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Photo by Clover Tahhan

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On the front page - "This last week we had 2 snow storms. Monday closed not only the University but the whole Brandon School Division! The schools rarely close due to snowfall, so it was a crazy week! The sun is missed... with the warm beams of light that falls down on us. Oh, it will be missed." - Clover Tahhan, Photographer

The Quill's Annual General Meeting will take place over Zoom on March 26th, 2024, at 11:40 PM. Please attend and use your voice to protect student journalism at BU! For more information, check out our Instagram @buthequill or email eic.thequill@gmail.com.

BU JAZZ FESTIVAL RETURNS THIS WEEK!

By James Waugh, Junior Reporter

Calling all music lovers, Brandon University Jazz Festival is around the corner! From March 14th to 16th, the School of Music will be hosting guest artists, adjudicators, and school ensembles for performances, clinics, and masterclasses. Over the three days, performances will be held in the Lorne Watson Recital Hall and the Kinsmen Rehearsal Hall in the Queen Elizabeth II Music Building, the Evans Theatre in the George T. Richardson Centre, and at the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium. Continuing the tradition set by the Brandon Jazz Festival after its several-year hiatus, the School of Music faculty are proud to be bringing an exceptional and diverse range of performers to our campus. The first Brandon Jazz Festival was held in 1982, and in 1983 it chose the BU campus as its home with the support of the School of Music and the Brandon School Division No. 40. Since its inception, the BU Jazz Festival has grown significantly both in the volume of its participants and in its prestige within the North American jazz world, hosting incredible performers such as vocalist Don Shelton, guitarist Gene Bertoncini, and the John McNiel Quartet. The final Brandon Jazz festival in its previous form was held in 2019, before the outbreak of COVID-19, but has returned for its 40th anniversary for your listening pleasure! Faculty members presenting the BU Jazz Festival include professors of jazz and contemporary music Luis Deniz, Marika Gelea, and Eric Platz, trumpet professor Edward Bach, jazz piano professor Carter Graham, soprano voice professor Sarah Hall, Low Brass professor Nora Wilson, jazz guitar instructor Brian Zimmerman, and music education professor Wendy Zander. At the helm of the Brandon University School of Music is Dean of Music and saxophone professor Greg Gatien, whose passion for music education and performance is echoed in BU Jazz Festival's values. The event has also drawn a number of exciting guest adjudicators from around the United States and Canada who will provide valuable insight and advice to the many

middle and high school ensembles who are set

to perform. Young vocalists will receive feedback from triple Grammy nominee Sara Gazarek, ByBlacks' Jazz Artist of the Year 2019 Joanna Majoko, artistic director of Rainbow Harmony Brittany Mielnichuk, and director of several awardwinning choirs Cynthia Peyson Wahl. Woodwind and brass players can look forward to connecting with prolific performers such as saxophonist Claire Devlin, trombonist Kelsley Grant, trumpeter Jason Palmer, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Samuel Toriman Thomas, and trumpeter Rachel Therrien. All ensembles can benefit from the direction of conductors Kathie Van Lare and Rob Monson, as well as Brandon university alum Ana Peno, who is a music educator at Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School.

The BU Jazz Festival prides itself on creating an environment that is more focused on education and interpersonal connection than competition. The festival features not only performances, but clinics and masterclasses hosted by faculty and guests which focus on building cohesion as an ensemble, enhancing listening and interpretive skills, and emphasize the importance of a personal connection to music, all within an hour of guided practice. The BU Jazz Festival is not only an opportunity for young music students of all abilities to show off their hard-earned musical skills and learn from experienced and talented musicians, but for the Brandon-area community to connect and be uplifted by the magic of live music. Visit bujazzfest.ca to view daily performance

schedules and purchase tickets. Performances by the Brandon University Big Band featuring several special guests will be held in the Westman Centennial Auditorium on the 14th and 15th, and tickets are \$30. For those of us on a student's budget, several free concerts by BU small ensembles will be hosted in the Queen Elizabeth II Music Building, so be sure to support the BU community and enjoy the good vibes! (See free concert schedule on Page 7.)

RENEWBU - A FOUR-YEAR MISTAKE THAT COST STUDENTS MILLIONS

By Abdul Nadeem Myireh, Junior Reporter

Brandon University recently sent out a communique announcing that they are no longer going forward with their development of a new student information system, an effort that took four years and cost the university upwards of \$5 million dollars. The multi-year project saw the introduction of the "RenewBU" fee to each term's student fees (upwards of \$300 every year for-time students!), which was intended to finance the modernization of information systems in respect to finances, registration, and student records. However many, myself included, initially believed the RenewBU fee was intended for the renovation of various buildings and facilities around campus. I believe it is this lack of clarity that may have further exacerbated student reactions to the news of B.U.'s withdrawal from their contract with Anthology Inc., the software developer based out of Boca Raton, Florida and tasked with designing the new student information system. Some students went as far as to say we have nothing to show for a multimillion-dollar project, and that the university should seek a refund from the company. One student, who requested that they remain anonymous, wrote that "those funds could have bought every student the textbooks and supplies they needed for their entire degree, or it could have gone towards a free-at-use cafeteria, scholarships, or even better pay for our instructors."

Another proposed upgrade to the system would have allowed for the recognition of preferred names in student registration and documentation, which would have allowed students and staff alike to better establish their identity in an academic and professional setting. Although the current student portal does allow for the input of a preferred name, its use is merely superficial, as it does not actually change the name students are registered for classes with. The implementation of a new and improved system has

body, and for Linden Haubrick, a student at the university

and

been the subject of ongoing discussions among the student RENEW BU FEE 33.60 Add

Look familiar? The Renew BU Fee is \$33.60 per course for domestic students.

withdrawal comes as a major setback to his efforts in getting the university to recognize preferred names. With no new student information system in development, many students find themselves growing increasingly frustrated with the lack of progress in the university's "unwavering and unambiguous commitment to diversity." The frustration experienced by the student body is not exclusive, as David Huberdeau-Reid resigned from the board of governors in the week prior to B.U.'s announcing their withdrawal from the project. In an article published by the Brandon Sun and written by journalists Colin Slark and Matt Goerzen, Huberdeau-Reid stated that "it was revealed to the board of governors in January that Anthology had yet to provide any results" and that "three alternatives were pitched: continue with Anthology, continue with a reduced scope, or cancel the project and work on it in-house." Indeed, the university did state in an email directed to students that they "are not finding a route to successfully implement the project according

to the goals we had set and this will end our relationship

with our current vendor, Anthology." The email comes at a

difficult time for many, as the Brandon University Faculty Association (BUFA) is finally proceeding in negotiations

longtime advocate for greater accessibility for queer

students within the system, the news of the university's

with the university over several issues after many weeks without progress.

Unfortunately, I find myself increasingly dissatisfied with the direction the university is going in, and in the wake of the university's announcement I find myself with more unanswered questions; chief of which is the question of how the university can have nothing to show for a multimillion-dollar project, and how in the four years since the start of the project, Anthology Inc. has been unable to deliver even portions of a completed student information system? As the board of governors begins the surely difficult process of contracting a new developer to tackle the challenge of creating a new student information system, I sought further information on Anthology Inc., and unfortunately, the information that I have found has made me question the efficiency of the board of governors. Anthology Inc. last made headlines in 2022, when they issued a refund of \$850,000 dollars to the Oregon-based Rogue Community College. The software developer was found unable to process financial aid, registration, and other records, forcing the college to part ways with Anthology Inc. and return to their previous student information system while they sought another software vendor to pick up where Anthology Inc. left off. Further research into the company revealed a litany of complaints from current and former employees that date back to 2017, and allege of numerous issues such as poor leadership, poor training, and a lack of technical support that left them unable to support their customers, those being other universities. One employee wrote anonymously, "Whenever I worked there it was awful ... although the people were nice, the company seemed to have no structure." Another wrote "The turnover rate here is really high for a reason. My training group of 20 all quit after a few months

> because of bad equipment and management." One student, after discovering Anthology's

contract with Rogue Community College, asked, "If the company has such poor performance, and such a poor track record, why was it even an option to get these systems put in place?"

Anthology Inc.'s refund came two years after Rogue Community College withdrew from their contract with the developer in 2020, the same year in which they were selected by the board of governors at Brandon University to develop our new student information system. I question whether or not the board of governors was aware of Anthology's failure in their contract to Rogue Community College, or of the numerous allegations of mismanagement that circled the software developer; if they were in-fact aware of these issues, how did that affect their decisionmaking progress in staying with Anthology through a lack of progress and no sign of a finished product? Although the future is uncertain for the university's student information systems, as we now have no foreseeable deadline for when we can expect to see a modernized system by, it is up to the student collective to advocate not only for sensible spending, but increased scrutiny of any companies contracted to perform work for the university. Neither the institution nor its students can afford to finance yet another failed project.

INTERVIEW WITH GIL CHEUNG, BOBCATS MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

By Mahé Rabesa, Junior Reporter

The Bobcats' phenomenal season comes to an end with a heartbreaking loss to the Victoria Vikes, ranked #1 in Canada. The Bobcats lost 98-85 in the quarter-finals on their way to the Nationals. Still, it was an excellent season for the men's basketball team led by Head Coach Gil Cheung. With 12 wins and 8 losses, the Bobcats are one of the best teams in Canada West, ranking 8th. Having been very competitive throughout the season, the men's basketball team worked hard and fought to the end. The team's game is simple and highly structured. The players work well together and move the ball quickly, which makes for some spectacular plays, much to the delight of fans. The team is very good behind the three-point line, but is also aggressive, and many players attack the rim well. It's a fairly complete team that also plays very well defensively, offering an excellent defensive rotation. I think the team can be proud of their performance this season! I had the chance to interview head coach Gil Cheung to talk about the season.

Now, let's delve into the world of Coach Gil and his team to find out what they're most proud of, their strengths and weaknesses, to look back on their best game and discuss next year's objectives!

To begin with, what are you most proud of this season? After Tosing Anthony who was Defensive Player of the Year, 1st Team All Conference, and Jahmaal who was the 3rd leading scorer in the conference and 3rd Team All Conference, we ended up with a strong record, made the playoffs, and advanced in the playoffs as well. We gave UVIC, the #1 team in Canada, a great run in the playoffs as

What was your best game of the season? And why? I think our best game was our first game after a month off against UW. University of Winnipeg just finished second in Canada West and we beat them by 26pts here at the Healthy Living Center. We executed almost a perfect game plan on both ends of the court, and did that for 40 minutes.

I thought our second game of the year, beating U of M by 25 when they were #5 in Canada was a great game for us as well.

Which statistics are vou most proud of? And why? We were ranked #11 in Canada this season, and we finished as the 3rd most efficient offensive team on Synergy Sports in the country. It was our goal to be at the top or near

the top of this category and we were able to play a fast, uptempo, exciting style of basketball all year.

What did you find different about the team this year compared to last?

Not a ton really. Results wise we were identical. I felt this year's team was a bit better defensively in the half court, but losing some huge pieces from last season, we weren't as strong on our defensive glass.

What would you say are your team's strong points? We were one of the best 3-point shooting teams in the country, and our pace of play was a strength. We were always able to create shots, and play with speed. We loved pushing tempo, and everyone on our team can shoot, so our spacing, shot selection, and draw/kick game was definitely our strength.

What should your team be working on?

We are looking to rest these next 2 weeks, and will need to be working in the weight room, to become stronger and more dynamic.

What will you remember about this season?

Just the interactions with this group. The season is long, strenuous, and can really drag on. We bused home from Edmonton and then we played back-to-back weekends in BC - it can be exhausting. I will remember this season mostly for the great student athletes I got to work with each day, the best coaching staff, who do not get paid anything, but show up each day and give up every weekend for this University. I will remember the big crowds, and the kids - the kids who look up to our guys, and hope to be a Bobcat one day. We have this amazing platform to give back to this region, and we never take that responsibility lightly. We are truly lucky.

To conclude, do you have any goals for next season? Build with the core group that we have, bring in a strong recruiting class, return to the playoffs, advance, and be one

of the Top 10 teams in the country.

Thank you very much Coach Gil Cheung for taking the time to answer our questions. We wish you an excellent off-season and hope for the best next season! You can see the Bobcats in action next season at the Healthy Living Center - it's completely free for BU students, so come and cheer them on. Go **Bobcats!**



Photo courtesy of the BU Bobcats Website

Manitoba Wildlife

С	В	W	Е	Α	S	E	L	S	Α	F	0	Е	G
В	В	E	Α	٧	E	R	В	С	E	R	K	R	W
F	Ε	S	0	0	G	Α	D	Α	N	Α	С	I	Н
L	L	Е	R	R	I	U	Q	S	N	R	0	I	I
L	В	S	Α	Α	E	Q	N	S	G	U	Χ	Κ	Т
Α	I	В	E	E	Ε	R	R	0	G	0	L	R	Ε
Н	S	Ε	В	S	K	Ε	Α	Α	W	Ε	R	N	T
X	0	F	K	U	Т	C	Ε	0	K	N	F	0	Α
В	N	L	С	R	R	Α	G	U	0	C	N	R	Ι
Р	0	L	Α	R	В	Ε	Α	R	X	I	E	E	L
0	T	G	L	Ε	M	0	0	S	E	N	В	R	D
L	T	Α	В	С	0	Y	0	T	Ε	0	Y	0	Ε
Α	В	X	В	U	0	В	I	R	Α	С	R	L	Ε
E	W	G	R	Α	Y	W	0	L	F	T	Α	E	R

BEAVER CANADAGOOSE COYOTE WEASEL FOX GARTERSNAKE LYNX BISON ELK BLACKBEAR BAT GRAYWOLF SQUIRREL WHITETAILDEER COUGAR CARIBOU POLARBEAR MOOSE

Puzzle by Lily Hodgson

RECIPE OF THE WEEK - GRAMMA MAGGIE TAHHAN'S GRAPE LEAVES:

Hint: Make sure to not waste ingredients!

Ingredients:

- Halal beef/lambCal-rose rice (short grain)
- Garlic
- Spain salt

- Arabic spice or Baharat spice
 Vegetable Ghee
 Grape Leaves from grape vines

Spice Recipes:

Arabic spice:

- Black pepper
- Nutmeg
- Allspice
- Turmeric

Baharat:

- 2 tsp cardamon, ground 3 tbsp coriander, ground 3 tbsp cinnamon, ground 3 tbsp nutmeg, grated. 3 tbsp clove, ground 4 tbsp cumin, ground 4 tbsp turmeric 6 tbsp black pepper ground

- 6 tbsp black pepper, ground- 6 tbsp paprika

Instructions:

Meat preparation:

Cut meat into long slivers. Then cut them small (dicing).
Wash the meat in cold water till blood is gone/less red. Squeeze to dry and put into already prepared rice.

- Rice preparation:
 Put 2-4 cups of rice (depending on how much meat) in a large bowl.
 Wash the rice (approx. 3-4 times) until the water is clearer.
 Crush/shred garlic (3-5 bells) into rice.

Pre wrap:

- Mix rice and meat with your hands.Lightly cover top with Spain salt and Arabic or Baharat spice

- Add another layer and mix to taste and till colour is even.Use vegetable ghee as oil and put around 4 tablespoons into mix.

Wrap the mix tightly in grape leaves. Place into large pot, stacking. Do not use broken leaves (put to the side for later). Once all wrapped, place a very thin layer of salt and place broken leaves on top of the stacked grape leaves. Pour boiling water on top until you can see it coming on top of the grape leaves. (Grape leaves do float so push down gently with a spoon till you see water coming up better.). Place heat safe plate on top and cover pot with lid. Boil slowly. When you see it boil, let it simmer (put heat down to below medium heat). Let the leaves simmer for 1-2 hours.

Once done, try a grape leaf and make sure rice is cooked. Let cool and serve!

EXAMS ARE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

By Jordan Dill, Junior Reporter

If you've checked your email in the last few days, you'll see the final exam schedule has been posted - meaning the semester is almost over. You're almost at the finish line! Juggling work, classes, and study commitments can be demanding, but with some smart strategies, you can navigate this challenge effectively. In this article, we'll explore practical study tips tailored for students managing part-time jobs alongside their academic responsibilities.

Craft a Study Routine:

Establishing a consistent study routine that aligns with your work hours is crucial. Allocate specific time slots each day for studying, and adhere to this schedule diligently. Breaking down study sessions into smaller chunks can aid in managing time efficiently.

Seek Serene Study Spaces:

Discover a tranquil and comfortable study environment where distractions are minimal. Whether it's a cozy corner at home, a serene library, or a quiet café, having a dedicated study spot can enhance focus and optimize study sessions.

Embrace Short Breaks:

Incorporate short breaks into your study routine to prevent burnout and maintain productivity. The Pomodoro Technique, involving 25 minutes of focused studying followed by a 5-minute break, can help sustain concentration levels.

Employ Active Learning Methods:
Engage actively with study material
by summarizing key points, posing
questions, and even teaching concepts
to yourself or others. Active learning
fosters better comprehension and
retention compared to passive reading
or highlighting.

Harness Retrieval and Spaced Repetition:

Test your knowledge by recalling information without referring to notes. This practice strengthens memory retention. Additionally, spaced repetition, revisiting material at intervals, reinforces learning over time.

Organize Study Materials: Arrange study materials in a structured manner that resonates with your learning style. Utilize tools like outlines, flashcards, or concept maps to enhance understanding and recall of essential concepts.

Set Concrete Goals:

Establish clear objectives for each study session and prioritize tasks

based on their significance and urgency. Breaking down complex tasks into manageable goals facilitates focus and motivation.

Prioritize Well-being:

Prioritize your physical and mental well-being by ensuring adequate sleep, nutritious meals, and regular exercise. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle enhances energy levels and cognitive function during study sessions.

Seek Assistance When Necessary: Don't hesitate to seek help if you encounter challenging concepts or assignments. Reach out to instructors, peers, or academic support services for guidance and clarification.

Reflect on Progress:

After each study session, take time to review your progress and reflect on your learning journey. Identify areas for improvement and adjust study strategies accordingly to optimize future efforts.

Successfully balancing work and study commitments requires effective time management and strategic study approaches. By implementing these practical study strategies and prioritizing selfcare, students can navigate busy schedules while achieving academic success. Remember, consistency and adaptability are key to overcoming challenges and reaching your academic goals.

When seeking time off from work for studying, you may feel intimidated or not know how to approach the situation. You must remember your education is more important. When speaking to your employer, it's crucial to communicate respectfully and clearly. Here are 10 tips for navigating this conversation:

Plan Ahead:

Give your employer plenty of notice about your need for time off to study. Plan your study schedule in advance and determine the specific dates or periods when you'll require time away from work.

Choose the Right Moment:

Select a suitable time to discuss your request with your employer. Avoid busy periods and choose a calm moment when your employer can give your request proper attention.

Explain the Purpose:

Clearly communicate the purpose of

your request. Explain that you need time off to focus on your studies and improve your academic performance. Highlight the importance of this endeavour for your personal and professional growth.

Provide Details:

Share relevant details about your study commitments, such as the duration of the study period and any important exams or assessments you need to prepare for during that time.

Offer Solutions:

Demonstrate your commitment to your job by proposing solutions to minimize the impact of your absence. Offer to adjust your work schedule, delegate tasks, or complete pending assignments before your study leave begins.

Emphasize Benefits:

Explain how your studies will benefit your performance at work in the long term. Discuss how acquiring new skills or knowledge through your studies will enhance your contributions to the company.

Be Flexible:

Be open to negotiation and compromise. Your employer may have concerns about granting time off, so be prepared to discuss alternative arrangements or compromises that work for both parties.

Maintain Professionalism:

Keep a professional demeanour throughout the conversation, regardless of the outcome. Respect your employer's decision and express gratitude for their consideration.

Follow Up:

Send a follow-up email summarizing the key points of your conversation and confirming any agreements or arrangements made regarding your study leave.

Honour Your Commitments:

Once your study leave is approved, dedicate your time to productive studying. Show appreciation for the opportunity by striving to achieve your academic goals during this period.

For many, even outside of school, finding a work-life balance can be a struggle. Adding a job into the mix can be difficult, but it is manageable. Remember, organization and structure are your best friends, as time management will allow you to allocate yourself to the right priorities. You've made it this far, so keep pushing so you can enjoy your summer. Any minor setbacks are just a springboard for you to success.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 14th and 15th, 1-4pm

Indigenous Art: Beyond History

An art exhibit at the Glen P. Sutherland Gallery of Art, featuring works from students, alumni, and community members.

March 14th-16th

Brandon University Jazz Festival

See page 2 for details.

March 17th, 7pm-12am St. Patrick's Day Social at the Backyard on Aberdeen Tickets \$20 per person including perogie bar! Contact them for more details or to purchase tickets.

March 19th, 7:30pm

Pro Series: Harmony in MotionIn the Lorne Watson Recital Hall, featuring Daniel Tselyakov on piano. Free for students.

March 22nd, 7:30pm

Trans Day of Visibility Celebration at Lady of the

Art & music celebrating trans and gender-diverse people. Tickets can be purchased for \$20 on Eventbrite.

March 22nd-24th, 7:30pm **"Sweetland" at The Evans Theatre**

The story of an endangered Newfoundland community and the struggles of one man determined to resist its extinction.

March 23rd, 2pm

Fifth Year Student Recital

Faith Colobong, trombone, voice, piano & Janina Macalalad assisted by Jacob Pfeifer, tenor saxophone; Dylan Pilcher, trumpet, Avery Jane Walker, saxophone; McKenna Thenhaus, baritone saxophone Nic Bray, piano; Dane Neufeld, guitar, Esteban Seunarine, drums In the School of Music's Kinsmen Hall, free entry.

Email eic.thequill@gmail.com to have your event featured in the next issue!

March 23rd, 7:30pm

BU Orchestra & BU Chorale

With Concerto Competition Winner, Alfred Qiao. Will take place at St. Matthew's Angelican Cathedral, free for students.

March 24th, 3pm

BU Concert Choir and Chorale in Performance At Knox United Church. Free for students!

March 25th, 7pm

Philipp Lauter - Student Composition Recital In the Lorne Watson Recital Hall, free entry.

March 26th, 11:40am

The Quill's Annual General Meeting See page 2 for details.

March 26th, 7:30pm **Horse Creek Drum Group**Brandon Chamber Players presents Horse Creek Drum

Group showcasing Kahomni and powwow songs and dance. In the School of Music's Kinsmen Hall.

Every Monday at 7-8:30pm

Varsity Christian Fellowship Meetings

Come for snacks, worship, fellowship, and bible study! In the School of Music student lounge.

Every Wednesday at 1pm Scrabble Club at the Downtown Public Library

Every Saturday at 11am

Chess Club at the Downtown Public Library All ages and skill levels welcome!

Free JazzFest Concerts: (See Page 2 for Details)

Thursday, March 14

2:00 PM R.D. Bell Hall - Church & Geese

Friday, March 15

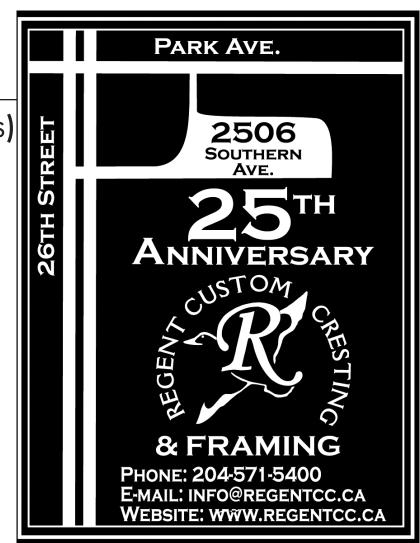
10:00 AM R.D. Bell Hall – CRock

12:00 PM Lorne Watson Recital Hall - The Otters

2:00 PM R.D. Bell Hall – Jeremy & the 4 Non Blondes

Saturday, March 18

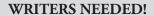
12:00 PM Lorne Watson Recital Hall - Marika Galea Small Group



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YOUR AD HERE!

YOUR AD HERE!

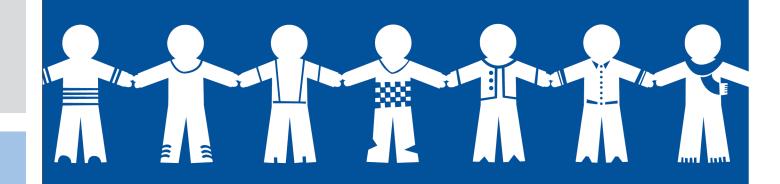


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