

# École Neil Campbell School

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## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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# Principal's Message

Happy Holidays!

It is so hard to believe that we are at the winter break already! The students and teachers have been enjoying a school year so far that is much more normal than the last few years. It has been wonderful to see so many parents and grandparents at our school events so far this year. Thank you to those who have been volunteering their time to make École Neil Campbell School a wonderful place. Thank you to the Parent Advisory Committee members and the Lunch Program Committee for your dedication to our students!

Thank you to all parents who took part in the PAC fundraiser drive. The PAC often helps the school fund opportunities for students and to buy things for the school that we do not have the money for. We are grateful for every contribution and to PAC for being so generous with our requests.

The school collected \$443.25 for the Harvest Manitoba Food Bank in the silver collection at our Musical Showcase concerts. Mrs. Verhaeghe's class went to the food bank to drop off the collection. The students learned so much and left with such a great feeling of being community helpers. Thank you to all who contributed!

Thank you for sending your child dressed for wintry weather. If your child needs warm winter clothing and you need support to buy it, please contact the Vice-Principal, Sharla Cockriell [scockriell@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:scockriell@retsd.mb.ca). The school can help supply warm winter wear!

Merry Christmas to those that celebrate and to all I wish you a fun two weeks with your children.

Happy New Year!

Christi Qua

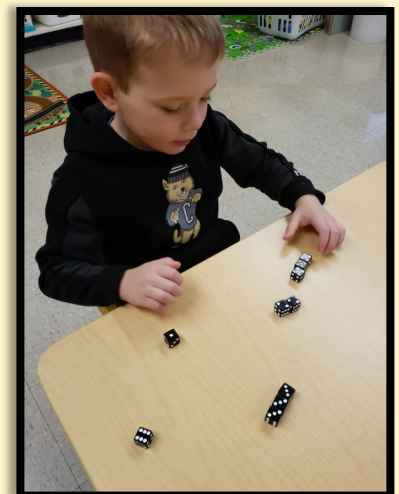
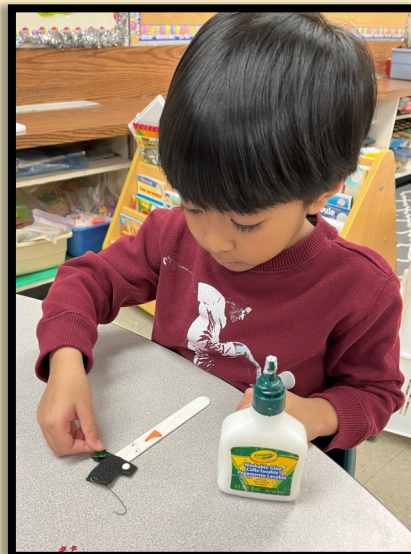
# Kindergarten Classes

Kindergarten has been a very fun and educational place these last couple of months. It is incredible how much the students have learned!

We have been playing lots of math "games" to help us learn about subitizing and patterns. Subitizing is the ability to instantly recognize the number of objects without actually counting them. Much like the importance of being able to calculate estimates, subitizing is something that comes up in the everyday lives of our students. Dice games are an excellent way to help kids become good subitizers. In addition, we have learned that patterns are more than a beautiful design. In Math, patterns follow a predictable rule and that allows the children to predict what comes next. Kindergarten math is greatly founded on the study of patterns and structure in numbers.

Secondly, we have been creating seasonal crafts to bring home for the holidays. The crafts we made help the students practice their fine motor skills, by cutting, colouring, gluing, and painting. Fine motor skills are important to develop the smaller muscles of the hands, which in turn increases the kids' ability to zip up zippers, button shirts, and undo lunch boxes.

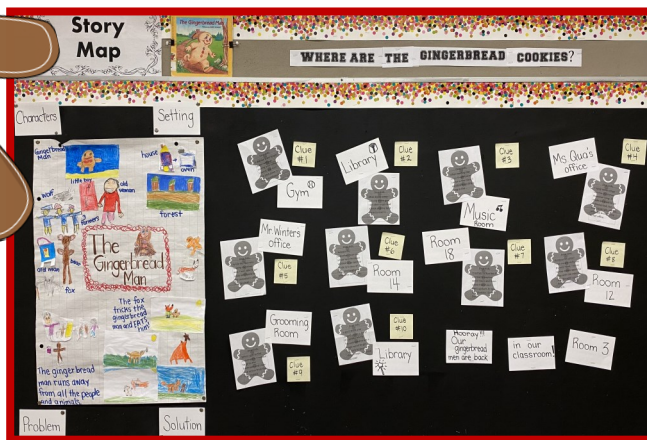
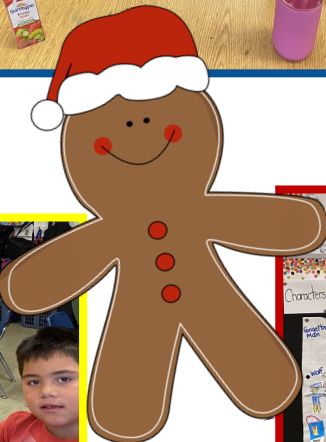
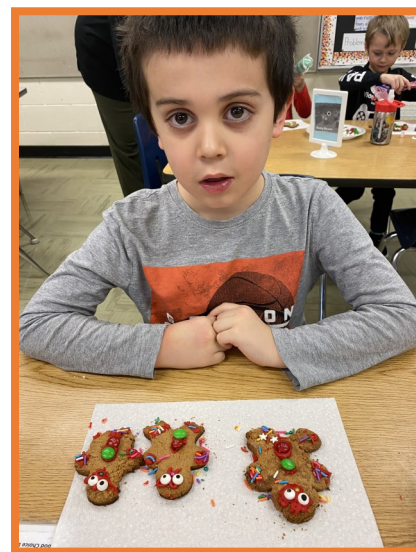
Finally, we began our Home Reading program! This is a great way to kick-start some beginning reading skills before the start of Grade One. It has been found that children who read at home with their parents perform better educationally and socially than those that do not. Please find the books we have chosen for your child in their Ziplock mailbag and return them to the school once you have enjoyed them together.



# Ms. Sherby's Grade 1 Class

Room 3 students have been reading lots of books about the **Gingerbread Man**. We then made a story map about the Gingerbread man story and wrote about the characters, setting, problem, and solution. Mme Thuot-MacDonald and our class made a step-by-step book about making Gingerbread man cookies. We enjoyed baking the gingerbread men and following a recipe using the iPad. When we were going to decorate our cookies, they ran away! Can you believe that! We had to search the school for our cookies by reading 10 different clues! Guess what...we finally found them but had to use a magic wand in the library and say, "Zippity, Zopity, Zap!" Then we walked back to class and found our gingerbread man cookies! Our class had fun decorating our gingerbread cookies! OH, WHAT FUN WE HAD! IT WAS THE BEST SCAVENGER HUNT!

Written by: The *Magical* students in Room 3



# MME SYMONDS'S GRADE 1 CLASS

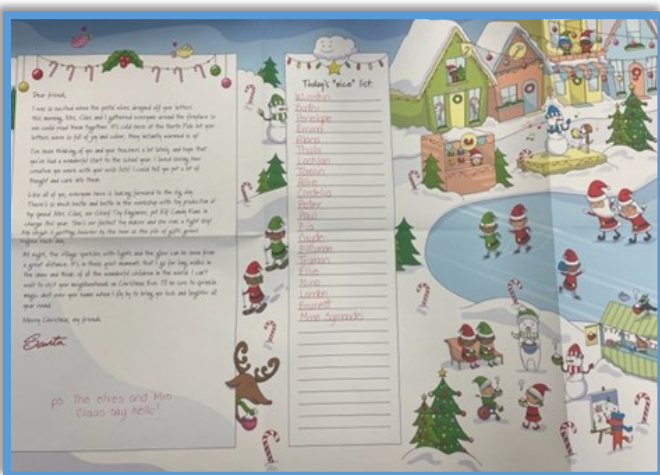


December has been a fun and exciting month! It was wonderful to be able to sing for our families during our first ever winter concert! Mme Symonds still catches us singing the songs to ourselves several times throughout our day!

We have been learning about different cultures and French celebrations around the world recently. We can tell you about Christmas, Hannukah, Ramadan, Diwali, Kwanzaa, and Chinese New Year.

Our classroom is decorated with the puffy snowmen that we made with the help of Bodhi's mom, and we also made mittens decorated with colourful tissue paper which brings warmth to our hearts on the bulletin board just outside of our classroom.

But wait, there is so much more! We sent letters to Santa Clause at the North Pole, and he even wrote back to us! We also got to go and visit him at the CCFM this month and we also got to go to a Winter Festival at Miles Mac School. Did we mention that we also have spirit week at school and that we are all here in pajamas today! Oh, What Fun! Happy Holidays from Room 4 (Grade1) Mme. Symonds and students.



# Mme Dufort's & Mme Fraser's Grade 1 Class

In room 5, we continue to celebrate ourselves, honouring our similarities and differences.

We loved performing for our Musical Showcase. It was so much fun singing on stage in front of an audience. Thank you for coming.

We are busy doing holidays crafts and learning about the different ways we celebrate the holidays. We are starting each morning sharing any news with our classmates. "Hier j'ai" or "Hier, je suis allé".

We really enjoyed our field trip to *Le Village du Père Noël* at Le Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain.

We saw *des lutins* and *le Père Noël*. It felt like we were at *le Pôle Nord*! Happy Holidays everyone!



# *Mme Workman's & Mme Gudmundson's*

## *Grade 2 Class*

### **News from Room 7!**

November and December have been busy! We had a Remembrance Day assembly where two students from the class were chosen as wreath bearers. We saw some students achieve 200 minutes of reading and a sweet treat as a reward! We were able to have Student Led Conferences in person and online this year.

December has been a busy month! We practiced and performed in our first winter concert since December 2019! We are fortunate to have a student teacher from Université de Saint-Boniface in the classroom! Mme Chloe is a former student of École Neil Campbell School and spent 2 weeks with us in December and will return for 2 more weeks in April.

It was Spirit Week during the last full week at school! Special days that were planned were Red and Green Day, Holiday Wear Day, Beach Day, White-Out Day (Jets gear/wear white) and

Pajama Day!

Elfie, an Elf on the Shelf appeared in our room, too! One student decided to write a note and it was answered! This inspired several other students to write him a note, too!

Wishing you and your families a happy holiday!



# Mme Sabourin's Grade 2 Class

## Winter Art!

Guess what Neil Campbell Families! We had a special visitor come to our class to help us with a winter art project! Elias's mom showed us how to paint a winter scene with birch trees. She even taught us about texture before we started our art. First, we picked out colours for our backgrounds. Some students chose blue and white, others chose sunset colors. Next, we painted birch trees. We used a piece of cardboard and dipped it in black paint, then we dragged it across our paper. We had to draw straight lines before cutting out the trees. After, we made cute little foxes. We could pick a standing fox or a walking fox. Finally, we cut out white paper for the snow and glued all our pieces together. We had a lot of fun creating our art! Aren't they great?





# Mme Sotiriadis's Grade 2/3 Class

Bonjour et Joyeux temps des fêtes! Happy Holiday Season to Everyone!

It was a pleasure to meet so many of you during in-person and virtual student-led conferences. Thank you to those who were able to attend.

Room 9 has been getting into the holiday spirit by watching (Grade 3s) and participating (Grade 2s) in our Musical Showcase concert last week. It was so nice to be able to gather and celebrate music again!



In class, we have been writing, editing, and typing stories about the North Pole. We have also been listening, watching, discussing, and writing about the Nutcracker. We have written French poems and will be creating some holiday art to go with our writing!

Wishing all of you a very safe and happy holiday season!

**Mme Sotiriadis's Grade 2/3 Class**

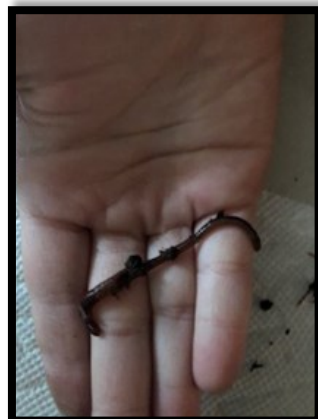
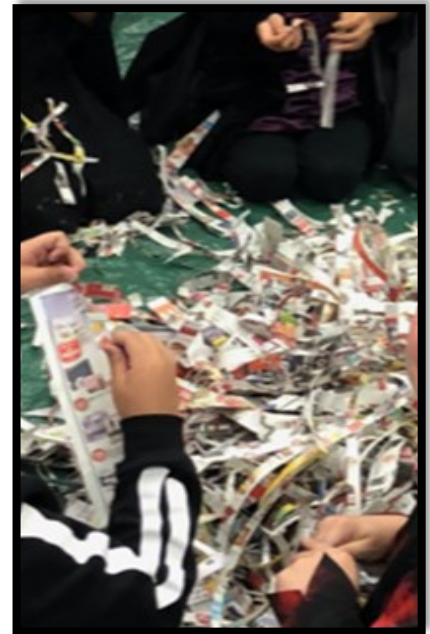
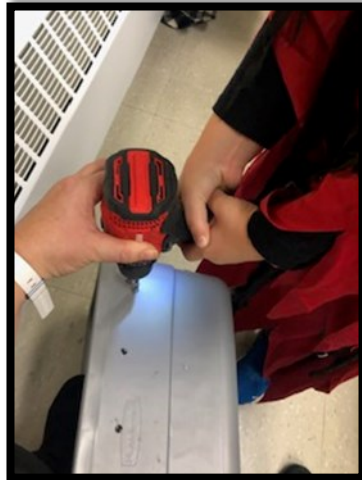
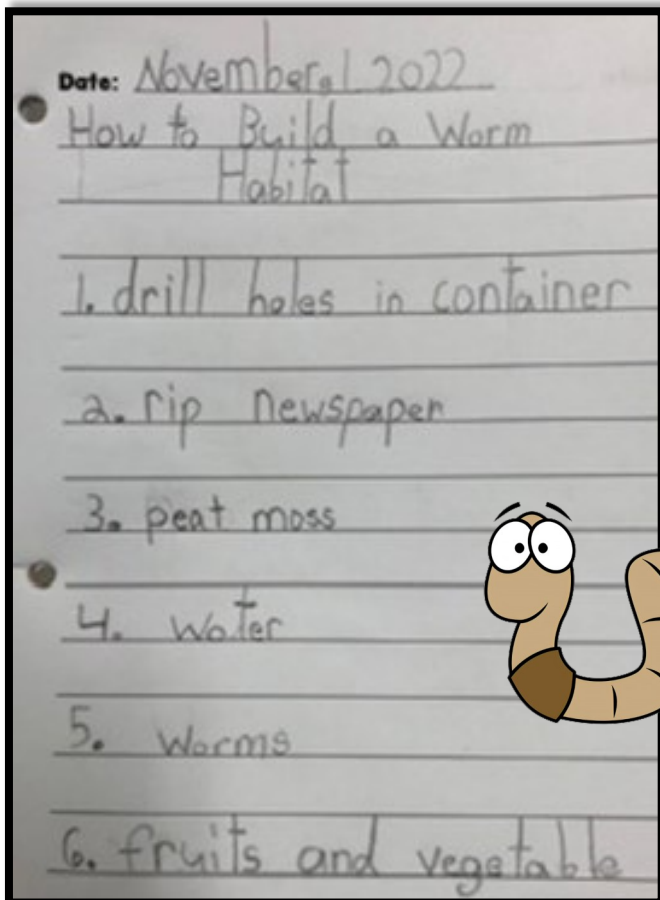


# Mrs. Verhaeghe's Grade 2/3 Class



What did you do on October 31<sup>st</sup>? While dressed in our Halloween costumes, we created a **vermicompost**! Are you wondering what creepy and scary thing that could be? Vermicomposting is the process of using worms to make compost. Yes, our class pets are RED WIGGLER WORMS!

**Worm Trivia:** 1. How many hearts does a worm have? 2. How many lungs does a worm have? 3. How many eyes does a worm have?



## Answers:

1. Five hearts.
2. Zero, they breathe through their skin.
3. Zero, but they do not like the light.

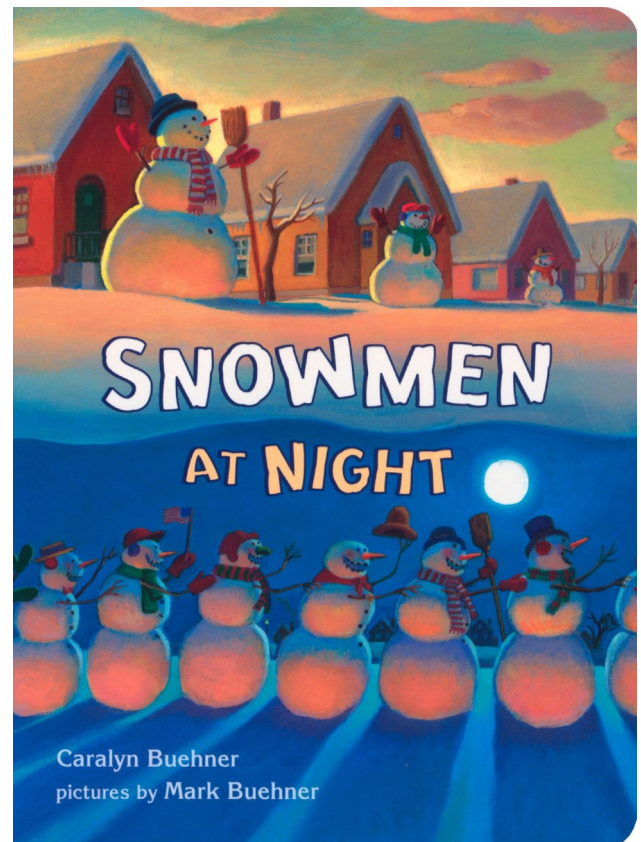
# Mr. Moffatt's Grade 3/4 Class

The **Thoughtful Threes** and **Fabulous Fours** in room 14 have been very busy since you last heard from us! We have been learning all about cardinal directions, and have developed some interesting acronyms to help us remember North, East West and South. One of the favorites is very timely for this season... Never (North) Enter (East) Santa's (South) Workshop (West).

We have learned a really fun "headbands" multiplication game to play in class! The game is played in groups of three with one deck of cards. Two of the students draw cards and place them on their forehead without looking at them. The third player multiplies the two cards together and tells them the answer. Each player has to consider the card on the other persons' forehead, and the answer, and work backwards to figure out what number is on their own card. What a fun and exciting way to learn multiplication.

We have also enjoyed using our imagination to write wonderful stories about what snow people do at night. We read a book called Snowmen At Night by Caralyn Buehner to inspire us. Have you ever wondered what the snow people do when everyone drifts off peacefully to sleep, and the streetlights illuminate? Does something magical happen? Do the snow people come alive? We'd love to share our wonderful stories with you!

-The **Thoughtful Threes** and **Fabulous Fours** in room 14.



# Mme Scheelar's & Mme Hancock's Grade 3 Class

We have been busy in room 15. Now that winter has arrived, students are excited to finally play in the snow! Our class really enjoyed being part of the audience for the kindergarten to grade 2 Musical Showcase. It was lots of fun to have our school holiday spirit week this week. Our favourite dress up day was definitely pajama day. We have been busy painting winter water colour scenes. Next, we added colourful trees that we created using a technique called decoupage. These art pieces will be used to create cards to share with our loved ones. A second art project we completed was to use acrylic paint to finger paint various holiday ornaments to give as gifts. We are looking forward to doing some more holiday themed activities before the break. Here are a few pictures of our art! Hope you enjoy!



# Mme McKay Vielfaure's Grade 4 Class

The Grade 4s in room 17 have been busy with lots of different events since this fall. Here are some of the activities we've done in our class.

With the weather cooling off, we decided to warm up with some hot chocolate! We tried an experiment with hot chocolate mix, hot water, and marshmallows. We made predictions about what would happen when we poured in hot water and let it sit, when we mixed the hot chocolate and water together, and when we added marshmallows to our hot chocolate. We then went into action and got to see if our predictions were correct. It was very interesting to see how certain ingredients interacted with each other in different ways. We also made predictions about what might change if we were to use a cold liquid instead of a hot liquid. Who knew science could be so delicious?!



For our art project in December, we created winter landscapes using oil pastels and watercolour paint. We first started drawing, using white oil pastels, outside scenes we would see during the winter. We had some people who drew bare trees, some who drew snow people, and some who drew snowflakes. We also wrote about what subjects we chose for our art pieces and why. Next, we mixed watercolour paints and water and painted over our drawings on watercolour paper. We used 'cool' colours like different shades of blue, purple, and some turquoise to copy the kinds of colours we might see in the snow and ice outside. We learned how to use lots of water on our paintbrushes so that the wax and oil from the pastels would help the white pop through the water in the paint. We are so proud of our results, and we hope you enjoy looking at them as much as we enjoyed making them!



# mr. reimer's grade 4/5 class

As we approach a much-deserved winter break, the Grade 4s and 5s in room 20 recently finished the novel Wishtree by Katherine Applegate. As a summarizing activity we have taken some time to reflect on wishes and goals for ourselves and the world for the future, as the characters did in the novel and created our own Wishtree. Some highlights from our wishes included:

“My wish for everyone is that the world would be at peace.”

“I wish to reach the Olympics for gymnastics.”

“I wish that they made a cure for diabetes.”

“I wish I could meet Tom Brady.”

“I wish for everyone to have a good life.”



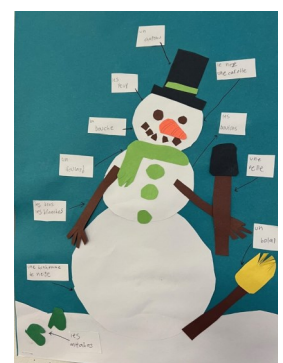
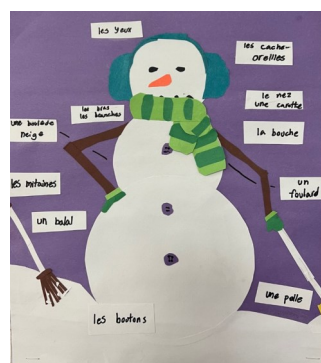
In addition to reading and writing a lot in English, we've begun working on our French communication skills as well. By using some hand and body gestures to help us remember some basic vocabulary and communication skills our learners are developing some fluency with everyday French phrases.

Our learning has cycled from Addition Strategies to Subtraction Strategies in Math with a special focus on problem solving and estimation as of late. All students are reminded to get started right away by writing down all the given information a word problem provides before using a strategy of their choice or mental math to estimate their answer.

We'd very much like to wish our whole school community a very happy holiday season and we sincerely hope that your winter break is restful, relaxing and filled with extra time with family and friends.

Sincerely,

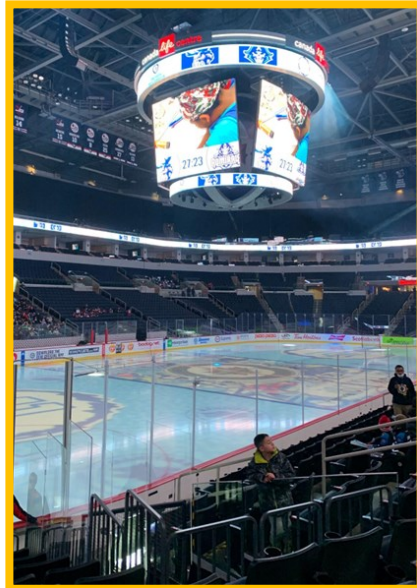
-Mr. Reimer and all the learners in Room 20.



# Mme Arcand's Grade 5 Class

Students in room 19 are as busy as always! We are continuing to add artifacts to our Anishinaabe moon cycle calendars. In math we are working on a project where students represent their special numbers between 1,000,000 and 9,999,999 in various ways. In science, we are learning how to read labels and make decisions about what kinds of foods are the healthiest, which ones should be eaten in moderation, and how to build a balanced meal. In English Language Arts, we are continuing to refine our writing skills by perfecting our grammar and punctuation and making sure we start out writing with a hook to get the reader interested, and finishing up with a bow to tie it all together.

One of the most exciting things we did was go to a Manitoba Moose Project 11 hockey game! It was so cool to be at Canada Life Centre with other students from across Manitoba. The game featured messages from Manitoba Moose and Winnipeg Jets players on various topics about mental health and wellness.



# M. Vandale's Grade 4/5 Class

In classroom 18 we've been working on simple machines.

Students are busy conceptualizing, designing and building levers, wheels, wedges, screws, pulleys, and inclined planes. Through teamwork, experimentation, trial and error, and exploration through guided play, these French immersion students from the grades 4 and 5 class use common objects from throughout the school to produce novel and amusing methods so as to reinvent elaborate Rube Goldberg machines. As they transfer energy from simple machines to simple machines in a domino-like chain reaction that results in the effect of a ringing bell, students discover persistence, overcome logistical challenges, test the limits of their skill, find friendship, and unlock brilliant solutions sure to remain fundamental to their scientific education for years to come.





# Library News



For library news, classes have been read stories about snow, the first snow fall, and animals who come out during the winter. As well, there were a few activities that took place in the library! From fort building and reading under the fort, to our pumpkin creations based on characters from books. This month, a character based from the book “The Elf on The Shelf” named Chippy, has been frequenting the library to keep us on our toes.

Lastly, we cannot end our article without a shoutout to our École Neil Campbell School community!

To the families, friends, and supporters of École Neil Campbell, thank you for your support in making our BOOK FAIR in three years a success! We could not have done it without you.

Happy Holidays and see you in the New Year!

From Mme Thuot-MacDonald & Mrs. Bagay





# MUSIC NEWS

## Recorder Club

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, a group of very talented grade 4 & 5 students performed at the Remembrance Day Assembly. The students involved chose to give up numerous morning recesses for 5 weeks to learn a very difficult song "Poppies Red" on the recorder. The song was played while 2 students in every class laid wreaths at the front of the gym in honour of the many soldiers who gave their lives for our country. They were the first group to perform in a live Remembrance Day Assembly in years. I am extremely proud of the hard work and dedication that these students showed. This was very evident in their high level of performance and positive attitude.

## Neil Campbell Musical Showcase

In December, we were very excited to present two concerts at École Neil Campbell School.

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, the grade 1 and 2 students presented their first ever Musical Showcase! These students had never performed in front of a live audience. They were able to show their ability to sing in English, French, and Ojibwe. The students sang a variety of songs they learned from the beginning of the school year and learned a few new songs with choreography featuring winter seasonal material. Some of the kids had speaking parts and some played Indigenous drums that were made for our school. All students involved realized how much practice it takes to be a great musical team!

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the newest members of our school were featured in a Santa Extravaganza! The three classes of Ladybugs and Caterpillars showed their talents to a gym full of adoring fans. These students all learned 4 songs, some of them in French! They worked hard to learn actions for all of them to add to the entertainment.

Performing in front of an audience is so important for children in any music program. It is a piece of the puzzle that we have been missing for the last couple of years. Performing helps us set goals and achieve musical excellence. It promotes teamwork and confidence. We were so thankful to be able to invite families back to the school and connect with the community.

At the end of April, our grade 3-5 Stars will have a chance to shine! Stay tuned....

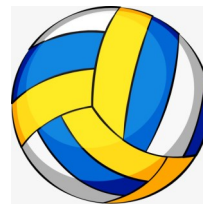


# Grade 5 Volleyball Club

École Neil Campbell grade 5 students have been practicing for the month of November on their VOLLEYBALL skills. They have learned how to under hand pass (bump), overhand pass (volley), serve and rotate in the court positions. They were invited to participate in a triple-ball tournament at Prince Edward School on November 29<sup>th</sup>. The students were divided into four teams of six and were able to play 7 games that day. They had fun creating their team name, cheering for each other and playing volleyball as a team.

They represented École Neil Campbell School as shining stars with pride!

Congratulations on a very successful season!



# Harvest Manitoba Food Bank Donations

Thank you to the ÉNCS community for their monetary and food donations during our K-2 Musical Showcases! Mrs. Verhaeghe's grades 2/3 students counted \$443.25. They delivered the donations along with 60 handmade cards to Immanuel United Church. For the past 20 years they have held a Food Bank every two weeks to support the families and adults of our community.

Here are some things the students had to say about it:

"We helped put chocolates, Brussel sprouts, noodles, toilet paper, soup, and potatoes on the tables." -Emily

"We need to share and help people in our community. We need to be kind. There are some people who cannot afford food and we need to help them." -Liam C.

"All the items are free. I met my two neighbours, who help putting out food. It made my heart feel good because they are helping." -Quinn

"I noticed that it was hard work. They had to put the food somewhere, moving it all around." - Klair

"The volunteers are old." -Riley (Joyce, known as 'The Boss', is the organizer of this Food Bank and she is 91 years old! There are many friendly volunteers who work together to make a difference.)



Photos: The shelf is bare once again. Volunteers sort potatoes. Joyce (left) & a volunteer guide students in distributing foods. Handmade card.

# News from Resource

Have you ever wondered, “how I as a parent can help make learning to read fun?” Well, there is a term for that, Phonological Awareness is a whole set of skills that make up the foundation for reading. It lets readers recognize and play with the sounds of spoken language.

Some of the components are:

- ◆ Picking out words that rhyme (e.g., cat, bat, sat, mat) and having fun creating made-up words “zat”
- ◆ Counting the number of syllables in a word (e.g., book has 1 syllable where alligator has 4 syllables or parts.
- ◆ Noticing sounds repetition (e.g., Susie sells seashells by the seashore.”)
- ◆ Adding and deleting parts of words (e.g., say “hotdog,” now say the word again but don’t say hot, what is left? dog)

This Newsletter, the focus will be on rhyming. Rhyme is found in poetry, songs and many children’s books and games. Young children enjoy listening to nursery rhymes and playing rhyming games.

Rhyme is also a way of categorizing the words young children hear. Words like cat, hat, and sat can be grouped together by children on the basis of their common sound patterns. Because words in these categories often have similar spellings, children may use these rhyme categories when learning to read and spell.

There are many ways to develop rhyming skills at home that do not feel like “work.”

Make language play a part of your day. Read rhyming books, sing songs, and ask your child to come up with words that rhyme or “sounds the same at the end.” You can also play rhyming games or listen to songs on-line.

## **Samples of books/ideas that encourage rhyming are:**

- ◆ Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes
- ◆ Repetitive Patterned Books – Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
- ◆ Tongue Twisters
- ◆ Read to your child

## **Online**

- ◆ Listen to stories on TumbleBooks
- ◆ Sing along with “Super Simple Songs” on YouTube
- ◆ PBSKids.org – Grover’s Rhyme Time
- ◆ Starfall.com

The most important part of learning to read is having fun. Take your child to the library and have them pick out books that are of interest to them.

Remember, it is important to make sure your child(ren))) have had their vision checked each year by an Optometrist. If your child has been prescribed glasses, please ensure they wear the glasses as prescribed by their Optometrist.

# Guidance Corner

We have been learning about the Zones of Regulation in many of our classrooms. You can support your child's learning by talking to them about their feelings and helping them to identify their zone (blue, green, yellow or red). If your child is in the blue, yellow or red zone, you can encourage them to use a strategy to get back to the green zone. Deep breathing exercises, counting to 10, taking a break, physical exercise or talking about their feelings are great places to start.

If you'd like to learn more about Zones of Regulation you can visit the website: [www.zonesofregulation.com](http://www.zonesofregulation.com)



## Blue Zone

Sad - Bored  
Tired - Sick



## Green Zone

Happy - Focused  
Calm - Proud



## Yellow Zone

Worried - Frustrated  
Silly - Excited



## Red Zone

Overjoyed/Elated  
Panicked - Angry - Terrified

# Indigenous Academic Achievement Committee

This fall at Neil Campbell School, we were proud to showcase some Indigenous musical selections during both our Remembrance Day and recent holiday concert. In November, we remembered Sergeant Tommy Prince who was born in Brokenhead Ojibway Nation. Sargent Prince is a Canadian hero who fought for our freedom in World War II. Our Music teacher, Mrs. Heather Groess, worked with students to perform a Cree song written by Sheryl Sewepegaham. The song was performed with signs originally taught by an elder from her community.

Most recently at our holiday showcase held on December 7th, audience members had the pleasure of hearing an Ojibwe song written by Jodi Contin. With permission from the artist, Mrs. Groess and students learned to play the song using drums that were specially made and blessed by an elder for our school more than 15 years ago! The children learned the lyrics in Ojibwe and sang to the sound of the drums. It was a powerful performance. Thank you to Mrs. Groess and students for embracing this ever so special challenge. We are grateful to witness this important learning in all areas of our student's education.



# Writing With Your Child at Home

## Tips on how to engage your child in writing outside of the classroom

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Even if you, yourself, are not all that comfortable as a writer, there are many things you can do at home to foster a love of writing in your child.

According to literacy expert Regie Routman, “the ‘right’ writing topic will be one that gives students agency in their lives, appeals to their interests, and fully engages them.”

Here are some easy things that literacy coach Beth Moore suggests you can do at home to engage your child in authentic writing:

1. Help your child set up a place at home for drawing and writing. It doesn't have to be a desk, and it doesn't have to be fancy. It could be a cozy corner for writing where a basket of books and a writing folder, or a clipboard, or notebooks are kept. You can try to just put out a few interesting materials at a time, and rotate them now and then.
2. Help your child notice reading and writing that is going on in the world. Notice commuters who read on the bus. Pay attention to environmental print like street signs, menus, billboards and more. In your child's play area, leave some paper and crayons along with blocks, sets of train tracks, dolls, or other toys, so that your child can make her own signs, lists, menus and billboards. Not only does this help your child understand that writing conveys a message, it also helps your child connect reading and writing with play!
3. You are your child's first and best model for writing. Shopping lists, notes, birthday cards, and phone messages are all superb examples of home literacy. Kids can be included in these everyday types of writing. Kids love to do real, authentic, grown-up things. Ask your child to write thank you cards and letters to folks. This helps children understand that writing has a purpose and an audience. Invite your child to help you get the mail each day, and read some it to your child.



4. Write notes for your child in his/her lunchbox, schoolbag, or around the house, and ask your child to leave notes for you—even if your child is very young, and their “note” is just a picture. Like letter writing, this helps your little one understand that writing conveys meaning.

5. During the year, coloured pencils, fresh pads of paper and journals make great gifts for birthdays or holidays. What could be better than a brand new set of pens for writing notes, or a pack of special Post-Its? This helps foster a love of writing.

6. Drawing and writing random letter strings are an important first step to writing. Compliment your child’s attempts at drawing, writing, and storytelling even when those attempts are not perfect. Try using phrases like “I notice...” or “I see that you tried...” or “You worked really hard on...” instead of making it seem like writing is something that just comes “naturally”. Resist the urge to correct everything and know that your child’s writing will grow and improve with practice, time, and experience. Trying new things encourages a “growth mindset” as well as a sense of agency, resilience, and confidence. Help your child understand that they’ll grow as a writer with practice and experimentation, rather than being “born with it”.

7. Remind your child to bring a writer’s notebook whenever you go on a family outing. Whether it’s to grandma’s house, a soccer game, or a long car ride, there will be plenty to notice and draw, comment on, or wonder about.

8. Read, read, read to your child to encourage them to tell stories and write. Read aloud to your child every single day. Find a routine that works for you. Find books that work too. Every kid is different in terms of interest, topics, and preferences so take advantage of your local library so that you can test out all kinds of books in search of something you and your child can enjoy together.

9. Play word games like Scrabble, Boggle, ABC Bingo, Word Concentration, and others. Make up rhymes just for fun.

10. Last, but not least, tell stories of your own childhood aloud to your child and encourage them to tell you stories. Listen to your child’s stories, helping your child speak with detail. Compliment your child’s stories, saying, “I could really picture that story the way you told it” or, “You really sounded like a storyteller”, or “The way you said that sounds like a poem”. I read a parenting article once that suggested that if your child is having a tantrum, try telling a story about your own childhood.

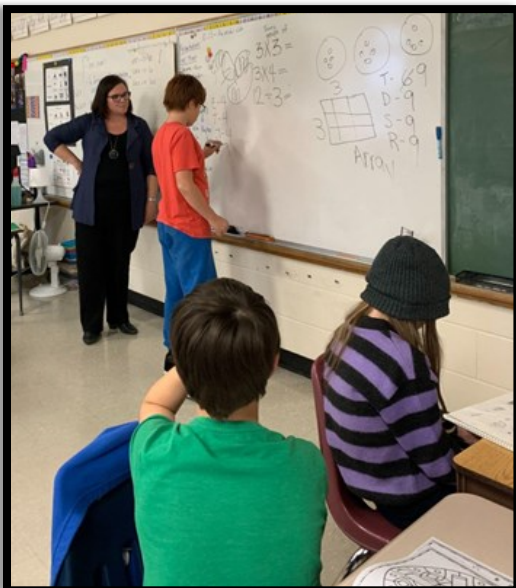
The literacy committee would like to encourage you to try any of these suggestions with your child during the holiday season as the cold weather, celebrations and family get togethers create many opportunities for writing. Wishing you all a very merry holiday season! Happy writing!

Source: [BethMooreSchool – TWO WRITING TEACHERS](#)

# Numeracy Committee

The numeracy committee has been focusing on learning through conversations about math, as well as exploring real-life situations to learn numeracy skills. Lori Brooks, our Early Years Math Consultant, came to co-teach a “number talks” lesson that focused on helping students explain their thinking and reasoning when coming up with an answer to a math problem.

“Helping Your Child Learn Math: A Parent’s Guide” is available at [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/parents/learn/math.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/parents/learn/math.pdf). Here are two excerpts from the guide discussing some tips for helping your child learn math and how to encourage them to give explanations:



## What Tips Can I Use to Help My Child?

### Be positive about math!

- ▶ Let your child know that **everyone** can learn math.
- ▶ Let your child know that **you** think math is important and fun.
- ▶ Point out the ways in which different family members use math in their jobs.
- ▶ Be positive about your own math abilities. Try to avoid saying “I was never good at math” or “I never liked math.”
- ▶ Encourage your child to be persistent if a problem seems difficult.
- ▶ Praise your child when he or she makes an effort, and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.

### Make math part of your child’s day.

- ▶ Point out to your child the many ways in which math is used in everyday activities.
- ▶ Encourage your child to tell or show you how he or she uses math in everyday life.
- ▶ Include your child in everyday activities that involve math – making purchases, measuring ingredients, counting out plates and utensils for dinner.
- ▶ Play games and do puzzles with your child that involve math. They may focus on direction or time, logic and reasoning, sorting, or estimating.
- ▶ Do math problems with your child for fun.
- ▶ When doing math with your child, use household objects such as measuring cups and containers of various shapes and sizes, as well as math tools such as a ruler and calculator.

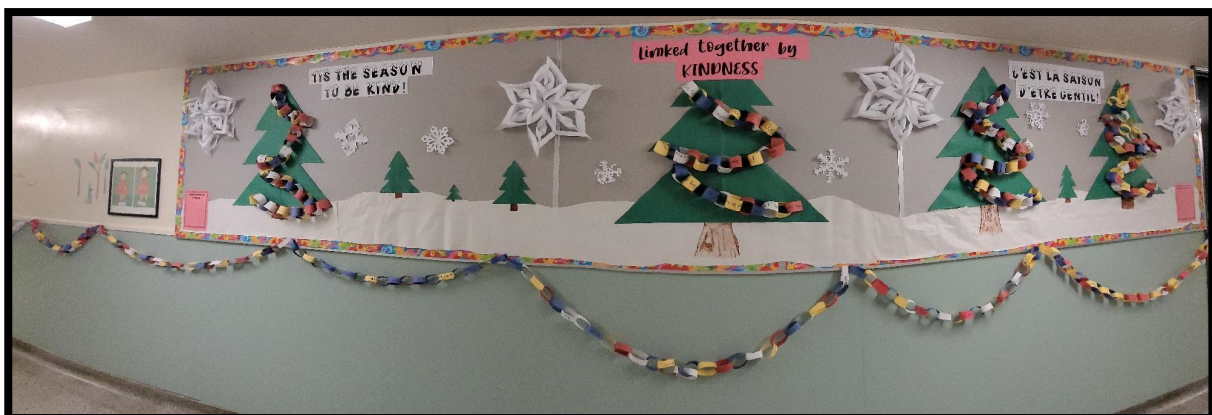
# WELLBEING COMMITTEE

## Linked together by KINDNESS!

Kindness is contagious! For the month of December, students at École Neil Campbell School have started a “chain reaction” by giving compliments to one another, being polite, holding the door for others, sharing, helping when someone is hurt, etc. When a student is noticed for being kind, they are given a chain link. They add their link to the chain. Our goal is to create a chain long enough to go from one end of the school to the other. If we meet our goal, students will be rewarded with a school wide movie in the gym! Ask your child what they’ve done to show others they care!

## The Wellbeing Committee

  
**Kindness  
Matters.**



# *School Culture & Pride Committee*

The lead up to winter break is always a busy and exciting time! The School Culture and Pride committee was eager to find fun ways to keep the mood up, and the children happy! Many of our members made valuable contributions to the wonderful musical showcase for our Kindergarten – Grade Two classes. What a delightful performance! The whole school enjoyed celebrating their success as we watched the dress rehearsal performance.

The committee also organized spirit week for the lead up to the holidays. We went across the spectrum with our holiday gear, wearing sweaters and Santa hats, fancy mittens and earmuffs – to travel/beach day where the Hawaiian shirts, shorts, sun hats, and sun glasses all came out! We also stoked pride in the community by wearing our whiteout/Jet's gear, as we cheer on our home team! Of course, we couldn't forget everyone's favorite at this time of year, PJ day!

We are excited for all the wonderful things the new year will bring. Wishing you and our amazing students a safe, happy and healthy new year!

# French Language Committee

Hello and Happy Holiday season to everyone from the French Immersion Committee.

In our committee we have been having discussions to further our evaluation and teaching of the French language.

One of the tools we are using to evaluate French writing development is called an "On Demand Write." Students are asked to write without assistance on a given topic that they have had the chance to discuss briefly with a classmate. They are given two blocks of time to complete this activity and writing samples are collected and examined. From the data we collect we are able to develop a continuum to evaluate student writing and assess progress over time.

We have just finished collecting and analyzing our first set of data. In the next year we hope to plan engaging activities that encourage French speaking and promote a sense of belonging to the larger community of French speakers.

Bonne saison des fêtes à tous!



# Neil Campbell Lunch Program

## Committee News



### REMINDERS

AS THE WEATHER CONTINUES TO GET COLDER, PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS DRESSED FOR THE WEATHER.

A REMINDER FOR FAMILIES THAT ARE CASUAL USERS OF THE LUNCH PROGRAM: IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT STAYING FOR LUNCH, THEY SHOULD NOT RETURN TO SCHOOL UNTIL 12:40PM. STUDENTS WHO ARRIVE BEFORE THE BELL MUST REMAIN IN THE FRONT VESTIBULE UNTIL THE BELL RINGS AT 12:45 P.M.

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS IN REGARDS TO THE LUNCH PROGRAM PLEASE EMAIL THE COMMITTEE AT [NCLUNCHPROGRAM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NCLUNCHPROGRAM@GMAIL.COM)

### WE ARE HIRING

NEIL CAMPBELL LUNCH PROGRAM IS CURRENTLY HIRING CASUAL SUPERVISORS TO OVERSEE OUR KIDS DURING THEIR SCHOOL LUNCH HOUR. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE EMAIL US AT [NCLUNCHPROGRAM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NCLUNCHPROGRAM@GMAIL.COM)

### INGREDIENTS

2 TBSP OLIVE OIL  
2 ONIONS, FINELY CHOPPED  
1 TSP MINCED GARLIC  
2 TSP DRIED MIXED ITALIAN HERBS  
3 CELERY STALKS, TRIMMED AND FINELY CHOPPED  
2 LEEKS, TRIMMED AND FINELY CHOPPED  
2 CARROTS, PEELED AND FINELY CHOPPED  
2 BELL PEPPERS, FINELY CHOPPED  
1 ZUCCHINI, FINELY CHOPPED  
4 X 400G CANS CHOPPED TOMATOES  
1 TBSP TOMATO PASTE (TOMATO PUREE)  
500ML (2 CUPS) VEGETABLE / CHICKEN STOCK



### VEGGIE PASTA SAUCE

AN EASY WAY TO GET YOUR KIDS TO EAT MORE VEGGIES.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Heat the oil in a LARGE saucepan, over a medium heat. Add the onion, garlic, and mixed herbs and stir for a couple of minutes.
- Add the remaining vegetables (celery, leeks, carrots, bell peppers, zucchini) and cook, covered, for around 20 minutes. Continually check and stir the vegetables, you want them to soften but not burn.
- Add the tomatoes, tomato paste, and stock. Stir until combined. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat and allow to simmer for a further 20 mins.
- Allow to cool slightly and then blend until smooth
- Allow to fully cool before pouring the sauce into containers/zip lock bags for storing.



For more detailed recipe visit [www.healthylittlefoodies.com/veggie-pasta-sauce/#recipe](http://www.healthylittlefoodies.com/veggie-pasta-sauce/#recipe)

## Anaphylaxis Policy

The division recognizes that some students attending schools may require the administration of medication in response to an acute allergic reaction. Therefore, for the safety of students, staff, and parents/guardians, Anaphylaxis Procedures and Anaphylaxis Avoidance Strategies must be followed within the division. The complete policy is available on the website at:

<http://www.retsd.mb.ca/yourretsd/Policies/Documents/JLCG-R1.pdf>

<http://www.retsd.mb.ca/yourretsd/Policies/Documents/JLCG-R2.pdf>

## Concern Protocol

<https://www.retsd.mb.ca/yourretsd/Policies/Documents/KE.pdf> (Policy KE-Concern Protocol)

<https://www.retsd.mb.ca/yourretsd/Policies/Documents/KE-R.pdf> (Policy KE-R Concerns & Complaints Procedures)



**COMMUNITY**

Bulletin Board

**Check out our new digital  
Community Bulletin Board to  
learn more about events, camps,  
and special offers for RETSD  
students and their families.**

**retsdb.ca/community**





# TIME TO BUNDLE UP!

## *RETSD Extreme Cold Weather Guidelines*

Sometimes, severe weather requires us to make changes to busing, outdoor recess, and safety patrolling to keep your children safe.

### **Busing**

When the temperature is  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$  and/or wind chill is  $-45^{\circ}\text{C}$  or colder at The Forks, metro Winnipeg school divisions (RETSD included) cancel buses for the entire day—but schools usually remain open.

We will post a cancellation alert on the RETSD website home page if buses are cancelled, and alert the media. If we have not posted a cancellation alert by 6:45 a.m., buses are running.

### **Indoor Recess**

When the temperature or wind chill is between  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $-27^{\circ}\text{C}$ , a shortened recess period may be warranted. When it is below  $-27^{\circ}\text{C}$ , recess is usually moved indoors. This is at the discretion of the principal.

### **School Patrols**

When the temperature or wind chill is between  $-27^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $-34^{\circ}\text{C}$ , patrols will remain on post for 10 minutes. When it is  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-39^{\circ}\text{C}$ , patrols will remain on post for five minutes. When it is  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  and below, no patrols will be on duty.

### **School Closures**

Schools very rarely close due to winter weather.

### **Winter Clothing**

Please ensure that your child comes dressed appropriately for the weather each day. When the temperature or wind chill is between  $-27^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $-34^{\circ}\text{C}$ , warm winter clothing is essential, and facial protection is recommended. When it is below  $-34^{\circ}\text{C}$ , facial protection is essential, and it's recommended that children avoid going outdoors unaccompanied—skin will freeze in less than 10 minutes.

**If you have any questions not addressed by these guidelines,  
please contact your child's school.**



# Concern Protocol

Your child's school will always try to make the learning experience a positive, safe and happy one for its students.

However, if you have a concern or an issue, please don't hesitate to let the school know. Open communication between home and school is very important to us.

# 1

Talk to the person most directly involved—your child's teacher. If you must leave a message, provide a day and evening phone number where the teacher can reach you.



If talking to the teacher doesn't resolve the issue, talk to the principal.

# 2



If you've talked to the principal, but the issue has not been resolved over a period of time, call the superintendent's department at 204.667.7130 or email [communications@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:communications@retsd.mb.ca).

# 3



# 4

If you disagree with the decision of the superintendent's department, you can make an appeal in writing to the board of trustees.



For more information:  
Policy KE – Concern Protocol  
Policy KE-R – Concerns and Complaints Process  
[retsd.mb.ca](http://retsd.mb.ca)