

TURTLE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DIVISION BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

MAY/JUNE 2008

Message from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Well it has been two months now since I started a new job and a new life. For those of you that have not met me yet, my name is Kathy Siatecki. I am the new Secretary-Treasurer of the School Division. I have come from way up north, Thompson, Manitoba to be exact. My previous position was District Accountant with the Mystery Lake School District where I worked for 8 years before making and taking the plunge to move down to the warmer climate of Manitoba. Coming to a smaller community is not a stretch for me because I lived, learned and played in the small town of Teulon, Manitoba. "You can take the girl out of the prairies, but you can't take the prairie out of the girl". In a sense I am coming back home. I come with baggage though. I have 5 children, 2 cats and one husband. Three of my children are grown and two are awaiting school to end before they can join me here. I guess the cats are coming too. My husband will still work up north for at least a couple more years until he decides to pack it in and enjoy fishing down here. I would like to extend an invitation to one and all to come in and introduce yourselves. If there are any questions or concerns, please let me know and I will try my best to accommodate you. I look forward to working with you all.



Yours in Education, Kathy

Surplus Reduced Again!

In order with keeping with the Provincial Government's mandate of having no more than 4% surplus of the current year's budget, the Board of Trustees, once again approved a further reduction of surplus of \$100 000. These extra funds were used to purchase supplies, materials, lunchroom desks, student/special services and bleachers.

School/Department	Description	\$ Amount
Division wide	Security Measures	1 000
Killarney/Boissevain	Bleachers	70 000
Small Schools	Supplies	15 000
Student Services	Computer Software/ Hardware	8 000
Killarney School	Bio-Diesel Project	3 500
Killarney/Boissevain	Lunch Tables	3 500
Total Expenditures		100 000

Professional Development—Div. Board Office

It has been a flurry of activity for the Division Board Office with many professional development opportunities. To a Labour Standards seminar, Electronic Information Services (E.I.S.), MASBO and Bellamy Software, the staff have been busy juggling their work loads while being enthusiastic about learning new ideas and new ways of making their jobs more interesting. Next on the agenda is professional development on webpage design with the intent of being able to spruce up our webpage.

Professional Development - Board of Trustees and Senior Administration

Starting May 28 and continuing into the next year, the Trustees of Turtle Mountain will also be involved in a different kind of professional development. This P.D. is in house and is geared toward using the current available information technology to the fullest. The first P.D. will concentrate on navigating the world of e-mails, attachments, setting up e-mail folders, saving/moving attachments and filing between directories. In this age of Information Technology, this P.D. will be a valuable asset to the Trustees and Senior Administration as we all try to keep up with this ever-changing world.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT 2007-2008

School	Sep. 30, 2007 (F.T.E.)	Apr. 30, 2008 (F.T.E.)
Boissevain	374.00	378.00
Can Am	31.00	31.00
Holmfield	20.00	20.00
Killarney	517.5	518.00
Mayfair	30.00	30.00
Minto	36.00	35.00
Wellwood	28.90	30.50
TOTAL	1037.40	1042.50

Louis Riel Portrait Unveiling

The Killarney School 2007/2008 Gr. 6 class helped to name the new provincial holiday with their suggestion of Louis Riel Day. The holiday was celebrated for the first time February 18, 2008. Killarney School commissioned Jennifer Randall, a former graduate of Killarney School and recent graduate of the Fine Arts program at Brandon University, to paint a portrait of Louis Riel. The portrait is in recognition of the school's participation in the provincial contest and was unveiled Friday, May 23, 2008.

Assessment Results 2007-2008

I. Grade 3 Assessment	Division Average (%)	Provincial Average (%)
Meets Reading Expectations	77.4	59.4
Meets Numeracy Expectations	78.3	58.1
II. Grade 7 Assessment	Division Average (%)	Provincial Average (%)
Student engagement is developing or established	81.9	71.3
Number Sense is approaching or meeting mid-grade 7	91.2	82.4
III. Grade 8 Assessment	Division Average	Provincial Average (%)
Reading comprehension is approaching or meeting mid-grade 8	89.1	85.4
Expository writing is approaching or meeting mid-grade 8	86.8	84.1
IV. Grade 12 Standards Tests (January /08)	Division Average (%)	Provincial Average (%)
English Language Arts	62.6	63.9
Pre-Calculus Mathematics	82.0	68.7

'Get Ready for Kindergarten'

Kerry McRuer in partnership with The Parent Child Program initiated a 'Get Ready for Kindergarten' program for both parents and children. The program consisted of four sessions involving a school tour, introduction of the principal, kindergarten teachers, student services teacher, speech-language clinician and Phys. Ed. teacher. The parents and students participated in various activities. The feedback for the program was all positive.

Pre-School Wellness Fair

The pre-school wellness fairs in Killarney, April 17, 2008, and in Boissevain, April 30, 2008, were very successful. A total of 136 children registered for the screening. Thank you to the Turtle Mountain School Division Early Childhood Committee for organizing the event.

Bill 28 - What Does It Mean?

Two items have clawed their way to the forefront on this controversial bill. One of them is the "school closures" clause and the other is "extended travel time". The school closure clause is not an issue right now with the school division, but the second is an ongoing concern for the school division. Rest assured that all Turtle Mountain catchment students who are using our transportation mode are within the guidelines "that a pupil's one-way travel time to his or her designated school is no longer that one hour".

Child Development Certificate Workshops

The workshops held in Killarney and Boissevain on May 14 and 15 respectively marked the 8th year that grade 11 students have been required to participate in sessions on child development. Approximately 90 students and 16 presenters were involved. Feedback from the students and facilitators continues to be positive. Turtle Mountain School Division appreciates the cooperation it has received from the Assiniboine and Central Regional Health Authorities, local child care professionals and Division staff in providing our students with information that will help make them caring and nurturing parents.

STAFF CHANGES

Leave of Absence: **Mike Nantias**, principal of Boissevain School, has taken a leave of absence from his position to join the Faculty of Education of Brandon University. Mr. Nantias spent 30 years as a teacher and administrator in Turtle Mountain School Division and his commitment to students and staff will be missed. We wish him the best of luck in his new role.

Shauna Nichol-Geer has resigned her position at Wellwood Colony School. We wish her the best in her future endeavours. Best of luck to the following staff who have resigned their instructional assistant positions:

Jennifer Davies—Boissevain School **Brenda Ludgate**—Boissevain School
Bonnie Heide—Killarney School

Retirement: **Christine Richards** of Killarney School has announced her retirement effective June 27, 2008. Mrs. Richards joined the Division in 1979. We wish her a healthy, enjoyable retirement.

Maternity Leaves: Congratulations to the following staff who are or will be on maternity leaves this year:

Lisa Bos—Can Am Colony School **Cory Wiesner**—SLP
Kate Forbes—SLP **Leisa Halloran**—Boissevain School

Hirings: **Brad White** has been appointed principal of Boissevain School. Mr. White has taught in Boissevain School since 1989. The Board Office looks forward to working with him in his new capacity.

New to the high school staff at Boissevain School next year will be **Sheldon Wettig**. He joins us from The Pas where he is currently teaching.

Cassandra Unrau will be teaching K-5 music at Boissevain School beginning September 2, 2008. She is familiar to the staff and school having graduated from the collegiate.

Darcy Neufeld has joined the educational assistants group at Boissevain School.

Leanne Groening is now a part-time administrative assistant at the Board Office.

Welcome to all our new staff!

And the deadlines just keep coming from PSAB (Public Sector Accounting Board)... recently at the annual MASBO convention, we were hit with a few more surprises. Coming in September 2009, all school divisions that have an annual revenue of \$50 million will have to report quarterly financial statements. This threshold is subject to change in the future. Stay tuned.