

# ROSS L. GRAY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



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## May/June 2019



### Principal's Message

I am honored, humbled and excited to be writing a message as Principal of Ross L. Gray school.

I am very proud and blessed to be part of an amazing teaching team at our school. Every day, our adults enter our building with a positive outlook on the day and wish for every student to receive an excellent education. Thanks for always working so hard and putting the needs of our students first. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, we said goodbye to nine amazing students at graduation. We want to wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors. You will all have a positive impact on our world.

We were fortunate to have many students in our high school on the honour roll this year. From Grade 12, we celebrate Sebastien Brindle. We had one student from Grade 9 and five Grade 10 students that received Honours with Distinction. The criteria for this acknowledgement is as followed: These students attained a 90% average for all subjects with no marks less than 80%. Congratulations to Ethan Van Osh in Grade 9 and to Jacob Bain, Aiden Brindle, Naomi Brown, Meadow Dyck, Madelynn Meek who are all in Grade 10. We also celebrate Ashlyn Willan, from Grade 9 that made the honour roll. Great Job students, very proud of you.

We continue to make many improvements to the infrastructure of our building. We have upgrading many cabinets in our elementary end, completed a beautiful aboriginal area in our library and built a reading nook in our high school end in memory of Tyler Primrose. We look to make a few more improvements over the summer. We are hopeful that in the summer of 2019, we will be getting a new gym floor. We continue to add trees to our yard; we bought a few more soccer nets and outdoor equipment for our students and we have all new desks in our Grade 7-8 classroom next year. Each year, we continue to make improvements to our school. We are grateful that the students respect our building and enjoy our continual improvements.

Thanks to all the parents and community members for your continued support this year. Thanks to all the volunteers that work in our school and provide extra- curricular activities for our students.

At RLG, we wish that everyone will have a restful and enjoyable summer. We look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Mr. Jared Baines

Principal, RLG school





## News from the Kindergarten Classroom

Mrs. Chubaty:

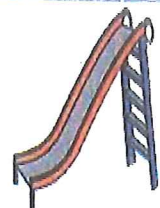
We have had a busy end of the school year, filled with fun summer activities and graduation. We are officially 1<sup>st</sup> graders when we come back to school in the fall! I am so proud of each and every one of the Kindergarten students, they all made tremendous gains in their learning and we had a ton of fun while doing it! Here is a picture from our last day of school!



## GRADE 1 & 2 CLASSROOM MRS. PEDERSON:

It is amazing how fast this year has flown by. It is wonderful to see the growth that all of the grade ones and twos have shown this year. I hope everyone has a fabulous summer! Here are some fun activities to keep your little ones brain stimulated over the summer. See you back at R.L.G in the fall!

## Tips for Preventing the Summer Slide



Studies show that children who do not read or have access to books during the summer lose up to 2 months of reading performance. Those losses accumulate during the elementary school years so that by the time a child enters middle school he/she may be 2 1/2 years behind! All children, whether from low, middle or upper income families, may fall victim to the "summer slide" if not provided with summer reading opportunities. So how do we prevent the summer slide or even accelerate reading growth? Here are a few ideas:

**1** Visit your local library! Help your child find "right fit" books. Right fit books are books that are of high interest to your child and are not beyond their reading level. You can use the five finger test to determine if the book is too difficult for your child. Open the book to a page with many words. Have your child begin reading the text. Hold up a finger for each word he/she does not know. If you have 4 or 5 fingers up, the text may be too difficult for your child to read independently. Feel free to still check out the book! It just may be a book you want to read with your child.

**2** Be sure your child reads at least 20 minutes a day. According to research, a child who reads only 1 minute a day outside of school will learn 8,000 words by the end of sixth grade where a student who reads 20 minutes outside of school will learn 1,800,000 words! That's huge! If reading isn't one of your child's top priorities, you may need to set up an incentive program.

**3** Set a good example. When your child sees you reading and enjoying a book or a newspaper article, you are sending a message that reading is important and valuable.

**4** Read to your child. When you read to your child, he/she hears the rhythm of language. Be sure to read with expression! Changing your voice for different characters and increasing your volume during exciting parts are only a few ways to keep children engaged.

**5** Read with your child—explore different types of reading such as poetry. For our little ones, poetry is a great way to improve phonemic awareness skills as poetry often incorporates rhyme. For our older children, poetry is a means of improving fluency.

**6** Read for different purposes. Reading directions for a recipe or directions for assembling a toy are fun ways of incorporating reading into everyday activities.

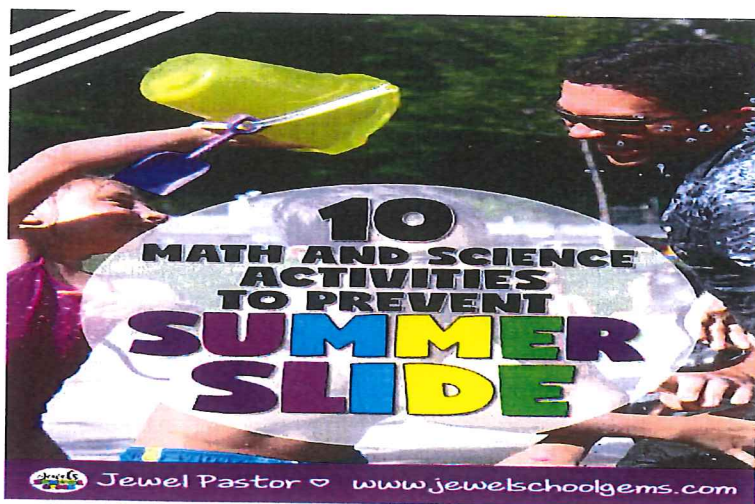
**7** Play games with words. Commercial games such as Apples to Apples improves vocabulary. You can easily turn a game of hopscotch or 4 square into a game that incorporates learning letters or sight words. Be sure to check out the "8 Super Summer Sight Word Activities" on the Make, Take & Teach blog.

**8** If you have access to an iPad, there are tons of interactive books and apps that address phonics and early reading skills. There are also many websites that offer free reading related games.

Have a happy and healthy summer! Be sure to read, read and read some more! Not only can we prevent the summer slide, we can accelerate reading growth.



For more teaching ideas and activities be sure to visit our blog! [www.blog.maketakeandteach.com](http://www.blog.maketakeandteach.com)



Jewel Pastor ♥ [www.jewelschoolgems.com](http://www.jewelschoolgems.com)



## 10 MATH AND SCIENCE ACTIVITIES TO PREVENT THE SUMMER SLIDE | by JEWEL PASTOR

jewelschoolgems.com

6. Plant a garden. Starting a garden and watching plants grow are truly exciting for kids. They can keep a record of the growth of specific plants by drawing what the plants look like on specific number of days and even write down their observations.

[https://theunexpectedhomeschooler.com/summer-slide-activities?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=pinterest&utm\\_campaign=tailwind\\_tribes&utm\\_content=tribes&utm\\_term=704870430\\_28029662\\_170520](https://theunexpectedhomeschooler.com/summer-slide-activities?utm_medium=social&utm_source=pinterest&utm_campaign=tailwind_tribes&utm_content=tribes&utm_term=704870430_28029662_170520)



[How to Stop Summer Slide: 26 Fun Activities Your Kids Will Love! | The Unexpected Homeschooler](#)

theunexpectedhomeschooler.com

### GRADE 3 CLASSROOM **MRS. GOULET:**

The last two months of school have been busy in the grade 3 classroom! Some highlights from the last weeks of school include The Teddy Bear Tea, Track and Field, a visit to the Sprague Museum, a field trip to the Assiniboine Zoo, and Math Camp. In addition to our special activities, students were involved in many classroom projects. In Math they

created their own math games in review of the concepts learned this year. To wrap up our study on the Vikings, students made a model long home (the type of home Vikings lived in). They enjoyed a unit on poetry and continued to challenge themselves in reading.

As always, students are encouraged to read throughout the Summer and continue to practice their math flashcards.

Have a wonderful Summer Break!

Mrs. Goulet



### MR. GYOERICK'S REPORT

The students wrote this month's newsletter report as a class. They had fun doing it but they are definitely ready for summer as they kept it short and sweet! The year definitely flew by! I had a lot of fun with the class along the way. Have a safe & fantastic summer!

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### **Hello People of Earth!**

This year has been a fun year filled with activities and learning. **The grade 5's** got two track and field days, and the one we had at our school was so hot but we still had fun.

We had a lot of June birthdays in our room (Dayna, Mason, Havilah, Matty, Gavin), we also recognized our one summer birthday in August (Jonny). This

we popped balloons to add some fun activities to our last month of school. The first balloon we popped gave us cotton candy. Other activities included a pizza lunch, bubble gum, chocolate day, art day, and extra recess just to name a few. We are excited for the yearend field trip to the Manitoba Wildlife Haven on Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. This month we will be having our pool day on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Both days will be really fun and we are excited for them!

It's almost our summer break and we can't wait! We will talk to you all again next year!

## **MRS. KIVINEN CLASSROOM**

### **Gr. 5/6 Class**

It has been a busy few months for the Gr. 5/6 class. Here are some of the highlights of what we have been up to:

#### **Earth Day in Vita**

Hello, today is the day we went to Vita! Well, actually that was April 20<sup>th</sup>. We went to Vita for Earth Day and it was really fun!!! But let's get into a little more detail than that...

**Station 1-** Bracelets- we made bracelets out of recycled materials like pop can tabs

**Station 2-** Nutrition- we learned about nutrition with Mrs. Verhoog

**Station 3-** Prairie Shore Botanicals- we learned about useful plants that might even be growing in our backyards!

**Station 4-** Critter Dipping- we looked for aquatic invertebrates a ditch.

Cheyanna, Bobbie and Ms. K

#### **Gathering of Friends**

Just over a month ago, we went to the Roseau River Reserve for the Meeting of Friends. There we went from classroom to classroom and Indigenous Elders talked to us about things like the sweat lodge and residential schools. They provided a lunch of hamburgers and we got to go to powwow, which was very interesting.

Emily

### **Gr. 6 Math**

In Gr. 6 Math we've been studying for our Gr. 6 MRLC (Manitoba Rural Learning Consortium) math exam. We did 4 quizzes and server math test. All the stuff we did on the tests and quizzes were all mushed together for

this exam, everything we learned with year in math. Now I would say more but I have to study,

Emily and Dayne

### **Science**

In Science class we have 2 experiments. The first one was testing static electricity with balloons. The second one was testing materials that we chose to see if they are insulators or conductors. The experiments were lots of fun and we all really enjoyed them.

Julia

### **Literature Circles**

For the end of the year we started reading certain books in groups. We would have to read up to a certain chapter each week then meet up and talk about those chapters. The meetings are called Literature Circles. We met up every week till we finished the book. All of the groups finished a couple of days ago. My book is Holes. I really enjoyed reading it. It was very interesting. Thank you for listening- buy!

Julia

### **Track and Field in Vita**

One of the events this year that was really fun was Track and Field Day at Vita where there are all kinds of events that test your physical abilities.

A few of the field events are running, jumping, shotput, discus, long jump and relay races. All of them are meant to test your physical and mental abilities. Some of the biggest events were running and high jump as they were some of the hardest to do. Other than these there are things you can do while waiting for your track event, such as buying tasty treats from the canteen or engaging in a basketball game with your friends.

Now with all of this you might want to come too, just not right now as you won't find any track events, but maybe next year when the Gr. 5/6s go you could go too.

Kian and Patrick

### **Year-end Field Trip to Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre**



Our year-end field trip to the Wildlife Haven for Gr. 4-6 was a lot of fun. We were the 2<sup>nd</sup> class to try out their educational program in their new facility in Iles des Chenes. Students got to critter-dip in the pond, create an experiment with edible fruit-flavoured bubbles, and build a windmill. They also got to help release baby robins and they dissected owl pellets to find the bones of their prey. They had a visit with the center's wildlife ambassadors Max the Great Horned Owl, Roo the barred Tiger Salamander, Avro the Swainson's Hawk, Milan the Mississippi Kite and a box turtle. We brought a donation of \$33.21 for the center.



### **MRS. KEFFER'S REPORT**

**To the 7/8 Classroom,**

Wow! This school year flew by!!! It was such a pleasure being your teacher this year. You worked so hard to reach the goals that were set for the class.

Every one of you contributed positively to our classroom community. My favorite part of this year was the short story unit and how enthusiastic each of you were when writing your own short stories. The stories were engaging, fun, and at times spooky.

Enjoy your summer and remember to continue to look at your world with excitement and wonder! Write, draw, talk, and read about what interests and challenges you. Continue to find joy in writing with imagination and reading with enthusiasm. Do not be afraid to ask questions or to look up a word you do not know. Life is full of excitement and adventure! Let your curiosity guide you!

Thank you for teaching me just as much as you let me teach you.

**To the 9 and 10's,**

Thank you for being open to another perspective and listening to the history of Canada through the eyes of Indigenous perspectives. I had a blast teaching and creating the beautiful pieces of artwork that are now on the classroom wall. As we talked about all the time, reconciliation is about building relationships and learning from one another. You may have thought that painting on the classroom walls was a chill experience but what you did not see was the relationships you were building upon with one another during this time. That was my favorite part. Relationships provide a foundation for respect, kindness, and lifelong learning. I hope that whatever life brings your way you think about the 7 generations behind you and the 7 generations to come. Enjoy your summer, you earned it!



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### **MR. STRADESKI'S REPORT**

All of my classes have wrapped up their exams by now. **The Grade 9/10 Science Class** have finished their Chemistry unit. We explored the periodic table and the atom.

**The Grade 12 Chemistry Class** has successfully completed their year. They



finished the year by performing a couple of electrolysis experiments on a piece of copper electroplated a piece of aluminum. They also completed a variety of projects that had them test pH with natural materials, baking cookies using different chemical reactions, making an "at home" rocket, and trying to develop diamond-like crystals from charcoal (this one doesn't work). If you see one of these students this summer, ask them about this project.

**The Grade 12 Pre-Calc and Essential Math** classes have completed their Provincial Exam. These are tremendously tough and arduous exams. I must commend my math students who put in countless extra hours preparing for their math exam. I am very proud of their efforts. **The Grade 9 Math Class** worked very hard to get their entire workload complete despite the number of snow days and basketball days we had this year. We worked through a bootcamp designed to strengthen their general math skills as well as we continually looked at the key topics throughout the year in order for them to stick in the student's brains for a long time.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the graduating class of Ross L. Gray, 2019. I am honoured to have been their teacher or coach for the past four years. We've had some laughs, we've had some arguments, and maybe there was some learning getting done in the middle. I am sure they will represent Ross L. Gray proudly wherever their travels take them. Good Luck!

Have a long and sun filled summer.

### **MR. BROWN'S REPORT**

From Mr. Brown's Room  
For the graduates of 2019, everything must be so intense right now. Some have plans to go to school in Winnipeg in the Fall and are working summer jobs before they leave home. Some are leaving the "prison" of school for the freedom of working 40 hours a week in a job where you have to show up on

time and don't get paid to be on your phone. Others are developing their plans for greatness. No matter which path they chose, each graduate is jumping from the nest to take flight. For some, it may be a long time before they see their fellow graduates again.

For students returning next year, begin your graduation planning now. Find out what programs others are taking. Learn what scholarship opportunities are out there. When you meet people over the summer, ask them about their career choices. It is a big world and there is an amazing variety of jobs to choose from.

Next year we will take the grade 9-12's to D.C. for a college seminar in October and to the Winnipeg Career Symposium in April. In a sense, you are also choosing your career every time you study or work at a job. You are building skills, finding out what you like, and finding out what you are good at.

For my grade 4-8 students, summer is a time of infinite possibilities. I encourage you to take the initiative to do challenging things this summer. Next week many of the Grade 5/6's will bike to Vassar from Sprague. For most, this will be the farthest they have ever biked. Overcoming challenges is habit forming and gives confidence for overcoming the next obstacle. If you are tired of being average, work at being really good at something besides video games. Practice a musical instrument, learn your Multiplication, memorize the Periodic Table of Elements. With Youtube videos, you can teach yourself anything if you have the drive to try. What will you make yourself an expert in? Even if you are too young to get a regular job, wouldn't it be great to volunteer and help a Senior with yard work. Why? Well, you are building skills and a job resume that may help you get a job later in life. Also, you are helping to make the world a better place. If you can do that this summer, that is something to remember.

Whatever you do, don't be bored this summer. Plan ahead. Talk to your parents and don't just ask what they can do for you, ask what you can do for them. Make this a summer that you can be proud of.

## MR. KEFFER'S REPORT

It's hard to believe that another school year has come and gone already. Some highlights of my year include being involved in an ESD week where we focused on water and waste issues, organizing the filming crew at JV provincials, and playing in a cover band with my students. The most rewarding experience was at the spring concert when our band the "Kool-Aid Jammers" played a 5 song set to cap off the year. I look forward to starting a new band next year with some familiar faces and maybe some new ones too. I wonder what our name will be next year?



## MR. FRIESEN'S REPORT

It's the end of another year, my first as a full-time gym teacher. It has been an exciting new experience, overall. At times hectic but it was a pleasure to see the students excited about physical activity and be so willing to try many different activities and games. They

grew in their skills throughout the year and were able to find more success and fun. I also enjoyed seeing some of the older students starting to develop their leadership and teamwork skills. All in all, it was a fantastic first year in my new role and I look forward to another great year in the fall. But for now, a little rest and relaxation. Have a great summer!!!

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## ROSS L. GRAY SCHOOL



*Sebastien Brindle*

*Kailey Cooper*

*Paul Hacault*

*Walker Meek*

*Ethan Prevost*

*Dhaval Rathwa*

*Caleb Roch*

*Arabella Rookley*

*Brodie Wood*



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*A beginning ....*

*a time for looking forward,*

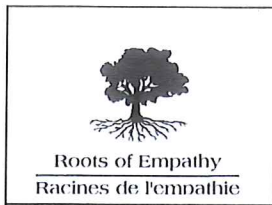
*a time to set new goals,*

*to dream new dreams,*

*to try your wings,*

*.... and see what lies beyond.*





## ROOTS OF EMPATHY

Border Land School Division is proud to announce that is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of offering the Roots of Empathy Program to our students.

**Once again Ross L. Gray School would like to offer the Roots of Empathy (ROE) program.**

### **We are looking for a family who would like to be our ROOTS OF EMPATHY FAMILY.**

This means that once a month you will provide an opportunity for the ROE classroom to share in the miracle of your baby's *first year of life*. Either one or both parents come to the ROE classroom once a month for a visit. Your family visits with students in the ROE classroom will help to foster the development of empathy in these children.

"Loving relationships are the greatest teachers and the one you share with your baby will help to build a more caring, peaceful and civil society." Mary Gordon

For **more information** please contact **Adriane Culleton** at  
204- 437-2175 or [culletona@blsd.ca](mailto:culletona@blsd.ca)

# Vassar Summer Day Program



For the 10<sup>th</sup> year Vassar Community Recreational Centre is offering  
**summer day programming.**

- This year we will offer programming in:

## ***Vassar, Sprague, South Junction and Middlebro***

- Once again, **activities for teens and a weekend program** will be offered in Vassar.
- Activity Coordinators also **assist with games/pool activities during public swim.**

### **What is summer day program?**

The children meet at the Park where they will be involved in a variety of crafts, activities, and games.

A mid-day snack and water is also provided.

If your child has severe allergies please send a snack with them.

### **Who is the summer day program for?**

All children ages 5-13.

Children under 5 may attend if accompanied by an adult.



### **What does my child need to bring?**

Children need to provide their own sunscreen, bug spray, and hat.

### **Dates and Time:**

**Vassar Park** (In conjunction with Swimming lessons)

Monday thru Friday (July 15 - Aug 9) from 12:00-3:00

### **Sprague Museum**

Wednesdays only (July 3- August 7) from 1:00 – 4:00

### **South Junction & Middlebro**

(no Camp on July 1<sup>st</sup>)

First two weeks in July only (excluding Wednesdays)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (July 2-5 & July 8-12)

South Junction Park-from 9:00 – 12:00

Middlebro Park - from 1:00 – 4:00



### **Who will be running the program?**

The program/activities will be run by summer students who have been hired through various summer grants, including **HOME TOWN GREEN TEAM, Manitoba Metis Federation, and Canada Summer Jobs.** Crafts materials/sports equipment are provided through a grant from the **RM of Piney.**

### **Vassar Park - Teen Nights!**

Teens ages 12-17 Two evenings a week

Times and dates TBA. Check Social Media

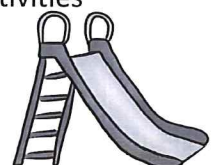
Possible activities: batting cage, beach volleyball, swimming, scavenger hunt, baseball, basketball...

### **What is offered on the weekends?**

Any age From 12:30 to 2:00 Meet at Vassar playground Various activities

**Sign in:** Please sign your children in at camp in Sprague, Middlebro and South Junction.

**Questions:** Contact  
Adriane Culleton at 437-3168  
or Vassar Pool at 437-2214





# COME & ENJOY A SUMMER FAIR



LOCATED AT THE  
SPRAGUE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

**SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2019**  
FROM 1:00 – 3:00 P.M.



## CATEGORIES FOR ENTRIES

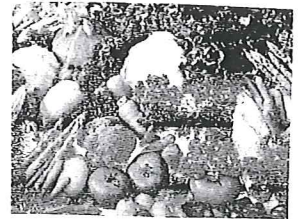
### ADULTS

1. COLLECTION OF 5 VEGETABLES TYPES  
DISPLAY SIZE UP TO 16 INCHES x 16 INCHES
2. CONTAINER OF ANNUAL FLOWERS
3. CONTAINER OF PERENNIAL FLOWERS
4. DISPLAY OF WILD FLOWERS, GRASSES ETC.
5. A BAKED PRODUCT USING BLUEBERRIES  
STRAWBERRIES, RHUBARB ETC.

### CHILDREN (Age 10 and under)

1. ONE PLATE OF 6 CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES
2. A CONTAINER OF FLOWERS

**ENTRIES MUST BE IN PLACE BY 1:30 P.M.**  
**JUDGING WILL BEGIN AT 2:00 P.M.**  
**RIBBONS AWARDED AT 3:00 P.M.**



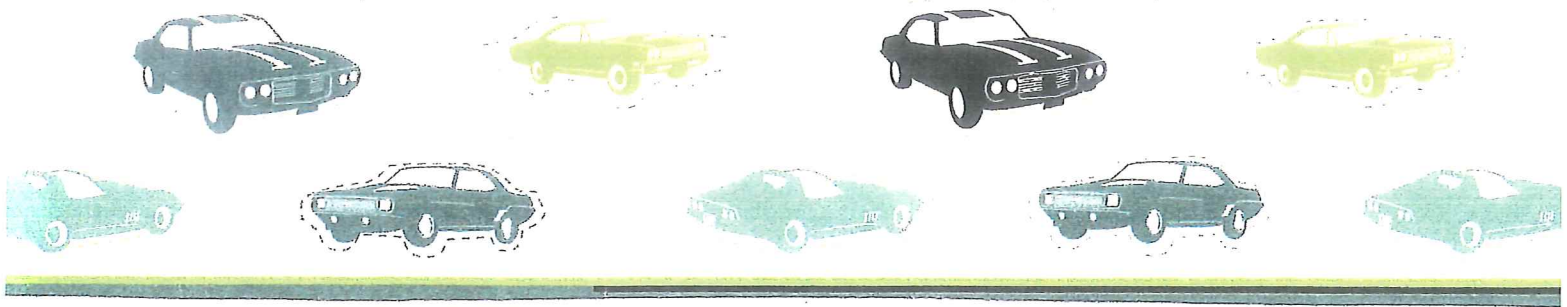
FIRST: SECOND: THIRD: HONORABLE MENTION: PARTICIPATION

Refreshments will be served

**DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR CAMERA**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: Betty: 204-437-2209**  
**Doris: 204-437-2210**



## **8 TH ANNUAL SHOW & SHINE**

**Saturday August 17th, 2019**

**Antique, Classic, Sport, Muscle, Off Road Vehicles  
Vintage Snowmobiles, Tractors, & Special Interest  
Vehicles**

**Place: Sprague, MB. Near corner of Hwy 12 & PR 308. White Shed,  
Green Sign #44 West side of 308**

**Time: Noon till 4 PM**

**Food: BBQ burgers & hotdogs & Refreshments**

**Entertainment!**

**No Entry Fee required**

**To **Register** please email all entries to:**

**[a.kimrose@hotmail.com](mailto:a.kimrose@hotmail.com)**

**Donations go to the Ross L. Gray Sports Program**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**



08-16-2014





# VASSAR BALL TOURNAMENT



**AUGUST 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday, mixed slo-pitch**

**7 MEN, 3 WOMEN**

**\$200/TEAM ENTRY FEE**

**1<sup>st</sup> place - \$1,000**

(with 16 registered teams)

**OPEN AIR DANCE**

**Sunday, men's fastball**

**\$150/TEAM ENTRY FEE**

**Pancake Breakfast**

**Silent Auction**

**Open Air Dance**

**To register a team please contact Duane Boutang at**

**204-437-3173 Or [duane@boutang.ca](mailto:duane@boutang.ca)**

**OUTDOOR POOL & SHOWERS (PRICES POSTED)**

**WEEKEND CAMPING (\$20)**

**Contact Gina at 204-437-3182 or [mommagd63@gmail.com](mailto:mommagd63@gmail.com)**

**FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE AT CANTEEN**

**\$4 GATE FEE PER DAY (12 AND UNDER FREE)**

**NO DOGS ALLOWED**

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In support of the Vassar Community Recreation Centre



Have a great  
  
Vacation!



**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**  
**(Day 1)**