

DICKINSFIELD FLYER

January 2017 "Together We Fly Higher"

"Ensemble Nous Volons Toujours Plus Haut"

Website: <http://dickinsfield.fmpsdschools.ca/>
Twitter: @Dickinsfield

Facebook: École Dickinsfield School
App: École Dickinsfield School

Dickinsfield Students learning how to use
Python Computer Language



Tynker Thursdays: Coding Afternoons



Principal's Message

Why Kids Should Learn to Code (And What We are Doing at École Dickinsfield to Start the Process)

Coding (also called programming or developing) is telling a computer, app, phone or website what you want it to do. From Australia to England to Holland, educators have shifted away from teaching software programs toward teaching computer code, the language that tells computers how to perform those programs. Next door to Alberta, in British Columbia, they have formally changed the provincial curriculum to include coding as a requirement for students in elementary schools. Here in Fort McMurray, there is a growing recognition of the importance of learning this "new literacy" as we respond to the call from the tech sector for students to understand coding.

With the "new literacy" in mind, we feel it is important for our school to give your children opportunities to learn coding. Before Christmas we introduced the Gr. 3's to coding though an "Hour of Code", a one-hour tutorial that focused on the basics of coding.

Every Thursday, Division 2 students have the opportunity to use Tynker, a programming tool, and on Wednesday afternoons, we are adding additional opportunities for students in Gr. 5 and 6 to learn "Python", another programming language. At École Dickinsfield we are continually seeking new opportunities for students to receive a broad program of studies: not only in academics, fine arts, health and physical education, but also in technology, as they broaden their career options!

Paul Smith, Principal

Important Information for Parents

Jan. 09: Networks (School Council Representatives from all Schools meet at District Office)
Jan. 10: PAC meeting, 9:15; Green Scene 4:00-5:30
Jan. 13: No School (PLF Day)
Jan. 18: Spelling Bee
Jan. 19: School Council 6:30
Jan. 23: Gr. 4 Ski Day
Jan. 25: Spotlight on Education- Ecole Dickinsfield Presentation on Coding
Jan. 26: Gr. 5 and 6 Ski Day

Spring Break (No School): April 8 - April 17 inclusive. April 18 – school resumes

All parents are invited to our first School Council Meeting of the New Year!:

January 19, 6:30 PM, in the Multi-Purpose Room. Agenda as follows:

1. Presentation by Mrs. Webb , School Counsellor: Building Resiliency Post Fire
 - a. What is being done school-wide
 - b. What is being done in the classroom
 - c. Training for the teachers
 - d. Other resiliency information
2. Operating Principles/Code of Ethics for School Council
3. Rationale behind Teacher Schedules (teacher switches)
4. WITS: new anti-bullying program for 2017-18

LATE OR ABSENT PROCEDURE

If your child is going to be late for school or will not be able to attend or if you know of a vacation coming up it is very important that you contact the School Office.

There are a couple of options:

Call: [780-791-6990](tel:780-791-6990) and press 1 to leave a message for the Attendance Secretary
Email: dfabsences@fm-psd.ab.ca

The information required when calling or emailing is as follows:

- **Child's first and last name**
- **Child's grade and/or teacher's name**
- **Reason for the late or absence**

When leaving a voice message it is very important that you please speak slowly and clearly.

Your child's safety is of great importance to the school so letting us know when there will be a late or absent is appreciated.





Rehearsals for the musical "The Grunch" have started! The performance will be at Keyano Theatre the evening of March 15th, 2017 for parents and families. The students of Ecole Dickinsfield will have a chance to see the performance during the afternoon at Keyano.

Please make sure you and your child look at the rehearsal schedule to know which days they need to come to rehearsal. They are required to learn their lines and songs at home. Rehearsals at school are for putting the show together and learning choreography. Rehearsals that say "All Cast" mean *everyone...*!

All music audio is available at: <http://www.bbbpress.com/musicals/grunch/>

If you require a rehearsal schedule, would like to volunteer, or require any additional information, please contact
Mme. Chantelle at chantelle.balfour@fmpsd.ab.ca

Thank you!



HABIT 4: THINK WIN-WIN



Think Win-Win is the belief that everyone can win. It's not me or you—it is both of us. It is a belief that there are enough good things for everyone; it is an abundant way of thinking. Think Win-Win is being happy for others when good things happen to them. As a parent, not everything is negotiable, but if you go into discussions with your child with a win-win mindset, you'll find a lot less resistance.

Everyone Can Win

I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits in others' Emotional Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise, I look for Third Alternatives.

Check out the "Parent's Place" at www.TheLeaderInMe.org for fun ways to bring the habits home.

Suggested titles for young children that reinforce Habit 4:

- *The Mixed-Up Chameleon* by *Eric Carle*
- *Ira Sleeps Over* by *Bernard Waber*

Suggested titles for older children that reinforce Habit 4:

- *The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane* by *Russell Freedman*
- *Painted Words, Spoken Memories* by *Aliki*

Ways to apply at home: Applaud others: Model being happy for others. Have family celebration times!

Words to use: "How can we come up with something that makes us both happy?" "I bet you two can solve this. What is a creative win-win solution here?" "Can you see this from their point of view? What are you each trying to accomplish?" "What is a third alternative? Can we think of a better way?"

Diversity

Our school community is very diverse. We have different holidays, countries of origin, cultures, skin colors, faiths, beliefs, genders, languages, families, clothing, food, ages and abilities/disabilities. To create a safe and caring school environment, we are learning about and celebrating all the wonderful ways we are different as students and families.

The student Diversity Leaders have created a bulletin board to celebrate all the ways we are different, and gathered books in the library in a special diversity section.

We are also working on a video to teach and celebrate all the ways we are different in our elementary school. If your child and family would like to be part of the video, please contact kathleen.cochrane@fmps.ab.ca



Lights

The Light Leaders are encouraging everyone to remember to turn off the lights in a room when you are not in it. In these dark days it's easy to forget! Get in the Green Habit!

