

Lowe Farm School Community Report

2015 – 2016

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.



Lowe Farm School Profile:

Number of students in June of 2016 = 104 June of 2015 = 88 June of 2014 = 91 June of 2013 = 94, 2012 = 110, 2011 = 109, 2010 = 85

We had 10 Pre-school students (4 year olds) attend 2 times per week for the very first time. We also had various drop-in programs in our Community Connections program. Next year we are excited to continue the Pre-School program twice a week.

Number of students that are provincially recognized as English Additional Language = 15
Many other students have progressed beyond the 4 year funding program for EAL

Number of students that have reported aboriginal descent = 6

Number of teachers = 5.27 Support teachers = .73 Total = 6.0 teachers
Number of EAs = 7

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

2015-2016 School Goals:

1. By June of 2016, Lowe Farm School will develop a school-wide tracking system to collect and analyze the reading levels and rate of student progress at both the classroom and school levels.

-RESULTS:

Teachers worked together during regularly scheduled meetings with the resource teacher to input reading level data in a color coded tracking chart containing at least 3 assessments for each classroom throughout the year. Teachers also recorded the information electronically for divisional use and physically on a local school-wide assessment wall. Some teachers created an even more detailed graph indicating the number of students at/above grade level. Another graph created by the principal indicates the expected rate vs the actual rate of reading for each student.

2. By June of 2016, Lowe Farm School will continue to establish and utilize a common Math language and create a school-wide list of Math strategies sorted by grade level.

- RESULTS:

Teachers created a school-wide continuum of strategies and a list of common Math terms in a series of professional development activities throughout the year. The divisional Math consultant reviewed the work and provided feedback. The document is to be completed in June and published for use in September.

3. By June of 2016, Lowe Farm School will increase the awareness in our community of Aboriginal Culture through language, music, art, games and activities.

-RESULTS:

Two teachers attended Treaty Education professional development and shared their experiences and resources (Treaty Kit) with the rest of the teachers. Aboriginal games, music and art were integrated into instruction on several occasions. Four cross-grade activities occurred over four Friday afternoons to highlight aboriginal culture in May and June. Middle years students attended the middle years fair in St. Pierre that celebrated aboriginal culture. Many books were purchased that helped students to better learn more aboriginal culture.

4. By June of 2016, Lowe Farm School will implement a peer student conflict managers program to be used on the playground.

-RESULTS:

The grade 5/6 students were trained over 4 months about conflict and conflict management. They presented to the rest of the classes and then began to supervise during recesses, resolving conflicts in teams of two.

Highlights:

Low 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, Spring Drama, Summer Picnic, Christmas caroling at the senior's complex and town cleanup in the Spring. The PTA has worked hard to bring improvements to the playground and have accomplished their goal installing a play structure. Parent support is evident not only through PTA, but with modeling positive behaviour in the home, volunteering in the classrooms and supervising at recess for special events and field trips. Thanks to the generous donation from two families, students were provided the opportunity to attend the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Peter Pan for the first time.



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. This already natural sense of community is fostered through the use of mix-age groups for school-wide events like Christmas Caroling at the senior's complex, I Love to Read,

Indigenous Teaching activities, Mini-Track and Field and the school picnic. Once again, we were able to offer a school-wide nutrition program that provided a healthy, daily snack for each student thanks to a grant from the Child Nutrition Council. Peer conflict mediation was also practiced by students at recess to ensure issues are resolved quickly and peacefully. Thanks to student input, a new walking path was designed and built by students to improve the flow of student traffic to our playground.

Several pre-school initiatives have been well attended by parents and their young children. Our Pre-school program for four year olds was extended to twice weekly for the first time.

In addition to being a Platinum level Quality Daily Physical Education School (minimum of 30 minutes a day of Physical Activity) students participated in a wide variety of Intramural activities for all grades like cooperative games, 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 winter camp at Cedarwood and each classroom went on field trips. The local skating rink was also used by all students on at least 2 occasions.

Each classroom participated in Lowe Farm School assemblies like Day of Pink, I Love to Read Month and Music Day. Grade 5 – 8 students in the division participated in the RRVSD Middle Years Fair - in St. Pierre. Many grade 5/6 students attended University of Manitoba CANU for an early introduction to University opportunities. Student Council was also very active and displayed excellent leadership. They successfully organized a Terry Fox Run, Fall Frolics, Christmas Hampers, Spirit Week, Spring Cleanup and a student Talent Show.

Thanks to Mrs. Brown and Ms. Bergen and a grant from the RRVSD, staff and students participated in Educational Sustainable Development activities and projects. The school returned over 60 kgs of organic waste into soil from October 16th to June 10th. Classroom teachers had students participate in activities and presentations on water, composting, air quality and the food cycles. Thanks to members of the Green Action Centre, we learned to be more respectful of our environment.

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 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. Students regularly use technology for a wide variety of purposes, including creating presentations and conducting research.

Summary:

Lowe Farm School is very much a community of learners. Learning happens not only in the classroom, but in the many school-wide special events and activities throughout the year. Physical growth is also evident this year as we will have as many as 17 Grade 1 students to begin the year (Which is easily double our normal classes). We continue to have families move in on a regular basis. It is always rewarding to see how welcoming all staff and students are to new families. This level of student numbers has also 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. The year 2015-16 has been a very successful and fun filled year for both staff and students.

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