

DICKINSFIELD FLYER

November 2017 "Together We Fly Higher"

"Ensemble Nous Volons Toujours Plus Haut"

Website: <http://dickinsfield.fmpsdschools.ca/>

Facebook: École Dickinsfield School

Twitter: @Dickinsfield

App: École Dickinsfield School

Principal's Message

Question Parents Ask

"How can an APPLE school offer hot lunch meals from fast food providers?"

That's a question that has been on the minds of some of our parents. After all, as an APPLE school, we are only supposed to be providing "choose most often" or "choose sometimes" food. Here's the answer....the restaurants make healthy modifications to the various items so that they comply with our guidelines. For instance, if we have pizza from a local provider, it will be on a whole wheat crust, using fat-reduced light cheese, and be lower in calories than the restaurant product. When we provide Booster Juice, it is very healthy, with only natural juices, no added sugar, and our version is only 50 calories, rather than the higher calorie product available in the restaurant. Of course, parents are always the ones in charge of the food choices for their own children, but when we are providing food for the entire class or the school, or when parents send food for class parties which will be eaten by others, we stick with the APPLE school guidelines.

We are an
APPLE school



Food Bank "Hunger Monster"



Super Hero Dress-Up



Kick off to Wacky Week for
United Way

"What are the school-supported charities, and when are they in the school year?"

We don't want to "nickel and dime" parents to death, so we spread these charities out through the school year. The first charity of the year is in September: We collect "toonies for Terry," towards the cause of cancer research. All across Canada schools share the story of Terry Fox, a Canadian hero, and hold special walks and runs in support of this cause.

In October our school district promotes United Way of Fort McMurray, which provides funding to numerous charities in Wood Buffalo that deliver over 70 programs, Fire Recovery, Justin Slade Foundation, Boys and Girls Club, The Children's Centre, the Hub, Kid Sport, etc. The Wacky week that we had in October was a Kickoff event for this charity.

Around Halloween we display “Feed the Hunger Monster” and collect food for the Food Bank on a voluntary basis from early childhood children or from older kids, for instance by having a school dance where the admission is a non-perishable food item. In conjunction with the Christmas concerts, we also accept donations for various causes such as the SPCA, Food Bank, or Project Cambodia (an initiative to help build and support schools in Cambodia). We also support McMann House, in making Christmas special for kids in their care. In the Spring we have Jump Rope for Heart, supporting the Heart and Stroke Foundation, and on the basis of individual need, such as a seriously ill child in our school, or other local need, we may do what we can to respond to those individual causes. No-one should ever feel compelled to give for every cause, as each family’s circumstances and choices re discretionary giving will differ.

Paul Smith, Principal

Important Dates for Parents

Nov 1st – ECDP PTI’s @ 4:30pm – 7:30pm
Nov 2nd – ECDP PTI’s all day – No Classes for ECDP
Nov 3rd – PLF Day – No School for Students
Nov 8th – Grade 5 Immunizations
Nov 9th – Remembrance Day Assembly @ 10:45am
Nov 10th – Remembrance Day Recognition No School for All
Nov 13th – Day in Lieu Term 1 PIT’s, No School for All
Nov 14th – Picture Retakes (until 10:30am)
Nov 15th – School Council Meeting
Nov 17-18 – Boys Volleyball Tournament (Dickinsfield School)
Nov 24th – Hot Lunch Order Due
Nov 24-25 – Girls Volleyball Tournament (Walter Gladys’s Hill)
Nov 28th – PIT (Parents Teacher Interview) Grades 1-6 @ 4:30pm – 7:30pm
Nov 30th - PIT (Parents Teacher Interview) Grades 1-6 @ 4:30pm – 7:30pm

Welcome to our new librarian Mme. Christine Block

The library is looking for some volunteers to help on an ongoing basis, if you have some time in November or December please follow the sign up genius link to volunteer.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d4ea8a82eabfc1-library>



The Book Fair will be held from November 24 at noon until November 30. It will be open on the evenings of parent teacher interviews Nov. 28/30. We are also looking for volunteers for this event, if you can help please follow this separate link to volunteer.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d4ea8a82eabfc1-november>

Thanks in advance for your help!

Leader in Me – Goal Setting: Ensuring Student Success



At our first assembly of the year, we had two student athletes come up to the stage with a singular challenge: “Jump as far as you can.” They both made long leaps which were marked. Before jumping a second time, they were told to set a goal: “Beat your first jump.” With a specific, measurable goal, each child was able to exceed his first attempt.

Goal setting is important! As a Leader in Me School, École Dickinsfield teaches kids the 7 Habits. The first three habits – Be Proactive, Begin With the End in Mind, and Put First Things First – are intrinsic to the goal-setting process.

In order to be independent, children need to learn how to set goals. We have asked children to set their own personal goals for literacy this month. For a child who is just learning to read, their goal might be to learn the beginning sounds. For another child the goal might be to learn to read ten new words in a week, using their strategies to sound out letters, left to right and blend them together. For an older child, their goal might be to read one chapter book a week. Once a student sets a goal with his or her teacher, the essential question becomes “What will it take to achieve that goal?”

We focus on “Wildly Important Goals,” or WIGs. WIGs are the vital few goals that must be accomplished in order to be successful. A WIG is expressed in a statement that is specific, measurable, and time-bound. For example, a child who was at level N in reading for term 1 might set this goal for the next term, “Be able to read at level P by March 15.” Having a specific goal helps students see where they need to be and by when.

After a WIG is identified and written, students often don’t know where to begin. Breaking a large goal into smaller steps or strategies relieves this confusion. We called those actionable steps “lead measures.” A potential lead measure for the WIG concerning reading at level P is “Reading at home for at least 20 minutes, 5 days a week.” This measure would be tracked daily to see if progress is being made. Focusing on these lead measures will help the students stay on track to achieve the overall reading goal and evaluate progress along the way.

Our school plan for Literacy is the following:

1. Each child in each class will decide on a personal literacy goal for himself/ herself with guidance from the teacher. The goal for each child can be a UNIQUE month by month goal, over the course of 30 days.
2. Each class will be awarded a medal dependent on the percent of students in the class that reached their personal goals. If at least 2/3 of the class achieved their goal, that class will get a BRONZE medal. If 80%- 89% of the class achieved their goal, that class will get a SILVER medal. If 90%-100% of the class achieved their goal, that class will get a GOLD medal.
3. Medals will be awarded at a monthly "Success Assembly." Our school goal will be that every class in the school will achieve a medal. On November 7 we will have a success assembly to recognize the achievement of each class.

Involving students in their own personal goal-setting yields powerful results!

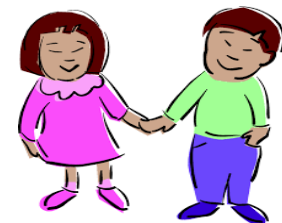
Parent Association Council

The Dickinsfield Parent Association is looking for your help with our Online Auction again this year. PAC uses these funds to provide support for various programs and equipment in our school. Examples include the projector/sound system in the gym, literacy supplies, student awards, funding for schools clubs/teams and much more!

We are asking all parents to please help us gather NEW items to donate for the auction. Items can be dropped in the school office between November 3rd and 17th. The auction will take place from November 20th to 26th. More info to follow

We appreciate your donations to help us make this Online Auction a successful fundraising initiative for the school and our children.

Sincerely,
Ecole Dickinsfield Parent Association Council



Clothing Donations Wanted

Sometimes children have accidents and end up with wet clothes, or throw up and need a change of clothes. In those cases our office ladies provide pants or tops, etc., if they have the correct sizes on hand. However, we are missing pants and T-shirts in the larger sizes. If your child has outgrown his/her clothes, please keep us in mind. Donations of clean children's clothing in good condition will be gratefully accepted.



For Halloween or other celebrations, consider these healthy suggestions or nonfood items for your classroom or home:

Snack ideas include: fruit kabobs, vegetables and dip, healthy muffins, banana bread, apple or kale chips, popcorn, homemade pretzels, frozen yogurt tubes, smoothies with frozen fruit/veggies

Non-food item ideas: stickers, pencils, erasers, craft supplies, yo-yos, skipping ropes, balls.

Anti- Bullying Program

This year all elementary schools at FMPSD will be implementing the WITS Program and WITS LEAD Program. Two staff members from the Canadian Mental Health Association, in conjunction with our school counsellor, Karina Webb, will help our school implement the program.

The WITS Programs bring together schools, families and communities to create responsive environments that help children deal with bullying and peer conflict.

WITS have two parts:

1. WITS Primary Program – Teaches Kindergarten to Grade 3 children to Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out and Seek help when faced with peer conflict. The acronym also provides a common language that children and the adults around them can use to talk about and respond to problems.
2. WITS LEADS Program – A more grown-up program designed for Grades 4-6 students, which teaches more complex problem-solving strategies: Look and listen, Explore points of view, Act, Did it work? and Seek help. LEADS train students to become WITS Leaders who can help younger children with their problems.

Teachers reinforce the programs by reading popular children's books, which emphasize WITS and LEADS messages, to their students. We also encourage students to use their WITS and LEADS skills to deal with problems and hope you will too! Want to know more? Explore the WITS website at www.witsprogram.ca.

Each school will launch the program with a "Swearing - In ceremony and the "Tug - Of -Help". This ceremony will be held at a special assembly in our gym on Nov. 27 at 1 pm. Throughout the year there will be ongoing discussion of WITS and LEAD strategies along with the readings which emphasize WITS and LEADS messages



Samaritan's Purse - Operation Shoebox.

We are very proud to announce that we are packing 39 shoe boxes to send to children all over the world. Thank you to our students, families and teachers for participating in this - what a difference this will make to some families!



LATE OR ABSENT PROCEDURE

If your child is going to be late for school, 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
Or email: dfabsences@fmpsd.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.



SCHOOL BUS MONITORING



Dear Parents of school bus students:

The following is a website that Sparksman has set up to let parents know of any delays or other issues with the bussing. Please make note of this website and use it to monitor your child's bus.

www.myschoolbusmonitor.ca