



... Newsletter ...



JUNE

2024



MINITONAS SCHOOL - Principal: Mr. Mark Simpson

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Dear parents and guardians,

It has been another great year here in Minitonas and there have been many events that we are proud of as a close knit, school community. We are anticipating another successful year ahead with our new students coming in to kindergarten and wishing our Grade 8 students all the best as they transition to the high school. We have seen a lot of growth in all of your children and look forward to next year as they continue to learn and develop.

As we wrap up our final month of school for 2023/24, I would like to extend a huge thank you to all parents and caregivers for your continued support of Minitonas School. In addition to the normal school activities, we will be having our **orientation/school supply drop off on September 4th, 2024 from 1:00 – 3:30**. This will give parents an opportunity to see the school, have their children meet their teachers, become re-acquainted with the school, and drop off their school supplies. Questions can be asked about the upcoming year and other relevant information you wish to know.

In regard to teaching staff for next year, the following will be in place for the fall:

Kindergarten: Mrs. Kayla Peterson

Gr. 1: Ms. Cheyanne Osatchuk

Gr. 2/3: Mrs. Kerri Mullin

Gr. 4/5: Mrs. Katlyn Pillipow

Gr. 6/7: Ms. Peyton Bardwell

Gr. 8: Ms. Abby Petersen

K – 8 PE: Mr. Len Woitowicz

Resource: Mrs. Teresa Kujanpaa

Principal: Mr. Mark Simpson

I wish you all a restful and relaxing summer break and we will see you in the fall.

Take care,

Mark Simpson
Principal



Staffing News

Hello Minitonas School!

My name is Ms. Petersen, and I am excited to be joining the Minitonas School community this fall as a band and math teacher! I moved to Manitoba from Alberta to pursue my music education degree and fell in love with this province and the great people here (and the winters haven't scared me away yet)! Being from a small town myself, Minitonas felt like the perfect place to begin my teaching career. I am really looking forward to meeting everyone and getting to know the students and families at Minitonas School this fall. I hope you all have a great end to your year and a restful summer break!



See you in September!

Sincerely,
Ms. Petersen



As many of you know, Mr. Mark Matejka is moving on from Minitonas School with a new opportunity at the Swan Valley Regional Secondary School. To date, Mr. Matejka has been in our school for 31 years after starting with the school division in 1993. This year, marks his first time atop the SVSD Seniority list and it is well deserved. His presence here in this school has been huge and marked by great success. On average, Mark would have taught close to 4000 students in a variety of classes from Math, Science, Social Studies and, of course, music, band and I would suspect his passion, Jazz. He has been a colleague and mentor to nearly 400 staff members through the years. By no

means is this a retirement speech, but an acknowledgement of a human who has done countless acts of kindness for all whom he has come in to contact.

In Mr. Matejka's words:

"I've had a continually positive teaching experience in Minitonas from the start because of the good spirit of the parent, student, and staff community in our school with whatever I've taught. But I've enjoyed inspiring and teaching young Minitonas musicians the most! Together, we've built a strong band program that impresses audiences wherever we play. I'm hoping to see Minitonas students come into band at the SVRSS where I'll be in the fall. And, I'm looking forward to working with the new Minitonas band teacher as we continue to build music education in the SVSD." Mr. Matejka

Thanks again Mr. Matejka, you have been a consummate professional, an incredible teacher and most of all, a great friend through the years. Rock on, my friend.

Minitonas School is sad to announce that Kathy Dvorak will be leaving our school and community at the end of this school year. Kathy has plans on moving to Brandon and retiring from her most recent role as substitute teacher as well as substitute support staff. Kathy has had an incredible career here in Minitonas School starting back in 1990, and has been a constant figure here for an amazing 34 years. She semi-retired in 2016, and transitioned in to substitute EA for 4 years then returning as a teacher in 2020 during Covid for a full-time teaching position! After that year, Kathy became a permanent EA and teacher sub for the last 4 years which has been incredibly beneficial for our school. She is very similar to Mr. Matejka in the way that she has had an impact working with special needs students to running an incredibly successful library program for many years as well. She has an incredible capacity to help others with compassion and understanding in whatever role she has undertaken. She will be deeply missed by our staff and students alike. She has been a terrific EA and teacher, and most importantly, a great friend to all. All the best in your new chapter, Kathy!



On Friday, June 21st, 2024, we are hosting a Friendship BBQ Lunch on behalf of the Campbell Family in honour of Joel and Amara Campbell. All proceeds will be donated to the SV Foundation for Grad Bursaries in Memory of Amara and Joel. An order form will be sent home closer to the date. All parents and community members are welcome to join. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

pageborders.org

Important Dates:

- 4th— Spring into Summer Pops Band Concert @ 7:00 pm
- 6th— Band-A-Rama
- 7th— Valley Champs Gr. 5—8 @ SVRSS 10—3
- 12th— Canoe Safety Training for Gr. 7/8 (AM)
- 13th— Kindergarten Grad
- 19th— Grade 8 Farewell
- 20th— PD Day—NO SCHOOL
- 21st— National Indigenous Peoples Day / Tabloid Day & Friendship Lunch
- 24th— 26th—Grade 7/8 Wellman Lake Camp
- 26th— Swimming for Grades 4—6 (PM)
- 27th— Swimming for Grades K & 1 (PM)
- 27th— LAST DAY OF SCHOOL





Music Notes and News

IT'S BAND-A-RAMA TIME!!

When? 9:30 am - 3pm, Thursday, June 6, 2024

Where? Bandstand at the bottom of Taylor Hill, Legion Park

Who goes? All band students in the SVSD, grades 5-12.

What happens? Concert performances by each group for the other groups, team-building activities, meeting peers & teachers, lots of great music.

Why? To celebrate music in our lives, learn from each other and bring music to our community.

What is needed?

- 1) signed permission forms - (sent home)
- 2) A bag lunch/snacks & a filled water bottle
- 3) a blanket to sit on
- 4) Their instrument & music

All students will be transported by school bus to the bandstand area after attendance and will be brought back to their school before dismissal time.

Parents and family are invited to be a part of our audience on the hill. Bring your own lawn chair! Note the performance times on the schedule sent home.

The Swan Valley Baseball Club will operate the CANTEEN!

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|---------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Water \$2 | Pop \$2 | Gatorade \$3 | Peace Tea \$4 |
| Hamburger \$5 | Cheeseburger \$6 | Hot Dog \$4 | |
| Candy Bag \$1 | Chocolate Bar \$2 | Freezie \$1 | |

We're looking forward to an amazing day of music and fun with everyone!!



Minitonas School Bands

Present a

Spring into Summer Pops Concert

Minitonas School Gymnasium

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Featuring:

Gr. 4 Recorder Ensemble Jazzmanian Devils

Gr. 5-6 Concert Band Gr. 7-8 Concert Band

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**Voluntary silver collection at the door.  
Proceeds go to Band activities.**

**We invite all parents, family, friends, and community to attend an  
evening of popular music - from the Oldies to Present Day!**

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Sports Update

It's hard to believe but we are in the final month of the year. The year has sure gone by quickly.

Our students just competed at the Sunburn Classic for Track and Field. Our students were recognized by great form, quick speed, and high level of competitiveness. Many students came home with a ribbon. Their hard work all year has paid off.

Our final SVSD event is Track and Field, which is happening this Friday, June 7th 2024. The forecast is looking great for this day. Please ensure your child is dressed for the weather, brings lots of water and a lunch or money (for the canteen) on this day.

Our Tabloid Day is soon approaching. It will be held in the afternoon of June 21st, 2024, which is also National Indigenous Peoples Day. We have created seven teams, set the schedule, and will be ready for a fun day. The students be participating in various activities and games. Feel free to stop in that afternoon to partake in the festivities.

The grade 7/8 students are participating in an Outdoor Education Trip to Regatta Bay at Wellman Lake. Our goal is to give students an exposure to outdoor environment and a positive and rewarding experience. The camp will run from Monday, June 26th at 9:00 a.m., returning Wednesday, June 28th at 3:30 p.m. They will be completing a Canoe Safety course at the pool in the morning of June 12th, 2024 in support of the camp.

The students will be involved in outdoor environmental sessions that include:

- Interpretive nature hike;
- Orienteering/Geocaching;
- Nature crafts;
- Outdoor cooking/camp improvements;
- Canoeing; and
- Fishing.

We are proud of our students and the effort they put into the athletic program and overall activities here at the school. We would encourage all family members and friends to come out and support the kids as they participate and compete in these sports and activities throughout the school year.

If you have any questions about this program, please feel free to contact Mr. Woi-towicz at the school.

