

# *Dr. George Johnson Middle School Newsletter*

WEBSITE: [www.esd.mb.ca/schools/gjms/](http://www.esd.mb.ca/schools/gjms/)

## March 2010

Principal: Mr. Jim Gibbs

We believe our school is a place where all students can achieve success.

### *Important Dates*

- Mar. 1 – Author Visit, Maureen Fergus
- Mar.10 - Student Activity Groups
  - Gr.7 B-Ball Game
- Mar. 15 - Early Dismissal (2 PM)
- Mar. 16 - Parent Advisory Council Mtg.
  - (7 PM)
- Mar. 16-Gr.8 Extreme Sledding Competition
- Mar. 19 – Divisional B-Ball Tournament
- Mar.22 to 26 - Spirit Week
- Mar. 23 – Gr.8 Nutrition Presentation
- Mar. 24 - French 4 Life
- Mar. 2 –Gr.7 & 8 Divisional Curling
  - Competition
- Mar. 26 - Student Dance (1 PM)
- Mar. 29 - Apr. 2 - Spring Break!!!**



### *Principal's Message*

March has come in like a lamb; let's hope it does not leave like a lion. This month will be filled with activities, events, and enjoyment for all students.

We started our month off with a visit from Maureen Fergus, brilliant author, who read from her new edition, "Ortega". We had the privilege of being the first to hear her latest work.

I want to offer cheers to students who have joined the "100 Club" with 100 or more points earned through our Accelerated Reading Program. A reminder to other students that there is plenty of room to join in the club!

Spring Break is coming, so students keep up the good work, a well deserved break is close at hand.

Mr. J. Gibbs

Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another:

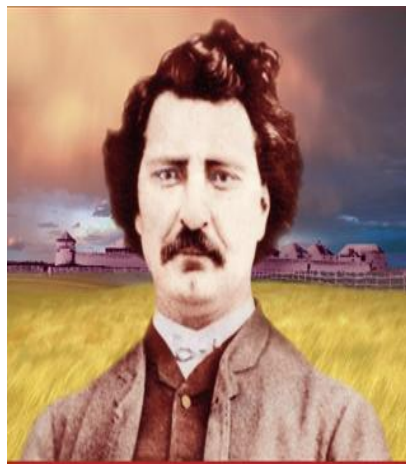
"What! You, too? Thought I was the only one."

## Louis Riel Day

Students and staff of Dr. George Johnson School were fed, entertained and schooled during activities Feb. 12 to mark Louis Riel Day. The morning began with a treat for everyone's palate in the form of a traditional meal of bannock - fried bread similar to Scottish scones, and common to Aboriginal people throughout North America.

Manitoban born Métis band from St. Laurent thrilled the crowd with a rousing hour of song and jigging. The brothers played several fiddling tunes from the past. The students were invited to share their jigging talents. As a special treat a young jigger from Selkirk treated the school to a jigging display with her ornamental costume and fancy dance steps.

To round out the day's activities, students took part in various workshops back in their classrooms, including beadwork, dancing, crafts and fur trapping.



Gaudry Brothers from St. Laurent



Jigging instruction by youngest Gaudry brother



Aboriginal beading taught by Penny Ross



HOST FAMILIES  
for  
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Evergreen School Division is looking for host families for international students who will be attending schools during the 2010-2011 school year. Home stays vary from 2 to 10 months and host families receive \$550 per month for board and room.

If you are interested in hosting an international student and would like an application form, please call Shirley at 642-6262.



Randy Woroniuk sharing his fur trading expertise



Sherry Quenstil and friend displaying her hand-made drum

Brielle Clemons and  
Donia Schenkel  
showing their  
costumes while  
jigging



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## “Soirée Française”

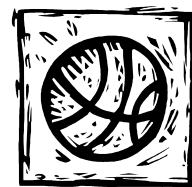
*An evening of poems, speeches,  
and presentations*

*7 p.m. Thursday March 25, 2010  
Arborg Early/Middle School*

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## Sports News

For the past month and a half, the girls' and boys' basketball teams have been competing in order to get ready for the Divisionals on March 19<sup>th</sup>.



The Grade 8 teams just finished a tournament in Winnipeg, playing well against some really tough competition. The girls played in Teulon a couple of weeks ago and placed third. The boys are playing March 5.

The Grade 7 girls have played a couple of games and are really strong. The boys' teams, made up of mostly Grade 6, have a couple of games coming up as well.

Divisionals are being played in Gimli (boys) and in Arborg (girls).

Congratulations Cougars!! We are extremely proud of all of you.



**March 21  
International Day for the Elimination of  
Racial Discrimination**

Since 1966, the 21st of March has been recognized by the United Nations as the **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**. Canada was one of the first countries to support the UN declaration and, in 1989, the Department of Canadian Heritage launched its annual March 21 Campaign. This campaign was initiated in response to the need to heighten awareness of the harmful effects of racism on a national scale and to demonstrate clearly the commitment and leadership of the Federal Government to foster respect, equality and diversity.

The March 21 Campaign has mobilized youth across Canada to rise up and to take a stand against racism. Through their participation in the campaign, Canadian youth have spoken loudly and eloquently: there is no place for racism in their lives!

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**Educational Evening Understanding  
Compulsive Hoarding**

**Presented by: OCD Centre Manitoba Inc.**  
**Thursday, March 11, 2010**  
7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

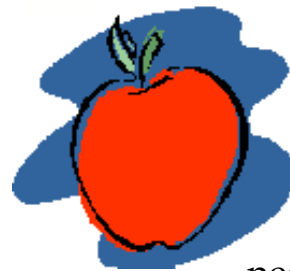
100-4 Fort Street, corner of Fort and Assiniboine  
Cost: \$10.00 OCDC members, \$15.00 others

**Note: Pre-registration is required as space is limited**  
**Please Call: 942-3331**

*For consumers, family members, interest public, public health  
and safety, professionals, home insurance brokers, and  
professional organizers*

*Call Back System*

Thank you to all parents and caregivers who take the time to call the school to let us know their child(ren) will be absent that day. We are grateful for your cooperation. If for any reason a student is late please go to the office before going to class so we know you are here safe and sound.



If your child's lunch requires utensils, please provide everything they will need to enjoy their lunch (eg. fork and/or spoon). Thank you.

Environment:

*Don't blow it - good planets are hard to find.*

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Message from Library

*The library is open every noon hour for study hall; here students can get caught up, get a head start with their homework, or just come and read a book. There is always help available if needed. Keep reading!*

*Mrs. LeBlanc*

## Cell Phones

(and other electronic communication devices)

As per Evergreen School Division policy, students are not permitted to use cell phones during school hours (9 AM – 3:30PM). If they are carrying phones they **must be turned off**. Students found using phones will have them taken away by school staff. The school must have control of communication within the building for the safety of all staff and students. If you have a need to contact your child during school hours, please phone the office. **Neither the school, nor Evergreen School Division will assume responsibility for the loss, destruction, damage or theft of these devices, or any communication bill associated with they're unauthorized use.**

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## Reminder:

### EVERGREEN BAND BOOSTER MEETINGS

7:00 p.m. at the Gimli High School on the first Monday of each month:

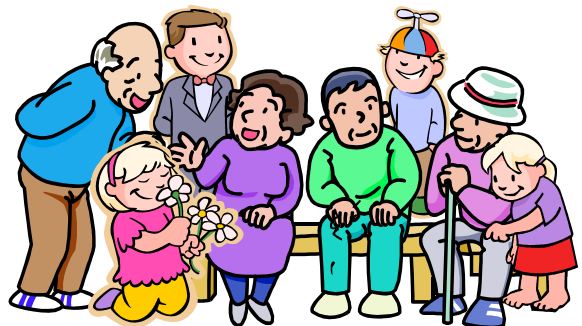
- April 5, 2010
- May 3, 2010
- June 7, 2010

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks  
Cindy Sylvester  
(204)642-5231

## "Grade Seven Students Partner with Betel Residents"

Since the start of the 2009-2010 school year, both Mrs. Grimolfson's and Mrs. Fergus's classes have been going to Betel Home to meet and read with the residents. The grade 7s have been going for a couple of years now. We have been trying to alternate going so that Mrs. Fergus's class goes one month and Mrs. Grimolfson's goes the other month. When we go, we meet with the residents; get to know them a little bit. After meeting with them we read them a few stories or poems and afterwards we go to have juice and cookies with our reading partner. Normally, when the classes go, we pick a friend and afterwards are assigned to a resident to read with. The students read with the residents in their room, library, or where the residents decide to go. The classes find it very interesting to meet with the residents and listen to some of their stories they like to share and what they think about the stories we read to them. A lot of the residents of Betel enjoy having the grade 7s come to read to them. Usually, about thirteen residents get picked to come and be read to. Different residents are chosen every visit. The grades 7s do some other activities at Betel other than reading. At the beginning of December, just a few weeks before Christmas, we started to practice Christmas carols to go to Betel and sing. The residents had enjoyed this very much.



By Alicia Nazimek & Rebecca Lamb



