

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT OCTOBER 2004

Professional Development

We have three teachers, Brenda Cordeiro, Belinda Schleier and Chris Turnbull enrolled in the Additional Qualifications Math Part 1 course. These three will share with the rest of the staff information, teaching practices etc as they receive them through their course.

On October 1st all teachers were involved in P.D. activities throughout the Board.

Math Makes Sense was presented to teachers in Red Rock and Reading in the Content Areas was presented to Intermediate teachers in Terrace Bay.

On October 25th, Brenda Cordeiro and I attended an EQAO videoconference in regards to the Grade 3 and 6 testing. There will be several changes this year to the administering of the tests: Following are the key changes:

- The length of the test is reduced from 12 hours to 6 hours;
- The test will be administered later in the year allowing teachers to cover more of the curriculum prior to testing;
- More flexibility as to how the test is administered in the school will be allowed;
- Reporting of the test results will be timelier in that schools will receive the results earlier.

All in all, these changes will be beneficial to both students and staff and are viewed as a step in the right direction.

Alice Gould and Brenda Cordeiro presented Reading workshops on October 13th and October 18th to parents of students in JK through Grade 3. Although the turnout was not spectacular, the workshops were of great help to those who attended.

Staff/Divisional Meetings

Instead of a staff meeting, we held Divisional meetings to discuss the literacy program and how to make it best work considering we were receiving an additional teacher and going to straight grades for Literacy for Grades 1 through 6. I'm happy to report that we have most of the bugs worked out and the programs are up and running.

School Visits

Dianna Cole of the Ontario Provincial Police visits our school regularly to interact with the kids.

She was also involved in the Bus Safety presentation to all students of our school on October 5th.

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit was in to do the Hepatitis B shots to our Grade 7 students and immunizations for our SK students.

Cultural Activities

David Archibald and Linda Chiupka were in to present the "Gulo Gulo" concert to our students. The title track "Gulo Gulo", was written and performed by our Grade 7 students of two years ago. The concert was well received by both students and staff.

We held our monthly awards assembly to present to students their Achievement Awards, Good Deed Awards and the Perfect Attendance Award.

Also, at that assembly, Clarence Sullivan was awarded his prize for winning the Hemlo Operations Corporations' Christmas card contest. Clarence was the recipient of a \$50 gift certificate as well as a wind suit with his name embroidered on it. Congratulations Clarence!

On October 29th, our students were engaged in Halloween activities. These activities included a parade through the school, an assembly, classroom parties and various games. All the students looked fantastic in their costumes and seemed to enjoy the day.

Open House was held on October 25th and was well attended. The halls and classrooms were filled with students and parents. It was great to see everyone out.

Thanks to all who supported the Book Fair and CD sale. The winner of the draw for the Book Fair was Jesse Barnes who received \$25 worth of books for himself and \$25 for his classroom. The winner of the CD draw was Marlene Turner. Congratulations to both of them.

Extra Curricular Activities

The Junior students are involved in Newcombe Ball, which runs on Mondays and Wednesdays at lunchtime. A total of 45 students are involved in this activity.

The Intermediate students are involved in Volleyball, which runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunch. A total of 38 students are involved in this activity.

A total of 80% of our Junior and Intermediate students are participating in these two activities – a fantastic turnout!

The Chess Club continues to run on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

The Book Club meets once a month to review books and students from Grades 4 through 8 are actively involved in this program.

Curling for the Intermediate students will begin shortly.

Although not really an intramural, the After School Literacy and Numeracy Program is in full swing. A total of 31 Grade 7 and Grade 8 students are participating in this activity to help better prepare them for the Provincial testing they will encounter in High School.

School Enrolment

As of October 31st we had 185 students in attendance at Manitouwadge Public School.