

# Amber Trails Community School

# FEBRUARY

# Newsletter

## Important Dates

**March 4** - Book Parent/ Teacher Appointment on Parent Connect

**March 14** - Parent /Teacher Meetings  
4:00 - 8:00 pm

**March 15** - Parent /Teacher Meetings  
No Classes

**March 25** - Spring break Begins

**March 29**- Spring Break Ends

## Student absences

Thank you for letting the school know when your child will be away from school or late. Call

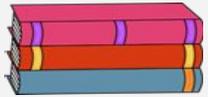
**204-697-5965** (voicemail is 24/7)

or email us at

**ambertrails@7oaks.org**



## Reminders



Please remember that the staff parking lot is staff only and cannot be used for pick up/drop off. The front parking loop is reserved for kindergarten and daycare families, as well as student who have mobility concerns.

Please make sure that all your children's belongings (clothes, lunch boxes, drink bottles, stationery etc.) that are brought to the office, should be labelled so that labelled property can easily be returned to its owner.

## Food Delivery Services

We are asking parents and students to refrain from using food delivery services to have meals and beverages delivered to school. This practice has led to concerns due to unknown adults entering the building, delivery vehicles blocking our bus loop and disruptions to classes. Your cooperation in this matter is essential to maintain a safe and focused learning environment for all.

For more information about events, programs, please visit the following page

[Community News - Amber Trails \(7oaks.org\)](#)



Stay in touch

@Ambertrails1575

# Belonging

## Message from Administrators:

At Amber Trails, we prioritize fostering a deep sense of belonging within our school community. We do this by fostering relationships that are based upon mutual understanding, trust, respect, care, and support. When individuals feel a strong sense of belonging, they experience a profound connection with others in our community, leading to a harmonious environment where everyone is motivated to look out for one another. We all share the responsibility of nurturing each other's social, emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being at Amber Trails. Through various clubs such as Gay Straight Alliance, Superkids, Indigenous Education Group, Black Student Union, Bhangra dancing, Ukrainian dancing, Hip-Hop, Pow Wow, Asian Heritage group, and a commitment to anti-racism, we ensure inclusivity and representation for all members of our community. Additionally, our staff reflects the diversity of our community, further strengthening our bonds. In the classrooms, our teachers use various strategies to foster a sense of belonging among students. These include sharing circles, classroom treaties, exploring identities and cultures, displaying family photos, honoring lived experiences, curating diverse classroom libraries, teaching conflict resolution skills, referring to the class as a family, and spending time outdoors connecting with the nature. We believe that students thrive academically and personally when surrounded by a supportive network of caring adults and peers. A strong sense of belonging is evident when a child feels close to their parents or guardians, trusts multiple adults in their life, knows their teachers cares about them, has meaningful friendships, and feels accepted within their peer group.

**At Amber Trails School, creating a culture of belonging is fundamental to our mission of providing a nurturing and inclusive educational environment where every individual can flourish.**



Students from Grade 6 taught our little buddies from Grade 1/2 about Louis Riel, the Metis, voyageurs, and significance of the sash.



# Our student, Amrit from Grade 8 wrote a beautiful poem:

Age 5, I was from school to home  
 My dog to my vast front yard  
 From my dad's to my mom's parents  
 My bed to my memorable pink bike

Age 6, I was from cartoons to homework  
 Swing sets to Temples  
 From sand filled playgrounds, to hard marble floors  
 Endless streams of vehicles, to the quiet outdoors  
 Voices of street vendors could be heard from afar  
 A sound that soothed me

Age 7, I was from airports to airplanes  
 Heartbreaking goodbyes to amazing welcomes  
 From road trips to 14-hour plane rides  
 From bags of chips to orange juice

Until I wasn't...  
 Where do I belong?

Age 7, I was from biting my tongue  
 to stopping tears from falling  
 Like waterfalls in the jungle

Age 8, I am from frigid winter air to the everlasting cold  
 Losing my dog, to feeling unimaginable grief  
 From being surrounded by the chirping of birds, to the alarming  
 sounds of none  
 Tiny front yard to the lonely swing set

Age 9, I was from a large family transformed into a small one  
 India to Canada to America too  
 From curry to level bread  
 Seeds from the soil to yogurt from the superstore

Age 10, I am from running races to dance classes  
 Racetracks to recitals  
 From shorts to heavy dresses  
 Sweat filled headbands to breathtaking makeup

Age 11, I am from endless sleeping, to not wanting to wake up  
 Leg cramps to a sense of freedom  
 From dreams to reality  
 Curiousness to hope

Age 12, I am from school to silence in my basement  
 High spirits to the loss of my great-grandparents  
 From hopelessness to denial  
 Tears to smiles

Age 12, I am from the best teacher to my favorite classroom  
 Ball hockey to slurpee walks  
 From silent reading to group projects  
 Arguments to standing up for each other

Age 13, I am from reading to writing  
 Harry Potter to Poetry  
 From a tiny snow filled yard, to a sun filled one

From two lands, I've been divided into  
 Now I see

I am from both worlds

I was inspired to write this poem because I want people to know how  
 challenging it was to move from India to Canada. I think others may share  
 a similar story to mine but are hesitant to admit where their heart  
 belongs. While I do love Canada, I can't feel the same love and safeness  
 here even though it is safer here.

**We were lucky to have childhood author Meagan Balgobin come to our school on February 27TH to read her book *The Talking Ducks* to several of our classrooms. Meagan is a Seven Oaks School Division graduate who started writing this story when she was 7 years old. After she read to classes, she shared with students on how she developed her story over time and how she became a published author.**



# Black History Month

In support and celebration of Black history month, we reached out to Natasha Haines of Mumzie's cakes to showcase a local Black-owned business.

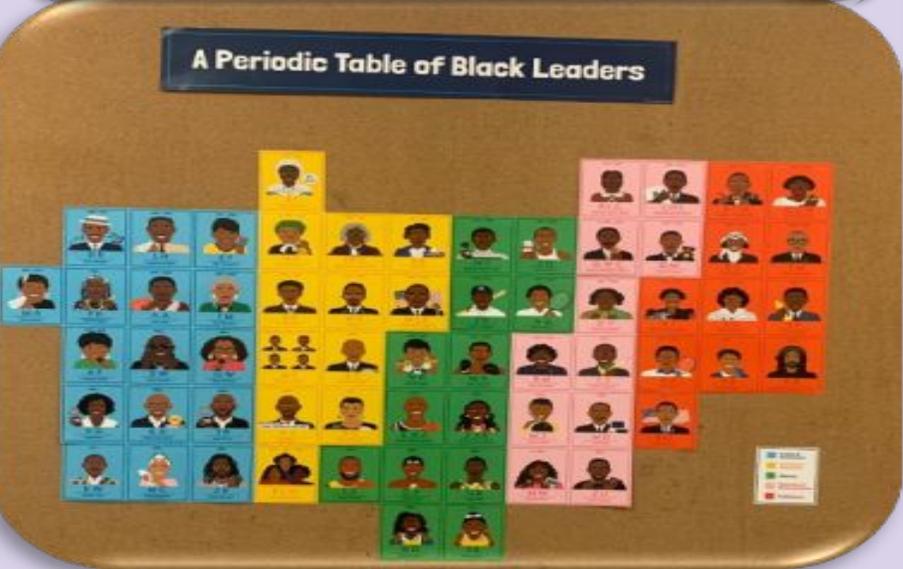


The students from many classrooms enjoyed baking with Ms. Paulette in the school Canteen.

In honor of Black History month Room 115 invited former Winnipeg Police Chief Devon Clunis to their classroom. He is the first black Chief of Police in Canada. While there, he shared his book "The Little Boy From Jamaica".



# More Glimpses From Black History Month



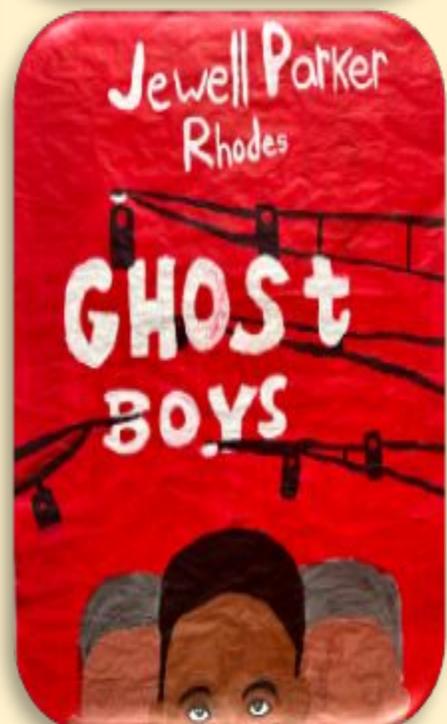
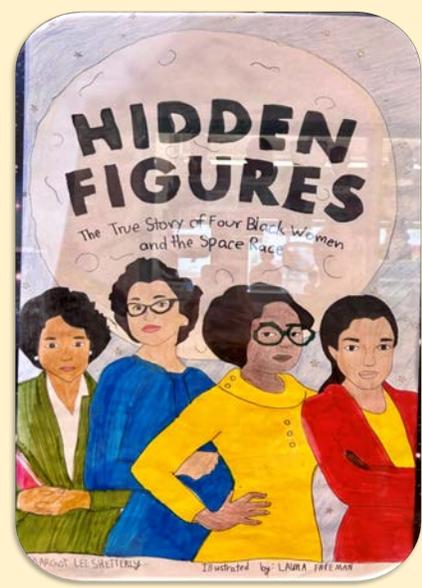
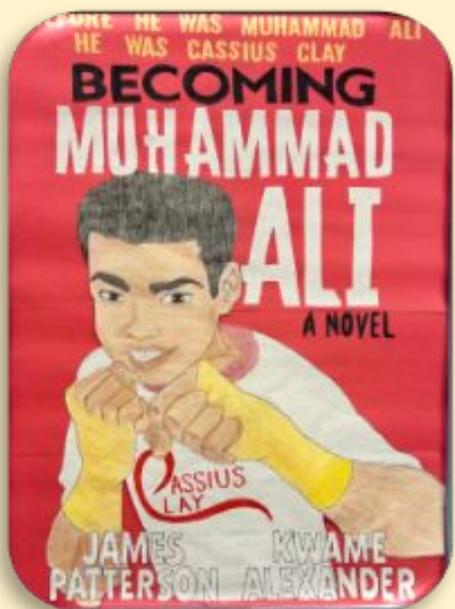


**Amulet 9 Book Launch Party**

**Door Decorating Contest**

As part of I Love to Read month, Mr Mavi and Mrs Garwood hosted a book launch party on February 7TH for the highly anticipated Amulet 9 book. We listened to the author do a live reading, he answered questions and we even did an Amulet art activity. Students were encouraged to do a 6 word synthesis about the book as they received a ballot to enter their name into a draw to receive one of the three copies. Congratulations to Luca, Aarav and Sifti (not pictured) for winning their own copies of Amulet 9!

This year for our I Love to Read door decorating contest, classrooms took it to a whole new level! Congratulations to Ms Jaime's grades 1/2 class for winning the Kindergarten to grade 2 category, Ms Hartung's class for winning the grades 3-5 category and Ms Martens class/Ms Morka's class for winning the grades 6-8 category. Each classroom won \$50.00 to buy books for their classroom libraries..



How does it feel when I belong?

nice  
kind  
used to it  
included  
been there before  
welcomed  
time  
Finding connections  
Feel accepted

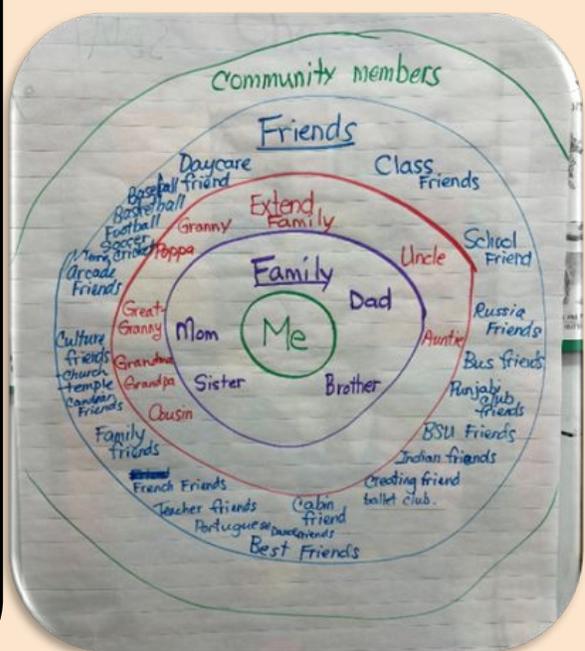
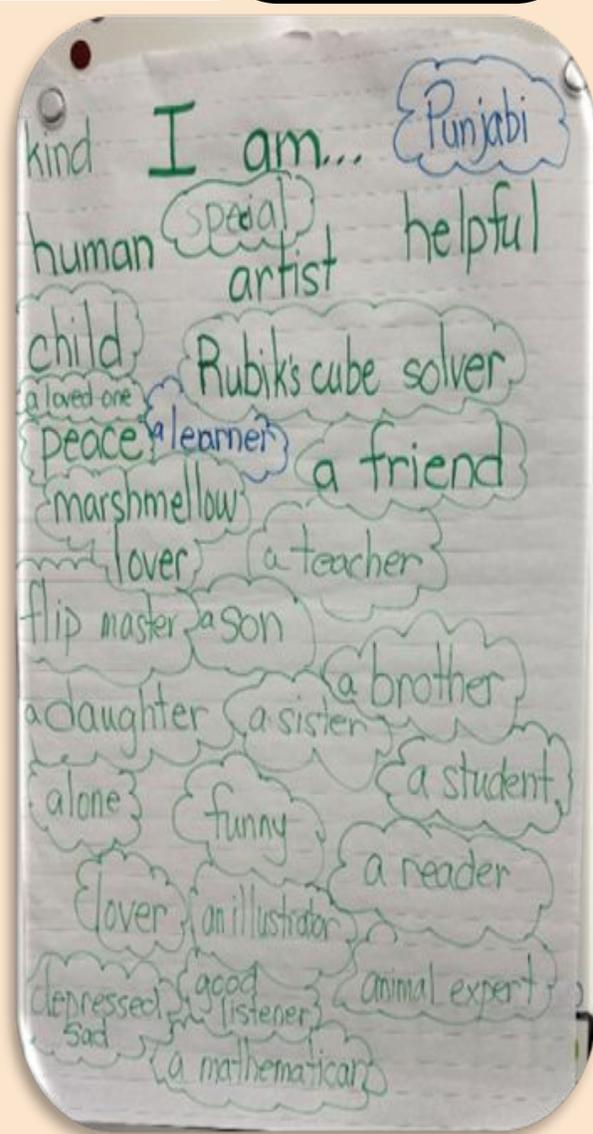
learning about each other  
supported  
Family



**Advocate Buddies** from Room 100 and Room 108 have been using the Amber Trails Belief Statement to guide their learning and understanding of their own identities and what it means to be a part of Treaty 1



Students from Room 115 have been exploring the question, "Who am I?" Using mentor texts such as "The Circles All Around Us" by Brad Montague to guide their discussions, the learners are beginning to recognize all the ways they are both similar and unique.



Mignon is a gifted grade 6 artist who loves to draw and colour animated characters. She enjoys mapping out scenes from movies and bringing them to life through her art. Come and check Mignon's art corner outside of Ms Laura's room as it's constantly evolving.



## Mr. Merv's Farewell

We bid goodbye to our longtime librarian Mr. Merv. We wished him the best of luck. You will definitely be missed!

A Truly great librarian is hard to find, difficult to part with and impossible to forget.

Where do stories come from? Kindergarten students in Room 120 have been exploring this idea. Through discussions, the students learned that most stories come from people, places, or things that we hold near and dear to our hearts. After creating 'heart maps', the learners have been enjoying opportunities to retell their stories through play.



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

School registrations for children for English and Punjabi Bilingual Program at Amber Trails Community School in the Seven Oaks School Division began on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**This program is for Kindergarten, Grade 1, 2 and 3.**

All children who are registering for Kindergarten **must be 5 years old by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024** (born in 2019) in order to register for classes starting in September 2024.

Please note that registration at Amber Trails School is **NOT** first come-first served.

Please fill out the online form at [www.7oaks.org](http://www.7oaks.org) for registration.