



**FEBRUARY 2015**

## LEARNING AND LEADING LIKE CHAMPIONS and becoming "Men and Women for Others" Principal Message—Ms. Terri Cote

**"Love One Another As I Have Loved You"**

**John 13: 34-35**

Mother Teresa Middle School students and staff are so fortunate to be LOVED by so many individuals. This unconditional love is continually shown through the relentless energy, passion and desire to do "whatever it takes" to meet the needs of all of our students at MTMS.

### SPIRITUAL CHAMPIONS

The Lenten Season will provide all of us at MTMS, the opportunity to grow more deeply in God's grace. We are so grateful for our partnership with Campion College at the University of Regina. Our students have each been blessed with a "Prayer Partner" from Campion. Thank you to Stephanie Malloy, Campus Minister and Director of Pastoral Studies for organizing the Prayer Partners and to all those individuals that are keeping the students of MTMS in their prayers. Father Sami SJ and Father John SJ have a special way of teaching us and helping each of us to build our spiritual landscapes. We appreciate the time that they take each month to celebrate the Mass with us. We were blessed to have First Nations drummer Brandon Key and singer Reba Littleton celebrate the Mass with us. Brandon and Reba shared their gifts and talents at Mass and lead a small group of MTMS students who were part of the drumming and singing.

**We believe that God is present in all things.**

### MTMS continues to NETWORK LIKE CHAMPIONS

We are humbled by the incredible group of people that we call our MTMS friends. From January 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>, we were very fortunate to be able to engage with Christian Dallavis, a professor from the University of Notre Dame, who specializes in the area of school culture. In his Remick Leadership Community Update he wrote this about his visit to MTMS, "I have never met a more utterly committed team of teachers and leaders - every single person in the building is 100% committed to doing whatever it takes for their kids. Every.single.person. 100%. The school has one of the strongest school cultures I've experienced as well - with clear root beliefs posted prominently in the hall, core values visible in every room, and the teachers' ritual commitments displayed by the front door for all students, parents, and visitors to read. I have never heard a group of teachers so clearly or so consistently communicate a growth mindset to their students, and I really enjoyed the opportunity to explore with the teachers how that growth mindset is rooted in the Gospels." I have never heard a group of teachers so clearly or so consistently communicate a growth mindset to their students, and I really enjoyed the opportunity to explore with the teachers how that growth mindset is rooted in the Gospels."

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Mr. Stan Klisowsky

**Bus Driver**  
Mr. Kirk Steedman

# January's Perfect Attendance Champions

Jagoda Bolesta  
Teegan Brandon  
Tiondra Cyr  
Rae Desnomie  
Makenna Dustyhorn  
Shantea Gosselin  
Nolan Kay  
Tayvian Maxie  
Creedance McKay  
Damon Neskar  
Jamie Tapaquon  
Nelson Threefingers

Julianne Agunas  
Blue Cyr  
Dustin Desnomie  
Mykayle Jaegli  
Maize Mugot  
Yetunde Ogundibo  
Alexandra Panaligan  
Anisha Regmi  
Xavier Severight

Winnie Charles  
Skyla Gosselin-Strongarm  
Jesse Grywacheski  
Malik Hassan-Weiss  
Jazmine Itong  
Sonny McKay  
Joseph Nightingale  
Devin Pepper-Machiskinic  
Charles Tabije

## Overall Attendance For January

# 92.71%

Sheena Grobb, singer- songwriter from Manitoba, visited MTMS on February 4<sup>th</sup>. She shared her gifts and strengths with the grade 6's and 7's in connection with an ongoing project they have been working on. The focus of the project is "everybody has a story, and everybody's story matters." In her message to our students, Sheena spoke about the power of understanding how important it is to recognize the seed that is within all of us, and the value that each individual's "seed" or story has in this world. Sheena uses the gift of song to share her story with her audience. Her songs are honest, heartfelt reflections of her journey and it was easy to find our own stories in her lyrics. One particular song spoke so clearly to all of us, the chorus encouraging us that no matter what struggles we face in life, "we are going to make it"!

On Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, Grey Cup Champion Geroy Simon and Seattle Seahawks Super Bowl Champion Jon Ryan made a surprize visit to Mother Teresa Middle School. As ambassadors of the Huddle Up Foundation, Ryan and Simon spoke to students about what it means to be a champion. Jon Ryan said, "Coming from Regina and making it to the NFL, I obviously had to set a lot of goals and I had to have a plan". He told MTMS students that no matter what they want to do, whether it is to graduate high school, go to college or become a teacher or whatever, they have to set goals and make plans.

We had several other visitors tour MTMS including Pierre O'Reilly, Director of Development at Campion College, at the University of Regina. David Sax, from Catholic Family Services, came for a tour of MTMS with friends Susan McLaughlin and Molly Hegan. This talented trio is offering Mandolin lessons at MTMS during after school programming every Tuesday beginning February 24<sup>th</sup>.

### MTMS has an ATTITUDE of GRATITUDE

We would like to thank Huddle Up and Geroy Simon's foundation Coats 4 Kids who provided every student at MTMS with a new coat. We also welcomed employees from the Co-op Refinery Complex that were on hand to present a \$50,000 donation to Simon's campaign. This was yet another opportunity for our students to see a real life example of "MEN and WOMEN for OTHERS" and what it means to give back to the community.

MTMS staff and students would also like to thank Andrea Schmalz, ILS Library Assistant and Joanne Beltramini, Coordinator of Informational and Media Services for Regina Catholic Schools for their generous donation of middle years novels. Many of the novels have been taken home by our students to start their own personal libraries and some have been added to our collection at school. Thank you for sharing in the LOVE of READING at MTMS.

We would also like to thank the CWL from Our Lady of Peace Parish for the monetary donation to our Angel Fund at MTMS. Thanks to Rod Zimmer, owner of Silverscreen, mentor and friend to MTMS who designed and delivered the decals of our Root Beliefs and Core Values that are prominently displayed in our hallway.

Mother Teresa staff and students are grateful to Jeannie Skulski and Donnie McKay, for giving everyone bookmarks that are inscribed with the following quote from Margaret Fuller, "Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." Jeannie and Donnie both work at Greystone Managed Investments Inc and are mentors to students at MTMS.

Ray McMillan, father of our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher, Harmony McMillan, visited India this month to teach in schools, preach in local churches as well as to deliver the \$2500 (120 000 Rupees) that was raised during our Gingerbread Decorating Contest in December. The money was donated to Good Samaritan School at Nungthang Tampak village in India. At MTMS we are blessed with authentic relationships that truly are building networks in the community and the world.

**We believe that authentic relationships build valuable networks in the community and the world.**

# AR Reading Champions

## Grade 6's

Jagoda Bolesta  
Teegan Brandon  
Chande Cote  
Tiondra Cyr  
Rae Desnomie  
Makenna Dustyhorn  
Riley Galenzoski  
Shantea Gosselin  
Nolan Kay  
Rae-Dean Klyne  
Tayvian Maxie  
Creedance McKay  
Damon Neskar  
Cheyanne Passmore  
Jamie Tapaquon  
Nelson Threefingers

## Grade 7's

Julianne Agunas  
Jaydan Anaskan  
Angel Brass  
Cole Cardinal  
Blue Cyr  
Dustin Desnomie  
Beatrice Domingo  
MyKayle Jaegli  
Samantha Kingerski  
Ashantay McKenzie-Missens  
Maize Mugot  
Yetunde Ogundibo  
Alexandra Panaligan  
Anisha Regmi  
Xavier Severight  
Angel Sylvestre-Crowe  
Ashanti Tanner

## Grade 8's

Winnie Charles  
Valerie De Sosa  
Maureen Felix  
Skyla Gosselin-Strongarm  
Jesse Grywacheski  
Malik Hassan-Weiss  
Brittany Hayden  
Jazmine Itong  
Michael Kingerski  
Sonny McKay  
Caleb Neithercut  
Joseph Nightingale  
Devin Pepper-Machiskinic  
Elijah Redman  
Alexis Smith-Wintonyk  
Charles Tabije  
Jared Wahpoosewyan  
Denzel Yellowtail

## MTMS FAMILY CHAMPIONS

Thank you to all of our families for getting your child/children on the bus every morning. Being at school is essential to academic success. For this school year we are at 94.91%. Our goal is 97% and to achieve this goal we need to have every MTMS student at school EVERYDAY for the next 5 months. We believe that this is possible if we continue to work as a team.

We had a great turnout for our February "For the Love of Reading" Parent Meeting. To all those who attended, Thank YOU! Research shows that parent engagement matters. Study after study has shown us that student achievement improves when parents play an active role in their children's education. Students are more likely to be motivated, to earn higher grades, to have better behaviour and social skills, and to continue their education to a higher level when their parents are actively engaged in supporting their success at school.

## MTMS STUDENTS are ACADEMIC CHAMPIONS

AT MTMS we embrace a "GROWTH MINDSET". Our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade scholars continue to strengthen and grow their academic skills. We are proud to report that our Canadian Achievement Test (CAT) results show that our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are meeting the Canadian Norms in Reading, Writing and Math Concepts.

We will continue to work on strengthening our math computation skills and could use your help.

We are looking for "MATH TUTORS" to assist us during our STUDY HALL, as directed by our academic staff, from 3:15 to 4:15; Monday to Thursday.

The commitment could be one hour a week and up to 4. "Every Minute Counts" at MTMS so we are very flexible and work around our volunteers schedules. MTMS math tutors would help our students complete math assignments as well as playing games to learn math facts by memory, particularly multiplication facts to 12. Our math tutors have worked one on one with students as well as with small groups. If there is an interest in becoming a **MATH TUTOR** please call **Becky Schmidt**, our Community School Outreach Coordinator, at **306.569.6867**.

We want all of our students to be achieving 90% or better in their reading comprehension; 100%...100% of the time. In October, we had 81% of our students meeting this goal. We are getting very close to our goal with 95% of the MTMS student body at or above 90% in their reading comprehension.

**We believe that all students can learn and every minute counts. We believe that setting high expectations enables us to meet our goals.**

## TRANSITIONS, DISCERNMENT AND ADMISSIONS

Our 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are into their second semester. We would like to thank all the high schools and our mentors for supporting our Grade 9's, especially during the most difficult times. Together, we will make a difference and change lives.

Our current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are discerning which high school will be the best fit; they have been touring schools and working through their "Transition Document" with Mr. Rieder, Mr. Gonzales and Ms. Schmidt. We know how important it is to take the time to discern together with family, MTMS staff and mentors as each student makes this very important decision in their transition to high school.

We are also in the process of recruiting our new class of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students for the fall of 2015. See attached document and please refer any possible candidates who fit our criteria to Ron Gonzales, our Graduate Support Director. He can be reached at 306.581.9070.

# Together WE can do GREAT THINGS

"We Watch what we Do, to see what we Believe"

- Sr. Helen Prejean

Geroy Simon and Coats for Kids



Jon Ryan of the SEATTLE SEAHAWKS, shares what it means to be a CHAMPION!



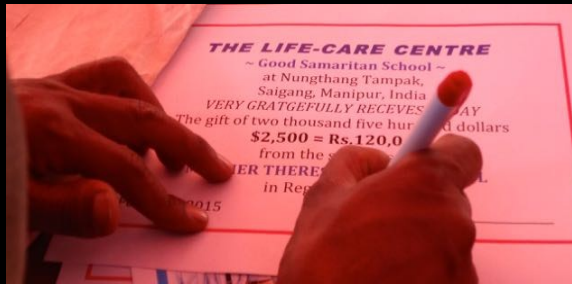
Love One Another As I Have Loved You!



Our Lady of Peace

Donates to MTMS.

Ray McMillan presents the 120 000 Rupees (\$2500 Canadian raised by MTMS 7th Grade students) to Good Samaritan School at Nungthang Tampak village in India.



80 Students Assemble for the Celebration



Mandolin Lessons at MTMS  
With David Sax.



# February 2015



Su	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
1	2 DAY 3 <b>BAND GR. 7/8</b>  3:15-4:15 Dungeons & Dragons AR Reading Knitting Drumming Zen Art Cultural Dance Oratory Competition Girls Bball @ St. Timothy	3 DAY 4 <b>BAND GR. 6</b>  3:15-4:15 Mackenzie Art Crafts Cadets/Band AR Reading Oratory Competition Grade 6's— U of R Bball practice	4 DAY 5 <b>Full Band GR. 7/8</b>  3:15-4:15 Band Jr. Violin M. Club Oratory Competition AR Reading Girls Bball @ St. Gregory	5 DAY 1 <b>Full Band GR. 6</b>  3:15-4:15 Mackenzie Art Film Beading Sr. Violin Oratory Competition AR Reading Boys Bball @ MTMS	6 DAY 2  Mass @ Campion  School Dismisses @ 3:30	7
8	9 DAY 3 <b>BAND GR. 7/8</b>  3:15-4:15 Dungeons & Dragons AR Reading Knitting Drumming Zen Art Cultural Dance Oratory Competition Grade 8's—Miller	10 DAY 4 <b>BAND GR. 6</b>  3:15-4:15 Mackenzie Art Crafts Cadets Band AR Reading Oratory Competition Grade 6's— U of R Bball practice	11 DAY 5 <b>Full Band GR. 7/8</b>  3:15-4:15 Band Jr. Violin M. Club Oratory Competition AR Reading  Bball Tournament @ St. Michael/MTMS	12 DAY 1 <b>Full Band GR. 6</b>  3:15-4:15 Mackenzie Art Film/Beading Sr. Violin Oratory Competition AR Reading Boys Bball @ MTMS <b>Parent Meeting 6:00pm-7:30pm</b>	13 DAY 2    School Dismisses @ 3:30	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<b>February/Winter Holidays</b> <b>Spend some time Reading over the holidays!</b>						
22	23 DAY 3 <b>BAND GR. 7/8</b>  3:15-4:15 Dungeons & Dragons AR Reading Knitting Drumming Zen Art Cultural Dance Oratory Competition	24 DAY 4 <b>BAND GR. 6</b>  3:15-4:15 Mackenzie Art Crafts Cadets Band AR Reading Oratory Competition Grade 6's—U of R	25 DAY 5 <b>Full Band GR. 7/8</b>  3:15-4:15 Band Jr. Violin M. Club Oratory Competition AR Reading Grade 8's—O'Neill	26 DAY 1 <b>Full Band GR. 6</b>  3:15-4:15 Mackenzie Art Film Beading Sr. Violin Oratory Competition AR Reading Grade 8's—Luther	27 DAY 2  School Dismisses @ 3:30	28