

School tells animal tales

ST. VITAL

By **DAN FALLOON**

STAFF REPORTER

dan.falloon@canstarnews.com

If you listen closely, you can hear students telling tales out of Bird's Hill School.

After introducing an Aboriginal storytelling project in the 2011-12 school year, the school expanded it for this year, bringing in River East Transcona School Division inclusion specialist Corey Kapilik to work alongside teacher-librarian Darcie Mitchell this time around. The two began making plans for the project in November, and it began when students returned from Christmas break in January.

Students saw the stories through from creation to performance, and even designed their own masks to represent an animal character in the story.

The content of the stories focused on why

certain animals have certain characteristics.

To help build on the project, the school brought in Star Dome mobile planetarium on Feb. 6 and 7 to tell Aboriginal stories seen in the constellations. Each class congregated in a dome in the school gymnasium, and owner/operator Darren Townsley told stories by pointing out constellations on a projection of the sky.

One story included how some view the Big Dipper as a squirrel who saved summer but was later pinned to the roof of the sky by an angry winter spirit.

Townsley, a St. Vital resident, said being able to analyze the night sky adds context to the stories, as past cultures used it as both a calendar and a compass. As well, he said re-telling stories under a night sky more closely replicates how they were originally told.

"Showing is different than just talking about it," he said.

For more on Star Dome, visit www.stardome.ca.



Supplied photo

Grade 6 students at Bird's Hill School create masks as part of their Aboriginal storytelling unit.

St. Vital Montessori School

Pre-School for children ages 2.5 - 5

Open House and Registration
for the 2013-2014 School Year

Wednesday February 27, 2013 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM

+ Development of Independence + Building Social Skills & Self Confidence
+ Full Time 5 - 1/2 Days per week + Part Time 3 - 1/2 Days per week

For Details call: (204) 255-0209

479 St. Mary's Road • www.stvitalmontessori.ca

Montessori

Are your
home furnishings
a shade of their
former selves?

Think ReStore
Before Waste.

Habitat ReStore crews will collect your unwanted home furnishings* through curbside or garage pickup and add to the 'green' by diverting them from landfill sites while issuing you a donation receipt for the resale value!

For pickup service: 204-233-5160 (220)
Visit us at 60 Archibald Street
or www.habitat.mb.ca

ReStore

All proceeds from the resale of donated items and other designated funding cover Habitat for Humanity Manitoba's administrative costs, enabling 100 percent of each cash donation to be directed to its Build program.

*In gently used condition. Not all items may be accepted.

LEISSA

FREE
BRA FITTINGS

489-4144 for appt.

LEISSA LINGERIE

Certified Prosthetic fitters
Bonus offer at appt:

\$10 off

a regular priced purchase of \$50 or more before taxes. Some rules apply. Details in store. One coupon per person.

ST. VITAL SQUARE

#26 - 845 Dakota St., south of Tim Hortons
Winnipeg

20001-544126 CP

Control from Anywhere.

Do more and worry less with the **NEW** ProTELEC InTouch App for your smartphone, tablet or laptop.

- Arm or Disarm** your alarm system.
- Turn** lights on and off.
- Lock or Unlock** your doors.
- Watch Live Video** from the cameras in your home.
- Send Instructions** to the ProTELEC monitoring centre.
- Instant Alarm Alerts** with zone and device information.

MONITOR • CONTROL • PROTECT

protecalarms.com • 204-949-1417

Wireless Control
from Anywhere
NEVER WONDER • NEVER WORRY

20001-544126 CP