



# École Varennes

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

## Administrators' Message

**December 2017**

It is difficult to believe that the first term is over and Winter Break is just around the corner. Thank you to all parents and guardians who attended the student progress conferences. Students enjoy sharing what they have learned in literacy, numeracy and special classroom projects. Students have set goals for the next term with the support and feedback from their teachers and their parents/guardians. Student progress conferences are an important component of ongoing home-school communication and family involvement in children's education.

Winter is here and the cold weather seems to be upon us. Many upcoming activities and outings will focus on the festive season. It is also a time for family and friends as well as a time for giving and sharing. In this spirit, we invite the school community to participate in many initiatives such as our Mitten Tree and food collection for Winnipeg Harvest as well as our Bric-à-Brac rummage sale held in the middle of December. Information regarding these charitable initiatives can be found throughout this newsletter. Please give generously to these very worthy causes.

You can follow École Varennes on Twitter (@varennesLRSD) for the most current news, events, and classroom activities happening in our school.

Best wishes for the holiday season!

Joanne DeCruyenaere  
Principal

Michelle Bacon  
Vice-Principal



**Principal**  
Joanne DeCruyenaere

**Vice-Principal**  
Michelle Bacon

**Administrative Secretary**  
Clarisse Daudet

**Secretary**  
Danielle Hince

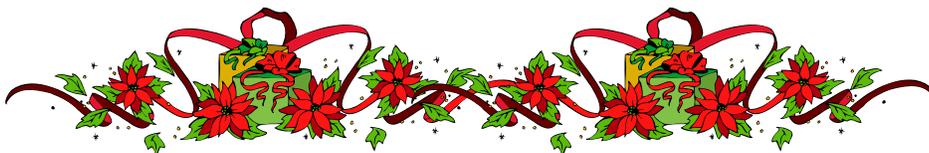
**Parent Committee**  
Megan MacDonald  
President  
[evpc09@gmail.com](mailto:evpc09@gmail.com)

**After School Program**  
YMCA-YWCA  
204-255-6201

**Family Centre**  
Shawna Crane  
204-253-1375  
[shawna.crane@lrsd.net](mailto: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



## Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 6 - Winter Concert: 1 pm and 7 pm for the following classes: Mme Benning's Morning and Afternoon Kindergarten classes, Mme Desrochers Grade 1, Mme Leochko Grade 2, Mme Muller-Bulger Grade 3, Mme Laurie Grade 4 and M. Laurin and Mme Stephanie's Grade 5/6 classes.

Thursday, December 7—Winter Concert: 1 pm and 7 pm for the following classes: Mme Aimée's Morning Kindergarten, Mme Frédérick Grade 1, Mme Djahida Grade 2, Mme Charla Grade 2/3, Mme Young Grade 3, Mme Macri Grade 4 and Mme Duncan Grade 5/6.

Wednesday, December 13 - Dolphin Family Assembly and School-Wide Gingerbread Houses Activity: 8:30 am to 10 am

Thursday, December 14 - Vente Bric-à-Brac Rummage Sale: 9 am to 1:45 pm



Friday, December 15 - Hot Lunch Day

Wednesday, December 20 - Appreciation Lunch for Patrols and Lunch Monitors

Friday, December 22 - Last day before Winter Break, Dismissal 2 pm

Monday, December 25 to Friday, January 5 - Winter Break

Monday, January 8 - Return to classes

## Professional Development Days

**2017-2018**

Friday, February 2

Friday, March 16

Friday, April 20

Friday, May 11

Friday, June 15

## Staffing News

We welcome back **Mme Paulette Côté** who has returned from a medical leave on a half-time basis until the end of December. **Mme Hayleigh Bell** will be working the other half-time as Community Liaison Worker. Welcome!

**Mme Codie Price**, our Grade 1 and Grade 3, has finished her term contracts with us at the end of December.



We wish to thank her for the excellent work she has done for our school during these last four months. We welcome back **Mme Claire Poliquin** who will be returning from her maternity leave in January to teach in the Grade 1 classroom with Mme Frédérick.

We welcome **M. Serge Fillion** who has joined our evening custodial team last month. M. Fillion will be working part-time with Mme Dianne Pauwells.

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

Friday, December 22

Tuesday, January 23

Tuesday, February 27

Tuesday, March 20

Tuesday, April 24

Tuesday, May 22

Friday, June 29

## News Around the School

### Silver Collection and Food Donation at Winter Concerts

Our Winter Concerts are already upon us. As per tradition, we will be accepting donations of non-perishable food for Winnipeg Harvest. We will also be having a silver collection for those who prefer to donate a monetary sum, which will also go to Winnipeg Harvest. Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping to make this Christmas season a little brighter for those in need.



### Friday Spirit Days

We invite all students to wear their École Varennes Wear (t-shirt, sweatshirt, sweat pants) every Friday to promote school pride and spirit. If you do not own Varennes Wear, we invite you to wear a blue t-shirt. Should there be an inservice day on a Friday, your child is invited to wear his/her blue t-shirt/wear on the Thursday. This is not meant to be a competition but rather a way to encourage a sense of belonging, community, and pride!



### Clubs at École Varennes

We have many clubs running during the lunch hour for our Grades 1-8:

- Homework Club for Grades 5-8
- Games Club for Grades 1-3 and 4-8
- Drawing Club for Grades 1-4
- Meditation for Grades 4-8
- Intramurals for Grades 5-6 and 7-8
- Juggling Club for Grades 3-8
- Knitting Club for Grades 4-8
- Orff Club for Grades 4-6
- Dance Club for Grades 1-4
- Lego Club for Grades 1
- MYRCA Book Club for Grades 5-8



### Mitten Tree

We are now collecting mittens, hats, toques and scarves for our mitten tree. Please drop off your donation of these new items directly on our tree, which is located by the office.



We are looking for the following games to add to our Games Club: Candyland, deck of cards, Jenga, Trouble, Sorry, Snakes and Ladders, and simple puzzles (25-50 pieces). If you have any of these items and are willing to donate to the school, please contact Mme Léger at the school. Thank you!

## Healthy Nut-Safe Lunch and Snacks

École Varennes is a peanut and nut-safe school. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring a safe environment for our children who have severe anaphylaxis reactions to peanut and nut products. The following websites provide information on healthy lunches and snacks as well as general information about nut and nut product allergies.

\* Healthy lunch and snack suggestions without nut or nut products.

<http://www.non-toxickids.net/2008/07/nut-free-snack-list.html>

\* Baking ideas

<http://www.peanutallergy.com/nut-free-recipes>

\* Family discussions with their children about nut and nut product allergies:

## Pets in School

As a general rule, pets are not allowed in the school building. This practice is being implemented for safety reasons as a number of students have allergies to various animals and because even the tamest pet may react unexpectedly when surrounded by curious children or inadvertently startled. Pets also disrupt regular routines. Arrangements can be made for class visits. Thank you for your understanding.



## Patrol Safety

Please support our patrols and acknowledge their presence when on duty. Parents and students are reminded to use the designated crossing areas on their way to and from school. Never stop in the patrol crossing areas when driving and picking up your children. Your support will be truly appreciated in assuring your children's safety.



The arrival of winter means slippery conditions for motorists, so please drive carefully and slowly when you are near schools and more specifically at patrol crossing areas.

## 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](mailto:evelyn.sieben@lrsd.net)

INSPIRING POTENTIAL AND LEARNING TOGETHER  
INITIER LES POSSIBILITÉS ET APPRENDRE ENSEMBLE

## Student Services News



### Math Activities - Understanding Numbers

Numbers are used to describe quantities, to count, and to add, subtract, multiply, and divide. Understanding numbers and knowing how to combine them to solve problems helps us in all areas of Math.

- **Count everything!** Count toys, kitchen utensils, and items of clothing as they come out of the dryer. Help your child count by pointing to and moving the objects as you say each number out loud. Count forwards and backwards from different starting places. Use household items to practise adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing.
- **Sing counting songs and read counting books.** Every culture has counting songs, such as "One, Two Buckle My Shoe" and "Ten Little Monkeys", which make learning to count both forwards and backwards, fun for children. Counting books also capture children's imagination, by using pictures of interesting things to count and to add.
- **Discover the many ways in which numbers are used inside and outside your home.** Take your child on a "number hunt" in your home or neighbourhood. Point out how numbers are used on the television set, the microwave, and the telephone. Spot numbers in books and newspapers. Look for numbers on signs in your neighbourhood. Encourage your child to tell you whenever he or she discovers a new way in which numbers are used.
- **Ask your child to help you solve everyday number problems.** "We need six tomatoes to make our sauce for dinner, and we have only two. How many more do we need to buy?" "You have two pillows in your room and your sister has two pillows in her room. How many pillowcases do I need to wash?" "Two guests are coming to eat dinner with us. How many plates will we need?"
- **Practise "skip counting".** Together, count by 2s and 5s. Ask your child how far he or she can count by 10s. Roll two dice, one to determine a starting number and the other to determine the counting interval. Ask your child to try counting backwards from 10, 20, or even 100.
- **Make up games using dice and playing cards.** Try rolling dice and adding or multiplying the numbers that come up. Add up the totals until you reach a target number, like 100. Play the game backwards to practise subtraction.
- **Play "Broken Calculator".** Pretend that the number 8 key on the calculator is broken. Without it, how can you make the number 18 appear on the screen? (Sample answers:  $20 - 2$ ,  $15 + 3$ ). Ask other questions using different "broken" keys.

## Student Services News

### Internet Safety

The Internet can be a great place for kids to learn, be entertained, chat with friends from school and simply relax and explore. But just like the real world, the World Wide Web can be dangerous for kids. Before you allow your child to go online without your supervision, make sure you establish a set of rules that you can all agree on. If you're not sure where to start, here are some ideas on what to discuss with your kids to teach them about using the Internet more safely.

1. Encourage your kids to share their Internet experiences with you. Enjoy the Internet along with your children.
2. Teach your kids to trust their instincts. If they feel nervous about anything online, they should tell you about it.
3. If your kids visit chat rooms, use instant messaging (IM) programs, online video games, or other activities on the Internet that require a login name to identify themselves, help them choose that name and make sure it doesn't reveal any personal information about them.
4. Insist that your kids never give out your address, phone number, or other personal information, including where they go to school or where they like to play.
5. Teach your kids that the difference between right and wrong is the same on the Internet as it is in real life.
6. Show your kids how to respect others online. Make sure they know that rules for good behaviour don't change just because they're on a computer.
7. Insist that your kids respect the property of others online. Explain that making illegal copies of other people's work—music, video games, and other programs—is just like stealing it from a store.
8. Tell your kids that they should never meet online friends in person. Explain that online friends may not be who they say they are.
9. Teach your kids that not everything they read or see online is true. Encourage them to ask you if they're not sure.
10. Control your children's online activity with advanced Internet software. Parental controls can help you filter out harmful content, monitor the sites your child visits, and find out what they do there.



# December 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1 Family Breakfast 9:00-11:00am Closed PM
4 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am Closed PM	5 Baby N Me 9:00-11:00am Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm	6 Reading Café 9:00-11:00am Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm	7 Kids Cooking 8:45-11:00am Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm	8 Parent/Child Craft 8:45-11:00 am Closed PM
11 Gym N Play 8:45-11:00am Closed PM	12 Baby N Me (Craft) 9:00-11:00am Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm	13 Christmas Cookies 8:45-11:00am Coffee time 12:45-2:45pm	14 Kids Cooking 8:45-11:00am Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm	15 Parent/Child Craft 8:45-11:00 am Closed PM
18 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am Closed PM	19 Baby N Me 9:00-11:00am Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm	20 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm	21 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm	22 Christmas Party 9:00-11:00am Closed PM

# École Varennes Family Centre Newsletter

December 2017



Kids Cooking will take place December 7th (Cheesy Breadsticks) and 14th (Surprise Muffins). Children will follow a recipe with help from their parent/caregiver to make an individual portion size and enjoy for snack.

Baby N Me runs every Tuesday morning from 9:00-11:00am, siblings welcome. On December 12th, we will be doing a Christmas Craft with the babies for you to take home as a keepsake. Come meet other moms and have some playtime with your baby.

We will be hosting a Family Christmas Party on December 22nd from 9:00-11:00am. We will have some festive foods, crafts, songs and gifts for the kids. Please let us know if you'd like to attend this event.

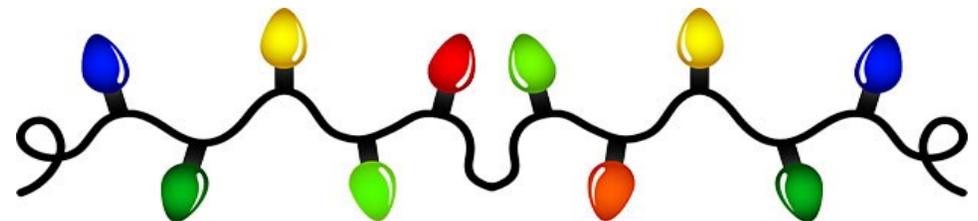
December 16th, we will be having a parent/child craft, where parents/caregivers will work together with their child(ren) to make a Christmas craft. Please let us know if you'd like to attend.

## Family Centre Staff

Shawna Crane-Family Centre Coordinator

Kristine Bettencourt-Family Centre Assistant

204-253-1375



# January 2018

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

<p>8</p> <p>Closed AM</p> <p>Closed PM</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Baby N Me 9:00-11:00am</p> <p>Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Gym N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Closed PM</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Closed PM</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Baby N Me 9:00-11:00am</p> <p>Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Gym N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Family Breakfast 9:00-11:00am</p> <p>Closed PM</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Closed PM</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Baby N Me 9:00-11:00am</p> <p>Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Coffee Time 12:45-2:45pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Gym N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Closed PM</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Closed PM</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Baby N Me 9:00-11:00am</p> <p>Coffee Time</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am</p> <p>Coffee Time</p>		

# January Newsletter



Winter is now upon us for the next little while. We will be going outside to play and do some activities during our Stay N Plays so dress for the weather. We have sleds so when we can, we will do some sledding out back.



Stay N Play-come and play, do some art activities, sensory play, social play, songs and have a healthy snack.

Baby N Me-bring your baby 0-18 months to talk with other moms, have a coffee and play time with your baby.

Gym N Play-we have a half hour to 45 minutes play time in the gym. Free play as well as structured activities.

## Family Centre Staff

Shawna Crane-Family Centre Coordinator  
shawna.crane@lrsd.net

Kristine Bettencourt-Family Centre Assistant  
kristine.bettencourt@lrsd.net  
204-253-1375

Our Family Breakfast will be held on Friday, January 19th from 9:00-11:00am. We have a full breakfast spread, coffee and tea. Please **RSVP** for this event by **January 17th**.

