

DICKINSFIELD FLYER

February 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

Some Fun Events from last month... Spirit Day



Winter Walk was cool (in more than one way)!



Principal's Message

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education conducts the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. The survey is an opportunity for selected parents of Alberta school children to have a voice regarding the quality of education that their children receive. The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of student outcomes such as high school completion, etc., provincial assessments of student learning and surveys.

Accountability Pillar results are often viewed as a comparison to other schools. In order to get a balanced evaluation, it is important to think in broad terms, not focus on the occasional exception or something that might be part of a utopian vision. For example, the survey asks "How satisfied are you with the variety of subjects available to your child?" Although parents might wish even more was offered to their elementary school child (e.g. Economics, Mandarin, etc.) it is good to remember that schools have a prescribed program of studies, and think about the questions in broad terms rather than specifics, and rate your satisfaction accordingly .

How Did we Do?

1. Quality of Education

As you are probably aware, École Dickinsfield has a well-deserved reputation as a high performing academic school. Although due to the fire and evacuation, we have no results for the school as a whole from last year, the previous year's ratings for the provincial achievement tests were very high. We do have the survey results from 2016, however, and this is the feedback we received.

Measure	Ecole Dickinsfield School			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Safe & Caring	86.0	90.3	88.9	89.5	89.2	89.1	High	Maintained	Good
Program of Studies	87.2	85.2	79.9	81.9	81.3	81.4	Very High	Maintained	Excellent
Education Quality	91.6	92.0	93.0	90.1	89.5	89.5	Very High	Maintained	Excellent

2. Preparation for World of Work

On the survey last year, only six parents responded to the survey question which inquired if they felt their child was being taught attitudes and behaviours to be successful at work when he or she left school. Half of the parents said they didn't know although the other half said they were very satisfied. The fact that some parents said they didn't know lowered our evaluation in this area.

If you don't know the answer to a survey question, it is better to skip it, since this is interpreted by Alberta Education to mean that only 50% of parents are satisfied that these attitudes are taught. As a Leader in Me School, I can assure you that Dickinsfield definitely teaches all those habits, attitudes and behaviours which make one successful in life!

3. Parental Involvement

In the past we have had a really high response to the survey question which asks about parent involvement. Last year, however, we had a lower than usual response to questions regarding the opportunity to be involved in decisions at school. We would love it if you could get involved..... the best opportunity is through either the PAC group or through the School Council. Both these groups are open to all parents. Hope to see you there!

Paul Smith, Principal

Important Information for Parents

Feb. 6 : Networks (School Council Representatives from all Schools meet at District Office)

Feb. 7: PAC meeting, 9:15

Feb. 9: Valentine's Dance for Gr. 4-6 from 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

Feb. 10: No School (PLF Day)

Feb. 11: Girls' Basketball Tournament hosted by Dickinsfield (Hoopfest) 8:00 am- 3:30 pm

Feb. 13: Gr. 5 & 6 Ski Day

Feb. 15: Parent Information Night for Leader in Me 6:30-7:30

Feb. 16: School Council 6:30

Feb. 20: Family Day- No School

Feb. 27- March 3: Convention Week (No School)

Coming Up: Ecole Dickinfield Science Fair March 24!

February School Council Meeting

February 16, 6:30pm in the Multi-Purpose Room

Agenda includes: Amendments to Operating Procedures
Safe parking and crosswalk use

Did you know... school council involves parents working with school administration and staff to make improvements to the school environment! Everyone is welcome to attend and share an opinion!!



Counseling

Here we are almost halfway through the school year. How fast the time has gone! I Just want to remind everyone that I am in school and if there is anything that I can help you or your children with, please do not hesitate to contact me at 780 791 6990 ext 4.

Thanks, Karina Webb

LATE OR ABSENT PROCEDURE

École Dickinsfield School can be proud of the fact that almost every child is on time each day! Most parents recognize the importance of developing the habit of punctuality when children are young, as preparation for the world of work. Punctuality is important for students as well. If they come late in the morning, students miss key instruction and can fall behind academically. The rest of the class is also impacted when a classmate arrives during the lesson and the teacher has to stop what she has been doing and give instructions to the tardy student.

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
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.

Question: Why doesn't Dickinsfield microwave lunches for kids?

École Dickinsfield School has the largest student population of any school in the district but it is not feasible for us to microwave your child's lunch. Imagine if you as a parent had 24 children and decided to warm up individual microwavable meals for each of your kids! It would take a long time before you got to the last child! Of course, very few moms and dads have 24 kids, but the average teacher has 20- 28 children in their class. If each one waits in turn to use the microwave, it would take an hour before the last child got a turn. We provide the opportunity to purchase hot lunches Wednesday and Thursday <https://dickinsfield.hotlunches.net>

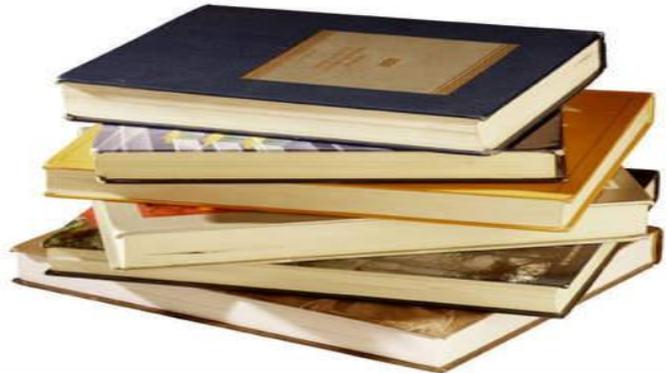
Ecole Dickinsfield Spelling Bee

Students from Division 2 classes participated in a classroom spelling bee to determine the top 2 or 3 spellers from each class. On January 18, 2017, these top spellers were invited to the school-wide spelling bee. The top 21 students represented their classrooms very well, until only 3 remained standing.

Congratulations to Hannah Carrillo (3rd place), Daniella Kormendy (2nd place) and Evan Fediuk (1st place).

We cannot wait to hold another spelling bee next year!

The
Leader
in Me
great happens here



At the beginning of the year, we set a school wide goal to read for 1,000,000 minutes by February 3rd. Everyone in the school, students and staff, synergized to help reach our goal!

Goal setting and tracking is a process that takes place over time. The first step taken by students was to set a personal goal for each month. Then they tracked their progress by counting how many minutes they read each day. At the end of each month, each class tabulated their minutes and added coloured "bricks" to the literacy board at the front of the school. Each brick represents 1,000 minutes.

When the board was full, the Literacy Leaders would take down the bricks and choose one of those classes to win a guest reader. Our guest readers have been Oil Baron Hockey players and the students enjoy hearing them read stories and talk about how they are leaders. The teacher of the winning class also won a gift card, courtesy of PAC, to purchase books for their class library.

Now that our goal has been reached, the Literacy Leaders will be planning a week of fun literacy activities. These will start on February 13 and more information will be shared once the ideas are finalized.

Thank you to all students for reading and tracking their progress. Thank you to all parents for supporting your child(ren). Reaching a goal of this magnitude would not have been possible without everyone reading!



Rehearsals for "The Grunch" continue! Some updates:

Until February 21st, all Junior Star rehearsals (Grades 1-3) are being held at lunchtime recesses instead of mornings. As of February 21st, the regular rehearsal schedule will resume unless otherwise notified.

On Monday, February 6th, some of the school board trustees are coming for a sneak peek of our rehearsals!

Tickets for our evening production on March 15th will be going on sale through the Keyano Theatre Box Office on February 15th.

Costume information will be emailed to "Grunch" parents and guardians. **You are not required to purchase any costumes for this show; however, if you believe that you have something at home that could work, please send it to school with you child by February 14th.** That way we will be able to check off who has a costume, and who needs one. Thank you!

Drama club leads, Augustus, Mrs. Woods, Grunch and Mills- A handout will be given to you with details for your character.

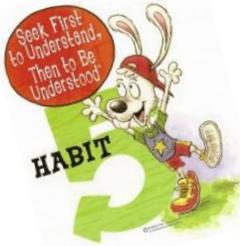
All Junior Stars and Drama Club characters: Jeans, shorts or black pants/ leggings and a bright coloured top.

All Flowers: Jeans or black pants, or leggings or shorts and a pink top

All Critics/ Critics' chorus': Black, grey or navy dress pants, white button up top. Trench coat.
Optional: fedora, glasses.

Prop costumes: Space/ Intergalactic items, items with sequins, sequin head bands





HABIT 5: SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND, THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD

Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

means that it is better to listen first and talk second. By taking the time to listen to another person, you reach a higher level of communication.

Teaching Habit 5 to young children is done by first considering their age and development. Young children find it difficult to understand another's paradigm (point of view). This habit is best approached by introducing listening as a skill that should be practiced. Learning to listen without interrupting and learning to listen with your ears, your eyes, and your heart will help children build a foundation for Habit 5. Simply put, we have two ears and one mouth so that we can spend more time listening with the intent to understand.

Listen Before You Talk

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.

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 5:

- **Swimmy by Leo Lionni**
- **The Berenstain Bears and too much teasing by Berenstain**

Suggested titles for older children that reinforce Habit 5:

- *Charlotte's Web by E. B. White*
- *Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner*

Ways to apply at home : "Pretend Listening Activity": 1. Have your child try to tell you something while you are doing something else. "Pretend listen." (Uh-huh, That's nice.) Talk to them about how that felt when they weren't getting your full attention. Have them tell you the same thing again while you give your child your full attention. 2. Now switch roles and have your child play or draw while you try and tell them something. Talk about how you felt when you weren't being listened to. Remind your child that this type of listening is an example of another habit: Think WinWin.

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.

Diversity

Alberta Education: "Students, parents and school authorities have responsibilities for ensuring welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that respect diversity and nurture a sense of belonging and a positive sense of self." Our school does this by encouraging us all to learn about and respect our differences and similarities.

World Hijab Day

Our school has families of many different cultures and ways of thinking. During recess of last week our Diversity group provided opportunities for people to try out a head scarf (hijab) if they would like to. This was in support of diversity and safe and caring schools by fostering religious tolerance and understanding. It was not intended to promote any specific religion and its' beliefs.

In Canada, the typical Muslim woman who wears a hijab does not do so out of compulsion, but rather as an expression of modesty and of beauty and a cultural expression of faith. In many religions people wear distinctive clothing. For example, in old order Mennonite circles, both men and women cover their heads, Sikhs wear turbans, etc. In our multi-cultural assembly every year, we also celebrate diversity with a multi-cultural fashion show where everything from traditional Ukrainian attire to Indian saris and special clothes are worn.

In the wake of the tragedy in Quebec City we especially wanted to nurture our Canadian values of tolerance and openness, and we want all students to feel safe and understood. To show respect for those in our school community who choose to wear hijab, we had a Hijab Day, where girls and women were welcome to try out a scarf if they wanted to. For those who choose to regularly wear hijab, it is a symbol of modesty and beauty. The day encourages us to "Seek First To Understand" before judging. Learn more: [Ft. McMurray World Hijab Day 2017](#).



Henna Day

We are planning a Henna Day, where students can try some henna designs. We need parent helpers! Please contact archana.bhalla@fm-psd.ab.ca

Pink Shirt Day, February 22

We are joining in on Anti-Bullying for Pink Shirt Day. It's a day when we all agree to stand up to stereotyping, discriminating and bullying. [Learn more here](#). We can each make a difference!

Multicultural Fashion Show, April 3

Our third annual Multicultural Fashion Show will be on April 3. We look forward to another amazing celebration of all the cultures, languages and clothing of our school families.

DFGreen

Great green things are happening at our school! Follow it all on [@DFGreenSchool](#)
To see the other green things happening in our district check out [@GreenSceneFMPD](#)



Anti-Idling

DRAW for Dairy Queen Ice Cream cakes! Vehicles who are caught "Not Idling" will have their name entered in a monthly draw for an ice cream cake. Thank you to Dairy Queen! To learn more about anti-idling [click here](#).

Waste Free Lunches

At Ecole Dickinsfield School we encourage Waste Free Lunches, every day! Reusable water bottles and reusable containers are a great habit. [Learn more here](#).



Growing Tower

Thanks to Tanya Paquette, one of our school parents, who has been helping us with a Tower Garden in our front foyer. The garden is beautiful!

Blog

Check out our [school blog](#), run by Student Blog Leaders.