



École Varennes

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

Administrators' Message

March 2017

We have had a busy month of February with many events for students: Pancake Supper, Festival du Voyageur activities, Pink Shirt Day assembly and activities, ORFF Day for Grade 4 students and visits from Collège Jeanne-Sauvé for our Grade 8 students. Thank you to the many students, staff, parents and community members who continue to support these activities.

This month promises to be a busy one as well! Students from Grade 3-8 saw the play Grand Étude at the French Cultural Centre (CCFM) on March 15 and 16. Students and staff had only rave reviews, especially when Mme Duncan and M. Fowler were asked to participate on stage. Our Kindergarten to Grade 2/3 students will have the opportunity to see Madame Diva, a well-known performer, at École Provencher on March 22. Kindergarten Registration Week will be March 21-24 from 8 am to 4, Monday to Thursday, with the exception of Thursday with office hours from 8 am to 8 pm. Student portfolio Evening will be held on March 23 from 3:30-8 pm. This Portfolio evening allows students to share their goals and their successes with their parents. Please see page 3 for more details for booking your appointment online. Finally, the last day of school before Spring Break is Friday, March 24 with dismissal at 3:00 pm.

Did you know our school web site and our Twitter feed are constantly evolving? Please follow us on Twitter at @varennesLRSD and visit www.lrsd.net/schools/varennes often for updates. Our [online school calendar](#) also reflects the most recent information related to school activities.

Joanne DeCruyenaere

Principal



Andréa Léger

Vice-principal

Principal

Joanne DeCruyenaere

Vice-Principal

Andréa Léger

Administrative Secretary

Clarisse Daudet

Secretary

Danielle Hince

Parent Committee

Sandi Schell

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. 337

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 20 to Friday, March 24 - Kindergarten Registration Week

Tuesday, March 21 – Early Dismissal: 2 pm

Wednesday, March 22 – Mme Diva Concert at École Provencher: Kindergarten to Grade 2/3 classes, 12:30-2:15 pm

Thursday, March 23 – Portfolio Evening, 3:30 – 8:00 pm

Friday, March 24 – Hot Lunch

Friday, March 24 – Last day of school before Spring Break: Dismissal at 3 pm

Monday, March 27 to March 31 (inclusive): Spring Break

Monday, April 3 – Return to classes

Tuesday, April 4 – Thursday, April 6: Oak Hammock Class Presentations

Wednesday, April 5 - Paint Night Gr. 7 & 8 Fundraiser

Monday, April 10 – Parent Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm in school library

Wednesday, April 12 - Juggling Club presentation 9 am

Friday, April 14 - Good Friday (No school)

Wednesday, April 19 - Spring Concert K-Grade 2: 1 pm and 7 pm

Thursday, April 20 - Spring Concert Grade 2/3-6: 1 pm and 7 pm

Friday, April 21 - Professional Learning Day: No school for students

Hot Lunch Dates

Friday, March 24

Friday, April 28

Friday, May 26

Friday, June 23

Spring Concert

Our spring concert will be held on two evenings: April 19 for students in K-2 and on April 20 for Grade 2/3-6.

There will also be an afternoon performance on both dates. Please advise all sport coaches, club leaders, music/dance teachers or any other regularly scheduled activity about your child’s involvement in this event.

With limited seating in the gymnasium, a limited amount of tickets will be sent home the first week of April. More information will be available in the April

A reminder to please pack personal cutlery with your child’s lunch. The school cannot provide cutlery to students on a daily basis as it is very cost prohibitive. Thank you for your understanding.



Professional Development Days 2016-2017

Friday, April 21

Friday, May 12

Friday, June 16

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

Tuesday, March 21

Tuesday, April 25

Tuesday, May 23

Friday, June 30

Student Progress Conferences

Kindergarten to Grade 6 teachers have scheduled a 30 minute time block for each parent to experience student-led activities, portfolio sharing and meeting with the teacher. These blocks will be shared with three other families. Grade 7 and 8 teachers have scheduled a 15 minute block to allow time for conversations between you, your child and the homeroom teacher.



When scheduling your appointment, please note the time slots for each appointment. Our guitar and music specialists (M. Fallon and Mme Boettcher) as well as our Student Services and Literacy Teachers (Mme Schick, Mme Léger, and Mme Philippot) are also available to meet with you should you wish to schedule a 15 minute appointment with them. As Mme Wiebe (band teacher) is unavailable on March 23, you may contact her by email to set up an appointment on another day.

During the conferences, you are invited to drop by the gymnasium with your child for our "Sportfolio" evening. Students will have the opportunity to showcase some physical education skills that they have worked on this year. All students must be accompanied by a parent upon entering the gym. Mme Ditter and Mme Rebecca will be available to answer any questions that you may have.

École Varennes Conference Manager - Online Conference Appointments

This application will allow you, as a parent, to use the Internet to view your child's teacher's conference schedule (including Student Services and specialists) and book an appointment quickly and easily. If you have more than one child attending at the school, all of the teacher's schedules can be visible at the same time to help coordinate your meeting schedule. The following is a step-by-step guide on how to book your appointment for this month's conferences:

To book your appointment(s), go to our school's website and click the link titled [Conference Manager](#) (halfway down the page). Log in using your username and password, click the "BOOK NOW" button and follow the prompts. Please note that this can only be done online **between 7:00 am on Monday, March 13, 2017 and 11:00 am on Thursday, March 23, 2017.**

Once your appointments are booked, you may choose to print your schedule. You will also receive an email confirming your booking. You can log into the system at any time to view your bookings, print, cancel or reschedule appointments. Please contact the office should you need assistance with booking your conference appointment.

Child Care During Student Progress Conferences

A **free child care service for children aged 0 to 5 years** will be provided by our Family Centre on both evenings. The Family Centre is located in Room 12, across from the Kindergarten classroom. Families must pre-register with the Family Centre by contacting Shawna Crane, Family Centre Coordinator at shawna.crane@lrsd.net. Be sure to take time to look around the centre while you are there.

Notes from the office

Student Safety

We appreciate your help in remembering the following safety items:

- ⇒ Ensuring your children arrive at school after 8:02 am when patrols and supervisors are on duty.
- ⇒ Dropping off students in designated areas only:
 - School parking lot—please use the walkway instead of crossing the parking lot
 - Please respect our neighbours. Do not use park across driveways on Varennes Ave or block the back lanes.
- ⇒ Updating all changes to your child’s personal information for emergency purposes
- ⇒ Completing an administration of medication form for any type of medication that must be administered at school.

Kindergarten Registration Week



Registration week is March 20-24 from 8 am - 4 pm, with the exception of Thursday, March 23 (8am - 8 pm). Children born in 2012 are eligible to register. Your child’s birth certificate or Manitoba Health card is required. Feel free to stop by the office to pick up a registration package at any time. You will find all necessary forms to complete your child’s registration, information about the French Immersion program, daycares in the area as well as a copy of the PowerPoint presentation that was shared at the Kindergarten Information Meeting on February 28. Please call 204-253-1375 for further information.

Staffing News

For personal reasons, **Mme Andréa Léger**, our vice-principal, will be returning to her Student Services role effective August 2017. We wish to thank Mme Léger for her work in administration this year with our students and her devotion to our school. **Mme Michelle Bacon** will be our new vice-principal effective August 2017. She is currently the Coordinator of Student Services at the Board Office. She will bring with her a wealth of knowledge in Student Services as well as her many years of experience working with middle-years students. Mme Bacon will meet with staff and students later this spring.

Three teachers have had assignment changes recently to better meet the needs of all of our students. **Mme Bernice Schick** will be a Student Services full-time. **Mme Charla Ramsey** has replaced her in the mornings where she will now be the full-time teacher in Grade 2. **M. Jean Hardman** will be a Student Services teacher in the mornings. His Grade 3/4 morning position has been filled by **M. Hank Sherwin**, a familiar face in our school who has just finished a term position in Grade 5/6. Welcome back!

M. Alexandre Fallon, our Kindergarten to Grade 6 Music Teacher as well as our Grade 7 and 8 Guitar Teacher has resigned his positions for personal reasons. His last day at École Varennes will be Friday, March 24. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours. **M. Michael Cole** will be his replacement beginning April 3 until the end of this school year.

Mme Janet Young, our Grade 2/3 teacher, will be away until the end of this school year. **Mme Angela Sarakula** will continue to replace Mme Young until June 30.



Student Services News

Family Literacy Activities

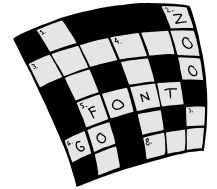
Literacy is more than books. There are several ways to keep your literacy skills sharp—all it takes is practising for 15 minutes every day. Reading, writing, playing a game, following a recipe, or even singing a song all help prepare children for challenges ahead and sharpen skills for adults. Here are some activity ideas to practice your literacy skills:

Daffy Dictionary: Choose a word from the dictionary and write it on a piece of paper with one correct definition, then make up two more definitions that are incorrect but 'sound' like they might be accurate. See who can guess the correct definition. Teams can play this game, with members coming up with the daffy definitions together and also guessing the other team's correct definition.

Family Game Night: Set up a family board game night where a different game is played each week. Have each member of the family involved in reading instructions and game cards and keeping score.

Karaoke Night: Rent a Karaoke machine and invite the neighbours over for a party. Not only is this activity fun, but it also encourages, reading, singing and family involvement.

Map out your trip: Have your kids create the map for your next road trip so that they can navigate by reading signs and billboards. Create a trip journal.



Sharpen your mind: Do crossword puzzles, word jumbles and word searches . Adapted from ABC LifeLiteracyCanada

How to Talk and Listen to Your Child

Nothing is more important in your relationship with your child than effective, open communication. To be able to talk to your child, listen to your child, and have your child know that you are there for him/her is really the most important aspect of parenting. A big part of being a strong communicator is being a good listener. When your child knows that you will listen to him/her when your child talks, he/she will be more likely to listen to what you have to say.

Verbal and nonverbal ways to be a good listener:

- Respond to verbal communication. This will encourage your child to express his/her emotions verbally. For example, if your child rolls his/her eyes, you might say, “The way you are rolling your eyes suggests that you don’t agree. Am I right?”
- Find a time and place to talk. When your child approaches you to talk but you cannot right at that moment, let your child know “now is not the right time, but it’s important that we talk”. Set a time and place to talk later, when you give your child the full attention he/she deserves. Set the time and place then, and then make sure you follow through.
- Give your child your full attention. When you sit down to talk, make sure there are not any interruptions and give your full attention. Don’t answer the phone, check your cell phone, or be watching the game or anything on TV.
- Avoid interrupting. Letting your child finish what he/she wants to say shows that you care about what he/she has to say.
- Give non-verbal encouragement. Lean forward and make eye contact, nod occasionally, say “uh-uh” or “mmm”, and smile when appropriate to let your child know that you are interested in what she is saying.

Source: OneToughJob.org, An online resource for real-live parents



Human Ecology and Industrial Arts & Technology

900 St. Mary's Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2M 3R3

Tel: 237-8287 FAX 257-5718

An Invitation

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students who will enter **Grade 7** next September:

Students in Grade 7 experience one half-day Practical Arts block in each 6 day cycle. Grade 7 Practical Arts includes programs in Human Ecology and Industrial Arts.

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- Grade 7 Practical Arts includes programs in Human Ecology and Industrial Arts.
- At the time of the Information evening the actual location your child will attend for Practical Arts will not yet be determined. The timetabling process for all schools will take place in May and early June and the information will be sent to your school in June.
- While students must provide their own transportation to and from Practical Arts, they travel to facility schools with students from their homeroom.

We invite your family to attend **one of the Information Evenings** we are hosting to learn more about the programs and course content. Both evenings will share the same information – choose the date that best suits your schedule. We look forward to welcoming you and your young person to the Practical Arts experience.

Monday April 24th or Tuesday April 25th

Glenlawn Collegiate – Theatre

Formal Presentation - 7:00 P.M.

Facility Lab Tours 7:30 – 8:30 P.M.



233-ALLÔ

CENTRE D'INFORMATION

233-ALLÔ (2556) /1-800-665-4443

233allo@sfm-mb.ca

www.sfm-mb.ca/233allo


Looking for :

- French activity ideas such as plays, concerts, camps, etc.
- French books, music, movies;
- French tutors;

Le 233-ALLÔ

... Your doorway into the francophone community!

LRSD Homestay Program



Experience another country's culture without leaving home!

Louis Riel School Division is currently looking for Homestay families to host international students attending our high schools.

Homestay families must provide the student:

- a private, furnished bedroom
- three meals per day
- access to bathroom and laundry facilities
- telephone and Internet access
- daily opportunities for learning and practicing English language skills

Homestay families will receive a monthly allowance and the satisfaction of having supported an international student in our community.

For more information please call 257-7827 or visit <http://isp.lrsd.net/> You can also send an email directly to evelyn.sieben@lrsd.net

INSPIRING POTENTIAL AND LEARNING TOGETHER
INITIER LES POSSIBILITÉS ET APPRENDRE ENSEMBLE

Community Connections...



Rumours of spring... We are looking forward to longer days and warm sunshine along with growth in our garden. We hope to have the Master Gardeners of Winnipeg involved this year, as well as building a three sisters garden and continued development with our butterfly garden. Great news in that the Varennes Vert L'Avenir gardeners have received a \$500 grant from PAWS *Take Pride Winnipeg* for gardening supplies, tools and soil. We will need volunteers to help with trimming the shrubs before the leaves begin to grow. Thanks to Amber Barlow, the YMCA Daycare, the Family Centre and Mme Amy-Leigh who have all offered to either start seeds indoors or work in the garden this year. We will also have high school students from Glenlawn Collegiate out to help with the garden in spring and fall. I will be looking for families to sign up and take a week of weeding and harvesting during the summer months. Please come see me during student-led conferences to volunteer or send me an email at paulette.cote@lrsd.net. Adult support is greatly appreciated to help plan and organize the garden, as well as direct students during recess and lunch hour. **We have had at least two schools ask for our help with composting and starting up gardens so Varennes Vert L'Avenir's garden is becoming well known in the community!** Thank you to all who make our garden possible!

Board Games and Cards Galore –Our most recent visit to Riverside Lions took place on February 21st where our Seniors Citizenship group enjoyed an afternoon of games and snacks with their senior friends. Students indicated this was their preferred visit since they were able to spend the entire time playing games and interacting. Some things we've noticed is that the students and their counterparts are remembering each other's names and building relationships. The folks at Riverside are pleased to have us returning and look forward to hosting us next spring for a BBQ in their garden. Special thanks to Mme Schick, Mme Amy-Leigh, M. Kyle, Mme Pat and Mme Paulette for driving and supervising the students. Next visit to Riverside Lions is on April 11th for a repeat games day. We are planning a garden party for our seniors for the final visit in early June.



Random Acts of Kindness – Check out the Free Press, Random Acts of Kindness letter posted on the Community Liaison board. Congratulations students!!! I have received requests to submit an article in the Winnipeg Harvest newsletter regarding the bannock making and sharing of profits with the St. Mary's Road foodbank. Watch the bulletin board for a thank you note and update from Joan Boone regarding the rice purchased with the funds. We are becoming known for our generosity and community spirit! Go team Varennes!!!



Family Gym Nights – We will be saying goodbye to Bryton on March 14th as he finishes his session with us once again, please wish him the best and our hope is to have him return again next year. Rachel Tessier, dietician from Sobey's will be out to visit one last time this year on March 21st which will also be our last gym night of the year. Come out enjoy a snack and activity for the kids! A big thank you to all the families who came out to explore physical activity and have fun with their children and help create a lovely community this year. **The final family gym night this year is on March 21st. Please fill out a feedback form to help us plan for next year!**



Upcoming Family Fun Dates – Keep your calendars open for May 11th when we will have another fun family evening celebrating Indigenous culture!!! Also, the summer Family BBQ will be held on June 15th. More news to come...

Junior Chef Training – The first group has graduated and named themselves the Suppa Gang complete with stirring action! Our second group is in full swing and enjoying the club no less. Feedback from the students indicated they would return and also consider an after school cooking club if offered. Pita pizzas, cherry smoothies, scrambled eggs and pancakes are on the menu this week!



Breakfast, snacks and lunches – Please take the opportunity to remind your children that they are welcome to ask for food after they have finished what they have brought from home, if they are still hungry. We have heard of some food being wasted and work hard to achieve grants, support from local food banks and other sponsors to ensure students are fed adequately in order to be able to learn optimally. We are working hard to develop expectations for polite requests, and the use of manners and respect when visiting the kitchen. We thank you for your support and understanding!



Indigenous News – We welcomed Mme Andrea once again to the Indigenous Citizenship group to share one of the Seven Sacred Teachings and this time she brought the bear who teaches us courage. Bears are quite shy and prefer not to be near people so it takes great courage for Mother Bear to stand up to those who want to threaten her cubs. The students shared their stories of courage in facing their fears and overcoming some tough times in their lives!



Nutrition Bingo – I will be running a nutrition bingo in conjunction with the Family Centre on April 28th at 10AM. After breakfast, the adults can join in for nutrition bingo while the children play their own game version of Around the Home and Food. You are welcome to come if your children are in school as well. Please contact the family centre to sign up. Come enjoy fun with neighbours and take home ingredients for dinner!!!



Rielevate – Please see the bulletin boards for the upcoming spring clothing drive on April 29th and 30th at Lavallee School! This is a good opportunity for our newcomer and refugee families to find clothing for the seasons ahead.

LRSD Clothes Closet – This community liaison initiative is almost ready to open. Please contact paulette.cote@lrzd.net or call 204-253-1375 ext. 273 if someone in your family has clothing needs to set up an appointment to visit the clothes closet. Only those accompanied by a staff member will be able to gain access. Thank you for your understanding!



April Calendar
Centre Familial
Family Centre

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>3 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Baby N Me 1:00-2:30pm</p>	<p>4 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm</p>	<p>5 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Closed PM</p>	<p>6 Gym N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm</p>	<p>7 Kids Cooking 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Closed PM</p>
<p>10 Gym N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Baby N Me 1:00-2:30pm</p>	<p>11 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm</p>	<p>12 Kids Cooking 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Closed PM</p>	<p>13 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm</p>	<p>14 Good Friday Closed</p>
<p>17 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Baby N Me 1:00-2:30pm</p>	<p>18 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm</p>	<p>19 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Closed PM</p>	<p>20 Kids Cooking 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Closed PM</p>	<p>21 Closed Inservice</p>
<p>24 Closed AM</p> <p>Ready for School 12:30-2:45pm</p>	<p>25 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Ready for School 12:30-2:00pm</p>	<p>26 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Ready for School 12:30-2:45pm</p>	<p>27 Gym N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Ready For School 12:30-2:45pm</p>	<p>28 Family Breakfast/ Nutrition Bingo 9:00-11:00am</p> <p>Closed PM</p>



April Newsletter

Family Centre

Centre Familial

We will continue with Kids Cooking this month. Join us for a cooking experience for you and your child who will make individual sized portions. Check the calendar for these scheduled days!



With the weather warming up, we will be doing more activities outside. Please dress accordingly. Also, please have indoor shoes for yourself and your children when visiting the centre.

Family Centre Staff

Shawna Crane-Family Centre
Coordinator

shawna.crane@lrsd.net

Kristine Bettencourt-Family Centre
Assistant

kristine.bettencourt@lrsd.net

Paulette Cote-Community Liaison
Worker

paulette.cote@lrsd.net

The Family Centre staff will be facilitating the Baby-Sitters Course for children who would like to babysit once they are 12 YEARS OLD. Children can attend before they this age but MUST be 12 to babysit.

The cost is \$30 and is payable in CASH ONLY. This will run on April 21st from 830-3:00pm (in service day) in the Library. Please email or call the Family Centre to register your child.

April 28th will be our FREE Family Breakfast! This breakfast will be a special one in that from 10-11am, our Community Liaison Worker, Paulette Cote be hosting a NUTRITION BINGO. After breakfast, the adults can join in for nutrition bingo while the children play their own game version of Around the Home and Food. Please email or call the Family Centre to SIGN UP for BINGO!

READY FOR SCHOOL

We will be offering this program again and with 2 classes due to high demand. We will have a Mon-Wed pm and Tues-Thurs pm classes. Please call or email the Family Centre to sign your child up if they are attending École Varennes for Kindergarten in September 2017. This program is to introduce children to the school and the Kindergarten environment. Classes will be from 12:30-2:45pm.



Would You Like to Become a
Babysitter?

Come Take The
Babysitters Course!
April 21 830am-3pm

The Family Centre is offering the Babysitters Course on April 22nd at the School from 830am-3pm. This is for children 11 yrs+. Cost is \$30 (payable by cash only). Participants are required to bring a lunch. Please call or email Shawna, shawna.crane@lrsd.net at the Family Centre to register by April 14th, or for more information. 204-253-1375.



Mad Science Day Camps
Locations & Dates 2017

Mad Science is offering two different week long day camps
(**Crazy Chemistry** and **Secret Agent Lab** camps)
at various locations throughout the city this summer.

We will be at Tuxedo CC , Lindenwoods CC, East St. Paul CC
and North Kildonan CC, East End CC, Whyteridge CC and new
locations of Glenwood CC and Woodhaven CC.

Please go to our web site www.manitoba.madscience.org . Pick
which camp you want, the location and date you prefer and
register right there on-line. Then get ready for some science
fun this summer!

Each camp will be Monday to Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM.
Registrations are restricted to 25 per week and are on a first
come basis.

- Free Early Drop off as early as 8AM,

If same camper attends both Camps, there is a
discount of 10% on the second camp!