



École Varennes

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Administrators' Message

November 2018

The month of November marks the end of the first term. Report cards will be sent home on Thursday, November 22. We look forward to meeting you at the student progress conferences on Wednesday, November 28 and Thursday, November 29. We will be using the web-based system called **École Varennes Conference Manager** to book appointments with teachers and specialists. This system makes the booking process an easy process for teachers and parents. This application will allow you, as a parent, to use the Internet to view your child's teacher's conference schedule and book an appointment quickly and easily over the Internet. If you have more than one child attending the school, all of the teachers' schedules can be visible at the same time to help coordinate your meeting schedule. Information about this booking system will be sent home soon. Please call the office should you require assistance in booking your appointment(s).

Students are strongly encouraged to attend with their parents and take part in discussions about their learning. It is also an opportunity to set realistic goals and to develop plans to support the achievements of these goals. Achieving goals increases student self-esteem, academic performance while improving positive social interactions.

Conference times are limited to 15 minutes. To help you get the most out of your meeting time, a parent guide to Student Progress Conferences has been included in this newsletter. We would ask you to arrive at least 5 minutes prior to your scheduled meeting time, wherever possible. We look forward to meeting with you and your child. No child care will be provided for younger siblings.

Did you know our school web site is constantly evolving? Please visit <https://www.lrsd.net/schools/varennes/Pages/default.aspx> often for updates. Our [online school calendar](#) also reflects the most recent information related to school activities.

Joanne DeCruyenaere
Principal

Michelle Bacon
Vice-Principal



Upcoming Events

Friday, November 9 - Remembrance Day Ceremony: 10:30 am in the gym
Monday, November 12 - Quebec Exchange meeting for participating Grade 7/8 students and parents: 6:30 pm in school library
Tuesday, November 13 - LRSD Budget Consultation Meeting: 6:30-8:30 pm at 900 St. Mary's Road
Wednesday, November 14 - Parent Committee Meeting: 6:30 pm in the library
Friday, November 16 - Photo Retakes (pm)
Friday, November 16 - Hot Lunch
Monday, November 19 - Emergency Control Procedures Practice (Lockdown) - 9:30 am
Thursday, November 22 - Report Cards sent home
Friday, November 23 - Professional Learning Day - No school
Tuesday, November 27 - Staff Meeting, Early Dismissal (2 pm)
Wednesday, November 28 - Student Progress Conferences, 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Thursday, November 29 - Student Progress Conferences, 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Friday, November 30 - Student council and choir visit to Riverside Lions: 10:15 am
Tuesday, December 11 - Star Blanket presentations by Little Buffalo Woman: Grades K-4
Wednesday, December 12 - Skills Canada presentation to Grade 7/8: 9:30 am in the library

Professional Development Days 2018-2019

Friday, November 23
Friday, February 1
Friday, March 15
Friday, April 26
Friday, May 10
Friday, June 14

School Traffic

Thank you for observing the guidelines regarding the designated pickup/drop-off zones and the parking lot. A gentle reminder that there is no parking in the reserved numbered spots in the parking lot **at any time** during the day. They are 'reserved' and paid by staff. There are very limited visitor parking spots in the parking lot. Please park your vehicle in the visitor spots alongside the school or in the middle of the north parking lot (not alongside the fences). We also request that you turn off your engine when coming inside the school to pick up your child(ren). Let's do our part to be environmentally friendly. Your collaboration in these important safety courtesy matters are appreciated.



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

Tuesday, November 27
Friday, December 21
Tuesday, January 22
Tuesday, February 26
Tuesday, March 19
Tuesday, April 23
Tuesday, May 28
Friday, June 28

Student Progress Conferences - Guide for Parents



Does the thought of Student Progress Conferences make you nervous? A brief meeting to discuss your concerns about your child's progress may not seem adequate. However, if you organize your thoughts and prepare ahead of time, these few minutes may prove invaluable for both you and your child. These conferences are meant to be beneficial to the child, the parent and the teacher.

Before you go

Talk to your child on a regular basis about what's happening in school. What is he or she learning? What is his or her favourite subject? Be familiar with class activities before you meet the teacher.

Don't wait. If you perceive a problem at any time, call the teacher immediately.

Talk to your child the day before you go to the parent/teacher interview. Explain that this interview is not to "check up" on your child but rather to help him or her.

Write down specific questions or concerns. How much homework is expected? How does my child work in class? What kinds of evaluation methods are used? Does my child have any specific weaknesses or strengths? How does my child interact with other students?

Take your child to the meeting and involve him or her in some of the discussions. A separate meeting can be arranged for any confidential discussions that may be necessary.

During the conference

Be prepared. You may have only fifteen minutes to discuss your child. Know what you want to discuss before sitting down with the teacher. Begin the interview with a positive comment. Move into your specific concerns gradually instead of starting with a long list of complaints. This may improve interpersonal communication between you and the teacher.

Ask for specific follow-up suggestions. Should you be doing something extra at home with your child? Are there some enrichment activities which can begin at home? How can I support my child's learning at home?

The teacher may ask you some questions. What is your child's attitude toward school? Are there any physical or emotional problems the school should know about? How and where does your child do homework?

These questions are not meant to pry or interfere. They simply give the teacher more insight into your child's school life. Ask to see samples of your child's daily work.

After the conference

Discuss the meeting with your child. What were his or her impressions of the meeting? What are his or her strong points? What points does he or she need to work on?

If any improvement or help is required, make suggestions in a positive manner. Work together with your child in areas needing improvement. Talk about the problem with your child and create a study-plan together. For example, if reading skills are needing attention, create a daily reading activity together. You read one sentence, your child reads the next.

Continue communicating with the teacher. Have there been any improvements in your child's behaviour or performance? A five-minute phone call helps keep in touch between in-person interviews.

Talk to your child. Discuss school and homework on a regular basis. Sit down with your child while he or she does homework. What sorts of things is he or she doing? Is your child having any problems with certain subjects? Does your child need extra help?

Ask your child to show you assignments returned by the teacher. Has the teacher provided helpful feedback? Keep involved with your child's progress. An interested, informed parent is an asset to both the child and teacher.

School News

Vente Bric-à-Brac Rummage Sale

We will once again be hosting a Winter Rummage Sale in the gymnasium – the famous Bric-à-brac— on Thursday, December 20. As always, much of the proceeds will be going to the Christmas Cheer Board. We will also be selling hand-made decorations made by our students, and holding a draw to raise funds for our World Vision foster child Beni Mafuta from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This is a great learning and sharing activity! We are asking students from Grades 5 - 8 to bring items to school to sell. Students who sell their toys, books, stuffed animals, etc. may keep up to \$10.00 of their proceeds while donating the remainder to a very worthy cause. The \$10.00 cap serves to encourage the older students to purchase gifts and baked goods from their friends while contributing to two very important causes. It also helps emphasize the charitable nature of the event. If they so choose, students can donate a greater portion of their earnings to the two charities. Students may price items in a range from 5¢ to 3.00\$.

If you are interested in supervising this event, please call Mme DeCruyenaere at the school at 204-253-1375 or by email at joanne.decruyenaere@lrsd.net.



Family Fun Night

Our school, in conjunction with the Family Centre and our Community Liaison Worker, will be hosting a Family Fun Night on January 31 from 6 pm—7:45 pm. This is an opportunity for our parents and our K-8 students to participate in fun activities and learn new skills as a family! Families can participate in new and fun activities together such as crafting, yoga, dance, and magic to name a few. We will also have presenters from Prairie Wildlife, Mad Science, Prairie Exotics and more!

Students will be able to sign up for two 45 minute sessions. Best of all: workshops are free to all participants thanks to the generosity of the School Community Initiative Partnership Grant from the Louis Riel School Division. This event is open to École Varennes students and families only.

A letter with the list of activities and information about each one will be sent home on Tuesday, January 8, which will include a link to register online. If you need help with registration, you may call the office at 204-253-1375. We hope you will be able to join us for this fun family event!

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Our Remembrance Day ceremony will be held on November 9 at 10:30 am. In Flanders' Field, both in French and in English, will be recited by our students. Corporal Evan Joyal from the Canadian Armed Forces has been invited to speak to our students. Our choir will also perform a beautiful heartfelt song and Emma Yeo from the Cameron Highland Canada will play the bagpipes. Candles will be lit and wreaths prepared by each class will be placed on crosses in the memory of those we have lost in combat.

We invite all students who are Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Cubs, Scouts, Beavers and Cadets to wear their uniforms to school that day. Their uniforms are symbolic of citizenship and service to others and are therefore most appropriate for Remembrance Day.



Koats for Kids



Koats for Kids is an organization who assists in getting warm clothing for children who need it. Koats for Kids is a partnership between United Way of Winnipeg, CTV, Winnipeg Sun, 99 BOB FM, Perth's, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service and AMJ Campbell Van Lines. Parents who need warm clothing for their children can call the Koats for Kids line at 204-586-5628 or email koats@UnitedWayWinnipeg.mb.ca

If you have donations of gently used winter outerwear, please drop the items off at any Perth location, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Station or AMJ Campbell Van Lines at 12-1333 Niakwa Rd weekdays between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Dressing for Cold Weather

Winter seems to be upon us. We remind you that recess period can seem very long for a child who is not dressed appropriately. Mornings are already becoming quite cool. The schools doors open at 8:17 am. For children who arrive at school early, it is important to be dressed appropriately. Children are also outside for two 15-minute recesses (10:00 am and 1:45 pm) as well as for 30-35 minutes after lunch. When the wind chill is -30 or more, students will remain in the school during recesses and at lunch time. When the wind chill is -27 to -29, students will only go outdoors for a maximum of 15 minutes. We refer to the Environment Canada weather station at the Forks for all readings. Playtime outside is important for children. Appropriate dress helps to make it a more enjoyable and healthy experience.

WE Day

Student Council and our school patrols were able to attend WE DAY on Wednesday, October 30. This event included approximately 15 000 students in Grades 5-12 from across the province. Students learned many ways to help our communities locally and globally. They were given lots of ideas and motivation to help. To learn more about WE DAY, go to www.weday.com



Students are now in the process of deciding how École Varennes will help our local and global communities this school year.

Lost and Found

To assist us in returning lost articles, we would ask that you label all your child's clothing and personal belongings. Unmarked articles found in and around the school are placed the lost and found bins located in the east door entrances off of Varennes Avenue.

During Student Progress Conferences, items from our lost and found boxes will be displayed on tables near the office. Please stop by and retrieve belongings that may have gone astray since the beginning of the school year. Any items remaining after the conferences will be donated to a local charity.



Student Services News

What is phonological awareness?

Phonological awareness is the ability to think about and manipulate speech sounds. Performance on Phonological Awareness tasks in Kindergarten and Grade 1 is strongly related to reading success. Children who have developed the understanding that words can be broken into sounds tend to be better readers. Phonological awareness includes at the easiest level word awareness, syllable awareness and rhyme awareness. Words rhyme because they share a common sound pattern at the end. Parents can help their child develop their ability to hear words that rhyme and produce words that rhyme with one another by:

- reading nursery rhymes, poems or books that emphasize rhyme families and stopping to let their child fill in the rhyming word
- exploring rhymes with their child's name (eg. Kristin, listen, mitten, etc)
- helping their child think of words that rhyme with a particular word. All activities that involve emphasizing the sound and not the letter help with sound isolation skills. Some example of sound isolation activities are as follows:
- encouraging your child to develop sentences with alliteration (e.g., "The slippery snake slithered along the soft sand.")
- having a treasure hunt for objects that begin or end with particular sounds.
- placing magnetic letters on the fridge so that your child can practice letter names and sounds, form words, etc. (begin with known letters, such as the letters of your child's name.)



Roots of Empathy Program

École Varennes has the good fortune to participate in the Roots of Empathy (ROE) program again this year. Mme Leochko's and Mme Charla's Grade 2 classes are taking part in the program. Mme Shawna Crane and Mme Kristine Bettencourt from the Family Centre will facilitate the program. This year's ROE babies are Matteo, Britanny Venusio's son and Lyla, Kyla Camire' daughter.

The program teaches children about feelings: their own feelings and the feelings of others. About once every three weeks, baby Matteo and baby Lyla, along with their respective mothers, will visit the classroom. Mme Crane and Mme Bettencourt will gather the children in the classroom around a green blanket and together they watch the baby grow. The children predict and cheer when their ROE baby reaches the "developmental milestones" of the first year: "She can roll over!" "He got his first tooth!" "She can sit up!" "He can crawl!"

Mme Crane and Mme Bettencourt will also coach the children in observing the baby and reading the cues the baby gives as to how she is feeling: "Is the baby happy or sad?" "How can you tell?" This discussion is used as a lever for the children to talk about their own emotions and to understand how their classmates feel: "Do you smile when you're happy?" "How can you tell if your friend is happy?" Being able to understand how other people are feeling is called **empathy**. The ROE instructors also visits the classroom before and after each Family Visit to prepare and reinforce teachings using a specialized lesson plan for each visit.

For more than ten years across Canada and internationally, thousands of children are learning respect and care for one another with the lessons started through their Roots of Empathy baby.



News from Transportation

As we head toward colder weather, it is likely that winter weather may cause school bus delays or cancellations. To improve communication strategies, Louis Riel School Division has created a Twitter account for the Transportation Department.

Tweets will be posted in a timely manner when buses are running late. If you choose to be a follower of our Twitter account, you can receive these updates directly to your smart phone in real time. Our Twitter account can be found here: <https://twitter.com/transportLRSD>.

During severe weather periods, we still recommend you view our website at <http://www.lrsd.net>. In addition, we encourage people to tune to **CBC Radio One 990-AM or 89.3-FM** or **CJOB 680-AM** as decisions to cancel school bus trans-

portation will also be communicated to the media.



Please be advised this account is infrequently monitored. If you have any question or concerns please contact the transportation department at info.transportation@lrsd.net.

Emergency Control Procedures Drill (Lockdown)

We are planning on conducting an Emergency Control Procedures Drill, commonly referred to as a Lockdown, on November 19. An announcement will be made indicating the beginning of the drill and directing students to go to the nearest classroom and to sit quietly awaiting further instructions. This exercise will enable us to respond appropriately to an intruder in the building or to a dangerous situation in the neighbourhood that could impact our school. In advance of the exercise, teachers will explain the necessary procedures and discuss the importance of conducting this type of drill. Of course, an exercise of this nature may cause some students to become anxious. Our staff will do their best to prepare students ahead of time.

Scholastic Book Fair

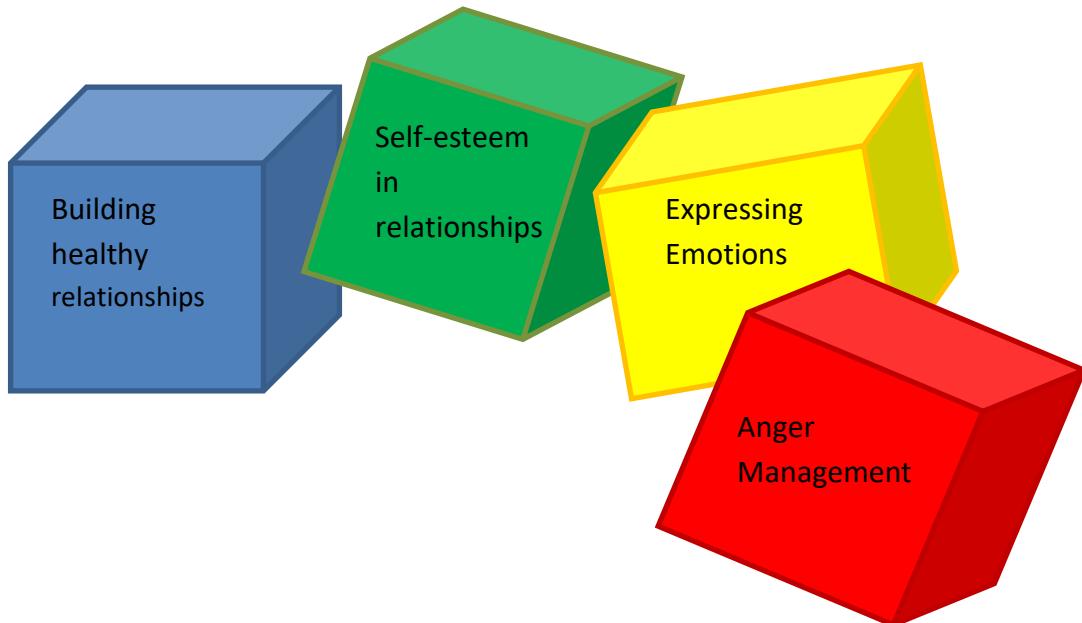
Visit our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair on Wednesday, November 28 and Thursday, November 29 during Student Progress Conferences

You'll find us in the Library between 3:30 and 8:00 PM.

We'll see you there!



Healthy Relationships in Canada



Wednesdays

November 14th – December 19th

1pm-3pm

**At Rene Deleurme Center
(511 St. Anne's Road)**

Please register with Moise Iftu or Victoria at:

Rene Deleurme Centre

511 St. Anne's Road

Phone: 257-7308 Ext. 417

E-mail: moise.muhindo@lrsd.net

iftu.ibrahim@lrsd.net

victoria.scales@lrsd.net

*****Registration is required as space is limited*****

December 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00pm	4 Baby N Me 9:00-11:00am	5 Reading Rainbow 9:00-11:00am	6 Gym N Play 8:45-11:00am	7 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00pm
Closed PM	Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm	Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm	Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm	Closed PM
10 Ornament Craft 8:45-11:00pm	11 Baby N Me 9:00-11:00am	12 Reading Rainbow 9:00-11:00am	13 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00am	14 Breakfast with Santa 9:00-11:00am
Closed PM	Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm	Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm	Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm	Closed PM
17 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00pm	18 Baby N Me 9:00-11:00am	19 Reading Rainbow 9:00-11:00am	20 Cookie Decorating 9:00-11:00am	21 Stay N Play 8:45-11:00pm
Closed PM	Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm	Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm	Coffee Time 1:00-2:30pm	Closed PM
24  CLOSED	25 HAPPY	26	27	28 HOLIDAYS!

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

FAMILY CENTRE

CENTRE FAMILIAL



STUFF THE STOCKING! The Family Centre has a large stocking and we challenge our families to **STUFF THE STOCKING** with unperishable food items or new, unwrapped toys. Whatever we collect, will go to families in need! Be ready to **STUFF THE STOCKING!**



Breakfast with Santa will take place on Friday, December 14th from 9:00-11:00am. We will enjoy breakfast in the Family Centre and have a Story and visit with Santa in the Library. Santa may even have a few surprises for us. Please let us know if you would like to attend by December 7th, as space will be limited.



Just a reminder to families, that indoor shoes are highly recommended in the centre. A pair of slippers are acceptable as well. Just in the event of a fire, everyone can get out safely and to keep our centre clean.

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

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

Our Family Centre is supported by Louis Riel School Division, St. Vital Parent Child Coalition and Healthy Child Manitoba-Putting Children and Families First.