

# École Viscount Alexander

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# Administrators Report for ACSL

June 10, 2024

## School Plan Priorities

In Pembina Trails School Division, school goals are rooted in the divisional priorities of academic growth in literacy and numeracy, and student engagement. Each school is given the opportunity to frame their goals around the unique strengths and learning needs of their school community.

EVA staff have identified four school goals for the 2023/24 school year. The goals were established together by reviewing school values, strengths, challenges, and hopes. Student voice was also gathered and used to inform both the goals and the plans. Each goal, along with a quick update, is presented below.

By June 2024, students are able to reflect upon the significance and purpose of the Land Acknowledgement and demonstrate an appreciation for the Land. (Engagement through Reconciliation)

- Students in grade 5 worked to mark off a section of the courtyard as a designated no
  mow zone. Wildflowers and Indigenous grasses are being planted in the space. Already,
  students have noticed a change in the insects and plants growing there.
- Students continue to take the lead on the morning announcements, sharing their own personal land acknowledgement.
- On June 21, all students and staff will honor National Indigenous People's Day with a day
  of outdoor Indigenous games and learning centers. Learning for the day will center the
  story of the Shoal Lake 40 Freedom Road and water sustainability.

By June 2024, the use of racist, homophobic, or ableist language/behaviour (non-inclusive language/behaviour) by students is reduced. (Engagement through belonging)

- A group of students in grade 8 participated in a discussion with teachers and the Divisional Consultant. They were invited to share their experiences, feedback, and suggestions.
- These grade 8 students used their learning and experiences to develop a presentation and activity for younger students. Earlier this month, the students presented to the grade 6 classes.

By June 2024, each student will have participated in an activity (academic/extracurricular) that increased their personal feeling of belonging to the school community. (Engagement through belonging)

Student leaders have taken on the responsibility for leading our monthly assemblies. In
addition to the established goals of belonging, the student leaders have added an
interview section to the assemblies where they create their own questions and interview a
staff member or group of students.



 June is 'S' or Mois de la santé and our assembly featured activities related to physical wellbeing led by Mme Lafreniere and M. Markesteyn, a visit with Tanner, the EVA St John's Ambulance Therapy dog, and a special presentation from the EVA Kindness Club.

By June 2024, (Year 1) Teachers will develop a shared school set of continuums and criteria for French writing, English writing, and problem-solving processes to assess student samples, to determine next step learning targets, and to provide feedback for learning to students. (Literacy and Numeracy)

- Initial team meetings and review of research related to continuums is underway.
- A frame for a Comprehensive Literacy Approach has been developed and will be used as a template for planning and co-teaching in the fall.

## Music Concerts and Art Shows

On May 14 and 15, EVA hosted Spring Music concerts and Art shows. Both events were very well attended and gave student musicians and artists an opportunity to share their learning to a most wonderful audience.

EVA student artwork was also on display at the divisional Art Show, Sight Unseen, at Grant Park Mall, May 27<sup>th</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **Athletics**

On May 14 EVA hosted its annual Track and Field Day. This beautiful day of connection and community saw every student participate in activities and cheer on their classmates. Students from Bonnycastle and Crane also attended. Student athletes that qualified for the divisional meets continued on with our grade 6 team placing first overall.

Student teams also took part in Dragon Boat races, Beach Volleyball, and the divisional Spring Fun Run.

## Report Cards

Report cards will be available for families on Edsby Thursday, June 27. Comments on the report card followed the provincial and divisional expectation of a strength, challenge, and next step.

Report cards represent one of the many ways that teachers and students communicate learning with families. Students and teachers engage daily in conversations that guide learning and progress. These rich conversations include celebrating growth, self-evaluation, identification of areas of student work that are glowing as well as areas of student work that are in need of growing. The report card allows for a formal snapshot in time of student achievement to be shared.

# Voyage à Quebec

On Monday June 17 a group of 45 grade 8 students along with Mme Dunbar, Mme Landon, Mme Bevan, Mme McMahon, and M. Markestyen are travelling to Montreal and Quebec City. The group will experience a full week of French-Canadian culture, visiting many historical sites and local tourist destinations.

# Preparing for the 2024 25 School Year

## Welcoming new Tigers

Students from St Avila joined us for an afternoon of activities on June 4. Student from Bonnycastle and Crane will be here tomorrow afternoon. The purpose of these visits is to invite students to engage in learning and community activities to get a sense of what it means to be a Tiger. EVA Student Leaders did a beautiful job of welcoming the new students and making them feel right at home.

#### Timetable

We have proposed some changes for the 2024 25 timetable that include:

- Co-teaching opportunities for inclusive support of all learners
- An increase in Phys Ed time for grades 7 and 8
- A Practical Arts program that is more consistent with the divisional and provincial programs
- STEM programming
- An increase in recess time for grades 5 and 6 to 15 minutes each morning and afternoon
- A change in break time for grades 7 and 8 with no formal break time in the morning with a 15-minute outdoor recess break in the afternoon

#### Class Lists

Classroom teachers, specialists, and the Student Services Team have worked diligently to create dynamic, welcoming class groupings for next year. Information about class placements accompanies the report card to the end of June.