

## A DIFFERENT PISA

The OECD recently released findings from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2015



Students' Well-Being study. This report analyzes students' performance in school, their relationships with peers and teachers, their home life, and how they spend their time outside of school. In addition to the [full report](#), the OECD has also provided summaries in the form of country notes. Key results for [Canada](#) include:

- 86% of Canadian students engage in moderate physical activity two or more days per week (OECD average: 78%);
- students' sense of belonging at school in Canada is weaker than the OECD average;
- 64% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they feel very anxious for a test even if they are well prepared (OECD average: 56%); and
- students in Canada reported high motivation to achieve, with 82% reporting that they want to be the best in whatever they do (OECD average: 65%).

## MERN SPRING FORUM



It's spring, which means it's time for the [MERN Spring Forum](#)! The forum will be held on Friday, May 12, at the University of Manitoba, and will focus on Inquiry in Teaching and Learning. The day will kick off with the launch of the latest issues of the MERN Journal and MERN Monograph Series II, followed by a keynote presentation on experiencing inquiry. The remainder of the day will be dedicated to four banks of concurrent workshops. These sessions cover a wide-range of topics, and include presenters from both the post-secondary and K-12 sectors. Online [registration](#) is available for the MERN Spring Forum, and as always, there is no fee to attend.

## UPDATED DUAL CREDIT POLICY

Manitoba Education and Training has developed a new policy for recognizing post-secondary courses for dual credit. This [policy](#), along with a covering [letter](#), was distributed to all school superintendents last month. The policy was updated based on feedback on the Dual Credit Pilot Project, which was conducted in 2015/16. Starting now, all school divisions and adult learning centres will be required to follow this policy in order to offer courses for dual credit to high school and ALC students in fall 2017. Further information on dual credits and other alternative ways of earning high school credits can be found on the department's [graduation requirements](#) page.

## HEALTHY FOOD IN SCHOOLS

Students who eat well have better concentration, academic performance, school attendance, and self-esteem. They also display fewer behavioural issues, and develop lifelong healthy eating habits. Because kids spend so much time there, schools are second only to the home environment when it comes to shaping children's eating habits, which is why school food and nutrition policies are so important.



Under [The Public Schools Act](#), all schools are required to have such a policy, and to report annually on its implementation. The document [Moving Forward with School Nutrition Guidelines](#) has been developed by [Manitoba Healthy Food in Schools](#), to help with policy development and implementation. This is just one of the many resources available on the new Manitoba Healthy Food in Schools [website](#). You may also want to check out a short [video](#) that underscores why nutrition is so important, and how it fits into a school day. For practical support in developing and implementing



nutrition policies and programs in schools, or general assistance with creating a healthy food environment, contact the Manager of Manitoba Healthy Food in Schools via [email](#), or toll-free at 1-888-547-0535.

## VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We are looking for a volunteer to represent the association on the Consultation Committee on Education for Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. This committee provides opportunities to discuss the issues, mutual concerns, and policies related to the education of children who are deaf or hard of hearing with all of the concerned stakeholder groups. For more information on the committee or to volunteer, email Executive Assistant [Andrea Kehler](#).



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