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ASSINIBOIA NEWS LETTER

EDUCATION

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RELIGION ACADEMICS ARTS SPORTS SOCIALS

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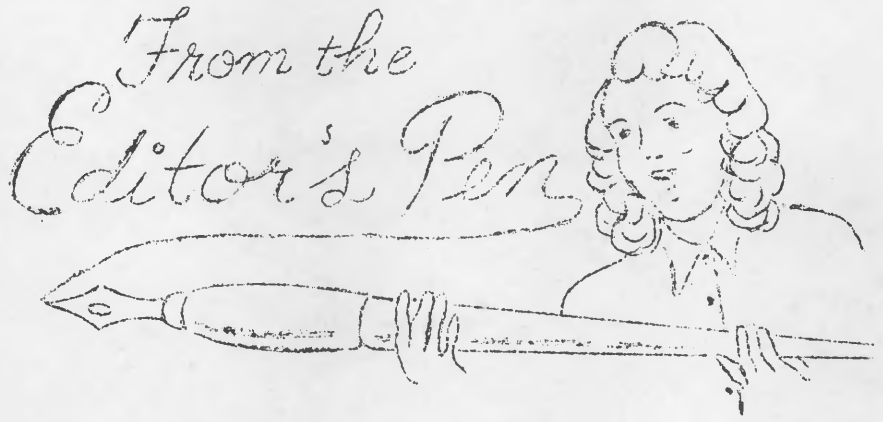
MEET THE STAFF

1. Reverend Father O. Robidoux, OMI .....Principal
2. Reverend Father L. Alarie, OMI .....Senior Teacher
3. Reverend Father M. Rio, OMI .....Missionary
4. Reverend Sister B. Forest .....Superior
5. Reverend Sister M. Constantin .....Girls' Matron
6. Reverend Sister C. Tougas .....Teacher
7. Reverend Sister A. Pepin .....Teacher
8. Reverend Sister E. Ell .....Cook
9. Reverend Sister A. Decoine .....Nurse
10. Mr. J. Lambert .....Teacher
11. Mrs. B. Levreault .....Home Ec. Instructor
12. Mr. G. Heshka .....Manual Training Instructor
13. Miss Lorraine Bellegarde .....Music Teacher
14. Mr. Luc Marchildon .....Boys' Supervisor
15. Miss B. Acoose .....General
16. Mr. Laurent Marchildon .....Assistant Boys' Supervisor
17. Mr. J.R. Glenn .....Engineer
18. Mr. L. Champagne .....Engineer
19. Mr. G.W. Fraser .....Engineer
20. Mr. S. Filmore .....Engineer
21. Mr. A. Lamothe .....Night Watchman
22. Miss E. Lerat .....Seamstrss
23. Mrs. A. Nanowin .....Assistant Cook
24. Miss Jane Kakeychewan .....Kitchen Helper
25. Miss M. Desjarlais .....Kitchen Helper
26. Mr. L. Legal .....Maintenance
27. Mr. A. Fillion .....Maintenance



Dear Parents and Friends,

In this edition of "Assiniboia News", we would like to express our most sincere gratitude to the Oblate Fathers, to the Teachers and to the Department of Indian Affairs for making it possible for us to continue our education in our own Province of Manicoba. In return, we are doing our utmost in trying to leave a good name for the school.

We take pleasure of this opportunity to welcome all parents and friends and readers to our school located on 621 A c a d e m y R o a d. Come, and do witness this "feel at home" atmosphere with its beautiful surroundings that nature has provided.

Our main purpose for this booklet is to inform our parents about our academic, arts, social and sport events and other school activities. We wish to ask the parents for their full support by reading this and giving a few words of encouragement. Next year, there will be regular issues of "Assiniboia News" to help in keeping a constant relationship between the parents and the students.

I would like thank the committee in charge of the written articles in this letter, and also the students for their co-operation and willingness to help in every way possible.

Presently, we are studying strenuously for our

final exams. We understand that to pass a grade, study is required. I wish each student "good success".

In spite of the difficult work we have to go through for a successful year, we are all eager and looking for the well deserved holiday season which is coming soon.

I hope you all enjoy reading "Assiniboia News". You may look forward to our next News edition early next year.

Julie Morriseau

"ASSINIBOIA NEWS" Staff

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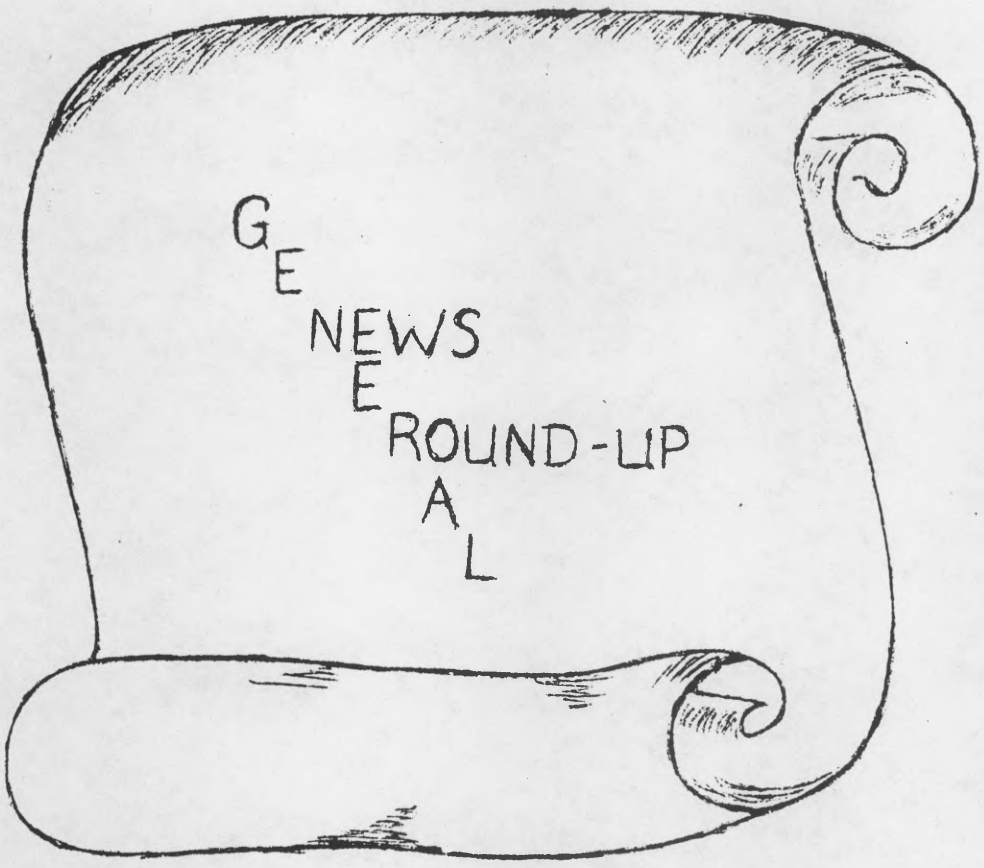

Dear Friend,

At this time, I would like to bring to your interest the most important events which took place in our school during the past school yea r of 58-59.

On December 4, 1958 we had a very splendid visit from His Excellency Bishop P.F. Pocock of the diocease of Winnipeg. He blessed our school in ceremonious fashion and named it "Our Lady of the Rosary". In order to show our appreciation for his visit , we had a banquet in his presence. He then gave a very solemn speech which struck the hearst of many students. The words he left with us were: "Always aim Higher."

We received an unsuspected bat yet a very memorable visit from Senator Gladstone on February 27, 1959. We were glad to hear encouraging words from such a highly ranked man as he. His visit will always be remembered by the students of Assiniboia. Mr. Ragen wa s also present with Senator Gladstone and he said he might get a gymnaium for us. This put a bright smile on the face of every active student.

Another distinguished guest was Mr. R.H. Davey, Superintendent of Education at Ottawa. We were pleased to hear his words of praise for our school a nd of encouragements towards higher and better education.

Mr. G. Marcoux, Inspector of Indian Schools in Manitoba; Inspector Mueller, Provincial School Inspector; and Inspector R. Connelly, regional school inspector of Saskatchewan, honored us with their visits.

His Excellency Bishop P. Dumouchel, O.M.I., of the Keewatin District came to see us twice during the term. His Excellency told us how fortunate

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we are in being able to attend a high school especially for Indians. His Excellency Bishop Paul Piché, O.M.I., newly appointed bishop of Mackenzie District, was our guest on May 27, 1959.

We also have had regular visits from our agent Mr. J.D. Minnis, who has his residence in Selkirk. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Minnis for the interest he takes in our school and consequently on our welfare.

During the winter we went to Winnipeg Arena twice. Once we went to see the "Shrine Circus" and another time the "Ice Capades". The boys were favoured with many opportunities to attend hockey games there.

We went to the Assiniboine Park a few times during this year. We also had a very enjoyable picnic there.

Our Christmas Concert took place on December 13, 1958. Many important guests invited by Father Principal ca me to encourage our efforts at dramatization, coral speaking and singing. The main feature of this concert was a pageant of the birth of Jesus.

On May 18, 1959 we had a pleasant picnic at Ledo Plage eighteen (18) miles west of Winnipeg. We played ball and danced a little after lunch.

On June 8, 1959 there was a bus which picked us up to go and visit the Coca Cola Plant. Grade eight (8) and nine (9) went there. We learned how the drink was made. Before we came back they showed us two shows. While we were watching the shows we each enjoyed a sparkling, refreshing Coca Cola.

During the Christmas holidays the children that stayed here went to St. Norbert to attend a game. Some of our boys played hockey while the girls watched. They came home with joy in their hearts because the boys won the game.

On June 11, 1959 the grade ten (10) pupils went to visit a soap factory here in Winnipeg. When they came back they told us all the interesting things they saw. They said it was very interesting. We were all wishing to go but I guess it was impossible.

We want to thank our dear Father Principal for all the wonderful things with which he has favoured u during this past year. To all our classmates, may we extend hopes of seeing ourselves reunited in September to afresh another year of joy, of work and of growth.

Aurevoir,
Beatrice Ironstand,
VIII

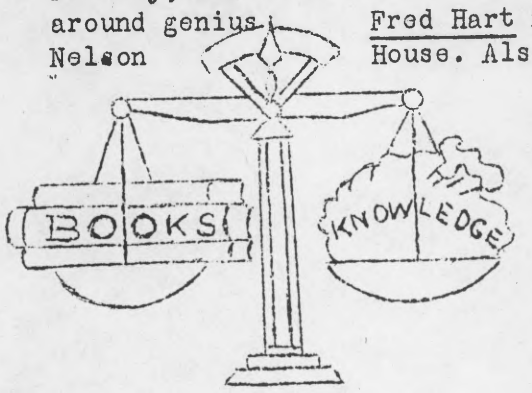
Class News

Grade X Report

Hello Everyone,

This is my first report from Assiniboia Residential School. As the year is about over, I shall do my best to have a run-down of the happenings here in our classroom during the past year.

As an introduction, I would like to introduce the Grade X pupils individually. We have Teddy Paupanikis, Elizabeth Menow and Leonie Scatch who are originally from Norway House. Representing Fort Alexander, Reserve, we are fortunate to have Theodore Fontaine, Grace Guimond and Frances Guimond; Isias Bee comes from God's Lake, Albert Young from Bloodvein and Oliver Nelson from Roseau Reserve; all are here with us. Viola Francis, Verna Roulette, Marjorie Burns and Pearl Malcolm are students respectively from McGregor, Sandy Bay, Elphinstone and Ebb & Flow. Carrie Seymore comes from Manigotag n and Rosabelle Travers from Fisher River. From Hodgson we have Elsie Kipling. The ily Saskatchewan native in our class is Marie Adele Cook of South End. Finally, I must introduce our all-around genius Fred Hart from Nelson House. Also I, Joe Guy Wood am fortunate enough to be attending this new institution and I represent Island Lake. Unfortunately, we lost two pupils during the year: Alvin Paul and Alphonse Guimond respectively from Dog Creek and Fort Alexander. In all, we are twenty-one ambitious students.



As for teachers, we have Father Alarie who teaches French, Grammar and Catechism. He is working really hard for our success. For Social Studies we have a very interesting teacher, Mr. J. Lambert. He also taught Health which we dropped during the year because we took First-Aid and Home Nursing courses. We also have Sister Tougas who teaches Science, Literature and Mathematics. Finally we have Father Robidoux, Principal, who gives us a class on the Indian Act every Friday afternoon. This subject gives us plenty of information concerning our people. I believe we have been neglecting suchan important study in the past.

On our entry here in September, our classroom was not exactly ready. As you all know, this is the first year this school has been in operation. It was only in June 1958 when it was really decided that this would be a school. Within two months Father worked considerably hard to obtain the necessary books, desks, etc. However, the desks came in late and we had to use old desks which were quite uncomfortable. But with little sacrifice we were able to study without new desks.

Grade X Report
(continued)

Late in the school term we elected a chairman from the Grade X class and according to our votes, Miss Carrie Seymore came on top. She has been directing the class in such activities as Public Speaking. In late April Father Principal and Mr. Lambert were present to see how we were progressing in this field. It seems that several students are heading for politics.

In April, our Social Studies teacher, Mr. Lambert organized a trip to the Building Products Manufacture here in Winnipeg. We profited much from this trip, as we have a better idea concerning manufacture which we studied in our Social tudy course. We enjoyed the visit very much and at present we are awaiting for another chance to visit some other project.

I must conclude that everyone has been doing his utmost in class this year. Even though some are weak in certain subjects, they are doing to the best of their ability to ootain a sound education.

Joe Guy Wood

EXAMS!

Grade IX Report

At the beginning of the school term the Grade IX class registered the largest group with thirty-six pupils.

Our regular teacher is Sister Tougas who teaches Maths, Science and Frenc h. It seems that Ma ths was the subject in which we were the weakest because w e have to devote more of our time on it than any other subject but our Easter marks showed that we had ma de progress. For some pupils French is really a break, for others it is a puzzle. It would not be wise to tell your secrets before us because we understand more than you think. In Science, with the aid of three magnificent microscopes we were able to see wonderful living things which cannot be seen by the unaided eyes, mainly diatoms and spirogyra.

Reverend Father Alarie teaches us the most important subject, Religion. We appreciate the kindness and the untiring zeal he displays in trying to show us to live a true Christian life. He is also our literature teacher.

Grade IX Report
(continued)

Our Language lessons are given by Sister A. Pepin. After Easter, the speeches took the spotlight. What a tension it was when we were told we had to stand in front of the class and give a talk. Some of us are so shy but we had to. The start was made easy for us; we had to tell a joke. We enjoyed having our Principal to listen to our speeches.

With Social Studies, Mr. Lambert took us to all kinds of imaginary and inexpensive trips all around the world.

On Fridays, our Social Studies lesson is substituted by special instructions on "The Story of Indians", given to us by Reverend O. Robidoux, our Principal. How lucky we are to be given the opportunity to know more about our own people!

The Grade IX class has more teachers than any other grade but as most people say it's not the quantity that counts; it's the quality.

So-long for now,

EVELYN MICHELE
Evelyn Michele

GRADE VIII

Since the grade eight pupils were so numerous, they had to be divided into two classes: Class A and Class B. However there is no distinction. One class is just as smart as the other; the grade was an even split. Now I would like to tell you a little about Class A so that you may have an idea of what the class is like and also the atmosphere of the group.

It is a cheery class with the sun streaming into it through the windows. Its walls are painted light blue with a long blackboard in front and a smaller one at the back where our teacher writes only at certain times of the year.

Our class is alwa ys very lively because with the co-operation of our dear teacher we manage to obtain for our class a joyful atmosphere which all other teachers admire. Now let us meet the pupils of this class:

"I have a very intimate friend named Maggie Edwards from Dog Creek Reserve. She is very jolly and pretty and is loved by all".
By Olga Moosetail, Pine Creek.

"One of the smallest boys in our class is Percy Patrick. He is thirteen years of age and wears a most becoming hair-do. What Percy likes best while studying is to take his right shoe off and tap his foot gently on the floor."
by Mary L. Beaulieu, Sandy Bay

"Alex Patrick is the tallest boy in our class and he always has a smile on his face. He works pretty hard and s studies well when he wants to".
By Steve Ballantyne, Pelican Narrows Saskatchewan.

"A girl from the Reserve of Fort Alexander, named Rosie Fontaine is an attentive student. Her ambition at the present is to go through High School and then become a Lab Technician."
By Janet Guimond, Fort Alexander

"Mary Lorraine Beaulieu is one of the best writters in Class A. She sometimes acts as Sister's Secretary. The Blackboard is a bit high or short, (con'd)

stubby Mary. However, she seems to enjoy her job. Later on, she wants to be a telephone operator".
By Alex Patrick, Berens River

"The second oldest in our class is Caroline Turtle who is from Bloodvein. She is always jolly and is always ready to help anybody".
By Catherine Trout, God's Lake

"Jimmy Cook, also from Bloodvein, is a fifteen year old boy. He likes to put a lot of Brylcreem on his hair. He is often quite mischievous in class".
By Caroline Turtle, Bloodvein

"Janet Guimond hails from Fort Alexander. She always has a friendly expression on her charming face. She has a wonderful personality".
By Edgar Fontaine, Fort Alexander

"Jerry Wood, a boy from Island lake is a good sport who takes part in everything. He sometimes tries to be serious but he doesn't always succeed because his smile plays tricks on him."
By Peter Hart, Norway House

"Dorothy James is seventeen years old and stands 5'4". Her charming face sends out a very pleasing smile which is irresistible. Dorothy originates from God's lake."
By Paul Hart, Norway House

"Dorothy Cook is just back from the hospital. We are certainly glad to have her back with us because we all love her dearly. She is friendly to everyone a nd she is smart in her school work.
By Nellie Nicholas, Nelson House

"Olga Moosetail comes from Camperville, Manitoba. She has a good personality. Olga likes to play the guitar and sing at the same time."
By Dorothy James, D God's Lake

"Edgar Fontaine from Fort Alexander, is a tall and tough chap. By the twinkle in his eye we can tell that he is quite cheerfull His hobby is to wink at the girls."
By Rosie Fontaine, Fort Alexander

"Short, dark and handsome is the best description for our hard-working, play-loving lad, Steve Ballantyne".
By Jimmy Cook, Bloodvein

"Agnes Spence is a shy little girl from Nelson House. She is very kind and always ready to help."
By Nellie Nicholas, Nelson House

"Catherine Trout is a very great friend of mine who is always laughing. She is from God's lake and she is sixteen years old."
By Mathilda Chubb, God's Lake

"Peter and Paul Hart, Peter, Paul, Peter ? ? Which is which? These twin brothers are hard to distinguish. Peter is a horse shoe fan; Paul likes to play baseball. We may finally remember who's who."
By Percy Patrick, Berens River

"Mathilda Chubb is a tall girl from God's Lake. She is another girl who likes to laugh. Her habit is to laugh although she is quite bashful."
By Agnes Spence, Nelson House

"To describe Nellie Nicholas is to tell how wonderfully she has worked in class throughout the year. She is an honest girl, well liked by all. She is also interested in "Religious life"."
By Maggie Edwards, Dog Creek.

GRADE EIGHT B CLASS NEWS

Our classroom consists of twenty pupils who come from various reserves in the province of Manitoba. There are fourteen girls and six boys. In september there was a total of twenty-four students, but unfortunately four have left.

In our programme of class work a number of eight subjects are taught by three different teachers. Reverend Father Alerie teaches Catechism and Language. Reverend Sister Pepin teaches Science, literature and Health. Mr. J. Lambert teaches Social Studies, Mathematics and French.

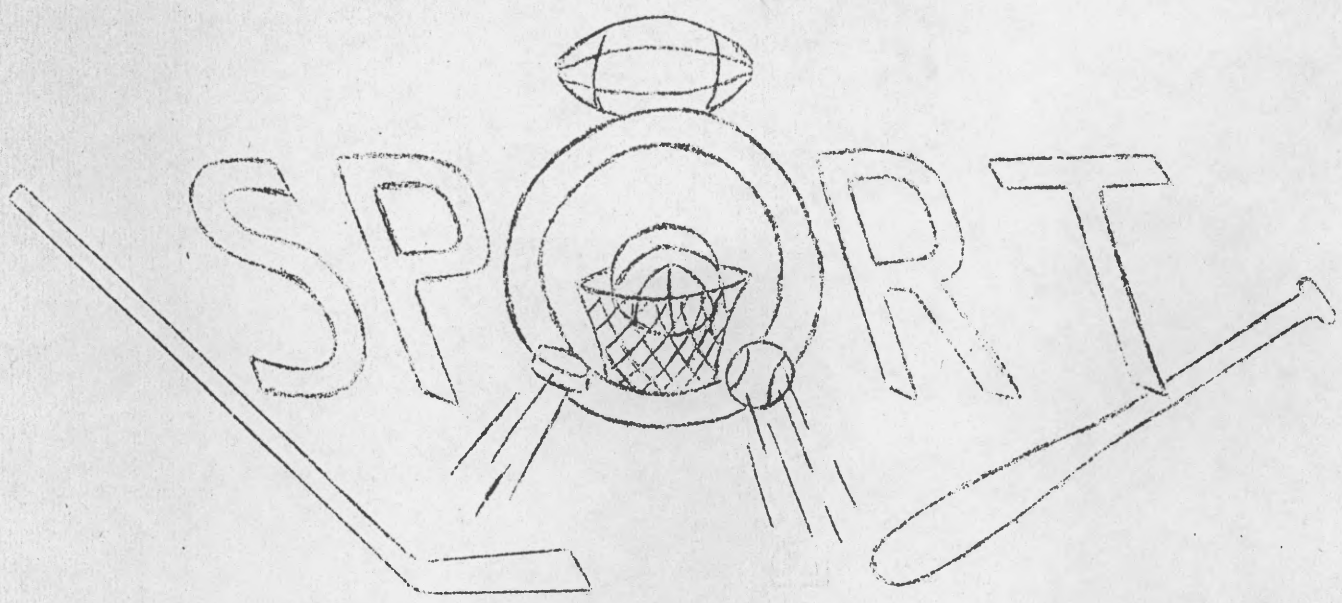
Our library contains books in science and social studies which help the students to gain a greater knowlege besides that given by the teachers.

A great many classes of art have been instructed to the students throughout the year in order to develop the skill which they possess. working together on one project has helped them a great deal and their skill of art has been greatly improved.

Presently we a re studying earnestly for the exams which a re but a few steps away. Our review work requires great effort and all the students are doing their best to reach a favourable result. Circumstances permit that the results of their efforts will be good. There is one thing however that has the students quite nervous. It is the departmental examinationinination which we know nothing about: the subject of the exam has not been revealed and will not be known until the morning of June 19th, at nine.

When the terms of study have been completed the students will be allowed a vacation on June 26. This will consist of two complete months of rest with the hope that all will return to begin another year of successful study.

Carol Fontaine



Boys' Section

Hi Sport Fans,

Many sport activities have been centres of attraction at Assiniboia since the opening of the fall term. Several victories were won on ground and on ice. A number of defeats were accepted with a remakable spi it of sportmanship. Most games that were played on our beautiful playground gave the spectators memorable moments of thrills and excitements.

We wish to bring to our readers' attention the highlights on the activities that are going on at the present time. Baseball and Track and Field are the most popular sports at this time and are offering great competitions among students of all the schools in the Greater and Suburban Areas of Winnipeg.

Assiniboia was well represented at the Track and Field Meets. Many of our boys made their presence felt and are willing to practise every day to better their skills in speed, high jumps, accuracy and endurance.

Theodore Fontaine and Wilfrid Mousseau are two good runners. These two boys showed great courage and determination in every event tney took part in. They are the"future stars" in the running department. We are all proud of these fine athletes.

The six baseball teams in school are never left idle. They play two games daily. The school team has played on four consecutive Sundays with Father J. Lambert's team. The latter team won the first game with a score of 7-3, but they managed to get only a tie in the second game. We witnessed remarkable pitching abilities in all the games. In the weeks to follow there will be more games to watch. There will be boys competing for the Pan-American games on June 6, 1959 and the finals will be played in July. Good luck boys.

This bringsto an end our sports highlights for this first edition on the "Assiniboia News Letter". We wish to thank everyone for such wonderful co-operation. May you all have happy summer Holidays and remember: "If you can't be in sport, be one".....

We will see you again next year with some more sport news from "Assiniboia Sport Centre".

Cherrio,

Philip Fontaine

SPORTS

Girls' Section

WELCOME
to
our
little
corner

SOFTBALL

BASKETBALL!

VOLLEYBALL

Hi Everyone,

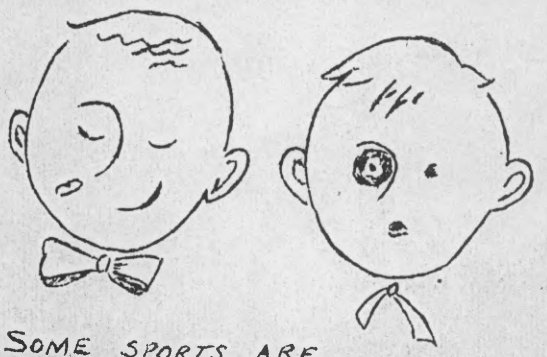
We all know that sports-play is a very important part in our education. Have you ever experienced that outdoor physical activities are the best preparation for a successful study period? While building a strong healthy body, sports can help us to know one another;to create a spirit of sportsmanship. There is a familiar saying: "A girl who plays, is a happy girl." So let us do away with that hateful habit of just sitting around during recess.

Last winter we enjoyed skating parties, such as one we had on Shrove Tuesday, and let us tell you that we sincerely appreciate the very appetizing lunch which is always given to us after each party.

Lately we have organized baseball games. The grade X girls usually play against the grade Vlll B; the grade Vlll A against grade lX.

On may 31, some of the older Indian girls who are not attending school anymore, played against us and we won with 48-8. Nevertheless, we have to admit that sports hasn't been too popular among the girls this year. Maybe it because everything is so new in the Assiniboia School. We promise that next year it will be different, and that we will have interesting sports to report.

On behalf of all the girl students of Assiniboia I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to our Reverend Father Principal who has provided us with such a variety of recreational facilities: softball, volleyball, basketball, croquet, javeline and many others. We are very fortunate indeed. Therefore, let us make profitable use of such bounty.



Roxanna Cromarty

CROQUET

HOME ECONOMICS

A Cheery Hello to One and All,

To us, Home Economics is a most interesting and useful course for girls. At the beginning of thr school term it seemed entirely out of the question to start this course in our school. Then one day a bright idea popped into Father Principal's mind. His idea was to remodel the old vacant basement and turn it into an Home Economics centre. The Former girls' supervisor, Mrs. Blanche Levreault is now our Home Economics Instructor.

The Vacant room (which now serves as the kitchen), was scrubbed from the ceiling to the floor. The Walls were repainted and a new floor was added. Beautiful and roomy cabinets were built by our devoted carpenters. The Department sent us a stove, a friuge, a kitchenette utility, silver glass wares, aluminum pots and pans and all the necessary and essential equipment for sewing and cooking. We now have a very bright, clean kithen and cooking in there is a real pleasure.

The sewing quarters were also remodelled; it is now a pleasant room. The walls were painted light yellow and tiles were put on the floor. We now have three sewing machines, an electric iron and an ironing board, a huge table on which we cut our materials and four other tables and twenty-one chairs. Besides the essential equipment needed for sewing, we have an electric clock and fan. Sewing in there is comfortable and pleasant.

This is our program:

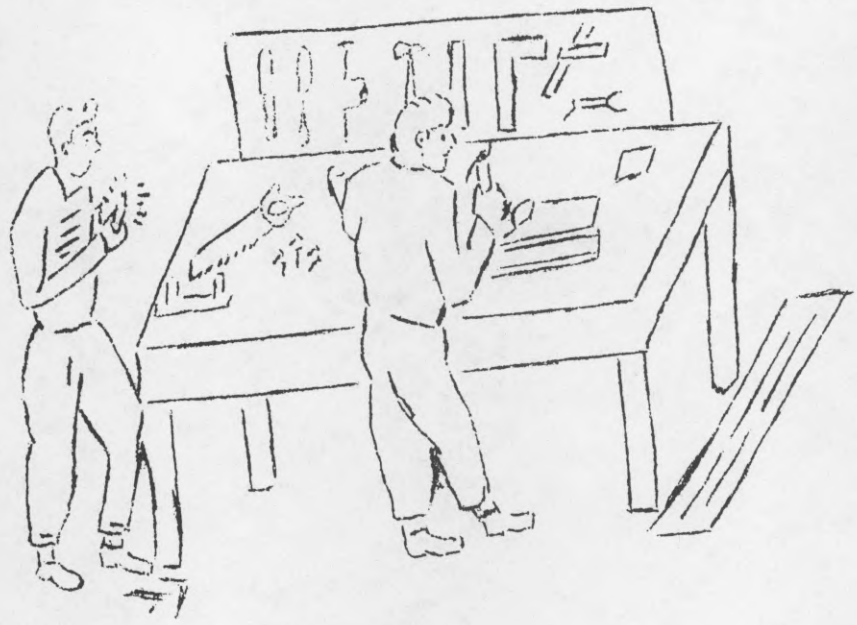
MONDAY P.M. Grade Vlll A
WEDNESDAY P.M. Grade Vlll B
THURSDAY 7-9:30 Grade X
FRIDAY P.M. Grade lX

Last April, three of our girls, namely, Caroline Turtle, Muriel Sinclair and Evelyn Michele gave a demonstration of bead work on CBWT, T.V. here in Winnipeg. Seeinig the girls looking so at ease and talking so freely gave us encouragement to follow their good example.

Toward the end of June all the work we have achieved during the four months of our course will bring forth our success.

Marjorie Burns Gr. X

MANUAL TRAINING



Hello Everyone:

We began our Manual Training program after Christmas. Mr. George Heshka from the Manitoba Technical Institute is our teacher for this subject.

Courses are given on Monday afternoon to the boys of Grade Vlll; Wednesday, to the Grade Vlll B boys and on Friday afternoon to the Grade lX boys who are divided into two groups.

We began by learning theory, that is, learning the proper names for the tools and various other items necessary in this course, (also given every Thursday night).

The Grade X boys took the Motor Mechanics course every Thursday night, also given by Mr. George Heshka. An old Austin was brought in, not to beautify the yard but to enable our "master mechanics" to try their skills through inspection of motor parts and through overhauling of this car.

We are grateful to Father Principal for having made possible these courses and we widh to thank Mr. Heshka for his patience in teaching us. Although there were some banged-up thumbs and a few pieces of sawed-off flesh, we feel that we have learned many things during the Motor Mechanics course and the Manual Training.

Thank you,

Dennis Fontaine

Missionary Association OF Mary Immaculate

Last fall in the latter part of November, Father O. Robidoux, Principal of our newly organized school, revealed to us the wonderful idea of forming the well known organiziation, the M.A.M.I.(Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate). The executive council of the club comprizes of a president, a secretary and a vice-president. The orgaization is divided into committees,namely, the spiritual, the apostolic, the missionary and the social committees.Each division is headed by an appointed chairman and each chairman of a committee has a certain number of helpers. The first meeting was held especially to organize the club and appoint its representatives and helpers. Joe Guy Wood held the post as President of the club.

The first meeting washeld on November 23, 1958 and it was a very successful meeting. It commenced at 7:30 P.M.with an opening prayer led by the Spiritual Chairman and then it was followed by a word from the President. Groups were formed among the members to discuss questions given by the Spiritual and Apostolic Committees. Each group was allowed ten minutes to conclude its discussion, then make a report on the results of the discussion.

When the group discussions were completed, an effort was made to select a resolution that would serve as a motto of the whole group for the month. The resolution we all agreed upon was: "Do unto others as you would like them to do unto you". We felt that this was well suited for our Christian way of life because it teaches us to be charitable and kind toward others.

After the adoption of the monthly resolution, the social committee chairman assumed the responsibility of providing the entertainment for the evening. There were various games played and everyone enjoyed himself. After two or more hours went by, the climax of the evening came:- Lunch was served!

Finally, after a fruitful discussion, enjoyable games and a hearty lunch, the first meeting of the M.A.M.I. came to a conclusion; a Hymn was sung to our Blessed Mother.

(Continued)

After Christmas we had very interesting topics, for example the liturgical celebrations of the church. Sometimes we had visitors attending our meetings. These meetings have been a profit to the students in several ways, but especially that of public speaking and others included are: social understanding, spiritual guidance and leadership training.

The M.A.M.I. committees were as follows:

Executive:
President: Joe Guy Wood
Vice-President: Oliver Nolson
Secretary: Julia Mousseau

Chairmen:
Spiritual: Theodore Fontaine
Missionary: Janet Guimond
Apostolic: Elizabeth Menow

Social Committee
Dennis Fontaine Evelyn Michele