



# Welcome November

Ross L. Gray School  
Newsletter  
November - 2020



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

**Happy November** to all our RLG community members:

It is hard to believe Remembrance Day is here. We are saddened by the fact that we cannot have our traditional gathering in the gym this year to remember our fallen soldiers that gave their lives so as we could have the freedom in this beautiful country that we enjoy today. A special thanks to all our veterans in our area for their many sacrifices.

It has been an unusual start to the 2020 school year. So many events and regular school day activities have been stripped from us because of COVID. The one thing that is constant in all this pandemic is the fact that my wonderful staff continue to come to school and give every morsel of themselves to our students. They are a wonderful group of individuals that continually do their best work to keep everyone safe and provide everyone with an education. I am grateful for their dedication and ability to come to work every day with a smile on their face. Each day presents a new challenge and within that challenge, we find something to celebrate. Each day my staff continually puts the needs of our students, your children, first. When I speak of my amazing staff, I speak of all adults at RLG. I am grateful for my beautiful secretary, my bus drivers that have extra tasks due to COVID and to my custodial staff that are doing an amazing job to keep our school clean and meeting all COVID protocol. Thanks be to all the adults at RLG.

Thanks be to all the students. You are the reason we come to school. Thanks for being so resilient with all the changes and directives that seem to still change by the week and sometimes by the day. You are all amazing. Thanks for making the most of spirit week. Thanks for always thinking things could be worse.

To the staff that had a part in our community Halloween, we thank you. This was a great event. Thanks to the community members for their support.

To the parents, thanks for your patience, your understanding and your ability to sift through all the COVID protocol to assist us in doing the best job we can to keep our school safe during this pandemic. The one thing I do need from all of you is to please sign into the parent portal on our power school. I have sent directions and paperwork home. Please be in touch with me if you need additional support. Any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or send me an email.

[Bainesj@blsd.ca](mailto:Bainesj@blsd.ca)

204-437-2175

**Stay healthy and safe**

JRBaines

Jared Baines  
Principal  
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204-437-2175



GRADE 1 & 2 CLASSROOM

Mrs. Pederson:

News from the Kindergarten Classroom

Ms. Rozsa:

What a busy few months it has been in our kindergarten classroom! Our days seem so jammed packed that they just seem to fly by.

**English Language Arts:** The students have been working on Letterland. They have learned the characters from A-H and are busy finding their sounds in words in our classroom stories. The students have also been exploring books through home readings and always look forward to the new books they get each week.


**Math:** Students have been working on their numbers from 1 to 10. We have explored each number through many ways including rainbow writing, dotting, and coloring. The calendar has been a big hit with the students and October we had a countdown to Halloween. Each day we got closer and the kids got more excited.

**Science:** Our science focus has been on trees and fall. This has allowed us to explore different kinds of leaves and how they change colors. Now that the weather is colder, we have been look at how trees grow and what happens to them in winter.

**Social Studies:** We have been focusing on school and understanding what it means to be a student. They have been learning how each person is different and we learn in different ways. Our favorite saying, "We may be different but that is okay!" We practice our listening skills and knowing how we use our manners and show respect in the school.

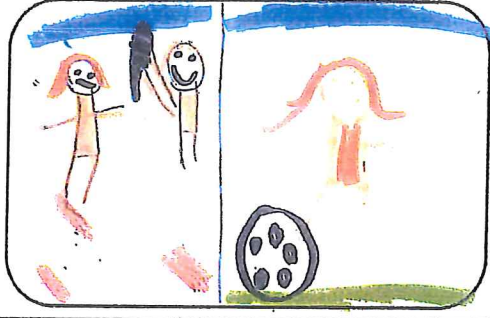
RAINBOW  
WRITE!

Name L. D. DONT Date 10/27

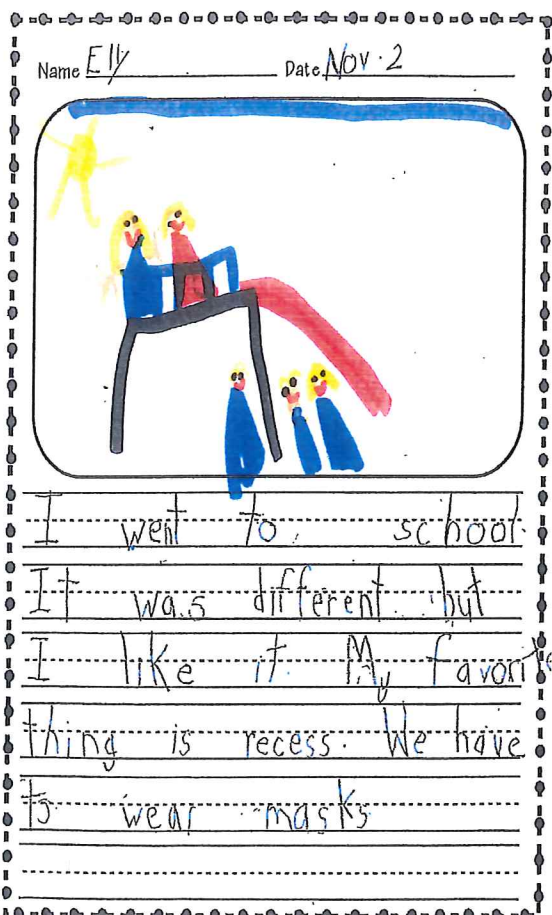
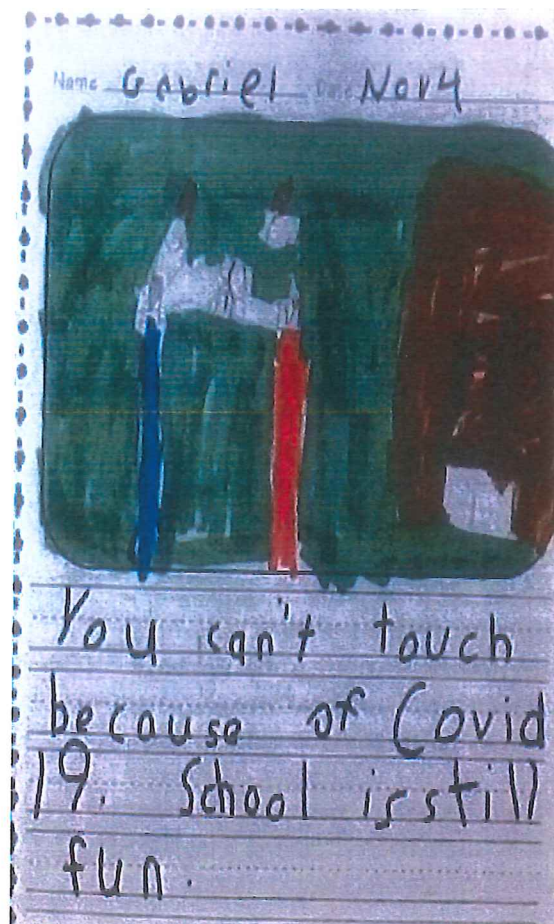
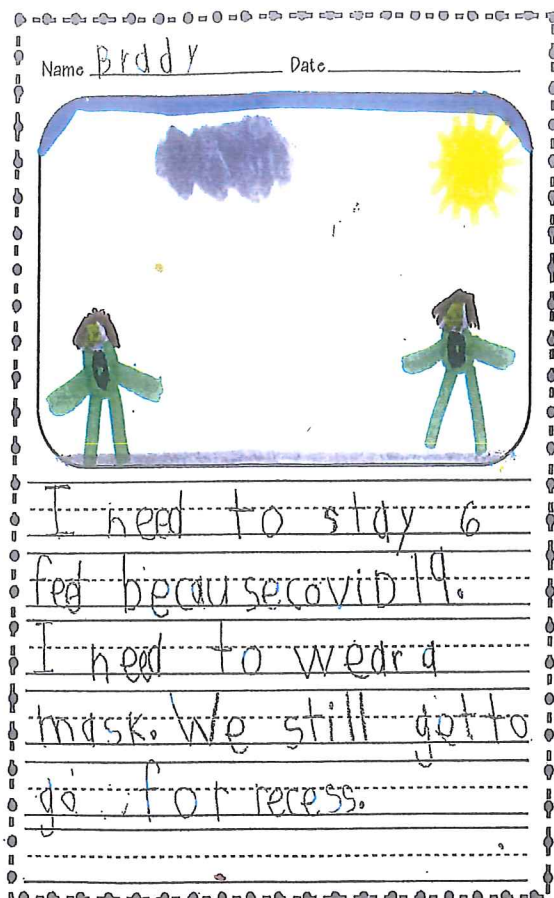


We can't be close  
to anyone.

Name Jocelyn Date NOV 02 0



Going to school with  
Covid 19 we have to  
social distance stay 6  
feet apart we cant play  
baseball or soccer. I like  
playing games at school.



## GRADE 2/3 CLASSROOM

### **Mrs. Goulet:**

#### **Something I have learned...**

I learned about math. Math is my favourite because it makes my brain smart. - **Adrianna**

I learned that bridges have strength in them. - **Jada**

How to read better. - **Zaach**

Dividing and multiplication. - **Gavin**

#### **Something I have enjoyed doing...**

I like doing science because we do experiments. - **Jaimison**

I like Spirit Week! - **Jaxxen**

Playing with my friends. - **Tanner**

#### **Something I'm excited to do this year...**

Getting new and harder math games, going out for recess. - **Kaleb**

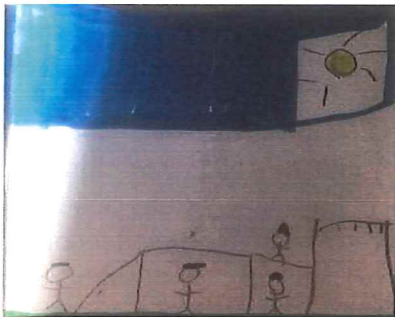


## GRADE 4/5 CLASSROOM

Grade 4/5 - Miss Kelly Ross

Christmas Craft Day because I like to do art.- **Bentleigh**

I'm excited to do learn more about adding in math. - **Annabelle**



The Grade 4/5 students have provided some updates about what we are up to in class.

### ***Introduction***

Hi I am Witney Lea Marie Faskerti. I am in Miss Ross class. There is 14 student it's the Grade 4/5 class together. We have Writing and Art and Gym and French and Math. You will hear from the kids – Levi, Faith, Jordan, Zach, Ashton, Calleigh, Emmy, Conner, Devin, Riley, Brody, Will, Kipton, and me. -Witney Faskerti

### ***Reading***

For reading, Miss Ross takes turns reading with us. Or we spend half an hour reading to self. I think reading goes good. It's pretty quiet. Most of us read in our heads. -William Milne

### ***Science***

In science we are doing habitats. We do desert, grasslands, and ponds. Then in science we read about habitats. Then we do science Miss Ross gets plants for us. I brough snails and minnows to keep in the classroom. I like science because I like to be outside. -Devin VanOsch

### ***Computer Literacy***

In computers we learnt how to log onto outlook.com and e-mail. On computers we play doulingo. On doulingo we learn French. That Conner & Calleigh will tell you about it. We also do Epic. -Riley Bain

### ***French***

I like French because I get to learn lots. And have lots of fun. And we learn online Doulingo. It is so fun. And on November 3 we got headphones with a built in microphone. It is the best class ever. -Conner Prevost

### ***French***

Mr. Brown is our French and Math Teacher. When it's his class we go on compyters and go on a app called doulingo. When we are in doulingo, He comes around and does one on one math with us. When he walks in the classroom we all yell Mr Brown!!! He is very fun and talks a lot. he has at lest 10 million stories to tell. -Calleigh Hebel

### ***Math***

The is what we do for math. We are doing divison and multiplying double digits. We are subtracting and doing patterns. Before we did the

other work we did adding triple digits. Also our teachers are Mr. Brown and Miss Rozsa. -Kipton Preteau

### ***Lunch and Recess***

We eat lunch everyday. Some people go on the stage to eat. We get to take off our masks. It is quiet fun! I like lunch. There as a snow fort but it was destroyed because its warm out. -Brody Moores

### ***Art***

Our first art project was a portrit of ourself. Our second art project was a picture of a poppy a dove a gun than we have magazines and we have sissors and glue. -Faith Sewap

### ***Art***

We are making monochromatic collages. We are destroying magazines. Also Ted Harrison. Well only learning about him. Last month we were making self portraits in the style of Ted Harrison. I am a very good drawing. -Zach Prevost

### ***Orange Shirt Day***

We wear orange t-shirts on September 30 because of the survivors of the residential schools. -Jordan Forbes

### ***Physical Education***

In gym we are doing football and soccer everyday we switch from football to soccer. Its really fun today we played baseball soccer. Its like soccer and baseball mixed together. -Ashton Richard

### ***Physical Education***

I do lots of stuff for gym. I will tell you about what we do outside. For gym outside we do soccer and flag football. I like flag football more. It is so much fun. it is my favourite sport. Gym is one of my favourite part of the day. -Emilienne Willan

### ***Project 11***

We learn about healthy friendship and unhealthy friendships -Levi Prevost

## **MRS. KIVINEN'S CLASSROOM**

Our classroom looks very different this year! Our desks are spread apart, and we have to stay at our desks. We can't share any learning materials so we have all of our supplies at our desk. We each have book boxes, binders and folders, pencils, markers, erasers, pencil crayons, playing cards, 10-sided dice, whiteboards, and whiteboard markers at our desk! We stay in our classroom all day, except for when we go out at recess. We have different morning and afternoon recess times this year so that we are only outside with our cohort.

There are new things that we do to stay safe. We wash and sanitize our hands. We wear masks on the bus and in class. We make sure that we are social distancing throughout the day.

For Gym we often go outside. In math we have been working on place value for large number and decimals. Mr. Brown also helps us practice our math facts. In science we are studying biodiversity and are each researching living things. In ELA we are learning about what we do when we write. Many members of our class have been reading the City of Ember series, which is a series that several of us recommend. We are also reading Wonder as a class. In French we do Duolingo; for library, Mrs. Bremault has a mobile library where she brings us books on a cart; and we do Project 11 with Mr. Keffer.

Even though things are different this year, we still got to have a Spirit week and celebrate Halloween. We had blue and white day, backwards/mismatched day, sports day, pajama day and Halloween day. Mrs. Culleton made a slideshow of the costumes from each grade so that we could see what other classes did.

Watching the slideshows was a lot of fun- thanks Mrs. Culleton! On Halloween we dressed up and had a parade and each got a ginormous bag of candy! Thanks to all the community members who donated candy!

- **By the Gr. 5/6 class**



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

The grade 7/8 students were busy creating scavenger hunts for a teacher of their choice. Our writing focuses were sequence, accuracy, and conventions. All of the participants had a great time trying to decipher their clues and finding their final destination! Here are a few to share:

**Grade 7 students**, Marissa Forbes and Jena Kraus created a scavenger hunt for Mrs. Kivinen that led her straight to our classroom in the Library; every clue was geared towards the participant.

To start out they had Mrs. Keffer place the first clue on Mrs. Kivinen's door so that she would find it when she opened it up. The clue stated, "Where you make tea."

Location of Next Clue	Clue for next location
1. In the staff room where Mrs. Kivinen makes tea.	Where kids place their boots right beside the exit and entrance
2. The 5/6 class boot rack	Where you greet the children in the morning from the bus, "ding dong".
3. Front doors by the doorbell to enter the school.	Where we store the paper and sing, "Jingle All the Way".
4. Art supply room on the Christmas Decorations	Where flowers grow but they are not real.
5. In the flowers on the shelf of the library.	On a bow made for cats.
6. On the bow of the Cat and the Hat painted on the library wall.	Where the animals roam and birds chirp above me. The animals say "Boozhoo".
7. Final: In the Indigenous corner of the library where the animals of the seven teachings sit.	Item to Find: A baby Teepee

**The Grade 8 students**, Mollie Zimmerman and Kathryn Friesen create a fishing themed scavenger hunt for Mr. Baines.

To start his scavenger hunt, Mrs. Preteau placed the envelope with clue number one on Mr. Baines's desk. It stated, "The thing you use to catch supper is where you can find your next clue".

Location for the Next Clue	Clue for next location
1. His fishing rod in his office	Solve this puzzle to find where the next clue is. (This puzzle was a picture of Tyler's corner in the high school hallway).
2. Tyler's painting	Where kids shorter than you tie their shoes.
3. Elementary shoe rack	I am where you used to teach. Look high that's where you will find me. Take the ball and chance to dunk and do a dance.
4. Gym on the basketball hoop	If you're thirsty stop by me.
5. Water fountain	Where kids at the beginning of the day stand and wait patiently to come in and sanitize their hands.
6. In the front of the school	If you want to paint a famous painting, where do you get the supplies?
7. Art supply room	Stop and smell the flowers.
Final: The flowerpot located in the library.	Item to Find: Fish lure with coffee pods.

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

As all of my classes are high school classes, all of my students have been in the building every-other-day due to COVID protocols. This means that the students must work independently at home on their "off" days. Many students are doing well with this. I know I am grateful to see my students healthy and learning to the best of their ability

**The Grade 9 Science Class** just completed their Chemistry unit when we started to name chemicals and looked at bonding. Now they are working on our Electricity unit where the students will try to shock their siblings when they drag their feet across a carpet.

**The Grade 10 Pre-Calc Class** has just completed a unit on factoring and now we are learning about how to deal with radicals (square and cube roots).

**The Essential Class** has just completed a unit on area and now will be learning about how to get paid when they get into the job market.

**The Grade 11 Pre-Calc Class** is working on how to solve quadratic expressions and will later be moving to solving radical expression. **The Essential Class** has just completed a unit involving slope and will be moving to a trigonometry unit soon.

**The Grade 11 Chemistry Class** has completed their unit on types of reactions and now we are working on Stoichiometry. Chemistry is the one class that suffers the most from social distancing. It's difficult to do a lab when

students cannot work in the same space. But we are adjusting and adapting.

I hope that we can continue to have the students in the building. I love seeing my students and I know they learn better while in class. But safety is paramount. I wish all of you a safe and productive fall season.

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

### **From Mr. Brown's Room**

"There is much anticipation for this year's basketball teams. The Senior teams are both experienced and hungry to climb back to the podium this year. For fans willing to take a drive down highway 201, they can see both teams in action in the Vita tournament on November 29-30." This was from last year's Newsletter. What a difference a year makes. I have often joked that we are a basketball academy, but this year we have been forced to become merely an academy of learning.

As we adapt to life in the Covid Era, it is easy to dwell on all the things that we can't do. As I tell my students, I prefer to look at the obstacle and see what other path I could take. For Spirit Week this year, our Student Council came up with a plan to still have fun and develop leadership while abiding by Covid regulations. My daughter Naomi has turned her extra time and energy toward Triathlon training at home. If basketball returns, she will be ready. If there is no basketball, she will have a great training base for Springtime.

One benefit I have seen this year is that I am healthier. I have been guilty in the past of coming to school with a cold or a cough. On any given day in years gone by, I may have 25% of my students coughing and sneezing their germs toward me at the front of the class. As a result, germs and illnesses may last months. This year,

students have been following proper hygiene, washing their hands, maintaining distance and using a mask when they can't distance. If they are sick, they are encouraged to stay home and get healthy. Students have adapted well and our hope is that if a case comes into our school from the community, the precautions our school is taking will prevent further spread. Usually the expression, "You're acting like a bunch of kids," is an insult, but if adults in our province acted like our kids, the spread of virus could slow right down.

Even though it was difficult last Spring being limited to online learning, there were some benefits. As a teacher, I often am required to travel to Altona for meetings. Since Covid, all staff have become accustomed to video conferencing, which has saved travel time and has made us much more efficient. In the classroom, even old teachers like Mr. Brown have learned to make better use of technology for communicating information and assignments with students. If a student is unable to come to class, they can attend through a video conference and receive their assignment or video link immediately.

In the high school, the students are split into two cohorts. As the parent of a grade 12 student, I have seen that there are disappointments that extra-curricular activities have been limited. However, I have also seen that there are some unexpected benefits as well. Coming to school every other day allows good contact time with teachers and provides an opportunity to have more efficient group discussion. On the off days, students are given an opportunity to develop their ability to work independently, which will help them prepare for college/university. The off days are also an opportunity to book appointments or to maintain health by recharging their batteries. If students are provided with some degree of structure and support from teachers and parents, this year's graduates could be much better prepared for life after high school.

I suppose I have always been an optimist in my outlook. A positive outlook is good for our mental health and helps us be aware of new opportunities. I encourage parents to lead by example and find the silver lining in this unusual school year. We may all find the opportunity to build better versions of ourselves.





## **MR. KEFFER'S REPORT**

Grade 9

### **"The Best for Last" a narrative essay by Brooklyn Smetana**

It was a charming midsummers day; the weather was very warm and sunny. I do not remember seeing a single cloud in the sky. That day was especially cordial I can remember.

I was with my mother, and my cousin. My cousin was a few years older than me, but we got along perfectly. She had come over to visit us for the day and was to leave some time after midday. This particular day seemed to be somewhat odd, but I didn't seem to know why it felt so strange, and different.

I was sitting at the old kitchen table, my cousin was sitting on the chair beside me, showing me the new makeup palette that she had received for a gift. I remember thinking to myself that I wanted a makeup palette exactly like hers, but I knew that my mother would disapprove.

The day was boring, as there was nothing to do in the small town, I had lived in. I asked my mother what my cousin and I could do on her visit, or where we could go. She informed me that there would be two places we could go on that day, my aunties house for a visit, or we could go to the local swimming pool. I told her that both of the options she gave me sounded very appealing, and that we should do both, but the swimming pool will come last.

"You should always save the best for last!!" I exclaimed with more excitement than ever. My cousin raced out to the family van, as I chased after her with my brand-new bathing suit rolled up beneath my arm. We got into the back seat of the vehicle, and she told me that I should always wear my seatbelt when I am in the car. She explained to me why cars have seatbelts, and why we need to be safe.

After a while I started to zone out. I looked up and I saw that I was at my auntie's house, and it seemed that she was having some sort of an event. There was what seemed to be a lot of people there. I glanced over at my mother with a glimmer of excitement in my eyes and asked her what was happening. I had no idea what was going on. She explained to me what was happening, and I was very happy with what she told me. I loved to shop, and buy new things, so I knew that this would be very fun, and interesting. My auntie was having her yearly yard sale.

I ran inside the garage and greeted my auntie with a big hug.

"So, what's new kiddo?", she would always ask me with a curious tone.

I told her all about everything going on in my life, I told her about the things I had done during that summer, I told her about how I would soon be returning back to school because fall was coming quickly, and I told her about how my cousin, and I were going to the pool later that day.

"You should always save the best for last!" I excitedly told her and explained my plan.

"Brooklyn if there is anything you want here you should get it now because if you still want to go to the pool, we'll have to leave soon", my mother explained to me.

I started to look around, and I didn't really see anything that I wanted. As I was browsing the tables, and shelves something caught my eye. I looked over and saw a whole table of books, there was all kinds of books, old, new, interesting, boring, big, small, everything I could ever imagine.

I struggled to walk back to my mother, with my arms tightly grasping the books, and my body bent around them to make sure not even one would fall.

She looked down and saw me struggling to walk back over to her.

"Brooklyn, do you really want all those books to bring home?"

"Yes", I told my mother.

We walked up to the table where my auntie was sitting, and we told her that we wanted to pay for

the new books I had chosen. We handed her some money, and she handed us some money back.

We visited for a few minute's then it was time to leave, I still wanted to go to the pool, and we needed to go there before my cousin got picked up by her father. We did not know the exact time she was going to leave because her father needed to drive to my house from an event he was at.

We ran out to the car, but this time my mother was carrying my books in a bag that my auntie had given us. I got into the back of the car with my cousin.

"We need to go home first to get towels and drop off these books", my mother informed us.

We drove into my yard and went down the long driveway. My mother got out of the car and told us that she was going to be back in a minute, then we would go to the pool.

Just as my mother was walking back to the car, my cousins father drove into our yard.

He told us that he was in a hurry to get back home for something, and my cousin needed to leave quickly. My mother walked up to us and explained that we would not be able to go to the pool that day.

I was very upset to hear that I would not be able to go the pool, I was looking forward to it all day long, and I had even made plans of what we were going to do at the pool.

I slowly sauntered back into my house with my head down, thinking about how fun the pool would have been.

That was the day I learned my lesson...  
"Do not save the best for last".

## **A summary of "Long Road to Justice: The Viola Desmond Story"**

**by Carissa Prevost**

Viola Desmond was a Black woman who lived in Halifax in the 1940's. She trained to become a hairdresser in New York, Atlantic City, and Montreal. After she graduated, she set up her own beauty salon adjacent to her

husband's barber shop. She started to travel around the Maritimes to sell products and train women in hairdressing who couldn't get proper training because of their race, and to set up locations for her students.

On one of these trips, her car broke down in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. Instead of waiting around in a hotel room for her car to get fixed, she decided to go see a movie. That movie theater was segregated. She asked for a downstairs ticket but got an upstairs one instead.

After she sat down, she was asked to move by an employee but refused. A little while later, the theater manager asked her to move. But she refused again and was forcibly removed by two police officers. She was then put on the back of a patrol car.

When she got to jail, she was told that she couldn't do anything but wait for her trial. Her trial proceeded 14 hours after her arrest and had a private prosecution instead of a public prosecution. Viola was charged with tax evasion and forced to pay a fine of \$20.

After the trial, she collected her car and drove back to Halifax. Once she got home, the Advancement of Colored People Association got her a lawyer.

The lawyer that she hired built a case to sue for damages but couldn't until they appealed her case. The lawyer appealed her case to the county and supreme courts, but they were both denied. Viola eventually left Nova Scotia. In 2010, she was awarded a free pardon by the government of Nova Scotia.

## **MR. FRIESEN'S REPORT**

**The K-8 Phys Ed** classes have been taking advantage of the generally nice weather we have been having this fall and spending most of their classes outside. We have been able to use modifications to play games like tag without physical touching and have had some options of sports that have been approved for play, following safety guidelines, such as soccer and baseball. The students have also been able to engage in a lot of creative play out on the playground.

**The 9-12 classes** have also been able to spend a lot of time outside. When the weather has forced us inside, we have a couple of approved options



that we have been able to engage in, such as volleyball and badminton. Hopefully the weather continues to stay favorable and all the students can continue to play a variety of activities and stay active in a safe way.

**REMINDER:**

PLEASE RETURN  
STUDENTS PICTURE  
ORDER  
BEFORE THE ORDER  
DEADLINE. **NOV. 12/20.**



shutterstock.com - 1457784638

**November 11** – No School  
Remembrance Day

**November 12** – Day 4  
Kindergarten Day

**November 13** – No Classes  
Admin. Day

**November 16** – Day 5

**November 20** – Half Day  
Early Dismissal – Noon  
PD Day



**December 18** – Last day of classes

**Winter Break** – Dec. 21 to Jan.1

**Classes Resume** – January 4, 2021  
(Day 5)

.....  
**REMEMBRANCE DAY**  
**CANADA**  
**NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**



Poppy Poppy



Poppy poppy what do you say?  
Wear me on Remembrance Day.

Poppy poppy what do you tell?  
Many soldiers in battle fell.

Poppy poppy what should we  
know?

That peace on earth should  
grow, grow, grow.

## How to prevent COVID-19



**Wear a mask.  
Save lives.**

Wear a mask  
Clean your hands  
Keep a safe distance

General public health information

.....

## SEASON'S GREETING BOARD



This is the time of the year when  
we are once again offering you  
a chance to have your name  
displayed on our Season's  
Greeting Board.

The cost for your name to  
appear is: \$10.00.

Please fill in the form below and drop off  
your donation at the school or mail to:  
Ross L. Gray Student Council, Box 69,  
Sprague, MB R0A 1Z0.

All donations by November 30, 2020  
would be greatly appreciated. Thank  
you!

Ross L. Gray Student  
Council

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### SEASON'S GREETING BOARD



FAMILY NAME:

\_\_\_\_\_

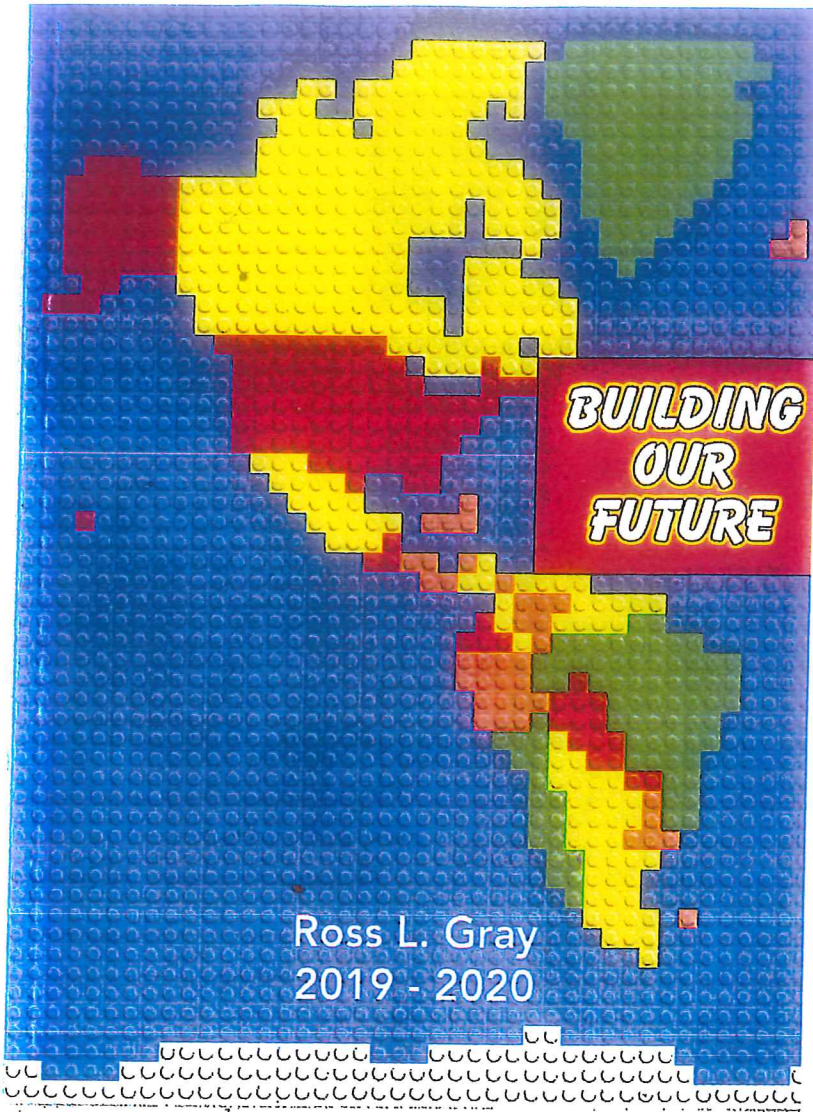
Enclose donation of \$10.00

By cash: \_\_\_\_\_ or

cheque: \_\_\_\_\_

[More info](#)





YOU'RE  
IN  
IT  
DID  
YOU  
GET IT?

oooooooooooooooooooo

2019 YEARBOOKS  
ARE IN  
\$25.00



# The Carillon

News that matters to people in southeastern Manitoba

STEINBACH, MANITOBA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020



JORDAN ROSS THE CARILLON

## Strolling the streets of Sprague in style

Students from Ross L. Gray School show off their costumes during a Friday foot parade organized to provide a safe way for children to celebrate Halloween during the pandemic. Student cohorts marched the parade route first, followed by a time slot for pre-registered preschoolers and homeschoolers. Parents and other RM of Piney residents lined the streets to wave at the students, who received bags of pre-packaged, quarantined candy donated by community members.