

LOWE FARM SCHOOL

September 8, 2010

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2010 – 2011 school year. I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. My name is Rob Fiola, the new principal at Lowe Farm. This is my 23rd year as an educator and my 3rd as an administrator. I look forward to working with the staff, students and the community of Lowe Farm.

We are thrilled to announce that some changes are being made to our early years' program for this year. We are currently in the process of hiring a Kindergarten teacher which will allow us to have a separate Kindergarten class (mornings only every day). Mrs. Driedger will teach grade 1 and 2, while Mrs. Penner will teach grade 3 and 4. We hope to have our new Kindergarten teacher in place by mid-September.

It promises to be an exciting year with 2 new Smartboards and a new computer lab in the school and a continually improving playground. Strong Beginnings will be on Sept. 20th and 21st and Meet the Teacher will occur on the 22nd. Please plan on attending, as I would like to meet as many parents as possible. We welcome your input, questions and involvement in this community school, so please don't hesitate to come out and volunteer.

Mr. Rob Fiola

Dear Parents:

Each month Lowe Farm School publishes a newsletter that is distributed to each family. In this first issue we like to inform parents about some of our routine school procedures. To some of you this information will be very new and to others, it will be old hat. Please do read through and familiarize yourself with the information as a lot of it just helps make our school days run smoothly. Thank you very much.

NUT ALLERGY ALERT

Please note that a student at Lowe Farm School has a life threatening **NUT ALLERGY**. We ask that parents and students please take this into consideration when preparing their school lunches, snacks as well as when food is provided for classroom parties. Lowe Farm School will be declared a **NUT FREE ZONE** and therefore products such as **any types of nuts, coconut, peas, peanut butter, Nutella, almond butter or anything else that may contain nuts will be discouraged. Please check labels carefully for the MAY CONTAIN NUTS warning.**

SCHOOL DAYS

Keeping in mind the **safety of your children/our students**, please take note of the following matters.

Our school day begins at 8:30 a.m. If your child is going to be absent from school for the day, it is very important that you please notify the school secretary by calling 746-8068 between 7:45 – 8:15 a.m.. We want to make sure all students arrive safely at school and if they have not arrived at school, want to ensure that they are safely in the care of their parents/guardians. If your child does not come to school and we have not received a call from you, we will be calling your home to make sure your child is safe.

Lunch is from 11:50 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. and noon recess runs from 12:10 to 12:45 p.m.

Our **BUS NOTE POLICY** is as follows: bus students who are not going to be taking their bus home at the end of the day or are taking a different bus home at the end of the day will require a signed bus note from parents. This note is to be presented to the principal or school secretary. Non-bus students who will be going to a friend's home after school on the bus will also need to have a signed note from parents. A note should be sent by both the parent sending their child to someone else's home after school on the bus and the parent receiving a child on the bus that normally does not travel to their home. This also pertains to students attending a birthday party and needing bus transportation for the occasion. **If you are planning on extra students coming to your home to visit or for a birthday party by bus, you are responsible for making those arrangements with the bus driver first to ensure there is sufficient seating on the bus for everyone.** We encourage parents to **use the bus notes at the end of this newsletter.** Where it says "Other Information" on the notes please state if your child is staying for school sports, going home on another bus (please state bus driver or other student's name – eg. Bobby is going home on Mr. Klassen's bus OR Bobby is going home with Tommy), or any other information that may be of use. Bus notes will be attached to each monthly newsletter for parents use.

We very much appreciate your co-operation in these matters. Thank you.

Lowe Farm School Student Enrolment 2010-2011

FALL	2007	2008	2009	2010
Kindergarten	13	9	6	13
Grade 1	10	11	9	10
Grade 2	5	7	12	11
Grade 3	11	6	6	12
Grade 4	7	10	9	8
Grade 5	10	8	9	12
Grade 6	11	10	10	10
Grade 7	10	9	9	11
Grade 8	9	14	11	10
TOTALS	86	84	81	97

SCHOOL PICTURES

Lifetouch Canada will once again be providing school portrait services to Lowe Farm School students. Picture day will be held **Monday, September 13th, 2010** with the photographer beginning at 8:30 a.m. Students are encouraged to wear brightly colored clothing for best results. Students will receive a flyer with instructions on selecting pose and background color. **Please fill in the flyer and return it to the school on Picture Day.**



“Meet the Teacher” Night

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Come out and enjoy a hot dog & drink
while you meet your child’s teacher.**

**Students accompanying their parents
are welcome to attend.**

PLEASE NOTE:

Lowe Farm School will not be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair this year. Scholastic Book Fairs has informed us that because of declining sales at previous book fairs it is too costly for them to deliver the book fair to us any longer. Therefore, **we encourage students to take advantage of the Scholastic Book Orders** when they are sent home with students. The brochures have some really good deals in them!



School Canteen

Once again our student council will run a school canteen this year. Funds raised from our canteen are used to help support extra curricular activity costs, sports transportation, etc. The canteen is open daily from 11:50 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. Hot food items are available Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Homeroom teachers take orders first thing in the morning on these days. Also available daily in the canteen will be a number of healthy snacks. A canteen menu and price list will be sent home in the very near future. The canteen will officially open on Tuesday, September 14th, 2010.

PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Last year’s Pre-school Program was a resounding success under the very capable hands of Mrs. Resler and the support of parents. We will once again run this program for 4 year old (or 5 if they are not already attending Kindergarten) children only. The program will run every Wednesday morning from 9 – 11 a.m. for 35 weeks. The program is designed to prepare children for Kindergarten and will begin Wednesday, September 22. Mrs. Resler will once again be the program instructor.

There is no cost for the program and we hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to give your child(ren) the tools to help them succeed once they begin school. Please call the school at 746-8068 to register your child(ren) for the Lowe Farm School Pre-school Program.

Nutritious Snacks

One of Lowe Farm School’s priorities is to **promote healthy living.** Over the past few years we have encouraged parents to include healthy snacks in their child’s lunches for their morning nutrition break (approximately 10:00 a.m. each morning). We have provided lists of what is considered to be a smart choice for healthy snacks. Teachers have then monitored students to ensure that they do indeed have something nutritious for their break. We will continue to promote healthy snacks and lunches once again this year. **The list of accepted snacks is as follows: fruit, vegetables, yogurt, cheese, whole grain breads, crackers and cereals (not sugar coated), Fruit to Go, granola bars (not chocolate covered and NO NUTS please), Nutri-Grain Bars, healthy sandwiches and dried fruit.**

SCHOOL VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS

The province is mandating that schools have volunteers go through a Child Abuse Registry check as well as a Criminal Record check before working in the classroom or with students. The school can provide parents wishing to volunteer with the Child Abuse Registry forms, which, after being filled out are forwarded to the school division office. Once the division office receives the results of the check they forward that information onto the schools. After volunteers have been given the OK, they are able to help out in the school. Criminal Record checks must be done through the local Royal Canadian Mounted Police office. Both of these checks are also to be done for parents who chaperone classes on field trips. If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact the school.

It is also necessary for **ALL volunteers and visitors to report to the school library** as soon as they enter the building. At this time they will sign in and receive a visitor's badge so that all staff know they have been cleared by the office. When it comes time to leave the school visitors/volunteers return their badge and sign out.

We truly do appreciate the help of our volunteers and are sorry that these measures have to be taken, but it is for the safety of all students. These checks do take some time, so please take that into consideration when wanting to help us out.



STRONG BEGINNINGS

All students Kindergarten to grade 8 will receive a letter this Friday (September 10th) informing parents of our Strong Beginnings initiative. "**Strong Beginnings**" is a beginning of the school year assessment activity that assists teachers in understanding what each student's learning needs are. It is a program that Lowe Farm School has participated in for the last three years. **This year Strong Beginnings will be held on Monday, September 20th and Tuesday, September 21st.** The letter will further explain about the program and the procedure that will be followed those two days. **Please watch for the letter to arrive in your child's backpack this Friday.** We look forward to an excellent turn out.



2010-2011

Fundraising Schedule

Fundraising has always been an integral part of providing extras for students at school. Whether it be new equipment or extra curricular activities such presentations, etc. funds are needed to cover these costs. Again this year, fundraising will be especially important as bussing costs for sporting activities and field trips will no longer be covered by the school division. Therefore student council fundraising profits may have to be used to pay for these expenses. Permission forms are sent home prior to each fundraiser so that parents can indicate whether they wish their child to participate in the fundraiser. Here is our anticipated schedule for fundraisers throughout the school year.

Fundraiser	Date(s)	Grades that participate
Norcard Fundraiser	September 10 – 24, 2010	Kindergarten to Grade 8
Mom's Pantry Products	October 5 – 21, 2010	Kindergarten to Grade 8
Lowe Farm School Fall Supper	TBA	Grades 5 – 8 students
Chocolate Fundraiser	Dec. 1, 2010 – Jan. 6, 2011	Kindergarten to Grade 8
Bothwell Cheese Fundraiser or perhaps a different fundraiser	February 2011	Kindergarten to Grade 8

Parent/Student Handbooks

Lowe Farm School distributes a Parent/Student Handbook to each family every September. This year's handbook will be distributed in the next couple of weeks. When you receive the handbook, please take the time to review it as there is a lot of valuable information in it.



CLIP & SAVE

Red River Valley School Division Year at a Glance Calendar

2010

Mon., Sept. 6 Labour Day – no classes
Tues., Sept. 7 School Inservice – no classes
Wed., Sept. 8 Classes Begin
Fri., Oct. 1 Divisional Inservice – no classes
Mon., Oct. 4 School Inservice – no classes
Mon., Oct. 11 Thanksgiving Day – no classes
Fri., Oct. 22 Provincial S.A.G. Day – no classes
Thurs., Nov. 11 Remembrance Day – no classes
Fri., Nov. 12 Inservice Day – no classes
Fri., Nov. 26 Inservice Day – no classes
Wed., Dec. 22 Last day of classes before Christmas Break

2011

Thurs., Jan. 6 Classes resume
Fri., Jan. 28 School Inservice
Fri., Feb. 18 Divisional Inservice – no classes
Mon., Feb. 21 Louis Riel Day – no classes
Fri., Mar. 25 Last day of classes before Spring Break
Mon., Apr. 4 Classes resume
Fri., Apr. 15 School Inservice – no classes
Fri., April 22 Good Friday - no classes
Mon., May 23 Victoria Day – no classes
Wed., June 29 Last day of classes
Thurs., June 30 Admin Day – no classes

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Last year Lowe Farm School ran a program called Community Connections, a program which is open to parents and their infant to 4 year old children. The program is designed to develop a connection between the school and families in the area. It uses pre-school programs to improve early literacy as well as teach English to families that need it. There was no cost to the program. We are hoping to be able to run the same or similar program again this school year but funding for the program still needs to be finalized. Parents will be informed as to when the program will begin (likely some time in October).

Terrilee Friesen is bringing

L.A.'s Bootcamp4moms

to the Morris Wellness Centre
starting September 14

(Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30am and 5:30pm).
It is for all women (mothers or not) of all ages and at any fitness level in a kid friendly environment.

To check out what it's all about go to

www.thetysonmethod.com.

If interested email terrileefriesen@hotmail.ca or call 746-6974. High school girls welcome!

-Terrilee Friesen

LOWE FARM SCHOOL STAFF 2010-2011

Mr. Rob Fiola	Principal K/1/2 Phys. Ed./Health Grade 2/3/4 Phys. Ed./Health Grade 5/6 Phys. Ed./Health Grade 7/8 Phys. Ed./Health Grade 7/8 Technology
TBA	Kindergarten Teacher
Mrs. Heidi Driedger	Grade 1 & 2 Homeroom Teaches 1 & 2 everything except Phys. Ed./Health Teaches K Music
Mrs. Lori Penner	Grade 3 & 4 Homeroom Teaches 3/4 everything except Phys. Ed./Health and Art Grade 3/4 Music Grade 5/6 Music Grade 7/8 Music
Mrs. Jennifer Johnston	Grade 5 & 6 Homeroom 5 & 6 E.L.A., Math, Science, Social Studies, Art and Guidance Grade 7 & 8 Social Studies Grade 3 & 4 Art
Mrs. Alice Brown	Grade 7 & 8 Homeroom Grade 7 & 8 E.L.A., Math, Science, German, Drama/Art & Guidance Grade 5 & 6 German
Mrs. Marla Brandt	K-8 Resource/KIDS Program K-6 Guidance
Educational Assistants:	Mrs. Diane Lilke Mrs. Betty Resler Mrs. Sharmen Wiebe
Custodians:	Mr. Peter Harder Mrs. Ann Harder
Secretary/Librarian:	Mrs. Rose-Marie Ewbank

PIANO LESSONS

Students - Are you interested in taking piano lessons?

Time slots are still available for half hour per week lessons during school hours. Please call Gloria Matthies at 746-8243 for further information.



September 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 <i>Labour Day -no classes</i>	7 <i>Admin Day -no classes</i>	8 <i>First day of classes for all students</i>	9	10	11
12	13 <i>Picture Day</i>	14 <i>Gr. 7/8 Home Ec Canteen Opens</i>	15 <i>Mini Pizza/ Chips & Salsa</i>	16	17 <i>Hot Dog</i>	18
19	20 <i>Strong Beginnings</i>	21 <i>Strong Beginnings</i>	22 <i>Meet the Teacher Night 5—7 p.m. PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM BEGINS Mini Pizza/ Chips & Salsa</i>	23 <i>Autumn Begins</i>	24 <i>Gr. 7/8 Home Ec</i> <i>Hot Dog</i>	25
26	27 <i>Mini Pizza</i>	28	29 <i>Mini Pizza/ Chips & Salsa</i>	30		