



SCHOOL PLANNING REPORT 2016—2017

Rod Kehler Principal
Tracy Beaudin Vice Principal

155 Barkman Ave. Steinbach, MB R5G 0P2
(p)204-326-3518 (f) 204-326-7535
<http://southwood.hsd.ca> Twitter: @SouthwoodHSD

Priority #1 - Acquisition of literacy of numeracy skills: what we learn.

Strategies: Standardized assessment and training of literacy assessment and instruction for teachers. Fontas and Pinnell training provided for teachers. Improved writing practices adopted by teachers using a two-year professional development plan using Regie Routman in Residence Program (year 1 of 2 year PD). Implementation of provincial kindergarten document, “A Time for Learning, A Time for Joy” by school based support teachers and divisional learning coaches. Focus on play-based approach and Regio Amelia teaching philosophy. Improved methods of assessment to include student electronic portfolios (ie Seesaw ipad app). Portfolios intended to improve communication between school and home which will positively impact students learning. School Deeper Learning team expanded with a focus on grades K-2. Team planning and co-teaching. Numeracy training and professional development focused on how to provoke student learning, vertical learning, Three-act math (Graham Fletcher), and the Michael Fullen’s Six C’s (particularly communication and collaboration).

Priority #2 - Enhancing student learning engagement: how they are learning.

Strategies: Southwood staff will design, develop, and improve the classroom learning environments to support and meet the individual learning style of the students. The development and construction of a nature playground (Phase I) Professional development will be provided to staff to improve teaching practices in order to improve student learning. Professional development opportunities for kindergarten teachers to implement a play-based learning environment for all kindergarten students. The re-location and implementation of a “Maker Space” for students to explore their interests and foster project based learning. Increased use of technology provided to classroom and teacher professional development provided. School based Deeper Learning Team will continue to examine and make recommendations for improved learning spaces. Deeper Learning i-Pad roll-out for grades K-2. GAFE training for teachers and support staff. House Points System to build school community and to promote our school motto of Care, Learn, Grow.

Priority #3 - Student well-being: safety, resiliency, social/emotional regulation, and coping strategies).

Strategies: School committee members will promote healthy living styles to support student healthy mental. Real Restitution, Play is the Way, Second Step, career development, and Roots of Empathy programs continued to build student skills related to well-being. Guidance counselors provides classroom support of health curriculum, focusing on personal/emotional/social development. Also, expand programming for individual and small groups by adding additional half-time guidance counselor for 2016-2017. Increased number of noon hour and after school clubs. Partnership with ROC (Recreational Opportunities for Children) continued for second year. Development and implementation of the school-wide positive real restitution plan (and data collection process).

About Us

- Southwood School originated in 1947 and is home to 458 students, grades K to 4.
- We have 27.5 teachers, 7 Educational Assistants, 2 Secretaries, 1 Library Clerk, and a custodial staff of 3.
- Our school support team include the following members: Guidance counsellors, support teachers, and a reading recovery teacher.
- We strive to teach our students about the basic needs of behavior through an approach called Real Restitution. This belief is supported through programs like Second Step and Roots of Empathy.
- We believe that through a caring learning environment, students are able to learn and grow as productive individuals.
- Students in Southwood School demonstrate they care for others in our community in a variety of ways, by supporting local charities and fundraising organizations through our actions.
- Southwood School is striving to provide students with a variety of hands-on and expeditionary learning opportunities within the school community and beyond. Our plan is to provide continued support and training to our teachers to facilitate these type of learning opportunities for students.
- Our goal is to partner with our communities and parents through school events and open communication in an effort to provide a caring learning environment for students that fosters their learning and growth.

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