



School Mission Statement: Empowering students to use their imagination and creativity to learn and grow into successful global citizens through skillful teaching and a love for kids.

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Highlights for 2015 2016

End of Year - June Report

Priority Area #1—Mental Health and Student Resiliency.

At Southwood School, staff recognize the direct link which exists between a student's mental health and levels of engagement. We have worked diligently to provide opportunities for students to grow as individuals. We believe that implementing *Real Restitution*, *Roots of Empathy*, and *Second Step* have all contributed to building these resilient skills in our students. The school guidance counselor has continued to provide individual, small group, and whole class instruction to support this priority. Over the course of the school year, we have seen a reduction in playground aggression and an increase in students feeling safe at school from 61% in the 2014-2015 school year to 80% this past year as identified in the *Tell Them From Me* surveys.

Priority Area #2 - Inquiry.

The process in which we provoke student learning, allow for exploration, and reflect on the learning is the inquiry process we as a staff have worked at developing over the course of this past year. We have examined our pedagogical practices through workshops, book studies, and professional development opportunities. Our school has developed a *Deeper Learning Team* that has been the driving force for introducing new initiatives to promote inquiry. The development of the MakerSpace, the nature playground, and the outdoor learning environment are intentional tools to support inquiry opportunities for students. Our Student Exhibition and the Global Day for Design were opportunities for students to showcase their learning and creativity. Our kindergarten teachers have focused intently on developing a play-based learning environment for our students. We understand that play serves as the pathway to building young children's social-emotional and cognitive development.

Priority Area #3 – Problem Solving Skills.

School data, over the past year, has revealed a gap in our student's ability to problem solve in both social and academic settings. Classroom teachers participated in a number of professional learning network opportunities which focused on this priority. Professional development opportunities were provided by divisional learning coaches, teacher professional book studies, and numerous within and outside of divisional professional development sessions. Provincial consultants from the department of education were also called upon to provide specific support in the areas of *play-based instruction*, *MakerSpace development and implementation*, and *student programming and report card writing*.

About Us in 2015-16

- ❖ Southwood is an early years school which has 435 students – K-4, 48 staff members – which includes 31 teachers, 13 Educational Assistants, 2 secretaries, 1 librarian, 3 custodians
- ❖ The staff of Southwood School strive to provide a safe and caring environment for students to grow and develop. Teachers work closely with the families and understand the role that caregivers can provide to a successful educational experience.
- ❖ Southwood School has a strong support staff consisting of 2.5 resource teachers, 0.5 guidance counselor, literacy support teacher, music teacher, physical education teacher, and a Reading Recovery teacher. Our support team works in conjunction with our divisional student services team which includes a psychologist, speech-language pathologist, occupational therapist, and social worker. Outside agencies, such as physiotherapy and mental health, are also available.
- ❖ Southwood School works to support student behaviour and their social-emotional well-being with the support of such programs as *Real Restitution*, *Roots of Empathy*, and *Second Step*. And will continue to do so.
- ❖ Exciting events which occur at Southwood include our Christmas Concert, our spring concert in the park, school picnic, International Walk To School, Pink Day, Science Week (WISE Camps), The bike rodeo, grade 4 farewell event, Strong Connections and *Artist in the School*.
- ❖ *Southwood School has intentionally focused on enhancing our student learning environments through the introductions of a MakerSpace, Outdoor Learning Environment, Nature Playground and Accentuated Learning Environments.*
- ❖ *Southwood School introduced a new website and began using twitter to improve communication with parents.*