

## **ST. EMILE SCHOOL - PART OF THE UNESCO / ASPnet NETWORK!**

In September of 2008, St. Emile students and staff were very excited about receiving National School status by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet). St. Emile School will soon be receiving tangible recognition for this national school distinction!

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m., the Honorable Dave Bjornson, Minister of Education for the Province of Manitoba, will visit St. Emile School to present students and staff with a UNESCO/ASPnet National School Status plaque! Accompanying the Minister will be Ms. Linda Mlodzinski Social Studies Consultant for Manitoba Education and Provincial Coordinator UNESCO/ASPnet schools. Minister Bjornson will make this special presentation to the school at 9:00 a.m. on May 25<sup>th</sup>. School community members are invited to attend this exciting event!

Established in 1953, UNESCO / ASPnet is a network of over 7,800 member schools and institutions in over 175 countries. Becoming a UNESCO/ASPnet school allows all of us at St. Emile School further opportunities to expand our mission of being a faith-based, Christ-centred group of learners who care deeply about their community and the world at large!

The ASPnet system provides a forum for the promotion of UNESCO ideals as well as positive global citizenship, social justice, student leadership opportunities and regional, national and international networks with like-minded students around the world!

UNESCO/ASPnet schools establish a culture of peace and promote democracy, human rights and mutual understanding through both curricular and extra-curricular projects related to:

- world concerns and the role of the United Nations
- human rights / democracy
- intercultural learning
- environmental issues

The process for becoming a fully fledged UNESCO / ASPnet school involves a three level membership accreditation program: *Candidate School*, *National School* and *International School*. The entire process from *Candidate* to *International* status takes approximately seven years.

As a *National School*, our UNESCO/ASPnet Council, which is comprised of early and middle years' students, has been planning and implementing a variety of projects during this 2008 – 2009 school year involving all of our students, staff and school community members! Projects our ASPnet Council has initiated and supported have been:

- UNICEF's "School in a Box"
- Society of St. Vincent DePaul (SSVP)
- Shoes for Hope
- KidSport
- Koats for Kids
- Pennies for Peace
- Warm & Fuzzy Christmas Tree (Rossbrook House)
- Support for Medicins sans Frontieres Refugee Camp
- Christmas Hampers
- Brush Out Poverty
- Annual Walk for Peace
- Volunteer Work (St. Amant Ctr. & Golden Links)

St. Emile School, as part of the UNESCO/ASPnet network is committed to promoting positive citizenship locally, nationally and globally. We thank all of our school community members for supporting this vision!

St. Emile School's UNESCO/ASPnet Council  
April 21, 2009