

Ft. Assiniboine School
Principal's Report for School Council
Submitted by Lorna Hiemstra
Jan. 22, 2020

Staffing Update

Thank you to Program Assistant Alicia Nelson who just completed a 6 week term in grade 1&2 covering for Wendy Wieland who was on leave.

Welcome to our new School Resource Officer (SRO) Constable Karen Vicente. Karen has been with the Morinville RCMP detachment most recently. She will be coming on eight Wednesdays from now until the end of the year to do WITS with our grade 1&2s and Digital Awareness with grades 3-9.

Ms. Katharina Friessen is still our Success Coach, she comes to the Fort School on Mondays and Thursdays (she works at Barrhead and Neerlandia schools the rest of the week)

As a result of some division restructuring to reduce budget deficits, our division Literacy/Numeracy Coach (Lisa Gehring), School Based Team Lead (Charlene Assenheimer), and Counselling Mentor (Karin Hitchcock) are no longer providing service to our school. Some supports have been transferred to Ms. Friessen, and Division Lead Teachers (Colleen Teske and Kendra Seatter).

ATA is requesting Parent Councils please consider writing a letter to your MLA about the current conditions in our classrooms (positive and constructive criticism). I will hand out the letter templates at our meeting.

Developing Citizenship

Our Student's Union has been active this year. They present a Fort School Report every Thursday morning (around 10:30 am) on XM 105.3 out of Whitecourt. They have meetings every Monday at Lunch to discuss ideas for activities, dress-up days, hot lunches, and participate in fun activities of their own – like board games, gingerbread house making, and more.

The Students Union is participating in the We Be Us 20K Sock Challenge. Bear Houses will have a fun competition to collect new socks for the Youth Empowerment & Support Services (YESS) shelter in Edmonton. Socks will be collected until Feb.

20, 2020.

Fort Assiniboine Friendship Club has contacted us about pursuing intergenerational activities with our students and Seniors. We will be assisting serve tea and goodies at the Feb. 11th Valentine's Tea and hoping to connect monthly, bi-weekly, or even weekly with Seniors at the Friendship center.

Positive Mental Health

Our Success Coach Ms. Friessen is making a positive impact for many students in our school. She continues to provide individual support sessions for over 20 students and several small group sessions to help develop friendship skills and conflict management. She also helps organize Students Union activities and administers the Rainbows program (for students dealing with a loss of family member, divorced parents, etc.).

Thanks to Ms. Friessen, our students and staff have had the pleasure of meeting "Boom", a beautiful fluffy pet therapy dog. Boom came to visit Dec. 12 and will be back again on Jan. 30.

Our entire support staff has been SIVA (Supporting Individuals through Valued Attachments) certified and several of our Program Assistants will be updating their training on Feb. 21 & 24.

Community Pride

Our school Christmas Concert was well attended and received. The community donated two large bins of food and toys to FCSS. Mrs. Kiselyk always finds the right play to bring out the joy in our students and "Holly Jolly Christmas" was no exception. The hours of extra work she puts in, like lunchtime hand bell practice and outside of school, are much appreciated. Once again, Woodlands County donated the turkeys for our whole school Christmas dinner on Dec. 17. Thank you to all the parents and volunteers who prepared the delicious meal and cleaned up afterwards. Thank you to Teresa Dekker for playing piano for students to sing Christmas carols in the hallway. Thank you to all who brought donations for our annual White Elephant Christmas Sale. Thank you to Dale Kluin for arranging for Santa's visit to the library and Mrs. Davision for donating goody bags.

Sports Update

Jr. High and Gr. 5&6 Basketball season run through January and February. See our website/newsletter for dates. Several students took advantage of the opportunity to attend a

basketball game at the University of Alberta on Jan. 18th. It was intense, high skilled basketball, and after the game we got to meet Barrhead Composite grad Cole Knudsen who is in his fourth year with the Golden Bears basketball team. Cole took the time to shake hands, talk, and pose for pictures with our students (see our school FB page).

Surveys

Students in gr. 4-9 will be completing two online surveys before Jan. 31, 2020 (Alberta Education and PHPS).

Parents were emailed digital survey links for PHPS surveys this year. This decision was made to save money compared to hiring people to complete phone surveys.

CTF Update

We have 35 students in Grades 6-9 who have opportunities to choose between four CTF options each 6-8 week term. We started the year with Outdoor Ed, Food Studies, Volleyball, Cross Country Running and then Music/Drama (Christmas Concert), Claymation, Curling, and Year Book. We are currently running Outdoor Ed, Art, Basketball, and Hockey.

Gr. 6 will be doing another Music/Drama session in March & April to prepare for our Spring Concert on April 16th. Jr. High will have a session on Health at this time too.

To end the year there will be sessions offered on Cosmetology, Outdoor Ed, coding/soldering, and Year Book.

We would like to host a couple of "CTF days" or afternoons where local volunteers come in to teach a skill or guide students in a small project. For example, we have volunteers willing to teach sewing and knitting and learning about small engines. We are looking for other volunteers who may be able to do projects like building a bird house or any skill/hobby they are passionate about.

Upcoming Events/Dates:

All of our students have the opportunity to participate in skating at the arena throughout January and February. We are grateful for use of this fantastic local facility (thank you Penny).

Sing for Spring – students have the opportunity to sing at an Oil Kings game in Rogers Place on March 6th. Our deadline for registering for additional tickets is Feb. 4th. Students will be practicing 6 upbeat songs during lunch hours every Tuesday in February.

Heart Beat Theatre will present "The Secret of Castle Alphabet" at 1:30 on Feb. 12 in our gym.

Our annual Valentine's Buddy Lunch and Jump Rope for Heart will be on Thurs. Feb. 13.

Pink Shirt Day (kindness/anti-bullying) will be on Thurs. Jan. 27.

Gr. 3&4 connecting virtually with Greenville Zoo on Feb. 18 and Royal Tyrell Museum on March 10.

CTF Snowshoeing Day Trip on the Freeman River is Wed. March 4.

Jr. High Ski Trip to Jasper Thurs. March 5.

Gr. 8 Cool Camp is March 18 & 19 at Camp Nakamun (covers Health curriculum on sexuality and positive relationships).

Telus World of Science workshops for K-9 at our school on Tues. March 17.

Winter Carnival on March 19.