



# Manitoba Association of Multi-age Educators

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in affiliation with



## Books to Enhance Writing Lessons

By Kathy Cullen, Lyndsey O'Connor, Kathy Klenk

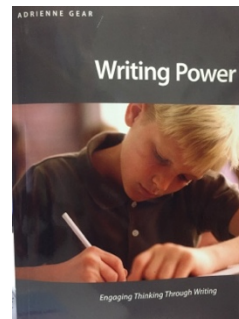
In February 2017, while attending Adrienne Gear's workshop on her book Writing Power at the Reading for the Love of It Conference in Toronto, we learned about many examples of quality anchor books to coincide with writing lessons on various topics such as:

- Tools for Writing: Adding Details, Similes, Voice, Triple-Scoop Words, First Impressions
- Inviting Readers to Connect to... me, a friend, feelings, memories
- Inviting Readers to Visualize...a special place, imaginary place, seasons, colour
- Inviting Readers to Question and Infer...deep-thinking questions, emotions, poetry
- Inviting Readers to Transform Their Thinking about...diversity, bullying, individuality

Since then, we have worked collaboratively within a PLN (Professional Learning Network) where we have been released from the classroom to develop our ideas and lessons using the suggestions in Adrienne's book as a guide. As we began searching for some of the suggested anchor books that fit our lessons, we realized we would like to have our own collection of books on these topics at our fingertips.

With the MAME Special Projects Grant, we were able to purchase 50 books for us to use in future writing lessons. We then sorted them into the appropriate themes. We plan to store them accordingly and share them amongst ourselves on an as-needed basis

Thank you, MAME, for helping us on our journey to ensure our students become quality writers!



## Math Trail: an experience in Hands-on math

By: Jessica Foss

This year, the junior high team at Highbury School, ventured on creating a hands-on math experience to end our year of learning. We were inspired from a math learning opportunity originating in Australia, called "Math Trails". If you would like to be as inspired as us, please check out this wonderful resource (<http://www.comap.com/highschool/projects/mathtrails/MathTrails.pdf>).

Our Highbury team, decided to put a creative spin on math trails and The Eggcellent Amazing Race was born. Our team spent countless hours arranging three congruent pathways for our 27 teams to go through. Each pathway consisted of nine challenges for our students to complete:

1. Filling in a multistep equation with an unknown variable. Students needed to find numbers and carefully fill in the blanks of the equation.
2. Calculating the approximate volume of a tree using a Suunto Clinometer and diameter tape lent by the Manitoba Forestry Association.
3. Calculating and creating area and perimeter of various rectangles.
4. Enjoying a refreshing snack and calculating the total sale price of the snacks including GST and PST.
5. Solving a critical thinking word problem
6. Calculating the area of a various circles found within the park
7. Plotting points on a cartesian plane to create a mystery picture
8. Creating and using their logical thinking to figure out patterns
9. Matching shapes with information

The day before our race, students were introduced to their mixed multi-age groups from our five 7/8 classrooms. To help integrate cross-curricular learning students designed an egg structure that protected their egg during the race reinforcing our forces and structures unit from science. The day of the race, our teams arrived at St Vital Park, with their protected eggs in hand and ready for some adventure. With their maps (a great review from social studies mapping skills!) they set off and anticipated a celebratory barbeque once they finished.

We could not have asked for better weather, and with the assistance of MAME, our day was a complete success! Most groups made it through almost all of the challenges and was able to put their learning to real life and hands-on applications. I personally enjoyed having the students use the clinometer to calculate the height of a tree and look at me very confidently explaining how the angles and proportions of the device help calculate an accurate measurement. All the teachers agreed that it was a great culminating review that had us outside. Our celebratory barbeque really made the day worth it as a great motivator for junior high students can be food! ■



## Learning and The Brain – An Exploration of Mindfulness and how the Brain Learns in Different Circumstances

By: Bailey Englot

I was grateful to have had the opportunity to go to the Learning and the Brain Conference held in New York City in April. Learning about the brain, and about learning, is a huge passion of mine and I have wanted to attend this conference for a long time! The conference was based on the brain and its functions in relation to how learning happens, particularly during stressful times and how the brain responds to stress. This year there was a focus on mindfulness, both for students and for teachers. We listened to a variety of experts in related fields such as Education, Psychology and Neuroscience. I particularly enjoyed the following four speakers and learned so much from their presentations:

**Sam Goldstein, PhD.** - Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Utah School of Medicine and the Clinical Director at the Neurology, Learning and Behaviour Centre in Utah, Dr. Goldstein wrote a book called *Raising Resilient Children* with Robert Brooks, PhD. and focused a lot on the importance of teachers using a positive tone and communicating to their students that they cared for them and that they liked them as huge indicators of a successful learning environment. This was also a significant factor in resilience as a developed quality in students. A big take away from his session was that "not everyone is in the middle, but the world is designed for the middle." - meaning we need to think about the kids on either side of the "middle" - the higher end and the lower end. Dr. Goldstein has also done a TED Talk called The Power of Resilience.  
[www.samgoldstein.com](http://www.samgoldstein.com)

**Dr. Mark Bertin** - This session focused on ADHD and was extremely eye opening. He described this disorder as not just an attention disorder but that its implications on executive functioning made it a much more complicated and difficult disorder with

which to cope. Dr. Bertin talked about how it affects the brain's ability to monitor itself and that so often we expect these students to follow a plan but that this is one of the most difficult things we could ask them to do, despite them needing the consistency. People suffering from ADHD experience "time blindness" that prevents them from seeing how to estimate, predict or work with time. This definitely changed how I understand ADHD.

**Robert Brooks, PhD** – Dr. Brooks was an incredible speaker. He made us laugh and cry as he talked about his experiences being a principal of a psychiatric ward of a lock down unit of a hospital. He co-wrote *Raising Resilient Children* with Sam Goldstein and talked about having and developing a resilient mindset, which included social emotional and achievement components. I really connected with his strong advocating for having empathy as a key component to helping students develop resiliency - that people need to feel that they matter to the world and do good for the world to feel that they are able to conquer and bounce back from trauma and difficulties of life.

**Angela P. Watson, MA**- She is a former teacher and now teaching consultant whose presentation was so essential for me to hear. It was all about how less is more, and how we need to "get rid of the good (in our schedules) to make room for the great". She talked about how to plan efficiently so that our mental health isn't compromised, and how we must take care of ourselves before we can take care of our students. Angela explained that positive emotions actually enhance brain development and enable us to think more quickly. She also advocated for the importance of having good relationships in our lives but especially in our students' lives - good connections with teachers, coaches and parents. Students will be more willing to learn and try if they feel meaningful and loved.



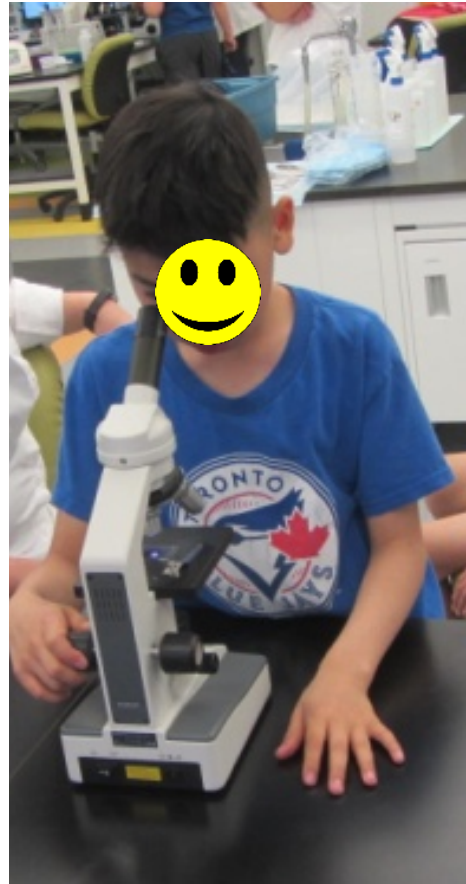
## Special Projects Grant

By: Cindy Pellerin

Marion School would like to thank the generosity of MAME special funding projects to buy some new science equipment for our school. One of the items purchased was a rain gauge for our Grade 4/5 weather unit. We placed it in the garden and waited for rain in May. It finally did rain, so we could check how much rain we received in St. Boniface. We checked other parts of Manitoba and compared the different amounts of rainfall and then came up with reasons for the differences. The students were excited to empty it and check it again on the next rain day.

We also bought a microscope that could be used throughout our elementary school. During our time with Steve Jones, from the St. Boniface Hospital BIO lab, the 1/2/3, 3/4, and 4/5 classes were able to look at different slides of heart, breast cancer, bed bugs, etc. So exciting! The 7/8s are looking forward in using the microscope for more of their science projects.

Thank you very much to the MAME special funding project fund!



### **Special Project Grants**

Is there a special project that your school would like to undertake or participate in?

MAME members can apply for funding of up to \$1000 for Special Projects.

Visit [www.multiagemanitoba.org](http://www.multiagemanitoba.org) to complete your application.



## CJS Day of Caring

By Lisa Albrecht

8:30 AM on May 24<sup>th</sup> marked the start of CJS Day of Caring. Over 100 students of the CJS Graduating Class of 2018 proudly gave back to their community by volunteering their time in a variety of ways at several locations within our local community and in greater Winnipeg.

Before departing to their volunteer experiences, students had the chance to hear from the Honourable Rochelle Squires, MLA for Riel and Mr. Henri Péloquin, Assistant Superintendent for the Louis Riel School Division who both brought greetings.

The future Grads of 2018 volunteered their time:

- Assisting at local elementary schools École Varennes, École Marie-Anne-Gaboury, École George-McDowell, École St. Germain, and École Sage Creek School
- Assisting at Dakota House, an assisted living facility
- Helping at Winnipeg Harvest
- Assisting at local childcare centres Beautiful Saviour Daycare and École St. Germain Daycare
- Garbage collecting and beautifying neighbouring green spaces in the Dakota Forest, the United Church in Meadowood, and on the Collège Jeanne-Sauvé grounds



Following their experiences, students returned to Collège Jeanne-Sauvé and commemorated their volunteer experiences by filling out a blue heart that was displayed in the entrance of the school which spoke of their positive experiences of giving back to the community. A picnic lunch of pizza and water was then enjoyed by all.

Collège Jeanne-Sauvé would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support:

- Colleen Mayer, MLA for St Vital
- Councillor Brian Mayes, Winnipeg City Councillor, St Vital Ward
- Honourable Rochelle Squires, Minister of Sustainable Development, MLA for Riel
- Healthy Schools Grant, Louis Riel School Division
- Manitoba Association of Multi-Age Educators
- Learning for a Sustainable Future, Eco League
- Comité d'équité et de justice sociale, Les éducatrices et éducateurs francophones du Manitoba, Manitoba Teachers' Society
- Imagineaction, Canadian Teachers' Federation



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## Submit an Article to Our Newsletter

This newsletter is created by our membership for our membership and we would love to hear from more of our members. Is there something exciting happening in your classroom or school? Do you have a teaching experience or thoughts on multi-age education that you would like to share? Please do! You can email your submissions including images any time to [lisa.mcavoy@lrsd.net](mailto:lisa.mcavoy@lrsd.net)

## DID YOU KNOW?

Your MAME group has professional development funds available for our members to use. Simply go to our website and apply under PD Funding. You are eligible for up to \$300.00 to attend professional development opportunities.

Visit [www.multiagemanitoba.org](http://www.multiagemanitoba.org) to complete your application.

## The MAME Library

MAME has been accumulating resources that are relevant to multi-age educators. These materials are available for loan to our members. To view a list of titles, go to our website, [www.multiagemanitoba.org](http://www.multiagemanitoba.org) and click on the Lending Library tab. To borrow MAME resources, please contact Charlene Sacher at: [charlene.sacher@gmail.com](mailto:charlene.sacher@gmail.com)