

West St. Paul School Report to the Community

A Report to the Community is prepared each year by Manitoba schools to share the annual highlights from the school with students, parents and the community. We are pleased to share this report for West St. Paul School with our community.

Located in the Seven Oaks School Division in the Rural Municipality of West St. Paul, West St. Paul School has 449 students and 29 full time equivalent professional staff members. West St. Paul has two kindergarten classes and 19 other classrooms with a mix of multi-age and straight grade classes. We have students from kindergarten to grade 8. We are working towards more multiage classes for both academic strength as well as the social strength associated with the relationships built between students, their teachers and the families over a longer period of time.

Indigenous Awareness continues to be a focus at West St. Paul School as we work towards reconciliation. Students and staff welcomed each day as we acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treat 1 Territory. Students at West St. Paul School are learning about the many numbered treaties and the partnership that has existed between Indigenous Peoples and European settlers hundreds of years ago. Assemblies take place on a regular basis to teach about the Seven Sacred Teachings. More than 40 kids signed up to participate and learn about Pow Wow teachings and dance. This took place at lunch time on a weekly basis. More than 20 students proudly wore their regalia as they danced at the Divisional Grad Pow Wow during the evening of June 6th.



Stewardship and Sustainability are areas of study where students are learning to look after the world in which they live. Composting of organic waste is the norm at West St. Paul School where organic lunch scraps are placed in a receptacle, collected and taken to the divisional maintenance office to be composted in the Biovator. Children are learning that many items at the end of their productive use can be recycled rather than throwing things in the garbage.

Gardens and growing plants remains as a focus in the school. We have three raised bed gardens in the back of the school. Students learn about companion planting and how plants rely on each other to grow better. Gardens are harvested in the fall to teach students how to make delicious soups, breads and other items from the raw produce. Our grade 5 students have regularly bike to Aki Centre – Blue Thunderbird Land-Based Teachings Learning Centre. Students have investigated the land as we work to restore it to its diversity of hundreds of years ago.

Literacy and Numeracy Proficiency has always been a goal of all schools. Schools have changed over the years to deliver literacy and numeracy in many different forms and allow students to show their learning in many ways. At West St. Paul School, students show their learning through their artwork, book clubs, visually on SmartBoards and on computer programs. Students have access to 70 desktop computers, 25 iPads and 4 ChromeBooks. Some assignments are logged on computer programs, submitted through Google Docs and some are printed on paper. Our goal is to accommodate students to show their mastery of learning in the multiple ways. From the time our youngest children enter our school through the pre-school program, they see others welcoming them and demonstrating their learning in multiple ways.

Teachers continue to be Learners. Through regular Teacher Talk meetings, we learned from University teacher Neil Dempsey as he shared multiple ways of teaching math to our learners. Teachers met to discuss strategies to teach reading and writing to students. Teachers shared the work of students as we work towards helping all students improve their skills.

Students began to explore the world of computer coding this year. Students were provided with opportunities to code with several different robots (sphero robots, Dash robots, R2D2 droids). With the use of iPads and the robots, students experimented and learned how to make code to control the robots.



We feel that nutrition and fitness will continue to contribute to healthy, active students. We are intentional in our teaching about nutrition and fitness and provide many opportunities for students. Students at West St. Paul have many opportunities to be active. The balanced school day provides for better opportunities for balanced nutrition throughout the day and longer outdoor recess times. This allows children to engage in outdoor games for longer periods of time. Students also have more time to solve day-to-day problems so they can continue their play.



As well as three scheduled gym classes each cycle, longer break times allows opportunities to use the gym during break times. Children can enjoy floor hockey, team handball, Pow Wow club, games club, yoga, ringette and more in the gym. We value the input of our families and community at West St. Paul School. Please feel free to email (david.ingram@7oaks.org) or (tanya.kohut@7oaks.org) or phone us at (204-339-1964) to share how we are doing at educating the children of our community. Have a great summer!