

TURTLE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DIVISION

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Division Highlights –Fall 2018

www.tmsd.mb.ca



MISSION STATEMENT

The students are the focus of all our efforts. The Division strives to provide an education that prepares individuals for a meaningful life in a changing world. We promote a learning environment that begins in the home, continues in the school and is supported by the community.

TURTLE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DIVISION PRIORITIES 2016-2020

We will encourage students to be active, motivated learners.

We will facilitate improvements in literacy and numeracy for all students.

We will enhance communication strategies across stakeholder groups.

We will align student experiences to facilitate success in an ever-changing world.

Grade 4-12 Students Complete Resiliency Questionnaire

For a second year students in grades 4-12 have completed a Resiliency Questionnaire designed to provide students, parents, and schools information about students' strengths as well as areas where students may have the opportunity to develop their skills. The questionnaire gives students a chance to reflect on their relationships at home, at school, and in their community. Students also respond to questions about their own strengths and ability to manage day to day responsibilities.

Each student is provided with a "Sparks" summary which identifies three areas in which the student is particularly strong, as well as recommends two areas in which the student could strengthen his/her skills.

The information gleaned from the questionnaire enables schools to use a strength-based approach when working with students to promote their success. The intent is to learn what students feel positive about, as well as areas where students may be struggling. From there, staff can then work with students to plan and implement strategies to provide students with opportunities to grow.

The key principles of a strength-based approach are:

- Every person has potential and their unique strengths and capabilities determine their evolving story as well as defines who they are.

- The language we use creates our reality, and this applies to everyone.

- People need to know someone cares and will be there unconditionally, supporting change and building capacity, not fixing.

- People journey into the future (the unknown) more confidently and comfortably when they are invited to start with what they know.

- It is important to value differences and the essential need to collaborate. Effective change is a collaborative, inclusive, participatory process. "It takes a village to raise a child."

- What we focus on becomes reality. Focusing on strength, not labels, and seeing challenges as fostering capacity creates hope and optimism.

- All individuals have the urge to succeed, explore the world, and be useful to others and their communities.

- A person's perspective of reality (their story) is primary so we need to value and start the change process with what is important to the person—their story—not with the expert.

- Capacity building is a process and a goal; it's a life-long journey that is dynamic as opposed to static.

<http://www.onboardinitiatives.com/the-concept>

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Board election to occur October 24, 2018)

Leah Cann

Rodney Hintz

Shirley Highfield

Robert MacTavish

Garth Nichol

Sonia Cole

ADMINISTRATION

Tim De Ruyck, Superintendent/CEO

Grant Wiesner, Asst. Superintendent of Student Services

Attila Szabo, Transportation Coordinator

Kathy Siatecki, Secretary-Treasurer

Tyler Shiels, Supervisor of Buildings and Maintenance

Student Services

New Senior Years' Resource Teacher in Killarney School

This fall, Killarney School welcomed new Senior Years' Resource teacher, Kristin Polnik. Kristin brings a remarkable skill set to the school.

Kristin is in her 20th year of teaching. She graduated high school from Nellie McClung Collegiate in Manitou and attended Brandon University to obtain her teaching degree. Kristin has had the opportunity to take on many different teaching roles in her career as her family has relocated to various locations throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan. She has taught students from Junior Kindergarten all the way to Grade 12. She has taken on many different roles: classroom teacher, administrator, resource teacher, guidance counsellor, literacy coach, and numeracy coach. Kristin has also supervised many different school groups and coached in the schools and communities that she has worked in.

Kristin lives in Boissevain with her husband Ryan and three children, Haylie (13), Easton (11), and Tyson (8). Kristin enjoys traveling with her family, swimming, camping, and watching hockey.

Kristin is excited about her new role and is looking forward to working with the staff, students, parents, and the community in her new position.

mRLC Numeracy Achievement Project

In June 2016, Turtle Mountain School Division began work with 16 other school divisions and the Manitoba Rural Learning Con-

sortium in the area of Numeracy Achievement, focusing on Grades 6 and 9.

This research project used specific student data to inform participating teachers on when and how to differentiate their teaching, as well as personalize their own learning. Over the two years of research and development, the Grade 6 and 9 teachers learned how to apply a variety of hands-on tools, as well.

Through analyzing mean scores from three years of June Baseline Assessments, significant improvement in Grades 6 and 9 student numeracy skills has been shown. In Grade 6, the mean score increased 19% after participating teachers had two years of professional learning in the project. In Grade 9, the increase was 10%. Student achievement increased by 38% in Grade 6 and 19% in Grade 9.

Because of the success of this project, all Grade 6 and 9 teachers in Turtle Mountain School Division are learning from the teachers who participated in the project. As well, the school division is participating with the Manitoba Rural Learning Consortium and neighboring school divisions to begin coaching teachers in Grades 7 and 8. The plan is to work with those other school divisions and the Manitoba Learning Consortium to eventually expand this project to Early Years classrooms.

For more information, please visit: <https://sites.google.com/a/manitobarurallearning.org/mrlc/>



MANITOBA RURAL
LEARNING CONSORTIUM

Transportation

The school bus transportation started the 2018/2019 school year with 20 regular routes (10 Killarney, 8 Boissevain, 2 Minto). We have 20 regular buses and eight spare buses in addition to 20 well-trained regular and 18 experienced spare drivers. To renew our fleet, the School Division purchased two new buses with gasoline engines, we use them on the regular routes in Killarney. We transport 580 students to the schools and back home each school day. The daily total mileage of the bus routes is 3308 km.

From the start of this school year, we reorganized our route planning processes. We started to use a new, cloud based route planner software called Traversa, and optimized our regular routes with this tool. The calculated savings of the result of the optimization will be approximately 25,000 km per school year.

In-town transportation changes: In the province of Manitoba, school divisions are required to provide transportation for students who live 1.6 kilometres (one mile) or further from their designated school. In addition to this, as a courtesy, Turtle Mountain School Division has provided transportation for students living in town to a limited extent. This has been done with the intent that the number of in-town pick up locations would be limited, and pick up locations would be designated such that students living in the further reaches of town limits would have a transportation option.

Effective from Monday, October 15, 2018, there will be five in town pick up/drop off locations within the town of Killarney and four locations within the town of Boissevain. All of the involved families received the detailed information about the changes.

National School Bus Safety Week: October 15-19, 2018

The third full week of October is observed as School Bus Safety Week in Manitoba. The week is an opportunity for students to receive school bus ridership training, and to remind parents and the motoring public to be particularly careful around school bus vehicles. Although the school bus safety week theme changes annually, one message remains constant – **be aware and be safe around the school bus.**

In conjunction with the Provincial School Bus Safety Week of October 15-19, 2018, The Manitoba Association of School Business Officials is pleased to sponsor a Poster Contest for students in Kindergarten to Grade six. The theme for this year's poster is: **"My School Bus, The Safest Form of Student Transportation"** (this must appear on the poster) The deadline for entries to be submitted to the TMSD office is **November 30th, 2018.**

BUSES ARE A 100% BULLY FREE ZONE! Our school buses are considered an extension of the classroom and students are expected to behave in the same manner as they would in their classroom. If your student(s) is a victim of bullying it should be reported directly to their school Principal immediately so action can be taken.

Preparation for inclement weather: Last winter, as we all remember, we experienced extreme winter weather conditions such as a lot of snow, blizzards, and freezing temperatures. The preparation for this winter has already begun by cooperating with the municipalities, and thoroughly planning all of the bus routes. Also, regular inspections and maintenance are being done on the buses to prevent possible future breakdowns.

In determining whether classes will be cancelled, the Transportation Coordinator and the Superintendent/CEO will check weather conditions throughout the division, as well as with the Highways Department to determine the severity of the weather and road conditions. When a decision is made to cancel classes, an announcement will be made over radio and updates will be posted on the Division website.



Finance

The 2017-2018 financial statements are closed and will be forwarded to Schools Finance Branch prior to the October 31, 2018 deadline. The statements were done earlier to accommodate the upcoming Trustee election that is being held on October 24, 2018. It is always better for the current Board of Trustees to approve the financials since they were all present at its inception.

We had another good year and we were able to stay on track with budget with a modest surplus. We purchased a few larger equipment items this year including one new gas bus, a milling machine for our Industrial Arts class in Boissevain School via a grant, a truck for the Building and Maintenance department to name a few. We redeployed the old Operations Truck to the Transportation Department. Once again all the school books under the auspice of the Division were handed in on time and our audits were completed by the middle of August. Thanks so much to all of our staff who diligently work on these books all year and provide us with a quality product to audit. Your services are invaluable and we appreciate the time and effort you put into them.

Next on the Finance Department's agenda is our preliminary stakeholders meetings for the 2019-2020 budget deliberations. This date is scheduled for November 21st, 2018. See more details on our Facebook page and our website page at www.tmsd.mb.ca. This process starts in November and concludes with the final report due at March 31, 2019. If you wish to make a presentation to the Board of Trustees, please get in touch with me so that I can put you on the agenda either by phone, fax or e-mail at ksiategc-ki@tmsd.mb.ca

The first review of the projected financial statements for 2018-2019 will be presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting, November 21, 2018.

Maintenance and Operations

With the fall weather upon us the maintenance department has been busy preparing the schools and systems for the cold weather.

Boissevain School maintenance staff have been working alongside the contractors to make sure that the school is running as efficiently as possible given the circumstances. The ongoing project in Boissevain has seen its hurdles but with a great team of custodians, teachers and administration staff we will get through it and they will be able to enjoy a newly renovated school for years to come. The project will see a completely new heating system throughout the building, as well as new windows and brick veneer on the east side of the building. We will also enjoy new millwork, lighting, blinds, and ceilings in the two-story part of the building, which is all expected to be complete in early November. The substantial completion date for this project is estimated to be mid-December but there will be some landscaping to finish in the spring.



Killarney staff had a busy summer with annual school maintenance and hiring of our new custodian (Andrew DeCook) who started September 3rd. Mike Kowal has been training Andrew with all the ins and outs of the building and how it works.

Minto School focused their attention on the outdoor hardscape basketball pad which has been funded through the Minto Philanthropic Group. The project is completed and consists of a 30' X 60' concrete pad that will be used for basketball, pickleball and any other court sports that the school wants to play during the warm days.

With the colder weather creeping up on us this is a good time to remind staff and students of the dangers of slips, trips, and falls which account for the majority of our workplace injuries. Please be careful when conditions are less than ideal.