

What does peace look like in our schools?



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Manitoba UNESCO Schools



Working towards world peace

In 1953, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization adopted the promotion of world peace and international cooperation by advancing the innovating educational approaches and strategies that could be practiced in schools by focusing at the local level in support of global needs.

Schools within the network emphasize four main themes of study: world concerns and the role of the United Nations System, human rights, democracy and tolerance, intercultural learning and environmental concerns.

The teaching strategies that are used advocate that all students have significant opportunities of exposure to the

four main pillars which are: learning to know, learning to do, learning to be and learning to live together.

The four pillars allow students to learn about vital world issues, the capacity to have an impact, the necessary critical thinking skills to be effective and the self confidence to become global citizens.

Each school vision is to embed the pillars and themes within all the classrooms in order to reach all the students.

Manitoba UNESCO schools strength lies in their commitment to network with other schools in the promotion of the pillars and themes. This is

not a program but a way to support a culture of peace. Each school is very different yet the same.

It is truly inspiring to hear the voices of students plan forums, support causes, voice their opinions. The battle cry in many of our schools is UNESCO!!!



Bake sale for Haiti

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Planting the seed!

UNESCO Around the World

The UNESCO ideals are supported in approximately 8000 schools in 171 countries. Teachers, students and communities work together to organized projects and activities from the local perspective to the global level.

In Canada, the Canadian

Commission for UNESCO which is based in Ottawa provides information and support by representing our network at the international level which is located in Paris. They are very involved in establishing a clear uniform vision for our country.

In Manitoba we are extremely fortunate to receive support from the Department of Education via the Director of Social Studies.

Manitoba's culturally rich and diverse network



River East Collegiate: One of our first schools in the network!

Manitoba's network has sixteen schools. We are:

- Rural and urban
- Public and private
- Secular and non secular
- French, Hebrew, Arabic, English, and German
- Elementary, middle years, senior years and adult center

Our rich diversity allows us to reach across school boundaries, and grade levels allowing for a vast variety of experiences.

Our student forums and conferences provided opportunities for students from all levels to participate together, always

learning, always sharing, always making a difference.

Teachers are also provided with professional development opportunities at the local level and national level.

We have made significant connections with other organizations such as Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties, Mennonite Central Committee, Global College, Salvation Army, Manitoba Coalition for International Cooperation (MCIC), and Mediation Services.

*When we have
provided against cold,
hunger and thirst, all
the rest is but vanity
and excess.*

Seneca

What does peace look like in my school?

At Brock Corydon School everyone plays together - Gabrielle, Grade 4, Brock Corydon

We make sure people are aware of different causes worldwide and we keep a no-bullying policy. Jordan, Grade 8 West St. Paul School

The rising up and speaking out of the people for what is right and just within society. Taking matters in to their hands and implementing justice in a social school with its principles of human rights and equality. Rebecca B. Stevenson-Britannica

We don't hit people—Melanie, Grade 1, West St. Paul School.

To promote a culture of peace in our school, we participate in different activities to understand and help other people's problems and causes. We support people of all different cultures, religions and race. We have groups to educate classmates on problems worldwide and to take the next steps to help.

Sarah Grade 10, College Jeanne Sauvé

UNESCO is where we are able to turn our ideas into actions that help to make our world a better place Kayla W. Grade 10, River East Collegiate.

All it takes is one person to change the world. Believe that you are that one person. Veronika Z., Grade 12. River East Collegiate.

UNESCO brings people together to work for a common goal, a common good. Isabella Selk, Grade 10, River East collegiate

We negotiate. Heba, Grade 3, Al Hijara Islamic School

It looks like love and understanding. Lenise S., Grade 12, College Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau

Munroe organizes for peace!



...turn our ideas into actions...

“When we have a problem at our school, we solve it by talking, not by hitting.” Jackson, Grade 3, Brock Corydon

In our school we discuss the mistakes generations before us have made. We then ask ourselves the importance not to repeat the mistake. Carly, Grade 12, College Jeanne-Sauvé

Helping the children in Bolivia achieve their dreams, Marielle P. Grade 12, College

Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau

We strongly believe that everyone is equal and we try to encourage others to think that way, Nathan, Grade 8, Onanole Elementary

We teach one another what is right and wrong by helping each other understand, Kaitlyn, Grade 7, Onanole Elementary

We held a peace fair and this helped us to realize that there are bigger problems in the world than just our own, Clay, Grade 8, Onanole Elementary



UNESCO School Projects

Cultural Diversity Workshop—Grade 5 students from al-Hijra School, St. Emile Catholic School, John Pritchard and Brock Corydon come together every year in June for a day of interfaith sharing and learning to promote and sustain socio-cultural diversity and intercultural understanding. As members of the UNESCO school network the four schools are interested in developing a partnership in learning that will extend across our school boundaries and into the broader Winnipeg and global community. Together with our partners we hope to share traditional knowledge, exchange cultural information, promote understanding and peace in the areas of human rights, tolerance and common environmental and economic issues. We view this partnership as an opportunity to explore the need for social changes and practices for sustainability through real life learning experiences. It is our hope that these students will develop sustainable action plans that will be carried into the following school year. It is also possible that relationships among the students will be formed that will see them communicating with each other beyond the forum. We are happy to announce that Niji Mahkwa Aboriginal School has joined us in participating in these workshops.

Crossroads Book Drive BOOKS A GO! Last year RIVER EAST COLLEGIATE UNESCO “Students Without Borders” committee decided to support Ms. Dechausay’s “CROSSROADS” Book Drive Project to promote literacy in the Commonwealth of Dominica, West Indies. Within two months over 6000 new and gently used books, of various genres; school supplies, educational games, inspirational posters, and teaching resources were donated by our very generous school community and other schools in the River East Transcona School Division. And Thirteen barrels were shipped to the Commonwealth of Dominica during the spring of 2010. Three schools, Goodwill Secondary School, Goodwill Primary School and Salybia Primary School, along with the Princess Margaret Hospital Winston (Children) Ward Library were recipients of the “CROSSROADS” Book Drive. This winter our UNESCO “Students Without Borders” committee will continue to support “CROSSROADS” Book Drive Project to the above mentioned schools and hospital as well as the Newtown Primary School, Sunshine Daycare, and the Grotto Homeless Shelter.

You must get involved to have an impact. No one is impressed with the won-lost record of the referee.

John H Holcomb



The book drive in action

...we all feel good knowing

Sustainable Development Symposium: April 29, 2010 - This past spring Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau celebrated a year of exploring sustainable development in a symposium that brought together presentations from industry, NGOs, and students. We kicked the day off with a keynote address from Cat Ross who was the 2009 YMCA Peace Award winner for her work with HIV/Aids – work she began when she was in Grade 8! Following the keynote we had 16 different workshops running throughout the morning. Presenters include: Manitoba Hydro, Toyota, Honda, University of Manitoba, New Flyer, Food Matters, Oak Hammock Marsh, Manitoba Council for International Development, Canadian Food Grains Bank, Econest, Song for Africa, and the British Council. Students who participated in the Washington Holocaust Museum tour did special presentations throughout the morning. We also highlighted our After School Project in Santa Cruz, Bolivia with a direct Skype link to the kids in the orphanage. We now reach 100 kids in Bolivia with our project. In the afternoon we built solar ovens and water filtration devices with help from experts from the University of Manitoba and Econest. We ended our day with a second keynote address from Ryan Hreljac who started Ryan's Well Foundation – work he began at the age of 7 and is now responsible for more than 600 wells being dug for school kids in African countries. This day brought together all the projects we had worked on during the year and helped to set a tone for this year's work.

that we are helping...



Making a filtration device



Making music with instruments made from recycled objects



Adopt a Village: Al Hijra School -The grade 3s had a very successful fundraiser. We sold over 200 teddy bears and raised \$ 400.00! The money went to buy 3 goats and 1 cow that were given to women in Kenya through the "free the children Adopt a village program". We all feel good knowing that we are helping some children in Kenya so they can quit their jobs and go to school. Stay tuned for our next fundraiser in early summer.



Preparing the teddy bears for their new homes!

Learning to know
Learning to do
Learning to be
Learning to live together



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