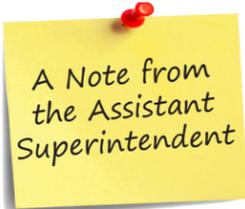


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The provincial government has tasked all public organizations including school divisions with creating an Accessibility Plan. This plan was to be available to the public by December of 2016. In the fall, the division began dividing such a plan for Park West. As the coordinator of this plan, I attended a session in Winnipeg on the Accessibility Act. There I received resources and feedback from the Disabilities Issues Office that we used to create the document. A divisional accessibility committee was formed and we have started to visit all schools to see where we currently stand on our accessibility checklist. It is important to note that accessibility is more than just building structures; it also involves attitudes and beliefs. The division must work towards accessibility and assess the needs of individuals with accessibility issues as requested. You may find our accessibility plan on our website on the lower left hand corner of the main page.

It is my goal to visit our schools on a regular basis. I have asked the principals to make teachers aware that I am available to drop by individual classrooms. I have visited many schools already and have been invited to more. I love getting to these classrooms and witnessing the varied and engaging ways our teachers are working with students. I look forward to seeing even more teachers and students in the future. Until next time, all the best.

Jon Zilkey

Martin Family Initiative Martin Family Initiative Initiative de la Famille Martin

Waywayseecappo School has been selected to participate in an initiative focused on improving student achievement in reading and writing.

Improving literacy skills in the first years of a child's schooling dramatically increases the likelihood that he or she will complete high school and move on to pursue higher education.

The Martin Family Initiative's Model School Literacy Project was designed to improve literacy levels among First Nation students, with a particular focus on children in Kindergarten to Grade 3 – the critical period for learning to read and write.

Following the successful Model School Pilot Project in two First Nations in Ontario, the project has established a partnership with the Federal Government to expand to include six more schools across Canada. Waywayseecappo is one of these six new schools. By the year 2020, there will be a total of 20 Model School Literacy Project sites.

Further information about the project, including a map of schools involved, may be found at: <http://www.themfi.ca/programs/model-school-literacy-project>

Role of the Board

In Canada, education is a provincial responsibility. In Manitoba, the responsibility for the delivery of public education to students in kindergarten through to high school graduation has been delegated to school boards. The Public Schools Act of Manitoba dictates the duties and powers of the School Board and its Trustees.

The focus of the local School Board is on high level decisions, rather than the details of daily activities and operations of the school division. All managerial and administrative authority is delegated to the Superintendent/CEO.

The Board is entrusted to ensure that the values, aspirations, and economic resource capacities of the jurisdiction are reflected within the actions of the Division.

The areas of responsibility of the local School Board include:

1. Community Leadership:
The Board makes decisions that reflect the

values and anticipated educational needs of the communities of Park West School Division.

2. Accountability to the Provincial Government:
The Board is responsible for adherence to governing legislation and regulation throughout Park West School Division.

3. Policy:
Governance policy statements define Board expectations. The Board monitors divisional progress toward the achievement of student outcomes and other stated desired results through the assessment of policy compliance.

4. Accountability to the Community:
The Board makes decisions that respect community values and are rooted in sound educational research.

5. Divisional Strategic Plan:
The Board provides overall direction for the Division's strategic plan through the identification of Board priorities.

Weather Procedure

Given the recent adverse wether condition, we thought it timely to review our weather procedure.

With respect to severe weather, the division is divided into two regions. The regions are as follows: **North: Binscarth, Inglis, Major Pratt, Rossburn. South: Birtle, Decker, Hamiota, Kenton, Miniota, Shoal Lake, Strathclair.**

The CEO in consultation with the Transportation Supervisor may cancel bus transportation in one or both regions or for specific schools.

Wind Chill Days
School bus service will be cancelled if the wind chill factor reaches -45, as reported by Environment Canada for the Shoal Lake weather station at 6:00 am. When the wind chill factor is between -40 and -45, the Transportation Supervisor will consider existing road and local weather conditions to determine the advisability of school bus service. On wind chill days, although bus service may be cancelled, schools are considered to be open and all staff will report for work at their school as usual. Students are also expected to attend school.

Storm Days
Storm days occur when weather conditions, warnings, road closures, or reports of impending weather conditions create visibility and/or road conditions that make travel unsafe or impossible.

For individual bus cancellations, school is considered to be open and all staff will report for work at their school as usual. Students attendance is at the discretion of the parents.

If schools are closed division-wide due to a storm, staff attendance is discretionary. Students do not attend school. It is an expectation that all staff be available via phone should contact be required.

School closures and bus cancellations are advertised on our website and local radio stations are notified.

This is an excerpt from the Admin Procedure Weather Related Emergencies AP:805. Please visit our website at www.pwsd.ca for the full procedure.

Park West Publisher

January 2017

LEARNERS TODAY, LEADERS TOMORROW

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A message from our Board Chair

From the Superintendent's Desk Stephen David, Superintendent/CEO



We will bring the world to our
students
to prepare our students for
the **world.**

This newsletter arrives early in the 2017 calendar year and near the beginning of second semester for our schools.

The start of the new term is often a time of both anxiety and excitement for students and staff. There are lots of new routines and schedules and for many it means completely different classes. But those changes bring with them opportunities. The beginning of a new semester is often full of promise for the future.

In terms of divisional opportunities, second term is when our Kindergarten students start attending full-time every day. In most school divisions, Kindergarten is half-time all year. In Park West, our youngest students

come on alternate days until February before transitioning to full-time attendance. Our goal is to provide additional instruction during that first year of school to get our students off to a positive start to their educational career.

We are also excited with our new Outdoor Education program which begins in February. This initiative is designed to stimulate an awareness of the importance of Resource and Environmental Management in the daily life of an individual and for society as a whole. Students will come from

across the division for Outdoor Ed and earn 4 credits while engaged in this full-time program. Further information on this initiative may be found later on in this newsletter.

Other things of interest in this newsletter include information about the role of the school board and a timeline for the school division budget planning. There is also an overview of our procedures for cancelling buses and closing schools, which is especially relevant given that we are in the middle of winter.

Best regards, Darren Naherniak

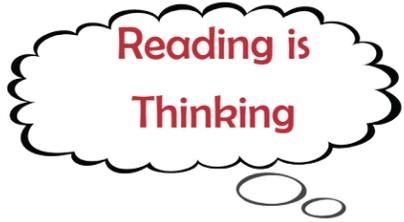


Monarch Colony
Audrey Clempson
Principal/Teacher

Park West's newest school at Monarch Colony opened its doors on December 12th, 2016. Principal/Teacher Audrey Clempson welcomed students to their new classroom. Mrs. Clempson has had a variety of roles in Park West, including a total of 7 years in school administration at Oakburn and Rosburn schools. She is happy to be involved with starting a new school in such a supportive and welcoming community.

We Day 2016

Our students attended WE day this year on November 18, 2016. Over two hundred students and staff attended the event that featured Chris Hadfield, Margaret Trudeau, and Rick Hansen. Those in attendance reported it was an excellent event. Schools that attended complete activities and projects locally that contribute to helping others. As a special treat, Inglis students met Rick Hansen at the Legislature the day prior to the event.



Reading is
Thinking

Reading is Thinking is a new framework developed by Manitoba Education to improve the literacy skills of students in grades 9-12.

The Reading is Thinking framework is designed to address the literacy needs of students in high school so that they develop the necessary attitudes, knowledge, skills, and strategies to be successful in their learning across curriculum. Students will develop their identities as confident, engaged and motivated readers within their diverse communities while identifying and reflecting on strengths, interests, and challenges as readers and literacy learners.

This course will support students in building on and extending the skills and strategies used to make meaning of fiction and nonfiction text in a fun and engaging way. They will also develop critical reading/literacy in order to develop deeper understandings of a variety of texts in order to express and substantiate personal positions, solve problems, make decisions, resolve conflicts, and take action in their world.



Leveled Literacy

Several elementary schools in Park West are using a program called *Leveled Literacy* to support students.

Leveled literacy is a small-group, supplementary intervention system designed for children who find reading and writing difficult. It is designed to bring children quickly up to grade-level competency in 14 to 18 weeks on average.

Leveled Literacy Intervention is a powerful, short-term intervention that provides daily, intensive, small-group instruction, which supplements classroom literacy teaching. It turns struggling readers into successful readers with engaging leveled books and fast-paced, systematically designed lessons.

Leveled Literacy is designed to:

- Advance the literacy learning of students not meeting grade-level expectations in reading
- Deepen and expand comprehension with reading
- Elevate the expertise of teachers
- Increase reading volume by engaging students in large amounts of successful daily reading
- Increase student engagement with books that build knowledge
- Intervene with small groups of struggling readers to maximize growth
- Meet the needs of struggling readers
- Monitor student progress

Outdoor Education

Park West School Division has a new Outdoor Education program for high school students. Our new Resource and Environmental Management program begins second semester at Birtle Collegiate. Students from other Park West communities will be bussed from their home schools.

The program is designed to stimulate an awareness of the importance of Resource and Environmental Management in the daily life of an individual and for society as a whole. Modules of study will be flexible and allow students to build on their own knowledge to create new understandings. Students will be provided with the opportunity for success through a blending of theory and practical experience achieved in and out of school.

The program will:

- Promote experiential, active learning
- Provide students with direct interaction with the natural world
- Introduce students to the natural history of their home region
- Engage students in the planning and managing activities for sustainable use
- Encourage environmental stewardship and sustainable living
- Include practical elements which have students in the field examining the key features of the prairie agro-ecological landscape
- Develop student skills in monitoring and evaluating the quality of rural land and water resources
- Provide possible linkages to work experience placements for students with employers
- Place students on the path to qualify for skilled, technical, or green jobs in Manitoba

During the 2016-2017 pilot year, we will deliver four courses approved by Manitoba Education. They will include:

- Intro to Resource Management 10S
- Habitat Management 30S
- Wildlife Management 40S
- Sustainable Tourism 40S

Park West Career Fair

Park West and its regional economic and community development partners are jointly planning a divisional Career Fair for May 11th in Russell for all high school students.

The Career Fair is designed to be an opportunity for students and adults to hear from and talk with exhibitors about all the challenges and opportunities in making career choices. Business will be invited to set up booths or displays to promote employment opportunities and to talk to area youth about the skills and training required of them. Representatives from universities and other post-secondary institutions will be on hand to meet with students to discuss options in continuing education.

Our objective is to create an environment where youth and adults can visit informative and interactive displays, attend speaker sessions, and meet with leading representatives in business and education to discover career and educational paths for ongoing personal growth and development.

There will be a keynote presentation and performance by Robb Nash focusing on the challenges faced by youth and the importance of making positive lifestyle choices. Robb and his band bring their presentation to more than 200 schools each year, and have reached over one million students to date through school shows and social media.



Is the High School Apprenticeship Program Right for You?



Vincent Berg, a recent graduate from Major Pratt School, took a very unique route while he was in his final year of High School. What made his path distinctive was his ability to complete his first year of an electrical apprenticeship before he officially graduated Grade 12.

So how can a Park West School Division (PWSD) student manage to complete their level one apprenticeship while in High School? This was possible because Vincent participated in the High School Apprenticeship Program (HSAP). This initiative allows students to register as a Manitoba apprentice. They can use their work hours to obtain High School elective credits while transferring these same hours to their post-secondary training. HSAP is a career exploration program implemented by PWSD in partnership with Apprenticeship Manitoba. Students are registered with the Province of Manitoba as well as with the employers. The students involved are considered legal apprentices.

The program was a great fit for Vincent. He had the chance to learn outside of a regular classroom from a certified Red Seal Journeyperson in his chosen industry. Having this opportunity paved the way for his desire to be an electrician. Vincent is a very motivated person. He knew that by studying hard in school, participating in HSAP, and having a strong work ethic on the job he would achieve his goal of being a certified Red Seal electrician. He is currently completing the third level of his four year certification. His progress is pretty amazing for a student who just graduated 9 months ago! Delivering career development initiatives such as HSAP allow students to explore their interests and to focus on what they really like to do.

Career Exploration is intended for students of any age or grade level. It is a strategy that helps students to realize the importance of staying in school and ensuring they take the right courses. In addition

to HSAP, Park West is also delivering the Career Development Initiative. This is a community-based initiative that focuses on career internships. We also have other on-site vocational education programs for students including the Health Care Aide program, Cosmetology, Building Construction, and Outdoor Education.

There is a quote by a gentleman named Tom Freston which is very appropriate. He states that "a career path is rarely a path at all. A more interesting life is usually a crooked, winding path of missteps, luck and vigorous work".

If you are a student, parent, employer, or community member and would like to learn more about these vocational options please contact Lindsay Rubeniuk, lrubeniuk@pwsd.ca or phone her at 1-204-821-5174.

BUDGET PROCESS

The local School Board has an annual responsibility of developing a divisional operating budget consistent with the priorities defined in Board policies and the Board's Strategic Plan.

The following timeline is used for annual divisional budget development:

December:

During the month of December departments will prepare a draft budget. The draft will be reviewed by the Superintendent/CEO. Principals will be asked to provide student enrolment projections for each grade to the Assistant Superintendent.

January:

Senior Administration will prepare a draft staffing plan per school. Senior Administration will meet with each school principal to review the draft school staffing plan. The Board receives draft budgets from each department.

February:

An overall draft budget is prepared by the Secretary-Treasurer and presented to the Board.

A public budget consultation is held. This year it is scheduled for **February 21st in Birtle**. It will also be live-streamed on our website.

March:

Final budget is prepared and passed by the Board.

By March 15 the Secretary-Treasurer submits the special levy requests to the municipalities.

March 31 the Secretary-Treasurer submits the final budget to Public Schools Finance Board.

