



Whyte Ridge School

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Administrator Report for December 2023 PAC Meeting - Mike Weekes and Cyndi Tibbs

Office update

- Our office team has continued to work hard to ensure that all of our families are served and that children are taken care of. Some of things that we need to encourage our parents to do, to help us continue to do this:
 - Notifying the office when students will be absent from the bus (when they are still in attendance at school).
 - Minimizing early pick ups and drop offs during the school day.
 - Minimizing the drop off of extra clothing, lunch kits, etc. during the school day.
 - Paying close attention to winter forecasts ensuring that children have appropriate clothing.
 - Keeping their children home when sick.
- Office staff continues to work on cleaning up school/lunch fees, and our media release forms. This allows us to make sure that we have the funds in place to offer quality lunch programming, order classroom supplies, and to promote and celebrate our school special events.
- Office staff continue to ensure that student registration is dealt with in a careful and purposeful manner.

Administrator Update

- Recess & Safety update – this year students continue to adjust to the norms of free play and complete socialization. As was the case last year, we have had even fewer incidents this year on the play ground and during free time. Part of this is because our staff work with their classes to talk about respect, kindness, and gratitude, and all of the character strengths we have been celebrating (this month is humility). We often talk about “sand, pebble, rock” in our problem solving conversations. We bring groups of students together to discuss perspectives and situations, pay attention to recess and supervision schedules, and we remind staff to be present actively and on time. One of the changes we are looking at making in the new year is to shift to one lunch hour recess for all students, in order to beef up our supervision.
- We are focusing on student attendance (as it is one of the most important indicators of student success). In lieu of family travel, illness, and anxiety, absenteeism continues to be on the rise. We have a school attendance committee that works with families to deal with situations where attendance is a concern. This also aligns with the divisional work that has been initiated in the last 18 months, to deal with attendance issues. This is also in line with Manitoba Education provincial expectations on attendance.
- Given how busy Whyte Ridge School is, we strive to collaborate and communicate. A part of this has been to focus our grade level team meetings (that take place once a cycle). This allows us to deal with specific events, issues or goals that grade level teams need to address or work on. It also allows our Student Services Team to meet with their classroom teachers in an organized way.
- Effective communication and follow ups – when working with students between the ages of 4 and 9 we understand that communication with parents is super important. We have been diligent with connecting with parents when issues arise (on the bus or in the classroom).

Winter Concerts

- We are going to be sending out some specific information this week and next about our Holiday Concerts (we will address parking, timing, student and family expectations).
- Last year we limited how many family members could attend (due to capacity concerns). This year we will not be asking parents to make those decisions. We will however be asking that extended family members attend the rehearsals that run during the day.
- December 18th- 20th
 - Monday, December 18: Grade 1's @ 5:30pm, Grade 3's (including 23SW) @ 6:30pm
 - Tuesday, December 19: K's @ 5:30pm, Grade 2's (including 12CM) @ 6:30pm
 - Wednesday, December 20: Grade 4's @ 6:30pm
 - Daytime rehearsals TBD

Staffing update

- As we alluded to in our November report, Whyte Ridge School was staffed for 563 students. We currently sit at 602. As a result of this, and an increase in student needs, we are hiring a ½ time Student Services Teacher before Winter Break begins. This person will be starting January 8th.
- We want to congratulate Cheryl McMahon, our literacy teacher/lead, who has announced her retirement. She will be missed not only by WR School, but by our division. Cheryl has been a literacy leader in Pembina Trails for years. We have hired Kim Johnston who has a ton of experience in the areas of reading recovery, literacy supports and school administration. Kim will be with us until June 30th.

On the horizon

December 18-20	Holiday Concerts
December 22-Jan 5	Winter Break
January 19	PD Day – No School
February 1	Kindergarten Open House
February 2	PD Day – No School
February 8	Parent Teacher Conferences
February 13	Parent Teacher Conferences
February 19	Louis Riel Day – No School

School Clubs and Activities

- The following activities happen at lunch:
 - ✓ Day 1 - Grade 4 Choir
 - ✓ Day 2 - Grade 2 Lego Club, Student Action Club
 - ✓ Day 3 - Grade 3 Choir
 - ✓ Day 4 - Grade 3 Fun Club
 - ✓ Day 5 - Cribbage Club, Grade 4 Book Club
 - ✓ Day 6 - Grade 4 Drama Club
- On Tuesdays and Thursdays - Grade 3 and 4 Run Club starts at 7:50am.
- On Thursdays - Indoor Soccer Club starts at 3:15pm.

School Plan Goals.....

Literacy – Recovery Learning

- By June of 2024, 95% of students will score 2 or more on the Manitoba Report Card in the area of Reading Comprehension and Writing.
- By June of 2024, all of the students who scored ND or 1 on the first term report card will show growth on their individual goals by term 3.

Numeracy – Recovery Learning

- By June of 2024, 95% of students will score 2 or more on the Manitoba Report Card in the area of Problem Solving and Mental Math.
- By June of 2024, all of the students who scored ND or 1 on the first term report card will show growth on their individual goals by term 3.

Engagement

- Decreasing absenteeism from 7% in 2022/23 to 5.5% in 2023/24.

Indigenous Education and Student Supports

- By June of 2024, Whyte Ridge will create a 3 year Indigenous Education plan that incorporates Indigenous Pedagogy, languages, and cultures into our teaching and practices.

Whyte Ridge School has grown in excess of 175 students over the past 4 to 5 years. With that sort of growth (not only in student size but in staff size), maintaining and enhancing school culture is a constant challenge. We wanted this year's school plan to be a living document. One that our staff could have shared ownership over and one that acknowledges the challenges true inclusion, ignorance, impatience and anxiety. In addition to the regular focuses on literacy and numeracy, we wanted this year's focus on well being and well becoming to include psychological safety and belonging. We also recognize that we need to embrace Whyte Ridge School in the solid principles, ideas and ways of teaching and learning that Indigenous Perspectives provide.

Some of the things we will continue to work on:

- Communication with parents.
- Running community events.
- Physical health and wellness.
- Free play.
- Celebrating inclusion and diversity.

Some of the new things that we are focusing on this year:

- Grade level communication and collaboration.
- Responsive interventions.
- Psychological safety amongst students.
- Building capacity with staff.
- Building community and increasing volunteerism.