

LOWE FARM SCHOOL

September 5, 2013 Newsletter

lowefarm@rrvsd.ca

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back students, staff and parents; a special welcome to the new families joining us this year. I hope everyone had an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful summer days we had. As a result of these sunny days with a nice mix of rain, many of you will be busy in the fields over the next few weeks. I wish you a safe and successful harvest.

I would like to welcome new staff members Audrey Friesen (maternity leave coverage for Lori Penner, Grade 2/3), Courtney Braden (Gr 4) and Kristen Harley (Grade 5/6); returning staff members Alice Brown, Melinda Colpitts, Marla Brandt and Jennifer Johnston. Educational Assistants Diane Lilke, Betty Ressler, Shamen Wiebe, Ann Harder and Trina Landry will be once again working with our students. Rose-Marie Ewbank returns, however not with much of a break. She has been implementing an automated library program most of the summer. Mr. and Mrs. Harder have once again done a beautiful job of the school over the summer and we are very happy to have them with us. This year we welcome candidate teachers Michelle Ginter and Holly Sabourin.

You will notice that over the summer we did some more renovations. We updated the skills room cupboards and completely re-did the canteen. The school looks great.

I look forward to seeing families out on the "Meet the Teacher" event this year to be held on the 12th of September. I also look forward to having students involved in "Strong Beginnings" on the 20th and 23rd of September.

Please feel free to come and visit or call me any time you are available. I look forward to working with the staff and the community to have another successful Lowe Farm School Lancers year.

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.

SCHOOL DAYS

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

CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE TO OUR SCHOOL DAY.

When bus students arrive at school they will be supervised by our educational assistants on the playground.

The school doors will open at 8:35 a.m., when both town and bus students may enter the school. Our opening exercises/classes will begin at 8:45 a.m.

Please note that our lunch time has also changed to 11:35 – 11:55 a.m. and noon recess runs from 11:55 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Students who go home for lunch will be dismissed at 11:35 a.m. and expected back at school no sooner than 11:55 a.m. and no later than 12:30 p.m.

At the end of the day students will be dismissed from class at 3:20 p.m. Town students will go home at this time. Bus students will be supervised outside on the playground by educational assistants until buses arrive.

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 204-746-8068 between 7:30 – 8:30 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.

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. Billy Smith is going home on Mrs. Dyck's bus OR Billy Smith is going home with Tommy White), 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 very much.

Low Farm School Priorities

Low Farm School has established three priorities to meet the needs of our students. The educational focus and learning at Low Farm School will be driven by the following priorities during the 2013-2014 school year:

- Staff will create Assessment Walls to monitor writing and reading progress
- Low Farm School staff and students will work towards being Global Citizens
- Staff will implement the new Math curriculum

Low Farm School Student Enrolment 2013-2014

GRADE	2013
Kindergarten	7
Grade 1	13
Grade 2	5
Grade 3	14
Grade 4	12
Grade 5	10
Grade 6	11
Grade 7	8
Grade 8	11
TOTALS	91

Please contact the school if you know of any families that have not registered yet. Thank you.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Lifetouch Canada will once again be providing school portrait services to Low Farm School students. Picture day will be held **Friday, September 27th, 2013** with the photographer beginning first thing in the morning. Students are encouraged to wear brightly colored clothing for best results. Students will receive a flyer with instructions on selecting pose and background color closer to our photo date. **Please fill in the flyer and send it with your child on Picture Day.**



“Meet the Teacher” Night

Thursday, September 12, 2013

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

5:00 BBQ

5:45 Parent Welcome in the Gym

6:15 Classroom Orientation

Come out and enjoy a hot dog & drink while you learn about our school and have the opportunity to meet your child’s teacher.

Students accompanying their parents are welcome to attend.

School Canteen

We are very excited to see the big changes made to our school canteen/nutrition room over the summer. New cabinets and a triple sink have been installed allowing for more storage and efficient use.

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 **11:35 – 11:55 a.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 **Monday, September 9th, 2013**

PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our Pre-school Program continues to be very successful 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 approximately 35 weeks. The program is designed to prepare children for Kindergarten and will begin **September 25.** **Mrs. Betty 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 204-746-8068 to register your child(ren) for the Low Farm School Pre-school Program.**



STRONG BEGINNINGS

All students Kindergarten to grade 8 will receive a letter this Friday (September 6th) 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. This year marks Lowe Farm School's fifth anniversary in participating in this program. **Strong Beginnings will be held on Friday, September 20th and Monday, September 23rd.** 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.** Another letter with your children's appointment time will go home shortly after that. We look forward to an excellent turn out.

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 (please book an appointment with the RCMP office for this). 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.



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 204-746-8243 for further information.

Nutritious Snacks, Etc.

At Lowe Farm School we believe it is important 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). Lowe Farm School also offers a Nutrition Program made possible through a Canadian Nutrition Council of Manitoba grant. The program provides a nutritious snack to each student during the morning nutrition break. This snack is not meant to replace what parents send for the nutrition break, but to compliment it. In the past teachers have 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, Fruit to Go, granola bars (not chocolate covered) Nutri-Grain Bars, healthy sandwiches and dried fruit.**

On the subject of food, microwaves have been made available for students to warm up their lunches at noon. We would like to encourage parents to heat up their child's lunch at home and put the food into **THERMOS BOTTLES** to keep the food warm as much as possible. Line ups at the microwaves are very time consuming and students then have little time to sit and enjoy their lunches. We thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

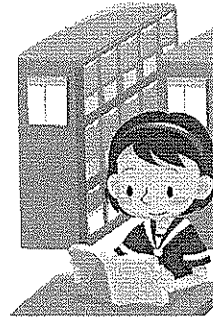
Fundraising Schedule

Fundraising has always been an integral part of providing extras for students at school. Whether it be class field trips, new equipment, special presentations, etc. funds are needed to cover these costs. 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
Lamontagne Card/Gift Fundraiser	September 16-30, 2013	Kindergarten to Grade 8
Mom's Pantry Products	October 7 – 24, 2013	Kindergarten to Grade 8
Lowe Farm School Fall Supper	Tentatively Fri. Nov. 8, 2013	Grades 5 – 8 students
Chocolate/Cereal Bar Fundraiser	Dec. 2, 2013 – Jan. 6, 2014	Kindergarten to Grade 8

Parent/Student Handbooks

Low 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.



LOWE FARM SCHOOL 2013-2014 STAFFING

TEACHERS:

Kindergarten & Grade 1

- Mrs. Melinda Colpitts

Grade 2 & 3, Grade 3 & 4 ELA/Math help

- Mrs. Audrey Friesen (Sept. – Dec.)
- Mrs. Lori Penner (Jan. – June)

Grade 4, Grade 2 & 3 Music

- Mrs. Courtney Braden

Grade 5 & 6, Grade 7 & 8 Social Studies

- Ms. Kristen Harley

Grade 7 & 8, Grade 5-8 German, Guidance

- Mrs. Alice Brown

Resource, KIDS, EAL

- Mrs. Jennifer Johnston

Resource, Guidance

- Mrs. Marla Brandt

Administration, Physical Education

- Mr. Rob Fiola

SUPPORT STAFF:

- Educational Assistants
 - Mrs. Ann Harder
 - Mrs. Trina Landry
 - Mrs. Diane Lilke
 - Mrs. Betty Resler
 - Mrs. Sharmen Wiebe
- Custodial Staff
 - Mr. Peter Harder
 - Custodial Aide to be hired
- Secretary/Librarian
 - Mrs. Rose-Marie Ewbank



Low Farm School

PTA Meeting

Thursday, September 12, 2013

following

Meet the Teacher Night

Parents are very welcome to attend and new members always welcome to join.

NO FLIP-FLOPS

In the past there has been some concern regarding students wearing flip-flops at school, especially during recess times. The children are outside playing during recess, running around and jumping here and there. Flip-flops tend to be unsafe running gear with your child's foot not being well protected. Flip-flops also come off too easily when running and students could step on something that could potentially hurt their feet. Due to the safety aspect of this type of footwear we ask that students **DO NOT WEAR FLIP-FLOPS** to school at all. Students will also not be allowed to remove their footwear while outside for recess, even when playing in the sand. We very much appreciate your co-operation in this matter.



RED RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DIVISION
DIVISION SCOLAIRE VALLÉE de la RIVIÈRE-ROUGE

233 Main Street, P.O. Box 400, Morris, MB R0G 1K0
Ph. 204.746.2317 • Fax 204.746.2785 • Email: rrvsd@rrvsd.ca

RED RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DIVISION

Invites applications for a part-time Custodial Aide
at

Lowe Farm School
Located in Lowe Farm, Manitoba

This position is a permanent 12-month position for 4.0 hours in the evening (3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.) at a rate of \$13.68 per hour. Start date is as soon as possible.

Deadline for applications: Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Submit applications to:

Lisa Bjerring, HR Coordinator
Red River Valley School Division
P.O. Box 400
Morris, MB R0G 1K0
Email: lbjerring@rrvsd.ca
FAX: 204-746-2785

We thank all applicants, however only those chosen for an interview will be contacted.

All employment is conditional upon the satisfactory results of a Child Abuse Registry check and a Criminal Records Check.



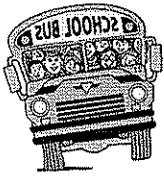
RED RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DIVISION SCHOOL CALENDAR 2013-2014

2013

Monday, September 2	Labour Day – no classes
Tuesday, September 3	Administration Day – no classes
Wednesday, September 4	Divisional Professional Development Day – no classes
Thursday, September 5	Classes Begin
Friday, September 20	Strong Beginnings
Monday, September 23	Strong Beginnings
Monday, October 14	Thanksgiving Day – no classes
Friday, October 25	S.A.G.E. Conferences – no classes
Friday, November 1	Divisional Professional Development Day – no classes
Monday, November 11	Remembrance Day – no classes
Friday, November 15	School Inservice / Administration Day – no classes
Friday, November 29	School Inservice / Administration Day – no classes
Friday, December 20	Last day of classes before Christmas Holidays

2014

Monday, January 6	Classes Resume
Friday, January 31	Administration Day – no classes
Monday, February 17	Louis Riel Day – no classes
Friday, March 21	School Inservice / Administration Day – no classes
Friday, March 28	Last day of classes before Spring Break
Monday, April 7	Classes Resume
Thursday, April 17	School Inservice / Administration Day – no classes
Friday, April 18	Good Friday – no classes
Monday, May 19	Victoria Day – no classes
Thursday, June 26	Last day of classes
Friday, June 27	Administration Day – no classes



September 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labour Day -no classes	3 Admin Day -no classes	4 Divisional Inservice Day -no classes	5 First Day of Classes Kindergarten AM only	6	7
8	9 Canteen Opens - Mini pizza/ mac & cheese	10 Kindergarten AM only	11 Mini pizza/ chips & salsa	12 Kinder- garten AM on- ly, Gr. 7/8 Home Ec, Meet the Teacher Night 5-7 p.m., PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m.	13 Kindergarten All Day Hot dog	14
15	16 Mini pizza/ mac & cheese	17 Kindergarten All day	18 Mini pizza/ chips & salsa	19 Kindergarten All day	20 Strong Beginnings	21
22 Autumn begins 	23 Strong Beginnings	24 Gr. 7/8 Soccer tournament, Kindergarten All Day	25 Preschool Begins 9—11 Mini pizza/ chips & salsa	26 Gr. 5/6 Soccer tournament, Gr. 7/8 Home Ec, Kindergarten All Day	27 Picture Day, Gr. 7/8 Soccer rain date, Kindergarten All Day Hot dog	28
29	30 Gr. 5/6 Soccer rain date Mini pizza/ mac & cheese					

BUS NOTE

Date: _____

Student's Name: _____

Bus Driver's Name: _____

The above named student will not be on his/her regular bus today after school.

Other information: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

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Date: _____

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