

“We Walk For Water”

On Friday, April 27th, Juniper student council organized a “We Walk for Water” event. In coordination with over 1500 other schools across the land, this “We” event is meant to raise awareness about the lack of clean, accessible (potable) drinking water worldwide. 844 million people around the world lack access to clean water. That’s more than 20x the population of Canada. The students at Juniper School want to be the generation to help change this. They learned that it was primarily the girls’ job to walk long distances to collect the family’s daily water supply, which meant that they could not attend school. “**They and We**”, do not think this is right.

They hope to raise enough money to build a “**water-well**” in Kenya, Africa, to support a community there as part of our global concern initiative. They chose Kenya because a group of Juniper teachers and other Mystery Lake School District staff are going to Kenya this summer. These teachers will be working with the Free the Children Foundation, and side-by-side with locals of the Maasai Mara Region on a community project. They will be helping to address challenges with projects like restoring schools, building libraries, and digging latrines and hand-washing stations.

Juniper students know that access to water is a human right. No being can live without water and the water we have on earth now is the same water that has been here for thousands of years – it just keeps cycling itself back to purity. Water does not belong to anyone, and it is everyone’s job to take care of it. They are very aware of the lack of clean, accessible drinking water in many of neighbouring reserves. They are looking for ways to help keep our water clean here in northern Manitoba.

To build a “**well**” in Africa, Juniper student council will need a lot of support. CHTM interviewed student council member, Winter Ross, and helped make Thompson aware of Juniper’s goals. The Deerwood Oskinikis Drummers learned the Water Song and also the River Song. Juniper School was honoured to have Mr. Cook and the drummers open the “**water walk**” event with a prayer and songs. With pride and enthusiasm, all of Juniper School participated in the walk, with most of the school walking the entire Cree Road/Thompson Drive loop. Some students carried jugs of water on the entire walk to understand what it felt like for the girls in Africa. Students and staff also picked up garbage along the way. Riverside School cheered us on and made us feel so proud. Thanks to the individuals from the School Board Office, board of trustees, City of Thompson and the Thompson Citizen for walking side-by-side with Juniper School. It takes a community to help a community.

