

# Mural will celebrate end of a chapter in school's history

## *Grade 4 Entry French Immersion program at Lord Wolseley School being phased out, mural a lasting tribute*

**By Wanda McConnell**  
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A large mural will be unveiled later this month at Lord Wolseley School that will commemorate the Grade 4 Entry French Immersion Program.

The program in which youngsters took regular English schooling in kindergarten through Grade 3, then began French immersion in Grade 4, was unique in the province.

It was offered at Lord Wolseley School for 20

years, but the Grade 6 graduating class in the year 2000 will be the last for the program.

School principal Andrea Hammond says enrolment in the program declined over the years to such an extent that the River East School Board decided to discontinue it. There was no new Grade 4 class last fall, leaving only Grade 5 and 6 French immersion students in the school. This fall, only the Grade 6 class will be left.

### **Feeling sad**

Hammond says the community feels sad and wishes the program could have continued. But, she says, the focus will be on cele-

brating its time at the school.

"Lord Wolseley has such a great history spanning over 80 years," says Hammond. "It was once a high school. It once had home ec. This just ends another phase in the school's history and we want to celebrate it and leave a lasting memory."

The lasting memory will be the mural, made with the assistance of artist Bud Gillies.

The 31 students in French immersion at Lord Wolseley created 58 clay tiles depicting scenes representative of the life of the program.

The mural will be

unveiled on May 27 at a tea to be held from 4:30 to 7 p.m., commemorating the closing of the Grade 4 French Immersion Program. All former French Immersion students and families from Lord Wolseley are invited to attend.

Guy Roy, assistant deputy minister responsible for French education in the province, says enrolment in French Immersion programs is declining across the province. He says that in 1984, there were 11,000 in French Immersion programs in Manitoba. The number grew to 19,751 in 1991, but has since dropped to 17,620.