



École Varennes

22 Varennes Avenue
Wpg., Manitoba R2M 0N1
Tel: 204-253-1375
Fax: 204-253-7202
www.lrsd.net/schools/varennes

Administrators' Message

May 2018

Principal
Joanne DeCruyenaere

Vice-Principal
Michelle Bacon

Administrative Secretary
Clarisse Daudet

Secretary
Danielle Hince

Parent Committee
Megan MacDonald
President
evpc09@gmail.com

After School Program
YMCA-YWCA
204-255-6201

Family Centre
Shawna Crane
204-253-1375
shawna.crane@lrsd.net

**Louis Riel School Division
Board Office**
900 St. Mary's Road
Winnipeg, MB R2M 3R3
204-257-7827

Transportation
(Regular Inquiry)
204-253-2681 ext. 58337

The month of May marks a turning point as we conclude one year and look ahead to another. Planning for next year's classes has already been underway for some time now. As you can well imagine, there are a number of factors that we take into account as we assign students to classrooms. Some considerations are as follows:

- Combinations of students who work well together and who support each other;
- Special supports in the classroom and where these can be best provided;
- Gender ratios;
- Staffing assignments, taking into account the number of students in a grade and the number of teachers assigned to the school.

As part of this process, classroom teachers, student services staff and administration meet in late May and in early June to construct class lists based on all of the information available to them. The task contributes to the creation of a positive, successful and inclusive learning environment for each student.

Parents are invited to share information that may assist in the process by contacting Mme DeCruyenaere **in writing by May 31**. Examples of useful information would include friendships, conflicts with peers, and preferred learning style, among others. Be advised that requests for specific teachers are not accepted. While all information will be taken into account during the placement process, the likelihood of reconciling all requests is remote. Please rely on our professional judgement and trust that we will group and provide children with the best possible inclusive learning environment.

Please feel free to contact Mme DeCruyenaere or Mme Bacon should you have any questions.

Joanne DeCruyenaere, Principal & Michelle Bacon, Vice-Principal
Administrative Team

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 16 to Friday, May 18 - Red Rock Camp for Grade 5/6

Wednesday, May 16 - Parent Committee Meeting: 6:30 pm in the school library

Monday, May 21 - Victoria Day: No school

Tuesday, May 22 - Grade 7 & 8 Track Meet: University of Manitoba

Tuesday, May 22 - Early Dismissal: 2 pm

Wednesday, May 23 - Grade 5/6 Field Day: 12:30-2:30 pm at École St. Germain

Wednesday, May 23 - Grade 7 Math Exam, Grade 8 Science Exam

Thursday, May 24- Folk Dance in the Park: Grade 1-3 at St. Vital Park, 9 am to 1 pm

Friday, May 25 - Hot Lunch

Tuesday, May 29 - Grade 7 and 8 Guitar Concert: 7 pm at École Marie-Anne Gaboury

Wednesday, May 30 - Grade 7 & 8 Track Meet Championships: University of Manitoba

Wednesday, May 30 - Choir and Dance Concert: 6:30 pm in school gym

Friday, June 1 - Rain Date for Folk Dance in the Park

Monday, June 4 - Student Council Outing to Riverside Lions: 10 am to 11:15 am

Friday, June 8 - Kindergarten outing to Six Pines Farm: 9 am—2:30 pm; Grade 4 outing to Legislative Building: 12:15 pm to 2:45 pm

Hot Lunch Dates

Friday, May 25

Thursday, June 21 (date change)

Please check your child's backpack for forms.

Staffing News

We welcome back **Mme LeeAnn Bisson**, our Educational Assistant, who has been away on medical leave for the last two months. Glad to have you back!

Mme Makaela Peña, a former École Varennes teacher and experienced Early Years teacher, will be replacing **Mme Codie Price** who will be leaving on maternity leave on May 18. We wish to thank Mme Price for her devotion to this Grade 3 class.



Three of our teachers have accepted positions to other schools in 2018-2019: **M. Ben Fowler** will be teaching Grade 9 and 10 French at Ecole Secondaire-Oak Park High School; **Mme Bernice Schick** has accepted a Grade 2/3 position at École Sage Creek School, and **Mme Andréa Léger** will be the Student Services Teacher at École Julie-Riel. These three educators will be sorely missed as they have contributed much to our school's culture and climate. We wish them all a lot of success in their new schools.

Professional Development Days

2017-2018

Friday, June 15

Early Dismissal Days (Classes dismissed at 2:00 pm)

Tuesday, May 22

Friday, June 29

Preliminary Class Overview

Barring any unanticipated changes, École Varennes will have the following classes in 2018-2019:

Three Kindergarten classes

Three Grade 1 classes

Two Grade 2 classes

Two Grade 3 classes

Two Grade 4 classes

Three Grade 5/6 classes

Two Grade 7/8 classes

Please note that it is not possible to communicate staff assignments at this time. Our divisional staffing process is currently underway and changes may yet occur. Staff assignments will be communicated in the June edition of our school newsletter.

Student Placement

The process of student placement for next year will begin in early June. Transportation needs, gender balance, equal class size and parental preference will be taken into account in placing Kindergarten students in the morning or afternoon classes. Kindergarten placement information will be communicated in early June to provide families time to make child care arrangements. Our in-school YMCA-YWCA Daycare Centre offers care to Kindergarten students in the afternoon. Currently, all spaces are filled for fall 2018. Parents of next year's Kindergarten students are asked to mark **June 12** on their calendar: stay-and-play sessions will be held that day to provide students the opportunity to meet one another and to familiarize themselves with their new classroom.

For students entering Grades 1-8 in the fall, the Student Services team and administration will meet with classroom teachers to discuss your child's needs for the next year. Staff consider many factors when preparing balanced classes such as the range of academic abilities, social mixture, gender balance, individual learning styles, student personality and interaction, student behaviour, and class size. The goal is to create workable combinations of students.

Please rely on our professional judgement and be assured that we will provide all of our students with the best possible learning environment. You will be notified of your child's placement in the June report card which will be sent home on June 27, 2018. Please understand that student placement is a complex process and that it is difficult to make changes after placement decisions have been communicated. We would appreciate your support of your child's placement. As part of our transition process, we are organizing a "Step Up Day" for **June 28** at 9:00 am and at 12:45 pm for afternoon Kindergarten students going into Grade 1. Students will have the opportunity to visit their new classroom and meet their new classmates and, in most cases, their new teacher.

Staffing news 2018-2019

At this time, we can announce the following staffing changes for the upcoming school year:

Mme Tracy Frédérick and Mme Monique Ditter will continue to be on a half-time leave until the end of June 2019. **Mme Theressa François** will be returning from a leave of absence to a half-time position in the school.

Further announcements regarding staffing for next year will be communicated in our June newsletter.

Frequently Asked Questions About Multi-Age Classrooms

How would my child benefit by staying with the same teacher in a multi-age classroom for two years?

A teacher has to spend the first few weeks and months of the school year getting to know a new student and his/her academic, social and emotional needs. Having your child in a multi-age classroom with the same teacher enables that teacher to build on the previous year's experience and relationship with the child. Teachers would be able to start teaching various curricula much earlier as students are familiar with routines and expectations of the class.

Could siblings in two different grade levels, such as Grade 5 and 6, be placed in the same multi-age classroom ?

Siblings that are at different grade levels will not be placed in the same multi-age classroom.

How do you ensure curricular continuity for Science and Social Studies where the curriculum is different in each grade?

For curriculum continuity, students in the Grade 5/6 multi-age classroom will follow the Grade 6 Science and Social Studies curriculum. The following school year, all students in Grade 6 will be taught the Grade 5 Science and Social Studies curriculum.

This will also be the case for students in the Grade 7/8 multi-age classrooms. Students in the Grade 7/8 multi-age classrooms will follow the Grade 7 Science and Social Studies curriculum. The following school year, all students in Grade 8 will be taught the Grade 8 Science and Social Studies curriculum.

How will Math be taught in a multi-age classroom?

Early years curriculum are scaffolded, meaning that only the skill moves on to another level but the concept remains the same. For example in Grade 2, you will be adding two-digit numbers, and in Grade 3 three-digit numbers. The concept or operation is the same, the skill level is different. That kind of teaching is natural in any class, multi-age or not. Kids can become experts in a concept and then can model to others.

How will I know that my child is learning to read and write at his/her appropriate grade level?

Literacy is a continua of learning. We use the divisional continuum in both writing and reading for assessment purposes and to guide instructional practices. Students are grouped together according to their level of literacy for optimal success. Literacy skills are continuously being monitored and adjusted so that their reading needs are matched to their ability. The Daily Five literacy model (Cinq au quotidien) and Guided Reading (Lecture Dirigée) are used in classrooms to make sure that students are moving along this continuum.

Can you describe other benefits to students in a multi-age classroom?

Academically, students get to see a wider spectrum of learning as they work with other students ahead of them and behind them in the learning process. Socially, students develop a sense of caring and nurturing as they help each other learn. Teachers report that children in a multi-age setting are less competitive, more cooperative, and as a result are more caring. Students with physical, emotional and cognitive challenges are more readily integrated into a multi-age learning setting than into a traditionally structured single-grade classroom.

School Happenings

Roller Blades, Skateboards, Scooters & Bicycles

Think Safe – Wear a Helmet! It's the law.



For safety and security purposes, we would like to remind parents and students that roller blades, scooters, skateboards, and bicycles are not to be used on school property. The playground is not a safe place for riding the above. Students need to take off their roller blades or get off their scooters, skateboards and bicycles when they reach school property. Students with bicycles need to lock them up in the bike rack. Students with roller blades, scooters and skateboards need to hold onto them on the playground in a safe and responsible manner. Please note that École Varennes will not be responsible if any of the above items are damaged or stolen.



Moving?

If you are planning to change schools for the upcoming school year due to a move or another reason, kindly advise the office as soon as possible in order to assist with our planning for the upcoming school year.

Community Garden

Many classes have been very hard at work preparing our garden for this year's crop. Thanks to the soil donation from Reimer Soil, our garden will soon be ready for planting. Classes have signed up to plant a variety of vegetables: beets, lettuce, carrots, tomatoes, zucchini, swiss chard, beans, onions and potatoes! Mme Amy-Leigh and M. Acorn will be building bean poles with various classes and will provide netting to keep away friendly furry animals from eating all of the produce. Classes will be maintaining the garden throughout the month of June. We will need some volunteers to help us during the summer months. Commit to a week of weeding and harvesting your own free veggies!!! Please contact Mme Amy-Leigh, our librarian-technician, for more details. You may also sign up at the Family BBQ on June 14.



Student Services News

Become Involved in the Educational Success of Your Child - Tips for Parents

- Be interested. Make sure that your child knows his/her academic success is important to you
- Help your child maintain a positive attitude towards school and put forth his/her best effort
- Talk to your child's teacher to find out what the expectations are for homework and agenda use
- Talk to your child about his/her day and check his/her agenda book on a daily basis
- Help organize an area in the house for your child to study or complete his assignments with the necessary tools
- Help select the appropriate time of day when your child can complete his/her assignments so as to not interfere with other commitments and activities



Divisional News

International Student Program

The Louis Riel School Division (LRSD) has welcomed International Students to their community for many years. This year, LRSD has hosted students from China, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Senegal, Nigeria, Thailand, Taiwan, Germany, Russia, Vietnam, Ukraine, South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore!

As the International Student Program continues to grow, so does our need for homestay families. A homestay family is a family who are Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents. The province of Manitoba's International Education Department defines a homestay family as "A family unit, of at least one person, providing accommodation and sharing its home, hospitality and culture with an international student, usually for a fee". We embrace the diversity of homestay families as each family unit may differ from one another in regards to nationality, number of adults, children, pets, etc. The commonality between families is their desire to open their homes to students from another part of the world. Our hope is the students will learn about Canadian culture and in return the homestay families will learn about the student's culture. We hope homestay families will embrace the students as "family" who are living far away from their biological ones.

International students may study in LRSD for various lengths of time. Some students are study for as little as 3 weeks (Summer Program), some come for one semester, and some come for a whole school year and then return to complete their high school studies. Many return to continue post-secondary studies in our Manitoban and Canadian universities.

If you are considering hosting and international student and would like more information, please call the Homestay Coordinator, Evelyn Sieben, at the International Education Department. Please reach her at 204-223-0674 to discuss further details. You can also send your questions or application request by email to evelyn.sieben@lrzd.net to see how this program could fit with your family. You can view full program information online at <http://isp.lrzd.net> where applications are available.

June 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1 Family Breakfast 9:00-11:00am Closed PM
4 Gym N Play 8:45-11:00 am Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm	5 Baby N Me 9:00-11:00am Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm	6 Assiniboine Nature Play- ground Day 10:00-2:00pm	7 Outdoor Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm	8 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am Closed PM
11 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am Closed PM	12 Baby N Me 9:00-11:00am Closed PM	13 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am Closed PM	14 Centre Closed School BBQ	15 Closed Inservice
18 Farm Field Trip *MUST BE REGIS- TERED	19 Baby N Me 9:00-11:00am Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm	20 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am Closed PM	21 Outdoor Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am Closed PM	22 Centre Closed
25 CL	26 O HAVE	27 S A	28 E GREAT	29 D SUMMER!



Kristine and I would like to wish all of our families a fun and safe summer! Looking forward to September and seeing all of our families again.



On June 6th, weather permitting, we will be having a get together at the Assiniboine Park Nature Playground. We will provide a pizza lunch so come and join us from 10:00-2:00pm. We will meet at the shelter to the west of the playground! Please let us know if you will be attending.

FAMILY CENTRE JUNE NEWSLETTER CENTRE FAMILIAL

Our farm trip to Morning Sound farm will take place on Monday, June 18th. We will be taking the 1st 40 people that sign up on the link by June 8th. You must be a registered family with the Family Centre (filled out a registration form). To ensure everyone who wants to come are able to, please only sign up family members who regularly attend the Family Centre, if spaces allows, then we can open it up to more.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/morning-sound-farm-field-trip-tickets-45531213084>



Shawna Crane-Family Centre Coordinator

shawna.crane@lrsd.net

Kristine Bettencourt-Family Centre Assistant

kristine.bettencourt@lrsd.net

204-253-1375

École Varennes Family Centre is funded by Healthy Child Manitoba "Putting children and Families First", the Louis Riel School Division and St. Vital Parent Child Coalition. <http://www.stvitalpcc.ca/>