



## Arthur A. Leach School

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## Mission Statement

Our mission is to inspire students to become resilient, compassionate global citizens.

Principal  
Penny Riffel  
Vice-principal  
Carla Sadler



## Board of Trustees Three Expectations for Student Learning

1. All students in Pembina Trails will be personally and intellectually engaged in their learning at school.
2. By the end of grade 8, all students in Pembina Trails will meet the provincial curricular standards in literacy and numeracy, allowing them the greatest possibility for success in high school.
3. All students in Pembina Trails will graduate from high school.

## 2022/2023 School Plan Priorities:

This year our school plan priorities were centered around Call to Action #63, iii “Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect”.

- Indigenous Ways of Knowing: As part of our truth and reconciliation journey, we used the “Mamahtiwisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With—An Indigenous Education Policy Framework” to guide our teaching practices.
- School Culture and Student Engagement: To promote an inclusive and engaging school culture, where students have access to a diverse range of opportunities. We are committed to creating a culturally responsive environment, where community members feel welcomed and represented.
- Numeracy and Literacy: To increase strategies and resources that include collaboration, cooperation, and diverse perspectives.

## Progress Toward School Plan Priorities:

- Indigenous Ways of Knowing initiatives: As part our journey towards reconciliation, we engaged in the Elders and Knowledge Keepers in Schools initiative. Cookem Daisey (Glenna Henderson) worked with students and community members to make bannock and to share her knowledge of the Seven Teachings. Karen Courchene engaged students in medicine teachings. To amplify and provide power and agency to Indigenous student voices, we initiated an Indigenous Student Voice Club, which will continue next year. Our grade 9 students participated in canoe paddle making, exploring their significance in Indigenous history. This year staff organized our inaugural National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration, which included a tipi demonstration by Joe Lanceley (Tipi Joe) and Knowledge Keeper, Patti-Umpherville, who shared her stories. We are looking forward to continuing our journey towards reconciliation.
- Part of our focus this year has been increasing student and community connection and engagement through whole-school and community-wide events. At the beginning of the year, we hosted a community BBQ. We also hosted “community cook nights”, where families taught each other how to cook traditional foods. Through these events, families were able to foster positive connections with the staff and with each other. In school, the Black Student Voice group led the school

community in celebrating achievements of Canadian Black history and global perspectives, and the GSA Club organized a Pride Parade. These opportunities provided a space for students to celebrate and take pride in their identities. Finally, we had three grade-level gym blasts. Students came together to participate in friendly competition and team-building activities. The cheers, smiles, and thunderous applause were indicative of the students' pride in their school house teams.

- ELA teachers worked to create more inclusive spaces by increasing student exposure to diversity in literature. Literature circle books were purchased that included diverse authors and characters. To increase collaboration and engagement, math teachers incorporated Number Talks and Pattern Talks. They also used MathUp as a source for math talks and conversation prompts.

### **Progress Toward the Three Expectations for Student Learning 2022/2023:**

All students in Pembina Trails will be personally and intellectually engaged in their learning at school:

- Staff have worked to provide opportunities for students to explore their interests, develop new skills, and foster meaningful connections with the school community. These include academic opportunities, creative arts, technology education, athletics, leadership and social activism.
- Student engagement in school clubs and extracurricular activities increased through out the year, and many new clubs were formed based on student voice and choice.
- Student Action club hosted community movie nights to raise money for United Way, grades 7-9 students attended a band trip at Camp Assiniboia, a record number of grades 7 and 8 students participated in the Gauss math contest, and over one hundred students participated in the school musical.

By the end of grade 8, all students in Pembina Trails will meet the provincial curricular standards in literacy and numeracy, allowing them the greatest possibility of success in high school:

- Literacy: We continue to implement the Levelled Literacy Intervention (LLI) program. LLI is a powerful, short-term intervention that provides daily, intensive, small-group instruction, which supplements classroom literacy teaching. Through interactive games, and discussion before and after reading, students are prompted to work on personal reading goals and strategies, fluency, and comprehension. We are pleased to report that all students have maintained consistent progress while increasing their literacy levels.
- Numeracy: Teachers worked collaboratively and engaged in team teaching to use resources such as Knowledgehook and Desmos patterns tasks. Overall, students demonstrated growth in the area of Patterns and Relations, and interventions are planned for students still requiring support.

All students in Pembina Trails will graduate from high school:

- Regular attendance is a strong indicator of academic success and graduation. With the support of the school social worker and engagement with the Invisible Mentor grant, we have worked to communicate with families to remove barriers to education.
- An important way of supporting student attendance is fostering a sense of safety and belonging. To do this, we created a Community Room where lunch is served every day, students have a space for regulation, and there is always a teacher available for extra academic support.

At Arthur A. Leach, our motto is "opportunity awaits". We strive to provide students with rich and diverse experiences, so that every student has the opportunity to be successful. Going forward, we will continue our work with Call to Action #63, and our goal will be to ensure that every student will feel a sense of safety, belonging, and agency that they will carry forward with them on their academic journey, and beyond.