

Red River Valley Junior Academy Newsletter

August 2013
Volume 4, Issue 1



Enjoy Your Summer!

We hope that you and your family are enjoying a wonderful summer.

Contents

Principal's Welcome

J-Kindergarten News

School Veg. Garden

Late Policy

Student Safety

New Students

Band/Music

PE News

Parking Areas

School Bus

Fundraising

Acts of Kindness

Math Enrichment

The Staff of RRVJA is looking forward to seeing all students and families back on **Wednesday, September 4th (Day 2)**.

Our dedicated and committed team is anticipating an excellent year ahead, filled with exciting learning opportunities for all our students.

The first day of school for staff is **Tuesday, September 3rd (Day 1)**.

In addition to enhancing the **spiritual experiences** of our students, we will continue the tradition of stressing the basics of **Literacy, Numeracy and Values**.

COMMUNICATION & INVOLVEMENT:

Please remember that this is your school and we welcome your involvement. To increase communication between us and you, we are asking all students from Grade 1 -10 to purchase a **School Agenda**.

Agenda's cost \$5.00 and can be purchased when school resumes by cash or cheque payable to RRVJA (if you have not already ordered). The agenda book is used for the entire school year and serves as one link between your home and the school.

Each month we will send home a calendar to keep you informed about what is happening at school.

You can also visit www.rrvja to access the entire year's calendar.

FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH:

On **Wednesday, September 4th**, all students will report to their classrooms before 8:50 a.m. After morning devotion and assembly with their teachers, they will receive information about classroom routines, textbooks and locker storage.

Parents of Junior/Kindergarten students are invited to attend morning devotion between 8:50 am and 9:30 am in the classroom with the teacher. We ask that you leave at the end of devotion to enable your child to begin bonding with his/her teacher.

PICTURE DAY: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH:

Pictures will be taken **Tuesday, October 7th**. Retakes will be **Thursday, October 31st**.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT (CORN BOIL):

The annual back-to-school night will be held **Thursday, September 12th** at 6:00 p.m. Come and dialogue with your child's teacher, learn the routines and bring an empty stomach to have all the corn you can eat!

The school office is opened after **August 20th**. If you have any questions, please call. We look forward to working with you and your child throughout the new school year. Our aim is to provide a productive and safe learning environment that supports your child's success and your involvement.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Opening Day
- ◆ Spirit Day
- ◆ Home & School
- ◆ "Corn Boil"

Ian W. Mighty, Principal

Evelyn Mallorca, Administrative Secretary

Junior/Kindergarten News

RRVJA will be offering a Junior Kindergarten/Kindergarten Program for the 2013-2014 school year. Starting Junior/Kindergarten can be overwhelming for both parent and child. Nonetheless, If your child is ready he or she can experience great success at school.

How do I ... prepare for Kindergarten?

- Establish routines. Introduce an earlier bedtime several weeks before school starts.
- Practice the morning routine of dressing and eating breakfast.
- Review several times with your child how he or she will get to and from school.
- Provide your child with a healthy breakfast before school and a nutritious lunch.
- *Choose clothing for your kindergartener that is "easy on, easy off". Choose pants with elastic waistbands, not zippers and snaps, or overalls, for example, and no belts. Boots must be large enough so the child can put them on independently.
- ***Send an extra set of clothes in case of accidents.**
- *Choose shoes with velcro rather than laces. If you must choose laces then spend quality time to teach your child how to tie his/her laces. This will help develop those fine-motor skills.
- *To prevent your child from missing out on Physical Education classes, let your child wear sneakers every day. They cannot participate in clogs, sandals, or other types of loose shoes or boots.
- Read to your child daily. Reading increases vocabulary. Read everything and everything from books to the cereal box!
- Together parents and teachers make a team. The year is about cooperation and trust. If something may be affecting your child, let the teacher know. If you have concerns, share them.
- Make sure that your child has time to play after school and on weekends. Now that your child spends more time in a structured school environment, you should allow more free time at home for play. Kindergarten homework includes *playtime*!
- Promote an attitude of respect for the rights and properties of others.

*"If you want your children to turn out well, spend twice as much time with them, and half as much money."--
Abigail Van Buren"*

RRVJA Unique Values

**Opportunities for students to accept Jesus as their Savior*

**Quality Academics*

**A life of Service to others*

**Friendships for a life-time*

**Positive teacher-student relationships*

**Value for student work ethic*

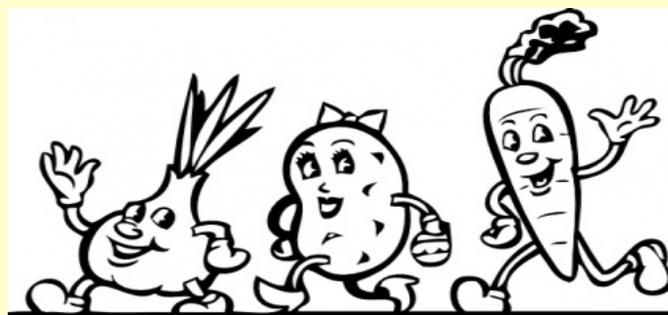
**Values and Virtues*

School Vegetable Garden!

Staff and students went green at the beginning of June by planting the school's first vegetable garden. A pleasant sight it was when individual classes visited the plot of bare earth located just outside the back doors on the South side of the building.

As they surveyed the lifeless, yet rich mound, Mr. Prime, an avid gardener, discussed the importance of the soil. He referred to God's gift of the soil which provides the perfect growth conditions for seeds and seedlings. These no doubt grow into the healthy goodies which we find in the produce aisles of our grocery stores.

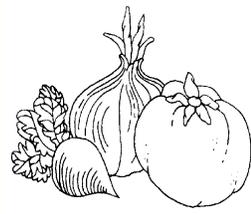
One Grade 4 student, amazed at his new found knowledge exclaimed! "You mean that is where our food comes from?" The opportunity for students to experience learning in such a practical fashion is priceless.



School Vegetable Garden Continued...

With great care and respect for the garden, each class planted the sections that were assigned to them. I only wish our students could now see the fruits of their labour. If you are driving by the school, do visit the school garden. It is plush with onions, carrots, swish chard, potatoes, eggplants, cucumbers, squash, tomatoes and a host of other herbs —Yes you are forbidden to reap, unless absolutely necessary!

Though I was tempted to reap of the harvest myself, I restrained myself and wished for a delay in their growth. While this may be wishful thinking, I hope when the students return to school, they will be able to witness the fruits of their labour. I am looking forward to “School Spirit Day” when we all will be able to barbecue some of these succulent produce. May students be able to then say, well done, we have tasted of the harvest!



Policies



One of the crucial learning skills that all students need to develop is punctuality. Punctuality is essential for your child's best learning. It also has a significant impact on the learning environment of the other students and the teacher's ability to deliver their lessons effectively. It is for these reasons that we expect all students arrive at school on time.



Please refer to the school handbook for dress, nail-polish, and makeup and Jewelry policies. To ensure attention to modesty and safety, the policy will be strictly enforced.



All students are required to have an indoor and an outdoor pair of shoes. These are to be non-marking/non-scuffing.



RRVJA is a **nut-free facility**. To avoid serious allergic reaction, peanuts and nut products are **not** allowed at school.

Home & School

The Home & School will have their first meeting at 3:45 pm on Wednesday, September 11th. While the Home & School is comprised of elected members, its meetings are open to any RRVJA parent. We look forward to hearing your ideas for improving our school.

Home & School is **greatly** in need of your assistance in various projects such as the Hot Lunch Program throughout the year. Contact **Cindy Keenan**, (Home & School President) at 771-4034 if you are willing to help.

Student Safety

Parents and visitors are to first report to the main office when visiting. Anytime you are in the school during school hours, you must report to the office. Should you need to go to your child's classroom, please ask one of the office staff to contact the teacher to ensure their availability and location. **We appreciate this courtesy.**

Please enter the building through the front doors. All adults, other than staff and parents on file, need a visitor's badge to be in the building. Your cooperation will help to keep RRVJA a safe environment for all our children.



RRVJA
56 Grey Street
Winnipeg, MB R2L 1V3

Phone:
(204) 667-2383

Fax:
(204) 667-1396

E-mail:
info@rrvja.ca

**"Striving for Excellence
Through Christ"**

We're on the Web!
<http://www.rrvja.ca>

New Students & Families

We would like to extend a special welcome to all our new students and their families. As we grow our family, let us work harmoniously to make RRVJA the Best School it can be!

At RRVJA, we pride ourselves on having close family relationships and invite you to become part of our family.

We will endeavor to provide our new students with an orientation. **Our teachers will assign a buddy to a new student. Your buddy will help you become familiar with the expectations and routines of your new school.**

Please ask questions if you are uncertain about routines and or school policies.

From time to time, there are events outside of school hours and we invite our new families to show support by attending and participating in these events.

Band/Music News



RRVJA welcomes our new Band Instructor - Mr. Krishna Yagambrun. He is originally from Mauritius and has both played and conducted as part of the country's Police Band. He enjoys music and is anxious to help students develop their talent as musicians.

Grade 5-10 Students who are new to band will be tested during the first week of school to determine their instrument type.

Instruments are rented by parents through Long & McQuade.

Physical Education News



Mr. Prime is looking forward to another exciting year of health, sports and fitness for the students.

T-shirts and shorts for PE classes will be available for sale this year.

The school parking lot is **not** designed to accommodate more than 12 parked cars at any one time. With an increasing enrolment, parking is likely to be a challenge. To ensure the safety of our students and pedestrians we have assigned parking as follows:

Parking Area A: Main Lot (West Side) Parents with students from Kindergarten to Grade 1

Parking Area B: Main Lot (North Side) Parents with students from Grades 2 to 4

Parking Area C: East side on (McCalman Avenue) Parents with students from Grades 5 to 8

Parking Area D: East side on (McCalman Ave behind Holy Cross Church) Parents with students from Grades 9-10. **Do not** park in the parking lot belonging to the accounting firm of Gislason Targownik Peters.

While this solution is not perfect, we ask all parents to co-operate by parking in these assigned areas. This will help to alleviate the pressure of finding a parking space as you pick-up and drop-off your child. Establishing a routine with your child as you pick-up and drop-off him or her can help to keep things flowing.

STOPPING IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL ON GREY STREET IS NOT ALLOWED BETWEEN 3:30 PM AND 4:00 PM

Student transportation will be available for the new school year. Spaces are currently full. The school bus will pick-up and drop-off students along one route between the downtown core area and the school. The bus will also be used to transport Grades 9/10 students to and from Churchill High School for Shop Classes. It will also be used for small group field trips. Use of the bus is fee based.



School Community Fundraising

Fundraising plays a vital role in offsetting the shortfall between our need to offer full educational programming and available funding sources. Thank you in advance for planning to support the following fundraising programs. We also welcome cash/kind donations for which you can also get a charitable tax receipt!

Home & School Hot Lunch Fundraiser – Usually held twice per month- Proceeds for Special Projects

Show & Save Coupon Book Fundraiser- Runs Early September- Proceeds for School Computer Upgrades

Farm2School Peak of the Market Fundraiser- Runs between October and December-Proceeds for RRVJA New School Expansion Fund

Christmas Concert Bake Sale – December- Proceeds for Home & School Special Projects

Orange Citrus Fundraiser – Fall or Spring Campaign – Proceeds for School Special Projects

International Supper Fundraiser-Usually held in April each year - Proceeds for Special Projects

Community Service Projects

Giving back to the community through Acts of Kindness and Service is a life-long value emphasized at RRVJA. Our children will find internal satisfaction when you support the following projects over the new school year:

-Annual Terry Fox Run - Friday, September 20th

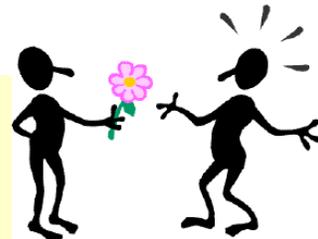
-Winnipeg Harvest Food Collection - October

-ADRA International Aide - November

-Operation Christmas Child - December

-Jump Rope for Heart - Heart and Stroke Foundation - April

-Winnipeg 30 Hour Famine - May



Math Enrichment

Are you concerned about "Learning Loss" over the summer?

Do you want your child to develop strong number sense and strong computation skills?

Do you want your child to develop good problem solving skills?

THEN ensure your child is logged into the online Mathletics Program that is available at

www.mathletics.com!

All you need is your child's user id and password to log in and you can access the program anywhere and anytime.



JK-4 Uniforms

RRVJA will be implementing mandatory uniforms for all students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 4 and for the 2013-2014 School Year. All uniform tops will need to bear the RRVJA logo/crest. Details are available at www.rrvja.ca/news and covers the following topics:

Rationale for Uniform Implementation

1. **Responsibilities of**
 - a. **The School Board**
 - b. **The School Administration**
 - c. **The Staff**
 - d. **The Parents**
 - e. **The Students**
2. **The Styles and Colors of the Uniforms**
3. **The Supplier of the Uniforms**
4. **Prices & Procedures for ordering**
5. **Loss Prevention**



At RRVJA, we believe that if our students are dressed in a uniform consistent with policy, they will be better prepared for work in the classroom. Every effort has been made to ensure affordability, accessibility and practicality. We look forward to your full support as we implement this new enhancement at RRVJA.



RRVJA will be raising money this September by selling the Show & Save Card and Coupon Book.

The Coupon Book has over \$10,000 in money saving offers including coupons for 10% off your purchases at various grocery stores throughout the city (including Sobeyes, IGA, Family Foods, The Marketplace, Food Fare & Harry's Foods). For only \$15 you can experience endless savings with the Re-usable Card and Coupon Book.

By purchasing your Show & Save from us, you will be helping our School purchase much needed Computers while at the same time saving your family a lot of money.