

LOWE FARM SCHOOL

June 29, 2016 Newsletter

Website: <http://lowefarm.rrvsd.ca/>

E-mail: lowefarm@rrvsd.ca

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The 2015-2016 school year has come to an end!

We managed to squeeze in a lot of activities in June. We started off the month with students performing a piano recital. The K – 4s had a mini-track meet while the grades 6 – 8's participated in the divisional track meet. We had two more Aboriginal Activities this month. The Kindergarten students went to the Children's Museum, the 1/2's to the Art Gallery, the 3/4's to the Morden Museum, the 5/6's to the Morris Pool and the grade 7/8's to the Mennonite Heritage Museum in Steinbach. Student council organized a talent show and we attended the Access Credit Union membership BBQ. Finally, we had graduations and celebrations and the school picnic over the final week. If your child is feeling a little tired, you can easily see why!

We have had a very successful school year! We have appreciated the excellent parental involvement throughout the school year and hope we can continue this into the next school year. I am especially appreciative of the excellent work performed by each and every staff member at Lowe Farm School. This year has been fun and exciting and we look forward to another year of sharing your wonderful children in September.

Mr. Rob Fiola

Lowefarm School Priorities:

- Student Achievement in Literacy
- Student Achievement in Numeracy
- Aboriginal Culture Awareness
- Student Conflict Management

The following link is for parents to register for making online payments to the Red River Valley School Division or Lowefarm School in KEV. <https://rrvsd.schoolcashonline.com/>

School Roof Work

The Lowefarm School roof is getting a makeover during the summer! Work is scheduled to begin at the beginning of July and will go until approximately mid-September. Pedestrian traffic will be limited at times. Please be respectful of signage, construction tape and fences that will be on the school grounds throughout the summer.



FIELD TRIPS

KINDERGARTEN

Our Kindergarten students enjoyed a trip to the Children's Museum on Friday, June 3rd. The museum is such a great place for children to explore and learn.

GRADE 1 & 2

The grade 1 and 2 students took in a day at the Winnipeg Art Gallery on June 15th. The students toured the gallery looking at different art pieces and the meaning of them. They also participated in a scavenger hunt looking for different pictures. After that they visited the art studio to make paintings which they were able to bring home.

GRADE 3 & 4

The Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in Morden was the destination for our grade 3 and 4 students, but before heading there they visited the Morden Park. The students enjoyed some free time on the play structure and lunch before heading to the museum.

Field Trips continued:

GRADE 5 & 6

Grade 5 and 6 students had the opportunity to take in a Winnipeg Goldeyes ball game on June 28th. The students received free admission as well as a hot dog, chips and drink through the CanU program that some of our students participated in. They also enjoyed an afternoon of classroom games, movie and snacks when a planned swim at the Morris Pool had to be cancelled due to the weather.

GRADE 7 & 8

On June 8th the grade 7/8s toured the Mennonite Heritage Museum in Steinbach, ate lunch and then were off for an afternoon of fun and games at Ambush Anonymous Airsoft. They enjoyed a BBQ at the facility before returning home.

Thank You. . .

. . . to **Mrs. Danelle Reimer** who brought two day old chicks in for our students to see.

. . . to all the **parents** who went along to help with supervision during the various field trips. The extra sets of eyes and hands are always much appreciated.

. . . to **Access Credit Union – Lowe Farm Branch** for inviting students and staff to their Member Appreciation BBQ on June 17th. The lunch was enjoyed by all!

. . . to **Access Credit Union – Lowe Farm Branch, John A. Wiebe Memorial, Kane Community and Lowe Farm Co-op** for sponsoring our grade 8 graduation awards this year.

ALBRIGHT SCHOOL VISIT

Students and staff of Albright School, from the Oak Bluff Hutterite Colony east of Morris, visited our grade 3 & 4 classroom the morning of June 16th. Earlier this school year our grade 3/4s visited Albright School and they in turn came to visit us. The students participated in the classroom, toured Lowe Farm School and our playground. Together with our 3/4 students they also took in a walking tour of Lowe Farm. They were especially excited to play a game in our gymnasium as they do not have a gym at their school. Before returning home they enjoyed a pizza lunch with our 3/4 students.

Thank you Albright School for coming to visit us! We enjoyed hosting you.

Sustainable Development Presentations

On June 21st Teresa Looy, Jaret Fulford and Bo Smyth from Green Action Centre made four presentations to our students. The presentations consisted of information regarding environmental issues concerning clean water, air and soil. They also spoke to the students about recycling and composting, as well as using our resources wisely to preserve them for future generations to come.

SPORTS

Grade 6-8 Track Meet

Grade 6-8 students travelled to the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg on June 9th to participate in the divisional track meet. Congratulations to all students who participated in the various events. Ribbons were awarded to the top 5 in each event. Special congrats go out to the following who placed in the top 5 in their events: **Kori Dufresne** 2nd in the 400m, **Christina Neufeld** 4th in the 100m, 2nd in shot putt and 5th in triple jump, **Justina Giesbrecht** 5th in 200m and 4th in 1500m, **Adrienne Groening** 5th in 400m, 3rd in high jump, **Willie Berg** 3rd in 100m, **Zakury Funk** 4th in 200m and 3rd in 400m. Also, the **grade 8 girls** relay team placed 3rd.

School Picnic

The annual Lowe Farm School Picnic was held on Tuesday, June 28th. The morning activities were school wide with 8 groups consisting of students from each grade. The groups rotated through 6 stations: Oreo, penguin, and ping-pong ball games; water relay; cotton ball nose game, parachute games, three legged races and snack.

Students then enjoyed lunch outside where they could choose to purchase from the canteen at the park or each lunch brought from home. Our PTA ran the canteen this year.

Afternoon festivities saw the early years students and the middle years students do separate activities. The K-4 students rotated through stations by grade – water piñata and slip and slide; water/bouncy slide; chalk/watermelon. The grade 5-8s rotated through stations first with the grade 5-8s mixed for

volleyball and wipe-out baseball and then by class for water games and watermelon. Thank you to our staff planning committee and especially to Miss Harpelle who headed up the committee and organized the events.

GRADUATION/ DAY OF CELEBRATION

Our Kindergarten graduation was held on Thursday, June 23rd in the gym. Parents and grandparents took the short program which included the students receiving their Kindergarten diplomas.

Our grade 1-8 celebration was held on Wednesday, June 29th. The celebration for the grade 1 and 2 students began at 9:00 a.m. and the 3 and 4 students at 9:45 a.m. These festivities were held in their classrooms with parents and grandparents welcome to attend. Each student was presented with a Strength/Character certificate which acknowledged a special trait within each child.

Our grade 5-8 segment continues to evolve each year as we revamp our format. The celebration was held in the gym. Each grade 5-8 student received a strength/character certificate to honour a special attribute. This was followed by our traditional grade 8 graduation (with a twist). The number of awards presented was decreased but the always popular Grade 8s Roast given by the grade 7s was still a part of the program. Awards handed out were sponsored by: Access Credit Union – Lowe Farm Branch (top grade 8

male athlete), John A. Wiebe Memorial (Aggregate, Arts, German Proficiency and General Proficiency), Kane Community (the Kelvin Penner Memorial award which honours a grade 8 student who exhibits good sportsmanship, citizenship and academic achievement) and Lowe Farm Co-op (top grade 8 female athlete). Valedictorians, Daniel Isaak and Christina Neufeld spoke to the audience before each grade 8 student was presented with their diploma. Following the presentations parents were invited to enjoy some refreshments before the students returned to their classrooms to receive their report cards and say good-bye to their classmates and teachers.

Congratulations to all of our grade 8 graduates: Willie Berg, Zoë Blatz, Zakury Funk, Damian Gerow, John Giesbrecht, Justina Giesbrecht, Adrienne Groening, Kristi Harder, Daniel Isaak, Christina Neufeld, Riley Penner and Timothy Suderman.

Thank you to all who attended this year's celebrations.

Special Message:

I would like to thank all the students, staff and families of Lowe Farm School for a wonderful year of working and learning together. Congratulations to all the grade eight students on graduating from our school. Everyone is encouraged to enjoy their summer while staying active and safe!

Leah Harpelle,
Physical Education Teacher

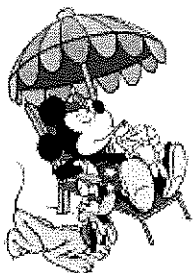
Thank you to parents and community members
for all the support this past year.

We wish each and every one of you
a safe & relaxing summer.

We will see you back here on

Wednesday, September 7th, 2016!

The school office will be open August 29 & 30, 2016
Closed August 31, 2016 due to a secretaries' meeting
Open again September 1 & 2, 2016



Lowe Farm School

is accepting registrations for our
2016-2017 Pre-school Program.



If you have a child born in 2012,
who will attending Kindergarten in
September 2017 at Lowe Farm School
and you would like them to participate in our
Pre-school program beginning September 2016,
please drop by the school
for a registration form or
call 204-746-8068 for more information.
There is no cost to parents for this program.

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)

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 month,

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 Monday. 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 2015-2016 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@rrvsd.ca or telephone; 204-746-8068.

**RED RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DIVISION
SCHOOL CALENDAR – 2016 – 2017**

2016

September 5	Labour Day – No Classes	Monday
September 6	Administration Day – No Classes	Tuesday
September 7	Classes Begin	Wednesday
September 16	Strong Beginnings	Friday
September 19	Strong Beginnings	Monday
October 5	Divisional PD day – No Classes	Wednesday
October 10	Thanksgiving Day – No Classes	Monday
October 21	MTS PD Day – No Classes	Friday
November 11	Remembrance Day – No Classes	Friday
November 18	School In-service/Administration Day – No Classes	Friday
November 25	School In-service/Administration Day – No Classes	Friday
December 22	Last day before Winter Break	Thursday

2017

January 9	Classes Resume	Monday
February 3	Semester Turn-around/School In-service – No Classes	Friday
February 15	Divisional PD day – No Classes	Wednesday
February 20	Louis Riel Day – No Classes	Monday
March 24	Last day before Spring Break	Friday
April 3	Classes resume	Monday
April 7	School In-service/Administration Day – No Classes	Friday
April 14	Good Friday – No Classes	Friday
April 21	School In-service/Administration Day – No Classes	Friday
May 22	Victoria Day – No Classes	Monday
June 29	Last day of classes	Thursday
June 30	Administration Day – No Classes	Friday

SEPTEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Labour Day -no classes	6 Admin Day -no classes	7 First day of classes	8 Kindergarten— AM only	9	10
11	12	13 Kindergarten- AM only	14	15 Kindergarten- AM only	16 Strong Beginnings	17
18	19 Strong Beginnings	20 Kindergarten- Full day	21	22 Kindergarten- Full day	23	24
25	26	27 Kindergarten- Full day, Gr. 7/8 Soccer (tentative)	28	29 Kindergarten- Full day, Gr. 5/6 Soccer (tentative)	30 Kindergarten- Full day	