

## Lowe Farm School Community Report

2014 – 2015

### Mission Statement:

With parents and community, Lowe Farm School provides a safe and caring learning environment. We emphasize literacy and numeracy while fostering social, emotional, and physical development, challenging each individual to achieve his/her potential.



### Low Farm School Profile:

Number of students in June of 2015 = 88 June of 2014 = 91 June of 2013 = 94, 2012 = 110, 2011 = 109, 2010 = 85

In addition, we had 18 pre-school students attend 1 time per week as well as various drop-in programs in our Community Connections program. Next year we are excited to have 9 more pre-school students attending so far.

Number of students that are provincially recognized as English Additional Language = 16.5 Many other students have progressed beyond the 4 year funding program for EAL

Number of students that have reported aboriginal descent = 5

Number of teachers = 5.55 Support teachers = 1.31 Total = 6.86 teachers  
Number of EAs = 6

Language of Instruction: English program, German replacing French (grades 5 – 8)

2014 – 2015 School Goals:

1. By June of 2015, Lowe Farm School will purchase and utilize a minimum of 500 high quality books that will have cultural diversity, human equity and a wide variety of levels and interests to be creatively implemented in both the classroom and library.

-RESULTS: We managed to purchase 478 books this year for both classroom and library use. These new books provided for a wide range of interests and topics. Students were very enthusiastic about having new books to read.

2. By June of 2015, Lowe Farm School will continue to have common Math language and strategies throughout each grade with an emphasis on creating a common Math assessment tool.

- RESULTS: Staff at Lowe Farm School worked with the divisional consultant to conduct 2 assessment "snap shots" of student work in basic Math facts. Training and discussions throughout the year resulted in focused attention to Math throughout the year. The data indicated a marked improvement in student knowledge of Math facts by the end of the school year.

3. By June of 2015, Lowe Farm School will involve students in a minimum of 5 active and socially engaging activities during lunch time, and Pre/Post school times.

-RESULTS: Staff at Lowe Farm School implemented a Healthy Lifestyles club that operated prior to school commencing in the morning. Before and after school and during lunch, students participated in a Board Games club. A Robotics club was also created for lunch time. On colder days, the gym was used for activities. All clubs had excellent student participation.

4. By June of 2015, Lowe Farm School will research, adopt and implement a common behavioural system based on Restitution principles.

-RESULTS: Staff at Lowe Farm did research and had discussions around using a peer mediation program for student behaviour management. We have arrived at the goal of implementing a student conflict managers program for the 2015-16 school year.

Lowe Farm School is a community oriented school that has had a wide range of community activities that include; Meet the Teacher BBQ, Fall Supper, Christmas Concert, Soup and Pie day, Spring Drama, Summer Picnic and bi-weekly hot lunches. The PTA has worked hard to bring improvements to the playground and have accomplished their goal of having a Natural Playground. This year the PTA have raised thousands of dollars towards the next stage of our playground; a play structure to be installed hopefully over the summer. The community aspect continues in the school as all students from grades 5 – 8 volunteer to do: canteen, peer reading,

computer buddies, intramurals and student council activities. Thanks to a grant from the Child Nutrition Council we were able to offer a school-wide nutrition program that provided a healthy, daily snack for each student. Several pre-school initiatives have been well attended by parents and their young children.

In addition to being a Platinum level Quality Daily Physical Education School (minimum of 30 minutes a day of Physical Activity) and an In-Motion School, students participated in student council and a wide variety of Intramural activities like soccer, volleyball, floor hockey, bench ball, basketball and a running/walking club. School sports included soccer, cross-country running, volleyball, basketball, curling, badminton, softball and track and field. Grade 5 – 8 students attended Winkler Bible camp and each classroom went on field trips.

Each classroom participated in Lowe Farm School assemblies like “Day of Pink”. Grade 5 – 8 students in the division participated in the RRVSD Middle Years Fair - in Rosenort and attended a talk from Day of Pink originator Travis Price. Many grade 5/6 students attended University of Manitoba CANU for an early introduction to University opportunities.

Students regularly researched current events and became more knowledgeable about world-wide news and events. Fundraising has occurred in order to help local and world-wide causes through the Christmas Concert food hamper and selling of rafiki bracelets. Students attended the Save the Children WE Day in Winnipeg in the fall. Discussions at the school level about how we could make the world a better place resulted in a wide variety of events. Each classroom also participated in bake sales, jewelry sales and other activities to raise money for the play structure project and charity causes: Siloam Mission and the Red River Valley food bank.

Computer-wise, we continue to provide excellent access to technology. In addition to the division laptop initiative for the grade 5-8 students, each classroom from Grades K - 8 has an LCD projector with all but one connected to a Smartboard. The ratio of computers is approaching 1 computer for every 1.75 students as we have 1 computer lab and 4 portable labs with 6 netbooks or laptops each in addition to several computers in each classroom. We have also continued to work with iPads, having several per classroom. All students have used technology to create presentations and complete research.

#### Summary:

Lowe Farm School growth is evident this year as we will have as many as 18 Kindergarten students to begin the year. (Which is easily double our normal classes) We continue to have families move in on a regular basis. This level of student numbers has enabled new community relations to develop that provide strength to an already deeply committed group of community minded people. It has also enabled us to provide more resources for students, as we have purchased equipment to help students with special needs.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Rob Fiola either by email: [rfiola@rrvsd.ca](mailto:rfiola@rrvsd.ca) or telephone; 204-746-8068.