

# Learning about Food Security

By KATE SJOBERG

This past winter, Laura Yates organized her class at Onanole school to put on a 100 mile brunch as a lesson on where food comes from, carbon emissions as a result of food production and transportation, and global food economies. The students brought in sausage from local hunters, honey, rhubarb dessert, locally made yogurt, locally made bread, and more, all from within a 100 mile radius from their community. "It was a good meal, but it would have been way better in the summer," ho-hummed student Devon Beatty.

The students continued their learning last Wednesday, where over 60 students from 11 schools gathered at the Minnedosa Hall for a daylong workshop with the Manitoba Council for Cooperation (MCIC) on global food security. The day featured games and activities for learning about global food distribution and economy, local, fair trade, and organic food, and skill development in public speaking, film making, screen printing, theatre, and photography.

Kim Burgess accompanied students from Tanner's Crossing School to the event, and said many

students can easily relate to the workshop material since so many come from farm families.

According to MCIC, food security is universal access to appropriate food at all times; which means a local food system that can provide a basic diet for the population, a living wage for food providers, and one that protect the natural environment. While the focus on food security can often be on other countries, Cheryl Orr said that use at the Minnedosa Food Bank is on the rise and nearly double what it was last year at this time; one

indication that food security is also an issue here.

So, it was important that the idea of food security was discussed as a topic of both local and global relevance. The cost of oil, the availability of arable land, the increasing use of land to grow crops for agrofuels rather than for food, climate change induced floods and droughts, and the increase in global meat consumption are factors that have impacted food production and availability around the world.

Still, the way this all works out is arguably more favorable for North

Americans than the rest of the world. MCIC reports that on average, Canadians spend 10% of their household income on food, while on average in developing countries, food costs account for 60% of the household's income. This means that nearly one billion people worldwide are hungry and 50-60% of childhood deaths are related to hunger.

Jayden Morrice and Kailyn Turner are students at TCS. Both remarked about their concern that farmers in other countries aren't getting a fair wage

for their work, and appreciated the learning games that demonstrated some of the difficulty farmers face; and talked about how purchasing power can help, in terms of looking for local and fair trade options over commercial goods. Kailyn liked learning more about public speaking, and Jayden made a silk screened T-shirt of a dinosaur "taking a bite" out of world hunger. Kailyn thought they might continue the learning from the day in the school garden at TCS.

## Minor Hockey Report

Pee Wee 12's

By CRISSY KOWAL

The Pee Wee 12's who placed sixth in league standings this season started playoffs vs. third place Brandon in Rivers on Monday, February 18th. With less than four minutes left in the first frame Minnedosa netted two goals to tie things up. Brandon came on strong in the second regaining their two goal lead and added another at the mid-point of the third. The Bombers

would strike again on a two man advantage with only one minute remaining but unfortunately would run out of time and Brandon skated away with a 5-3 victory and game one in the best of three. Zane MacDonald 2G; Jayden Kreller 1G/1A; Riley Barrett 1A; Jayden Morrice between the pipes.

The two teams met again last night in Minnedosa for game two. If necessary, game three will take place in Brandon tomorrow afternoon.

## Letter to the Editor

# How to destroy a community

Dear Editor,

First the NDP government tried to bully smaller municipalities into amalgamating. If bullying doesn't work, the NDP will then resort to changing legislation to force the mergers of smaller municipalities.

It would appear the NDP seems intent on destroying communities throughout Manitoba. The NDP has labelled smaller municipalities as "dysfunctional." They proudly use the example of merging Regional Health Authorities from 11 into five as an example of efficiency and cost cutting.

Perhaps the NDP are embarrassed that local governments balance their books each and every year, something the province has been unable to do themselves. Perhaps, through forced amalgamations, the province has discovered yet another way to download even more costs to remaining local governments and ratepayers -- policing costs come to mind.

Local governments and ratepayers have always been astute to changing local dynamics. When mergers are proposed by local governments, it is the duty of the Province to assist, not the other way around. Bullying by the Province is not acceptable and changing legislation to achieve their goal of forcing amalgamations will destroy many communities across the province.

The NDP government needs to show respect for hard working local governments and their ratepayers. They need to show respect for the value of communities across Manitoba. Bullying is never acceptable.

Blaine Pedersen,

MLA Midland  
Critic, Local Government

## Eye on MCI

By CHELSEA HENRY

Students at MCI are almost a month into second semester and we're into our new class routines and sports. This year's pace has some grade 12's feeling a bit rushed as they try to enjoy their last year of high school.

The boys' basketball team is having a great season as they are undefeated in league play. We are proud to say that the team ranks in the top five teams this year and could possibly be going to provincials in The Pas from the 14th-16th of March.

At the end of January students, teachers and chaperones travelled to Panorama, B.C. The skiing and weather were great this year and no major injuries were dealt with - just some sore legs and "bus-lag" from the long bus ride. The planning power behind the trip, Mr. John Potter said, "I am looking forward to planning next year's trip already."

Our annual YIKES! day (Your Individual Keys to Ensure Success) was a great success with a few local speakers such as Erin Hayward, Lori McNabb, and Ken Surovy. Topics varied from finance, gambling, health, and drugs. It was a great learning experience for all students. The keynote speaker was Dean Kriellaars from the University of Manitoba. All the students and staff were gathered in the gym for an hour while Dean entertained and educated us with a variety of topics including the risks of chewing tobacco and the dangers of an inactive lifestyle.

Student Council is continuing with their Thursday activities in February. This month's Thursday events included milk carton bowling, heart day, Hawaiian dress up day with limbo at lunch, and trivia contests.

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