

Annual Report to Families

June 2006

Our mission is to create a positive learning environment which will inspire everyone to believe in their ability to develop a healthy lifestyle and pursue their goal of a successful, rewarding future.

This is the fifth annual report to the families of the Windebank school community. Our intent is to inform our community about our progress with the important job of educating your children. Knowing that parents have busy lives, we have tried to present information in a simple, clear and brief format. We welcome your comments so that we may include parent responses as we continue to refine and improve our goals for the coming year.

STUDENTS ARE LEARNING

*“Studio Sapientia Crescit”
Wisdom Grows With Study*

Each May, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 are given a series of tests in Reading, Writing and Numeracy (Foundation Skills Assessment). Our school results for 2005 are as follows:

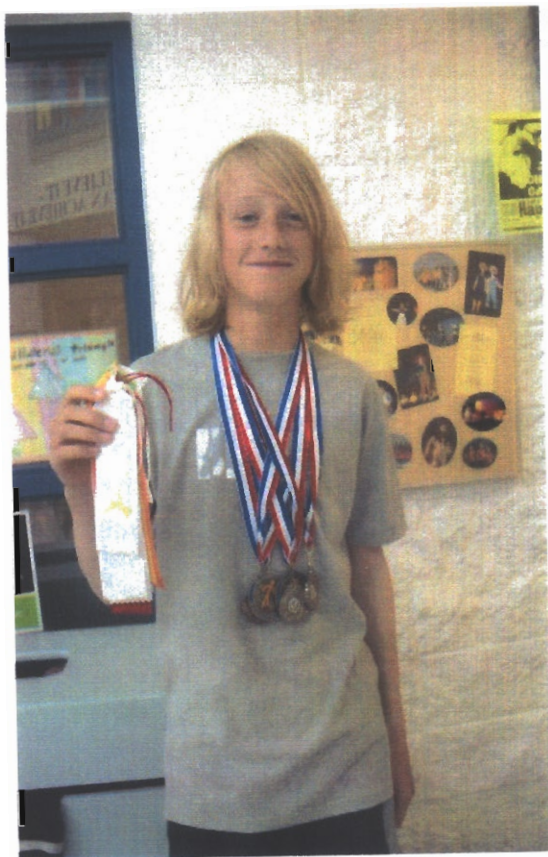
Grade 4 results demonstrated that:

- 78% of students met or exceeded expectations in Reading (93%)
- 92% of students met or exceeded expectations in Writing (88%)
- 98% of students met or exceeded expectations in Numeracy (98%)

Grade 7 results demonstrated that:

- 74% of students met or exceeded expectations in Reading (80%)
- 93% of students met or exceeded expectations in Writing (89%)
- 92% of students met or exceeded expectations in Numeracy (80%)

*Last year's results in brackets.
(Shown on left - Colton Brown,
Gr. 7 student, showing his Track
& Field metals from the BC
Junior Provincials.)



“We Believe and Achieve”

Windebank Elementary

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our school is proud of its involvement with the district's International Education Program. Over the course of the year we hosted thirty students from Korea. In addition to learning English the students are exposed to the North American lifestyle and, in particular, the culture of the West Coast. The program has proved to be an enriching experience for our own students as well as our Korean friends. Many friendships have been established and students enjoy staying in touch with one another.

Additionally, this year, we also hosted twelve students from Mexico City. These students spent two weeks in our classrooms and community.

STUDENTS ARE SAFE

Our school Code of Conduct centres around creating a safe and secure environment for our students. Emphasis is placed on the right of every student (and adult) to be treated respectfully and fairly. There are high expectations for social responsibility and accountability. Our most recent student survey indicated that:

- 97% of students felt they were learning to be socially responsible.
- 98% of students felt safe at school.

A number of school programs support a happy and safe environment. These include: Student Council, Student Conflict Manager Program, Anti-Bullying Program, Suicide Prevention Workshops, RCMP Guest Speaker Program, Student of the Month Assemblies, Primary Assemblies, Buddy Reading Program, Drug and Alcohol Abuse Awareness, Roots of Empathy Program.



Developing Learners

*“Docendo Discitur”
We Learn By Teaching*

At Windebank, we believe that the development of leadership skills contributes greatly toward creating a positive school environment.

Programs that support this belief include: Concession Volunteer Workers, Office Monitors, Student Announcers, Student Council, Student-Run Sports Day, Student-Run House Teams and Student-Run Terry Fox Event.

Our school is very proud of its connection with Heritage Park Secondary School. Each year a number of HPSS students complete Work Experience Programs at Windebank.

They also volunteer time to work with teams and small groups of students. We are always happy to see these young adults act as role models for our youngsters.

OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP AND PURSUE SPECIAL INTERESTS

At Windebank we take pride in the number and quality of curricular/extra-curricular activities offered to students.

These activities allow students to develop and pursue special interests and talents.

Challenge Class

For the second consecutive year we ran an enrichment program for twenty students in grades 3 - 7. The students met one day each week to work on special projects.

Athletics

“Men Sana In Corpore Sano”

A Sound Mind In a Sound Body

The school offers a wide variety of sporting activities. These include soccer, cross-country, volleyball, basketball, netball and track & field. A spirit of competitiveness is encouraged but the importance of participation and sportsmanship are the main goals of our athletic programs. This year the school installed a climbing wall in the gym which



Windebank's very own 'Rock Band' performing at an assembly this year.

has allowed students to develop their physical agility and problem-solving skills.

Plans are underway to develop a junior golf program at the school.

Science Fair

"Ipsa Scientia Potesta Est"
Knowledge is Power

Each year the school holds an Intermediate Science Fair. This annual event has become so popular that participation eligibility has expanded to include all intermediate students. This past year, approximately 97% of our students exhibited their projects and gave oral presentations. We were fortunate to have a member of Heritage Park Secondary's Science Faculty, and a number of his students, on hand to critique our event.

The Arts

"Ars Longa, Vita Brevis"
Art is Long, Life is Short

Windebank Elementary is justly proud of its Fine Arts Programs.

Every two years the school presents a school-wide Spring Musical. Traditionally, these productions have been highly acclaimed and have featured exceptional performances in singing, drama and dance. Of equal importance has been the sense of teamwork and confidence demonstrated by the student body.

Our school also enjoys a strong Choral Program with an intermediate choir membership in excess of one hundred. The choir performs at community venues as well as school functions. A number of our intermediate students are also enrolled in the Elementary School Band Program sponsored through Heritage Park Secondary.

The visual arts are well-represented at Windebank. The striking murals in the school foyer, while professionally executed by a former Windebank student, were influenced by student input.

The school has developed a rewarding association with the Mission Arts Council. As a result of this, we have been able to invite local professional artists into the school to work with our students. Celebratory activities have included student art exhibits at the Arts Council gallery. This year, thirty of our students had their work exhibited at the gallery.

Over the course of the year, our students enter local poster competitions. These have included Anti-Drug Use, Fire Safety and Remembrance Day themes. The school has produced a number of winning entries, most notably in Fire Safety and Remembrance Day.

Every two years the school invites a local artist to set up his or her "studio" at the school. This year local sculptor, James Leckie, was our "Artist in Residence". Mr. Leckie created an impressive sculpture for the school and also instructed a number of classes. Students created a number of stunning sculptures in soapstone and alabaster.

LEARNING TO CARE FOR OTHERS

"Da Dextrum Misero"
Give Your Right Hand to the Wretched

At Windebank, we fully subscribe to the notion that we are "our brother's keeper". In effect, we try to instill in our students, a sense of community and global responsibility. To this end, we involve ourselves in activities such as:

- Foster Children Sponsorship - we sponsor a sixteen year-old student in Mexico.
- Adopt-a-Family Christmas Project. We traditionally give out over one hundred new gifts to children in our



Students singing at our Intermediate Christmas Concert December 2005

Windebank staff are committed to maintaining and improving student achievement. This Fall, the staff met to determine the goals we wish to pursue during the course of the year.

We are committed to the following:

- To improve student achievement in Literacy;
- To improve student achievement Numeracy;
- To maintain established programs in teaching Social Responsibility.

*“Non Scholae Sed Vitae Discimus”
We Learn Not For School
But For Life*

- community. This year we continued with our “Christmas Shopping” day where students were able to purchase low-cost gifts for their parents. All the gift items were donated to the school and the proceeds went to assist families. In addition, we provide Christmas hampers to needy families.

- Terry Fox Run
- Remembrance Day Project at Hatzic Cemetery.
- Jump Rope for Heart - we raised almost \$35,000 in five years.
- Save the Rainforest. Our Recycling Program has helped us to save over two hundred trees in the Amazon Rainforest. We have previously managed to save over fifty acres of rain forest in the Amazon Basin.
- Lunch Program for Needy Students
- Choral Presentation at Senior’s Facilities
- Recycling Program

*“Virtus Praemium Est Optimum”
Virtue is the Best Reward*

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO IMPROVE STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENT

*“Sapiens Qui Prospicit”
Wise Is He That Looks Ahead*

Windebank Elementary School

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604-826-2213

As of September 2006

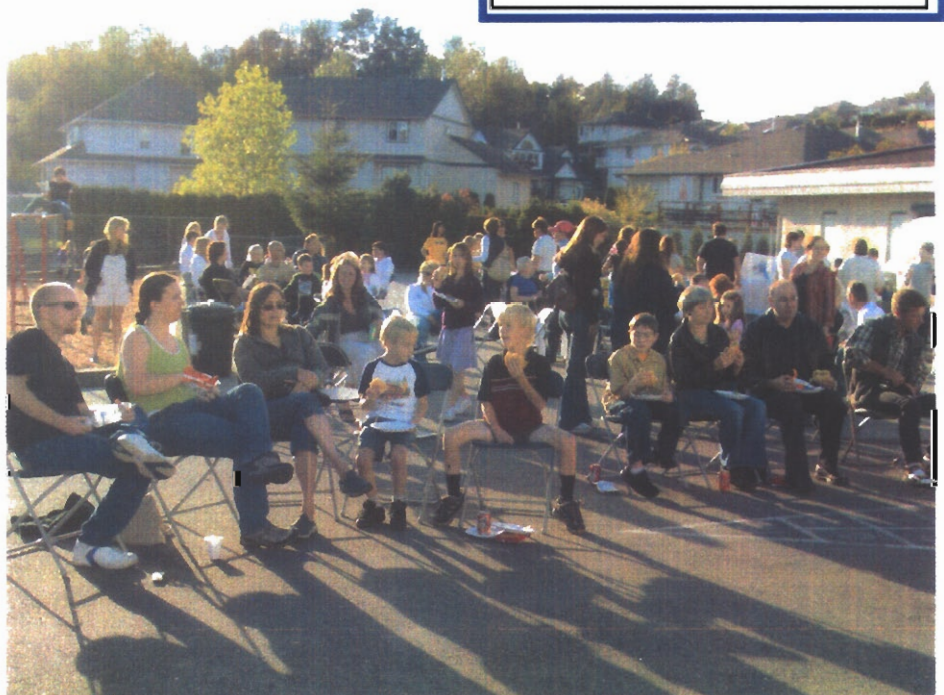
Principal: Mr. Craig Smith

Vice-Principal: Ms. Kathryn Day

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Annual Fall BBQ held every year - shown here September 2005.