

Via the Seine

Report to the Community

A year like no other | *A message from Wendy Bloomfield, Chair, Board of Trustees*

This school year hasn't been easy for anyone – our incredible staff members and our 4,300 students have had so many curveballs thrown at them, and while there have been struggles, they have persevered. All year long, our staff have dug deep and worked so hard to keep moving forward and to put our students first, keeping them safe while still providing enriching learning opportunities. Our custodians have shown their dedication with enhanced cleaning, jumping in to go the extra mile every time we had suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19 in our schools. I have so much admiration and respect for them. Our amazing students have shown equal dedication and resilience, in a year that has been so challenging for them in so many ways.

But this year is finally wrapping up, and while we don't

know what the fall will bring, we just know that we'll get through it. We will continue to fight against the Manitoba government's proposed Bill 64 – The Education Modernization Act, which contains many elements our Board of Trustees, our staff and administration have concerns about. I encourage you to visit www.srsd.ca/Community/bill64info to learn more.

The end of the year also means we have new graduates, and while graduation ceremonies are once again different than expected this year, we wish all of our grads the very best in their future. We are so proud of all of them. Here's to our graduates – along with all of our staff, students and families – we hope you have the peaceful, relaxing and rejuvenating summer you have all earned. ☺

Decades of dedication

Compassionate. Inclusive. Persistent. Courageous. Dedicated.

These are the words colleagues use to describe Elaine Lochhead – who is retiring as Assistant Superintendent of Student Services at the end of June – over her 35 years with Seine River School Division.

"Elaine really has become the historian of our division... She's left her mark, and she's keeping the legacy of Seine River School Division alive," says Superintendent Mike Borgfjord.

Elaine joined SRSD in 1980 as a teacher at Collège St. Norbert Collegiate and worked in half of the division's schools, including as a resource teacher and vice-principal, before becoming the longtime, beloved Principal at Ste. Anne Collegiate in 2002. She took on her Assistant Superintendent role in 2010.

"She has been so dedicated to ensuring all students feel like they belong and can be successful, and

that all staff are supported and can do the best job they can," says Teresa Hampton, Principal of Parc la Salle School, who has worked with Lochhead over several roles and serves with her on the board of the Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children.

Over the decades, Elaine has championed early literacy programming, played a role in implementing the Kids at Play kindergarten support program and pushed for inclusive programming for all students in our school communities, especially those with challenges. She was instrumental in transitioning students with significant needs – who had been attending a school in Winnipeg, outside the division – back to schools in their home communities, and providing the schools and staff with the tools they needed to support those students, says Hampton.

"The purpose that drove Elaine was to seek to provide the best learning opportunities for all students to



🎉 Congratulations to Elaine Lochhead, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, on her retirement!

learn and to thrive. Her leadership style was humble, but driven... She embodied hard work and optimism," says retired SRSD Superintendent Roy Seidler.

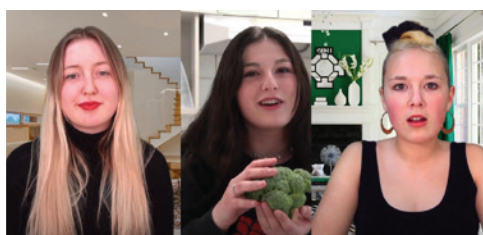
Wendy Bloomfield, Chair of SRSD's Board of Trustees, says she has always admired Elaine's "innate ability to know how to truly make people feel heard, understood and – most importantly – cared about," and calls her "one of the most compassionate and caring individuals I have ever had the pleasure of knowing." ☺

Triple win for French student video

Despite their favourite French-language theatre festival going virtual this year, a group of Collège Lorette Collegiate (CLC) students picked up prizes in three categories for their funny and creative video.

The group of five students from Grades 9 and 11 wrote, acted in and produced a celebrity interview show parody titled *Les Entretiens Inutiles avec Gordanna Ramsey* for Théâtre Cercle Molière's virtual Festival théâtre jeunesse (FTJ), which runs the competition for middle and high school students from French and Immersion schools to promote French culture and language through creativity. The CLC student video won for Best Comedy Text, Best Sound Effects and Most Liked by Viewers.

"Winning these awards just goes to show how much time and effort we put into our video," says Grade 11 student Madison V., who wrote the initial script. "FTJ has really helped me develop my French humour, and also helped with my fear of public French speaking."



CLC students (from left) Lily W., Madison V. and Shiloh F. played amusing characters in their group's award-winning French video.

The students had to film their segments separately, then stitch them together for the final video. Grade 11 student Justice F. created all of the music and sound effects, and edited the video with help from Grade 9 student Ashton T.

"FTJ is a really great learning tool, because you get to create what you want and get professional advice," Justice says.

Award-winning students

Our Board of Trustees has recognized the following students with these awards.

Creative Young Minds Awards

MIDDLE YEARS

- Ward 1 Praise Olayiwola, LBC
- Ward 2 Kessandra Hernaez, ESAS
- Ward 3 Bella Morrissette, RCH

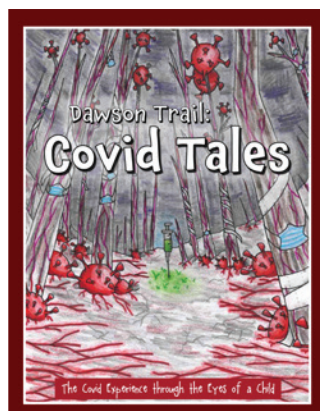
HIGH SCHOOL

- Ward 1 Jaimie Edel, CSNC
- Ward 2 Justice Forcier, CLC
- Ward 3 Vivian Winslade, SAC

Pandemic ponderings in print

Students will never forget what going to school during a pandemic was like. At Dawson Trail School (DTS), they will have a special keepsake to remind them – and the community – of their experiences.

All of the K-8 school's nearly 400 students contributed to a commemorative hardcover book, full of writing and artwork expressing their thoughts and feelings about Covid-19.



Grade 7 student Eric S. drew the artwork for the cover of the school-wide book of students' pandemic musings.

Seine River School Division Art Consultant Gabrielle Doll worked with students on their artistic sides for the book, while classroom teachers worked with students to explore various writing styles, including letters, poems, comics, diary entries and recipes.

"We're always looking for authentic writing opportunities for students," says DTS Principal Randy Engel. "It's important for students to know that their thoughts and ideas matter and make a difference. Creating this book gives kids a voice to share their work and some of the sad, funny, difficult or silly experiences and feelings they've had, and to know they're not alone."

The 80-page book sells for \$20, just to cover costs. To order a copy, call the school at 204-878-2929.

Student Citizenship Awards

INDIVIDUAL

- Early Years Blaire Campbell, ELI
- Middle Years Aria Hale, LSS
- High School Torianna Smith Fontaine, CLC

TEAMS

- Early Years Les Panthères de St. Norbert – Gr. 1 & Gr. 5/6 classes, ESNI
- Middle Years Grade 5 & 6 classes, LBC

Nominees for Manitoba School Board Student Citizenship Awards

- Individual Blaire Campbell, ELI
- Team Les Panthères de St. Norbert – Gr. 1 & Gr. 5/6 classes, ESNI

Apprenticeship program sees pandemic ups and downs

High schools alternated between in-class and remote learning this year – but what about those students whose studies couldn't be completed either at home or in school?

The 117 students in the High School Apprenticeship Program (HSAP) at our three high schools have had ups and downs since March 2020, when the pandemic shut down many of the industries they were working in, doing on-the-job training while earning school credit. The government temporarily suspended the HSAP last spring, with students ineligible to work and collect credit hours for a couple of months. And more than a third of the participants training in the culinary industry were suddenly out of work when restaurants closed – multiple times.



Many Apprenticeship students found business booming during the pandemic, like Justin B., in Grade 12 at SAC.

"Employers have been very accommodating to students," says Marv Namaka, HSAP Coordinator at Collège St. Norbert Collegiate. "I think it also really opened the students' eyes to how important and valuable it is to have a job."

In some trades, however, such as electrical and carpentry, students found opportunities actually increased, thanks to a recent boom in the construction industry.

"Construction companies have a lot of work, and ratios increased from 1:1 to 2:1 which allows for more opportunities for young apprentices," explains Erik Leefe, Ste. Anne Collegiate's HSAP Coordinator.

Earning up to eight high school credits and being paid for on-the-job training that counts towards their initial qualification level for their trades, HSAP participants have pushed through with determination,

says Collège Lorette Collegiate's HSAP Coordinator, Paul Turenne.

"Our students are resilient and continued to go to work without any complaints." 🟡

Stepping back in time

A Grade 5/6 class at Ste. Anne Elementary School took a trip back in Canada's history with a project that let students explore the daily life and challenges of early settlers in various stages of land development.

Jenna Desilets' students designed and created miniature 3D aerial models of seigneurial systems to wrap up their project on New France, which had layers of cross-curricular connections. Students wrote journal entries from the perspective of a seigneur or a habitant, created and drew out plans, made calculations about farmland, and used various materials to sculpt the landscapes in their models.

"They created a mini world to explore, both historically and creatively, using

their knowledge and talents to tell a story of Canada in their own way. Instead of just learning dates and facts, they explored the human side of history with their hands, their words and their imaginations," says Desilets, who is is mindful to teach with an Indigenous perspective.

"It relates to our larger theme around European and Indigenous views of land use. We have many ongoing rich discussions about how the land we call Canada today has changed throughout various historical periods," she explains.

Students also enjoyed the chance to step back in time.

"I learned a lot about how people lived, and I got to pretend I was living back then," says Sara W, Grade 6. 🟡



Grade 5 SAE student Selena P. works on plans for her 3D aerial model of a seigneurial system.

Watch for our special Grad 2021 issue

Congratulations Graduates!

Seine River School Division's high school graduates will again have a more subdued celebration this year, due to the pandemic. To help celebrate this milestone, we are working on a special **Grad 2021** issue of *Via the Seine*. **Watch for it in July!**