for the incredible efforts of our Canadian team and... 'BELIEVE'!

PUBLIC BUDGET MEETING

Hanover School Board invites Parent Councils, School Administrators and other interested public stakeholders to attend a School Board Information Session regarding the 2010/2011 Budget.

TIME: Thursday, February 25th, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: HSD Office - 5 Chrysler Gate, Steinbach

PARENT-STUDENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Teacher interview requests for grades 7 - 9 will be mailed out. Parents may also book their Parent-Student-Teacher interview times (5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.) for Thursday, February 18th, by calling 388-4731 February 16th - 18th. **Parents are strongly encouraged to bring students with them to the interviews.**

HATIAN RELIEF FUNDS

by Keanan Byggdin

NCI has once again proven its desire to help those less fortunate than us. During the week of January 18-22, staff and students donated generously to the jar which came around to each classroom every morning. The money was collected to help the survivors of the devastating earthquake in Haiti. A grand total of \$1149.51 was raised and combined with the government's matching program means that NCI has contributed \$2299.02 to the people of Haiti, through the Mennonite Central Committee. Way to go NCI!

INTERNET SAFETY GUIDELINES from Child Find Manitoba



- Always keep personal information to yourself and off of the Internet.
- Check first with your parents before sending any photographs online.
- Always check first with your parents before meeting someone in person that you first met on the Internet. Remember to meet in a public place and bring a trusted adult with you.
- Always check first with your parents before entering a chat room. Remember that people on the Internet are not always who they say they are.
- Always trust your instincts. If something does not seem right or makes you feel uncomfortable, speak to a trusted adult.
- Always talk with your parents about what you are doing online and who you are speaking to.

FOOD SAFETY TIP from CFIA

Keep safe from food-borne illness by cooking foods to proper temperatures.

- ◆ After cooking, keep foods out of the "danger zone" (4°C to 60°C or 40°F to 140°F) by serving them immediately.
- ◆ Once foods are cooked, remember to keep hot food hot! That means 60°C (140°F) or above.
- ◆ If you're taking hot foods out to a party, use a thermos or an insulated container with a "hot pack" to keep foods at a safe temperature.

MINI-UNIVERSITY ENRICHMENT

Students in Grades 9 - 12 may choose, with teacher and parent permission, to take part in the University of Winnipeg Mini-University option in April. Mr. Cumming has school application sheets for interested students. While Mini-U means missing a week of classes, students are given the opportunity to concentrate on particular areas in a university setting as an enrichment activity.

Applications need to be returned to Mr. Cumming by February 12th for students considering the program.

WHEN YOU FORGET A NAME

Ever run into someone you've met before but whose name you can't remember? When this happens, use one of these simple strategies:

- ◇ Introduce yourself and note where you met or that it has been a long time since you last talked. Almost without exception the other person will give you his or her name.
- ◇ Admit that you have forgotten the other person's name, but note something specific you remember about him or her, such as a conversation, or the person who introduced you.

While not remembering a name can be embarrassing, remembering something specific about the person sends a message of recognition that can offset the gaffe.

FROM THE BAND ROOM

by Jennifer Horne

This month the grade eight and grade ten bands will be attending the Winnipeg Optimist Band Festival in Winnipeg. The grade eight band performs Tuesday February 23rd at 12:50 pm at the Winnipeg Convention Centre located on York Ave. The grade ten band will perform Wednesday February 24th at 6:25 pm at the Winnipeg Convention Centre as well. The bus for the grade ten band will leave at 5:00 pm and will be returning after 9:30 pm.



Grade 8 band

We are in need of two drivers for each grade to help transport larger instruments to the Convention Centre. If you are interested, please contact me at 388-4731 by February 12th.

SPORTS CORNER

by Don Dulder

Basketball at the JV and Varsity levels is well underway, and the Junior level teams are getting ready to start their seasons in the first week of February.

Our Varsity girls and JV boys are presently in first place in the Southeast Manitoba Basketball League, while our JV girls and Varsity boys are near the top of their league as well.

All teams are improving and hoping to do well at zones and provincials.

MY WEEK IN OTTAWA

by Emma Booth

In November I travelled to Ottawa, to attend the Encounters with Canada program. Encounters with Canada is a program designed for students ages 14-17, which runs each week of the school year. Each week has a different theme, and students get to choose the theme they would like to attend. I was a part of the Arts and Culture week.

My week included visiting the National Art Gallery, and performing arts classes. We also went on a bus tour of Ottawa, visited the Parliament buildings and shopped in downtown Ottawa, plus much more.

During my week in Ottawa I made many friends that I will be staying in contact with. All the monitors and leaders were extremely kind and made you feel very comfortable. My week was extremely fun; this was an experience of a life time. I recommend you check this program out!



Encounters Canada group

HANOVER SCHOOL DIVISION FRENCH CAREER FAIR

NCI's grade 8, 9, 11 and 12 Basic French students will be travelling to Steinbach to the 2nd annual HSD French Career Fair on Tuesday, February 23rd. The students will visit 14 different kiosks - representing a few of the many organizations and agencies that use French. The students will be given an assignment to do (using their French) while they visit.

NCI "I LOVE TO READ MONTH" ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Morning Announcements will feature literary items.
- ◆ Author Visit – Eric Wilson
- ◆ Writing Contest Students will have the opportunity to write stories and poems for prizes and publication.
- ◆ Silent Reading During two classes each day, starting on February 8th. Some readings will be assigned, others may be in appropriate materials of choice.
- ◆ There will be a Book Buying Bonanza. Mrs. Nickel will be buying used books for the library. Recycle good to excellent condition books, and receive a little bit of cash, too!



TALK ABOUT A BOOK!

No matter what age your students are, they can enjoy talking about books. For the youngest elementary students, consider talking about a book before you read it to them, or they read it to you. Look at the cover's illustration and ask what they think the story may be about before they begin reading. With more mature students, point out the name of the author and illustrator on the jacket and confirm that students understand what each one contributes to the finished product.

You also could lead into an educational lesson on how this particular book was acquired--from tree to paper to author and illustrator to publisher to marketing, all prior to reading the story.

After reading, ask a few simple, entertaining questions to check the accuracy of students' comprehension. Once they have answered basic questions to your satisfaction, press for a more detailed discussion of the contents or characters with stimulating questions. Encourage children to re-read favorite parts of the book and explain why that particular passage is of interest to them. Look together at illustrations that appeal to individual senses then lead the conversation into an accompanying lesson focusing on art and artists.

Select other books and compare various styles. If the student continues to talk, continue to teach through light conversation. When you share your enjoyment in reading and talking about books, students will benefit from subconsciously absorbing important lessons.

Tips from the National Institute on Drug Abuse

All parents want to keep their kids safe and drug-free. Here are some suggestions from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to help:

- ◆ Be a good listener.
- ◆ Give clear no-use messages about drugs and alcohol.
- ◆ Help your child deal with peer pressure.
- ◆ Get to know your child's friends.
- ◆ Monitor your child's whereabouts.
- ◆ Supervise teen activities.
- ◆ Maintain an open and honest dialogue with your child.



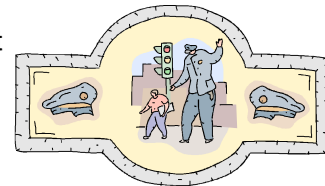
GET KIDS TO SCHOOL SAFELY

With the severe weather season upon us, it's a good idea to review some basic transportation safety. Whether your child takes the bus, walks, rides a bike, or travels in a car, make sure that he or she is as safe as possible.

Transportation by school bus is safe, and buses are generally safer than cars. However, there are risks. Most often, if a child is injured or killed, it is not the result of a crash, but instead caused as students enter and exit buses. Here are some safety tips to keep kids safe:

- Wait for the bus in a safe place. That means away from traffic and at a distance from the street.
- Stay back until the bus comes to a complete stop and you see the driver signal you to enter.
- When getting off the bus, immediately take 10 giant steps away from the bus.
- Use the handrails on the bus.
- Stay aware of the street traffic around you.
- Remember: not everyone follows the laws. Make sure you always protect yourself by remaining vigilant.

Young pedestrians and bikers have to make a lot of important decisions.



Here are a few guidelines:

- Follow traffic signals and crossing-guard directions.
- Always walk your bike through intersections.
- Never walk alone.
- Always wear reflective material so you are more visible.

If your child gets to school by car, here's the best safety tip available: **Make sure your child always wears his or her safety belt.** It can lower the risk of injury by 45 percent. Remember, your child is four times more likely to be injured or killed if he or she is ejected from a vehicle. Buckle up!

Adapted from the National Safety Council's Website

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Feb. 3 Divisional Pre-Calculus 30S Assessment
- Feb. 5 Admin Day (No classes)
- Feb. 4, 5 Grad Pictures
- Feb. 8 Semester II begins for Grades 10 - 12
- Feb. 12 Report Cards issued
- Feb. 15 Louis Riel Day (No classes)
- Feb. 17 Red River College tour (Grade 10)
- Feb. 18 Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences for Grades 7 to 9 (5:30 - 8:00 p.m.)
- Feb. 23 Grade 8 Band to Optimist Festival
- Feb. 23 French Career Fair (Grade 8 - 12)
- Feb. 24 Grade 10 Band to Optimist Festival
- Feb. 25 Divisional Budget Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 26 HTA In-service. No classes

HANOVER SCHOOL DIVISION FAIR PLAY CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code includes the following points to be followed by all involved:

- Respect the rules.
- Respect the opponents.
- Respect the decisions of officials and coaches.
- Promote individual player and team development.
- Maintain self-control at all times.
- Enjoy the game!

Have a Tactful Valentine's Day

When most people think of Valentine's Day, they probably aren't worried about appropriate etiquette for the office. But etiquette expert Lizzie Post of the Emily Post Institute says the subject bears a little loving care. Her advice: Don't flaunt your plans--either before or after they've happened--when chatting with co-workers (or friends, for that matter).

Valentine's Day can make people who are not part of a couple feel bad, Post says. So don't even talk about your plans unless you're asked to.

Try to use the day to celebrate compassion, she advises, to give a little attention to those who might not be feeling as fortunate as you do. While people are probably genuinely delighted about your happiness, being modest in what you share is the most thoughtful approach.



Is Your Child at Risk for Dropping Out?

Students drop out of school for many different reasons. While there are usually warning signs of the impending decision, some are not readily apparent. If you suspect your student or child is in danger of dropping out, pay close attention to the following warning signs:

- ⇒ Loss of interest in school or life
- ⇒ Incomplete homework or assignments
- ⇒ Failed courses or falling grades
- ⇒ Complaints or problems with teachers
- ⇒ Poor behavior at school or home
- ⇒ Suspected drug or alcohol use
- ⇒ Problems with other students
- ⇒ Verbal or physical confrontations
- ⇒ Recurring tardiness or absenteeism
- ⇒ Embarrassment due to disability, pregnancy, or other emotional or physical difficulties

Science is everywhere



Science is defined as "the systematic study of the structure and behaviour of the physical world, especially by observing, measuring and experimenting, and the development of theories to describe the results of these activities¹".



What science really means to students of all ages is the process of gathering information to gain a better understanding of their world. *Science is knowledge and it is in everything and everywhere.* The opportunities to learn are endless.

While the science curriculum will look different at every stage of your child's education, children should always be engaged in the process of discovery – from an emphasis on experiences of touch, taste and smell (early years), to observation and documentation (middle years) and finally, use of more complex facts and knowledge (senior years). The best learning occurs when students have the opportunity to work together and then to show what they've learned. Displays, posters, essays and science fairs are all excellent ways for students to benefit from this experience and for parents to participate in what their children are learning.

All kinds of activities – dance, sports, camping, hiking, visits to local museums, the zoo or just looking up at the sky – give children and parents an opportunity to learn from their world. Encourage your children to ask questions – and look for the answers together.



¹<http://dictionary.cambridge.org>

A message from the **Manitoba Association of School Superintendents**

DONATE BLOOD

Niverville Heritage Centre
Monday, February 8th
4:30 - 8:30 p.m.



Today's students face many challenges that can lead to dropping out. Some of these challenges may be related to problems in our schools, such as changes in curriculum, lack of extracurricular activities, and lack of teacher or parental involvement and interest. Other factors may include stress at home and traumatic life experiences.

If your student or child is having problems, express your concern, and ask if there is anything that can change the way he/she is feeling. Talk about possible measures that can be taken to mollify the problem. If it seems there is no other solution but to drop out of school, discuss the option of getting a GED until the student overcomes the problem and can continue education without resistance.

Everyone faces hurdles in life and education that may seem impossible to overcome. When other people show concern and try to help, it can alleviate some of the stress and help us work through whatever challenges we are facing. An education is extremely important; therefore, it is crucial to research all the options available to help a student or child who is in danger of dropping out.

Niverville Collegiate's staff and students are committed to working cooperatively within the community to develop well-rounded, life long learners in a safe, respectful and positive learning environment.