



CARMAN ELEMENTARY

On Thursday May 14, 2020, our staff at Carman Elementary put on a parade for our students, families, and community. After much consideration as a school team as to what we could do that would be special for our students, Mrs. Denise Strange suggested a parade through town. The idea quickly grew with much enthusiasm by all of our staff.

A committee was formed and soon we had many forms of transportation including 2 horses from Johnston's farm as well as a few sweet goats and much fanfare. A local bus driver joined the team, along with RCMP, and Carman-Dufferin Firefighters.

It was a joy for staff and the community to come together in this positive way while "staying apart!" Maintaining a social connection with students while having a little fun was a heartwarming and meaning experience for all of us. Thank you Denise for the great idea!



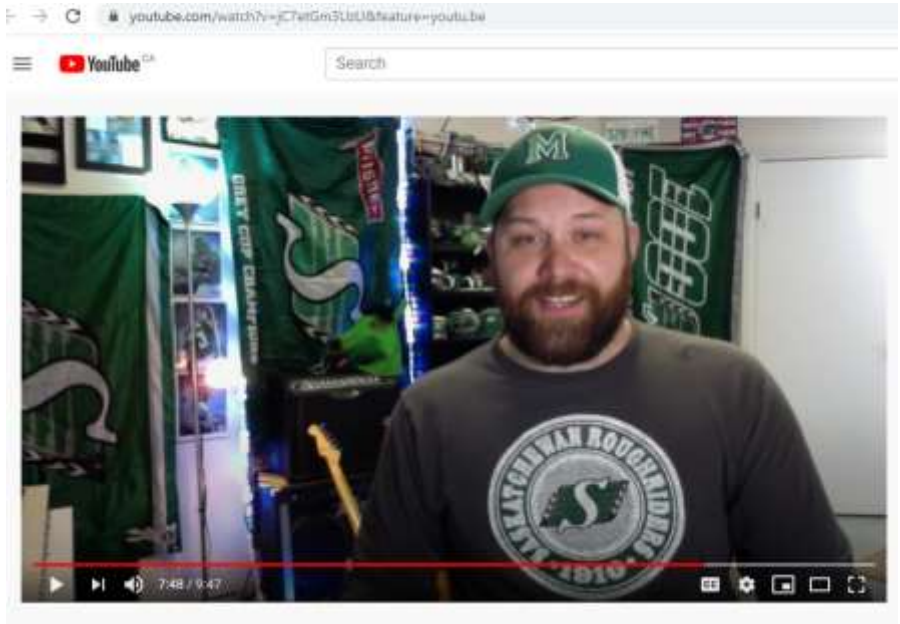
MIAMI SCHOOL

Miami School would like to recognize the efforts of our grade 7 teacher, Mr. Nathan Strange. Mr. Strange is a creative and passionate educator with a flare for inquiry, project-based learning, music, and lots of laughter. He has transferred his knack for fostering student engagement from the classroom into the remote learning environment with resounding success.

Mr. Strange has been engaging in remote learning with his grade 7 class in interesting and unique ways. In addition to his other teacher tasks, everyday Mr. Strange sends his class a daily video, complete with a daily lesson (often times spanning multiple curricular outcomes and subjects), a daily problem, a daily "Dad Joke", and plenty of music.

The Miami admin team anxiously awaits Mr. Strange's videos every day and we know his students do too. Thank you for all you do, Mr. Strange!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jC7etGm3UzU&feature=youtu.be>



HUTTERIAN COLONY SCHOOL



The educational assistant team from the Hutterian Colony School has been hard at work connecting with students and their families during their time away from the classroom. On a daily basis, our educational assistants reach out to students offering help with assignments, skill development in the areas of mental math and spelling, as well as the opportunity for our younger students to practice having conversations in English as they continue to develop their vocabulary.

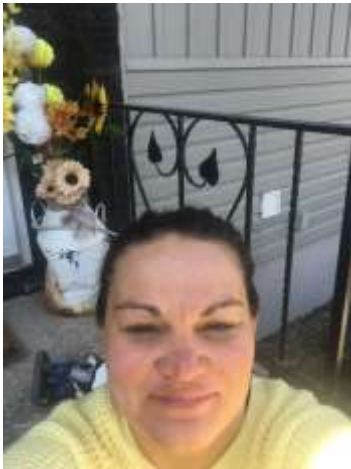
This opportunity to connect has become very important to our students (and our educational assistants). Many families have shared that students wait by the phone on their call day, to hear a familiar friendly voice on the other end of the line. Students are always excited and eager to share what they have been doing since the last phone call.

This support has also been important for our classroom teachers. After teaching a lesson over the phone, our educational assistants are able to help check students understanding and skill maintenance. This dual connection and support helps our classroom teachers to ensure that the skills being taught are being understood and remembered.

ELM CREEK SCHOOL

While remote learning has become the “norm” at this time for Elm Creek School teachers and instructional support staff, there have been a number of positive takeaways during this challenging time! Some of these positives have included:

- Our teachers and educational assistants being creative with the use of the various remote learning tools including: Google Classroom, Google Meet, email, and hardcopies of school learning packages, for those students who may have challenges with internet access.
- Support staff member, Mrs. Christine Wolf (library technician), has been very helpful with many of the technology needs for our staff and students, while Mrs. Darlene Banman (secretary) has assisted with school staff’s resource needs to support staff and students along with the general day to day school needs at this time.
- Our school student services’ team, led by Mrs. Kerry Fiks, has done a terrific job of supporting some of our school’s families with additional school supplies and materials to help cope with this different reality we’re all experiencing!



Mrs. Nicky Spencer, our grade 5 Teacher, shares here some of her experiences with this current “new normal” of learning for her students:

There are a few positive things that I have noticed during remote learning! One thing I love is that I can get a lot more one-on-one learning time with students via Google Meet. We have class meets twice a week but I am also able to virtually meet one on one with students who are need assistance! Another thing that I am noticing is how much time my students are spending outside and the creative things that they are doing! We did a design project on making a bird feeder and a gratitude scavenger hunt! My students were super engaged and had a lot of fun. This whole situation is not ideal. I miss my “kids” like crazy, but we have been working hard in my class to embrace the positives!

ST. LAURENT SCHOOL

Last month some of our staff members began talking about sending a “We Miss You” message to our students here at St. Laurent School. We had started to see them pop up at other schools and loved this idea. I am not the most artistic, but I thought this could be a great project for a few of our more artistic support staff and mentioned it to them as a suggestion. Then, we all went home for the weekend.

When some of us arrived at the school the following Monday morning (April 27th), we were pleasantly surprised to see a large, beautiful “We Miss You” sign out on the fence near the soccer field and running track! It is made of wood, and is bright red and black, which are our school colours! Stunning!

So, when I sought out this “secret weekend helper” to thank them, I could not figure out who it was. We have an idea, but I now know that they would like to stay anonymous. So, I want to say thank you to our “secret weekend helper” by showing our division what beautiful work they have done for our school, and most importantly, our students!



ROLAND SCHOOL



Tina Friesen is an educational assistant at Roland School. She has been actively supporting staff and students throughout the quarantine in a variety of ways. Tina has been responsible for connecting with our families whose language in the home is German in order to ensure that all families, no matter their abilities in English are supported!

Over her years as a PRSD employee, Tina has shared her love for all things art related with PRSD staff and students not only in the classroom, but also at professional development opportunities for both Roland staff and Prairie Rose School Division office staff.

Recently, Tina created her first YouTube video to provide a step by step drawing tutorial to teach students how to draw a fish using their hand as a tracer for the body. The video was shared over Roland School's Classroom

Dojo account for students to enjoy. Her flexibility to support our school community during COVID-19 has not gone unnoticed. Thank you for all that you do Tina!

CARMAN COLLEGIATE

There are many challenges in learning from home. Brenda Mutcher, grade 6 teacher from Carman stated that, "Although we don't get to interact in the usual way, it is comforting to maintain a sense of community online and it's wonderful to see all their faces. I look forward to seeing my class every morning."

The first few weeks was a big adjustment for students. They needed to remember that they will need to treat the days of the week like a regular school week. They will need to be up and ready to work. They need to keep a routine to help them adjust to learning from home.

Teachers understand that students are also juggling commitments with family, and some are helping around the house with siblings, they are trying to be flexible in assisting students. Mutcher said, "I believe teachers are being mindful that this is a tricky time for kids and don't want to overwhelm them, but we are still expecting them to continue with their academic responsibilities. Next year will be a challenge for some if they are unable to continue their learning from home."

To ensure curricular outcomes are achieved even during this home learning time, Mutcher and her grade 6 colleagues meet daily to collaborate and develop online tools to help support and guide students through their learning. They are available to have video chats and coach students through their trouble areas throughout the school day. She feels that literacy and numeracy outcomes are crucial in ensuring that students are on track for their upcoming school year. Mutcher encourages her students to check books out at the Boyne Library now that it is available and to continue to read all summer!

Mutcher, like her colleagues, understand that this is a tricky time for families. She said the support from parents has been positive. They are working hard to help their child during this challenging time.

Even though she would never want to extend this virtual learning time, Mutcher said she is grateful for the collaborative learning opportunities, the new experiences, and technology that are available to make it easier to do her teaching from home.



ST. FRANÇOIS XAVIER SCHOOL

Since the provincial announcement in March, to suspend regular classes in our K-12 schools, we have now completed seven weeks of remote teaching and learning. Overall, we have witnessed tremendous efforts and accomplishments on the part of our staff, our students, and our parent community in overcoming unprecedented challenges to our daily lives.



As one can imagine, transitioning from physical school to online school has presented an abundance of challenges. Reinventing how we have engaged in teaching, learning, and supporting students has not been easy in any way. With guidance and support from our provincial and divisional leaders, our teachers have been able to create remote learning in a way that students are able to complete their suggested learning tasks at their own pace and on their own time. We know that families are under tremendous stress and schedules vary from home to home.

I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate our teachers and our support staff for their consistent hard work and dedication to support our students. We appreciate all of the efforts they have made during this unprecedented time, and always, to support our school.

ST. PAUL'S COLLEGIATE

The COVID-19 Pandemic has significantly influenced the way in which we now teach and learn. Students have been thrust into a new delivery model for their courses, and Google Classroom has become common language now more than ever. Students, however, are not the only ones needing to make changes to their school routines. Teachers have also been tasked with new delivery systems and pedagogy over the past two months with many needing to almost start from scratch in learning how to teach remotely.

At St. Paul's Collegiate, our teachers have eagerly embraced these new challenges and with some practice and continued learning, many are now thriving in this new 'normal' of education. All teachers are utilizing technology platforms such as Google Classroom to deliver new material, assignments, and real time virtual lessons to their students. With these sites being shared between teachers, students, and other staff, we can maintain a full system of support for our online learners. Guidance counsellors, resource teachers, and administrators are all able to join classrooms to support teachers and students in their teaching and learning.

Over the coming weeks, we look forward to sharing the many successes that have come from our new models of remote teaching. We will be celebrating the efforts and accomplishments that our students and teachers have demonstrated over the past several weeks and we have much to recognize at St. Paul's Collegiate. We have maintained a strong delivery of our core subject areas while also keeping our students well engaged in their option courses. We have stories of building instruments, maintaining fitness, creating beautiful art, and cooking wonderful meals. We are even conducting spirit activities with our students as well.

In closing, I would like to share that while these messages will focus on the efforts of our school and its teachers, I want to acknowledge the efforts of our outstanding students, and their supportive parents and guardians. It truly takes a collective effort to overcome these recent challenges but if our early successes are any indication of what is to come, we have every confidence that we will get through this together. Take care and stay safe.

The effort, dedication, and creativity of École St. Eustache staff transitioning from a physical learning environment to fully online have been absolutely remarkable and demonstrated by the high student engagement and learning. Janice Dueck has done a phenomenal job leading online learning for her grade 1 classroom. She is retiring after 17 years of service at the end of this year



and has described that this new learning experience as feeling like being a first-year teacher again, which was both energizing and terrifying! This experience of online teaching has prompted her to think outside the box in new ways in order to continue to provide rich learning experiences for her students. In one activity, she invited students on a défi des roches (rock challenge)! She shared the book Everybody Needs a Rock, encouraged her students to paint and hide a rock, and hid one of hers for students to find! Through these efforts, she has seen remarkable work from her students. After a long, tiring day, one of her students who needed the most support turned in an absolutely amazing project and she shared "Yes, all of that work was worth it!!"

Although many events have been affected globally by COVID-19, that did not stop the École St. Eustache team from celebrating Jump Rope for Heart with our students and families! This May, École St. Eustache staff joined with St. François Xavier School to participate in our annual jump rope event - while physical distancing, of course! Our physical education teacher, Aaron Kilpatrick, worked collaboratively to create a route through different communities in which our students reside to bring the event to them! The staff and student turnout was remarkable, especially given that it was pouring rain! Students and families donned their rain gear and showed great excitement and enthusiasm jumping from their driveways. It was truly heart-warming for our staff to see their smiling faces, as they toured communities in parade-fashion! Staff made posters, jubilantly waved, and blew bubbles to enthusiastically celebrate students' jumping. Families were delighted with the experience, as one exclaimed "it will most definitely be remembered as one of their favourite highlights from this whole quarantine experience!".

