

Albert McMahan Elementary School

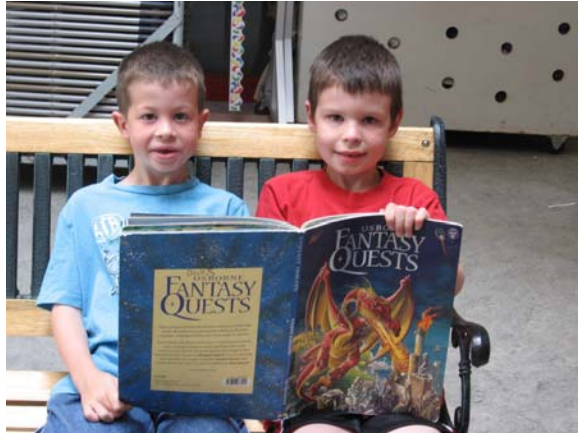
Annual Report to Families

2007-2008



Welcome to Albert McMahan Elementary School. This annual report provides an overview of our school's programs and events over the course of this school year.

Albert McMahan is a vibrant and busy learning environment. Located in west Mission, we are a growing neighbourhood school. Our school enrolls approximately 390 students in Kindergarten through Grade 7.



Albert McMahan Elementary School offers a well-rounded program of academics, sports and fine arts. Our music program is provided to all students. McMahan's athletic program is second to none. From cross-country, basketball, volleyball, track to our wonderful intramural floor hockey program, McMahan students are keeping active and fit. Albert McMahan is a member of the Healthy Schools Network, a network of B.C. schools promoting comprehensive school health.

School Goals

Each year the School Planning Council, consisting of parents and the school principal, and with consultation from teachers, work together to set the goals for the upcoming school year. Our school goals are to improve the literacy skills of all students, to improve the numeracy skills of all students and to improve the social responsibility of all students.

Our teachers are committed to their own ongoing professional development and actively participate in the School District action research groups working together to improve reading comprehension, and early learning for our students. One staff meeting a month is devoted to staff professional development. This year our school staff development focus was on reading comprehension.

This May, our DART results (District Assessment of Reading Test) show a huge improvement with 92% of our students, from grades 3-7 meeting or exceeding expectations in reading comprehension.

Parents as Partners



Once again our very active and supportive Parent Advisory Council has supported the school in so many ways. Our PAC has also provided us with funding for library books, sports equipment, field trip funding and countless hours of volunteer help. The PAC received a grant of \$20,000 this year and added \$22,000 earned through fundraising to purchase an impressive primary playground. The playground will be installed over the summer months. Our school is absolutely fortunate to have such committed and caring parents who are always so willing to give of their time.



Literacy and Learning

We continue to develop and fine tune strategies to meet the needs of all learners. Students are encouraged to learn, grow and pursue their personal best. Our academic focus is on improving student performance in all areas with particular emphasis placed on reading, writing and numeracy. Literacy is the key to learning success for all students. Our Learning Assistance program reflects the importance of early intervention for struggling learners. Teachers also recognize that some students are able to stretch and achieve beyond grade expectations.

Social Responsibility

Our Code of Conduct includes our plan for supporting student's positive behaviour and our school wide focus on Effective Behavior Support has had a tremendous positive impact on the school climate. Behaviour goals have been established and taught. Students are caught practicing SHARP (Safe Helpful Accountable Respectful and Positive) behaviour and are rewarded for being SHARP. Our S.T.O.R.M. (Super Team of Role Models), our student peer counselors, and our student playground leaders are all active in promoting positive behaviour and role modeling for the school community. This year our students participated in a variety of events promoting their social responsibility and a sense of a larger community. Our students raised money for the Terry Fox Run, Unicef, Jump Rope for Heart, Children's Hospital and collected food for the Mission Christmas Hamper Society. Mrs. Reist's Grade 5 class decorated a garbage can for Mission Adopt-A-Block.



Special Programs

Right after lunch each day, our school is buzzing with reading. Our S.W.A.T. leaders (Students with an aptitude for teaching) are in action! Each year our senior students apply for positions as Big Buddies. These students are trained to promote reading strategies with younger students and must sign a contract for a year-long commitment. The S.W.A.T. leaders are then paired with primary students needing some extra one on one reading time.

Our preschool community is welcomed each week for our Little Readers Program. The Little Readers meet once a week in the school library on Fridays from 8:30 am to 9:30 am for stories, crafts and a snack during the school year. The program is free and all preschoolers and their parents are welcome! McMahon also hosts a Ready, Set, Learn event in the fall and Books for Bedtime in the spring for all our preschoolers.

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Our Home Reading Program, organized and managed by volunteer parents, has excellent participation.

Aboriginal drumming, chess club and homework club round out our busy school days.

Athletics

Our school teams compete in all district sports and we have the honour of hosting the District Elementary Track Meet each May. McMahon won the District Track Meet for the fourth year in a row! Our track athletes went on to an impressive performance at the Provincial Track and Field Meet in Richmond. Our school floor hockey intramurals offer students lunch and after school opportunities filled with exciting hockey action. The indomitable Mrs. Johnston and assistant coaches Mrs. Napodi and Mr. Murphy cap each hockey season with playoffs and an awards lunch complete with the McMahon "Stanley Cup" presentation.



Fine Arts

Music echoes through McMahon each week with our music program. Christmas concerts, and seasonal recitals showcase their talents! Mrs. Dyck's and Mr. Neumann's choir performed at several assemblies this school year to rave reviews. From aboriginal drumming to recorders, music is everywhere at McMahon.

