

TURTLE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DIVISION

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Division Highlights –Spring 2019

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.

Turtle Mountain School Division Approaches Year 4 of Strategic Plan

Back in October of 2015 Turtle Mountain School Division hosted a community forum which included parents, community members, students, staff, administration, and school board trustees. The day was very productive, and among other topics participants were asked to discuss and respond to the question “What skills should TMSD graduates have as they begin their adult lives?” The collective responses to this question is what has guided the work within Turtle Mountain School Division for the past three years, and this work will continue in 2019-2020.

Our strategic plan includes five main areas:

1. Strengthen student success in literacy and numeracy.
2. Strengthen student engagement in school, as well as student resiliency, therefore strengthening achievement and success.
3. Provide opportunities for students to engage in deep learning which develops the core competencies students need to be successful in their adult lives.
4. Provide students with ongoing support in connecting their education to potential career pathways, beginning in the middle years and carrying forward throughout high school.

5. Strengthening communication amongst all stakeholders: the division, parents, staff, students, and community.

Over the last three years we have made significant progress in each of these areas. We have developed strategies to improve student achievement in literacy and numeracy through the use of our teacher leaders in classrooms, as well as through ongoing professional development primarily through the Manitoba Rural Learning Consortium. Our data is showing gains in a number of areas, and continued work needed in others.

Our career development efforts have been expanded to include the middle years, with students exploring possible career options based on their strengths and interests. Staff have also been working to develop projects and lessons which meet curriculum objectives but do so in a way which develops student competency in collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, citizenship, character, and communication.

We have worked to help students with resiliency strategies, primarily through the use of a comprehensive resiliency questionnaire which can then be used to provide whole classroom, small group, and individual student support. We have also expanded the means by which we communicate with our stakeholders, using not only email and website communication but various forms of social media as well.

As we enter 2019-2020 we will continue this work, and we will also look to 2021 and beyond. Feedback from our stakeholders will remain critical as we move forward.

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Student Services

Wellness Fairs

This April, the Pre-School Wellness Fairs took place in Killarney and Boissevain Schools on April 17 and 24. This year marked the largest pre-school screening in the past decade, with 110 children being seen (43 in Killarney and 67 in Boissevain); beating last year's record of 106 children.

Besides providing parents/guardians the opportunity to see how their child is developing in a number of areas (vision, hearing, nutrition, public health, fine and gross motor, speech and language, and social-emotional), a goal of the Wellness Fairs is to ensure that members of the Turtle Mountain Community of Early Childhood Educators (Public Health; Turtle Mountain School Division; PROMISE Years; Boissevain, Killarney & Minto Early Learning Centres and Nursery Schools) are aware of what information

parents/guardians of pre-school children want. In the parent survey that was completed this year, the three main topics that parents want to know more about are: School Readiness (65%), Social Skills (45%), and Behaviour (35%).

Each screening station at the Pre-School Wellness Fairs make reference to the **Healthy Child Manitoba** document, *“Getting Ready for School: A Parent’s Guide”*. Screeners provide children with a toy, book or activity that relate to skills identified in that document: physical, social and emotional, literacy and numeracy, and communication. The Turtle Mountain Community of Early Childhood Educators does its best to ensure that programming reflects what priority areas suggested by parents/guardians.

When asked what they liked best about the Wellness Fairs, parents/guardians key words were:

Lots Friendly Quick moved learning waiting information
development child play kids good activities help
Screening play areas well organized toys stations people

Student Support

One area that Turtle Mountain Student Services personnel focus on, is how to best support students with who may have anxiety or depression, or who may have experienced emotional trauma. This spring, the student services team attended a workshop by Dr. Gordon Neufeld, about understanding trauma and resilience. Knowing how to foster resilience and recovery was one of the main areas that Dr. Neufeld spoke on, and he provided the attendees with

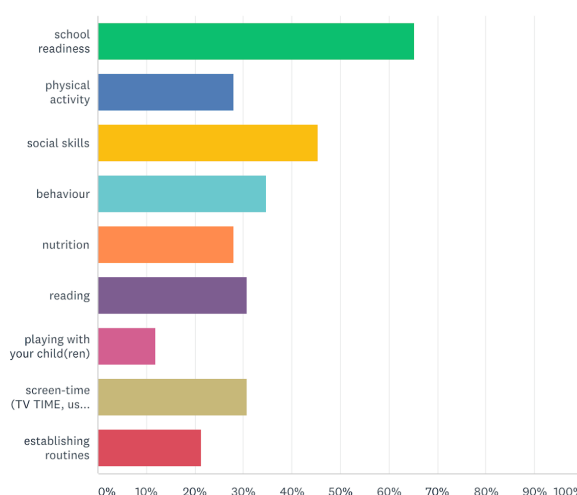
different suggestions and strategies for how to best support students in creating conditions to help student resilience and how to bounce back, to see that what happens to a child, does not have to determine the child.

Dr. Neufeld identified three characteristics of a person who is resilient (who trauma does not take down, who does bounce back). To help children flourish and thrive, we can help them by

focusing on helping them develop their senses of playfulness, feelingfulness (emotional awareness), and restfulness. The most important thing that one can do to support students experiencing anxiety or depression, or who may have experienced emotional trauma is to develop a meaningful relationship with them.

What are the top three areas of child development that you would be interested in receiving information about?

Answered: 75 Skipped: 0



Transportation

Transportation Reminders

New address, phone number, contact information?

Families using transportation services will be required to keep their transportation information up to date. If changes have to be made, parents must contact the school administrators first; school bus drivers are not authorized to accept changes from parents. The school offices will forward the data to the transportation department.

The transportation documents, safety resources are available on our website:

<http://www.tmsd.mb.ca/index.php/board/procedures>

Please review them with your children so they can understand the rules and the consequences of unsafe actions on the school bus.



In case of any changes in the daily transportation, please inform the bus garage dispatchers ASAP. They can reach the bus drivers via the 2 way radios immediately.

Dispatcher phone numbers:

Boissevain, Minto: 204 534 6269

Killarney: 204 523 8380

You should receive the new school years transportation information prior to the beginning of school year. If you do not receive anything, it is likely that your student's transportation information has not changed. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us, we would be happy to help.

Please note that school bus routes and bus stop times are subject to change prior to the school year and throughout the school year.

ATTENTION ALL FIRST TIME RIDERS

Kindergarten Students & Families

The transportation request form (6-D) is downloadable from the TMSD website:

<http://www.tmsd.mb.ca/procedures/6/6-D.pdf>.

The updated student transportation information will be send back to each school, and provided to you.

Parents/guardians are responsible for the safe arrival and departure of their kindergarten student to/from the bus stop as well as determining the designated adult who will be accompanying the kindergarten student to and from the bus stop.

Please ensure your child knows who will be at the bus stop to receive them. Please have alternatives ready as many times things may come up and the primary person responsible is not available. Your child needs to know and needs to see these individuals at the stop before they get off the bus.

School Bus Orientation Day will be organized the first week of September. Come to the School Bus Orientation Day where parents and students can practice riding the school bus, learn how to safely wait for and board the bus, learn about safe crossing procedures as well as other helpful safety tips. This program will be organize in Killarney and in Boissevain at the schools' loading zones.

Kindergarten students who are riding the bus will receive a nice coloured tag from their school showing the bus/route #. Your child's school will distribute the tags to each transported kindergarten student at the beginning of the school year. The Identification tag (with TMSD logo/school bus or a smiley face) should be attached to the back pack and visible to the driver. The tag will assist drivers in identifying kindergarten students when they are arriving or departing the bus.

BUS SAFETY



Maintenance and Operations

TMSD maintenance staff have put away the snow blowers in exchange for the lawnmowers and will begin the much anticipated spring yard cleanup. Both Killarney and Boissevain maintenance staff will start working outside cutting grass, trimming trees and cleaning away all the winter blues on our parking lots and sidewalks.

Boissevain School is finally seeing the major envelope and heating upgrade come to a close well after its expected completion date. With new windows, doors and brick work catching everyone's eye there was much more that was done in and around this project. We replaced the roofing over the south gym and added 2 windows and a new roof top heating unit to that space as well. The 2 antique boilers and piping were removed and replaced with new state on the art hot water, energy efficient boilers as well as new heating units and piping throughout the school. The contract also called for a new heat recovery system to supply fresh air to the school and assist in the air balance of our learning spaces. We also added new millwork, flooring and air conditioning in different areas of the school.

Although the project is near completion we still have some concrete work to finish outside the east exterior doors as well as landscaping on the east side of the school. We expect the project to be completed by May 15th as contractors finish up defectives found on the consultant's final walk through visits. Thank you to all the staff in Boissevain School for being so patient as this project has weighed heavy on all of us.

Boissevain and Killarney schools will both be getting gym floor remodels in the next month. Boissevain will be getting a synthetic floor replacement while Killarney will be getting their floor sanded down, new lines and a refinish. Two different approaches to new floors in the heavily used large gyms at each site. Sticking with the theme of gym floors, Minto just received new flooring in their gym area as well in the form of vinyl plank flooring which looks amazing.

Killarney School will see some new lockers upstairs, a face lift to the hut on the north side of the school, as well as the completion of the sidewalk work started last fall.

Finance

The 2019-2020 Budget is in the books and will be reviewed by Schools Finance Branch. Budget highlights this year were the following:

- Reduction of Support Funding by 2%.
- Maximum increase to Special Requirement 2%.
- Admin Cap remained the same at 3.6%. We budgeted for 3.3% due to cost savings we were able to realize in the administration office.

No new initiatives were introduced due to budget constraints. We were once again able to maintain staffing/staffing ratios. It is getting more difficult to do so every budget we deliberate on.

The 5-year Capital Plan has been approved and sent on to Public Schools Finance Board for their review. We are just completing the Boissevain School Mechanical/Envelope Project. The end is in sight. Currently we have no new projects in the works. We have a couple of pending projects which have been sitting in the queue for a while, one is the Home Economics/Human Ecology Lab in Killarney School and the other is roofing as well for Killarney School.

PSAB (Public Sector Accounting Board) statements are currently in the process of being completed. Something new this year, School Divisions are no longer required to have a PSAB audit done. This will save the Division about \$3,500.00 per year.

Please note: Previous years FRAME Budgets and Actual FRAME Statements are available at www.tmsd.mb.ca.

