



## 2014 Solo & Ensemble Festival

*submitted by Chloé Plamondon, Chairperson*

The 2014 Solo and Ensemble festival was a very successful and educational day for all involved.

552 participating musicians from grade 7 – 12 performed at a variety of levels from beginner to advanced. There were 184 solos and ensembles from 17 schools, the highest registration since 2000.

The festival ran very smoothly with a full day of back to back performances running from 9:20 am – 3:30 pm on six different stages. We ran perfectly on time thanks to the tireless efforts and organization of Ken Epp and the help of festival volunteers Donna Engel and Jennifer Gillis. Students left the festival feeling positive about their performances thanks to our amazing group of adjudicators. Thank you to new adjudicators Laura Dowbenko (pictured below), Greg Crowe, Layla Roberts, Eric Marshall and Shane Hicks (photo right), and to returning adjudicators Janice Finlay, Blaine Workman, and Lori Jede.



A rating is given to each group, but more importantly the focus of the festival is on the time each solo or ensemble has working with the adjudicator. Concepts such as air support, tuning, balance, colour, dynamics, technique, breathing, entries and releases, matching articulations were not only discussed, but improved immensely in only minutes with each group! I believe that the time and effort band directors put into preparing these solo and group performances with their students is truly worthwhile.

A huge thank you to the many teachers, administration, students, and parents who contributed to the success of this years festival. Special thanks to the staff at the North Kildonan Mennonite Brethren Church for their hospitality and assistance with room set up.

Thank you to Maples Collegiate and the Seven Oaks School Division for the use of their music stands, to J. K. Musical Services for their financial support, and to Ken Epp for his constant support and organization within the Manitoba Band Association to make events such as this available and meaningful for band students in Manitoba.