

St. John's Cathedral Boys' School,
Selkirk, Manitoba,
Monday, February 12, 1962.

To the Parents:

The school's 11 snowshoe teams are now ready to compete in three races on Saturday, February 17, one of them carrying over to Sunday, the 18th.

In training over the past six weeks, the juniors have covered distances ranging up to 18 miles, the intermediates up to 25 miles, the seniors up to 28 miles.

Particular care should be provided for the boys' clothing on this weekend coming. If the weather should be cold, frostbite endangers the hands; the face and the feet when they are not properly covered.

Woollen inner mittens should be worn inside leather (not plastic) outer mittens. PLEASE DO NOT DRESS A BOY IN GLOVES, either inner or outer gloves.

Balaclava or face masks should be provided for boys who have suffered frostbite in training. These can be had at Syrota Bros. in Brooklands for 50 cents or less.

No less than two pairs of heavy woollen stockings should be worn and no more than three. Care should be taken to assure that the boy's feet are not pinched into his moccasins.

Progressive bulletins will be telephoned to the radio stations in Winnipeg on the progress of all three races. The following is a description of the three events:

For Juniors, the Thomas Vincent Race, distance 19 miles, following the west bank of the Red River not on the ice. Start 9 a.m. at Lockport, finish Kildonan Park South Gate sometime after 1 p.m. Boys to be fed hot lunch somewhere on route. Team captains are Jack Alexander, Link Byfield, Ian Craig, Michael Davies, David Eastoe. Referee accompanies each team.

For Intermediates, the Pritchard Race, distance 30 miles. Start 8 a.m. at Dynevor, following school trail to Hydro line, Hydro line to Fort Road, cross country to Lockport, junior route to Kildonan Park gate finish sometime after 4 p.m. Boys to be fed twice on route. Team captains Bob Davies, Bob Gray, Brian Hutton, Robin Wiens. Referee accompanies each team.

For Seniors, the Jean-Baptiste Race, distance 54 miles. Start 9 a.m. Matlock General store, then across Netley marshes to Netley Creek ranger station, then via Red River to Manitoba Hydro line crossing, then via Hydro line to the rear of the Dynevor property, then by the Intermediate and Junior routes to Lockport. Boys spend the night at Lockport and leave at 9 a.m. Sunday for Winnipeg on the junior-intermediate routes. Race expected to end some time after 1 p.m. Sunday. Team captains Paul Westdal, Paul Hedlin. Referees accompanying.

All boys, juniors and intermediates and seniors will be returned to Dynevor after the races and will attend church Sunday evening, being released at the usual time.

Power toboggans will break the trails ahead of the teams so that the lead team does not suffer a disadvantage. The section of the route between Dynevor and Lockport will be broken on foot Friday night.

The objective of the program and the objective set for each team is to persevere to the end of the route. Each captain has been told that his primary goal is to get his team through to the end, not to win the race.

Ted Byfield

