

Annual Report to Families

June 2008

Our Students Leading the Way

At Windebank, we believe in building the leadership qualities of our students. At least twenty of our grade six and seven students form our student leadership group this year. Our students have been successful in demonstrating leadership by:

- Applying our understanding of social responsibility with a number of our Grade Four and Five students trained as Conflict Managers and Grade Six and Seven students being trained as peer counselors through the Cool Solutions Peer Counselor Training. These dedicated students are on duty every day during our recess and lunch breaks observing and helping to solve problems in peaceful ways.
- Organizing school events such as an intermediate dance and the Halloween Haunted House.
- Organizing and implementing our student secretary, primary classroom monitor, and assembly service programs.
- At our monthly assemblies, assisting with the presentation of certificates to our Students of the Month.



Our Staff Leading the Way

The administration of our school believes in distributed leadership. Many of the events and responsibilities of the school are coordinated by our staff.



Besides their important roles as classroom instructors, our staff takes on many of our school's responsibilities:

- Scholastic Book Fairs and "Little Readers" program are coordinated through our Teacher Librarian. Together with the Kindergarten teacher, she organizes the "Ready, Set, Learn" program.



- Windebank students are actively involved in all district sports events through the volunteer coaching of our teachers and the organization of a cross-country "Pumpkin Run" event at Heritage Park.
- Staff meetings are often facilitated by teachers. A representative for the educational assistants is invited to each meeting.
- Our vice-principal is in charge of resourcing, time-tabling, and many aspects of event planning.
- Our teachers organized "A Night of Stars" to highlight the many talents of our students. This included walls of art to showcase primary and intermediate art.
- A number of our Intermediate and Primary teachers are working with the District on Action Research projects in the Six Traits of Writing and the use of metacognition to improve writing.
- A team of teachers and the administration worked collaboratively on an action research question dealing with feedback for learning for the Network of Performance Based Schools.
- Two of our teachers filled the position of Choir Director and Accompanist for our Intermediate Choir. This choir performed at the Remembrance Day Assembly, the Rotary Christmas Choir Festival, and "A Night of Stars."
- Provided DARE training to our Grade Five students to teach strategies in resisting peer pressure in order to live productive drug and violence-free lives.
- Promoted healthy living by participating in the Fruit and Vegetable Program, as well as engaging students in Action Schools.



The Windebank Way Is About ...



Our Parents Leading the Way

Our Parent Advisory Council is active in organizing events, fundraising, and providing for the needs of our students in a variety of ways:

- Welcoming our school community with a successful September BBQ and Open House.
- In partnership with the school, assisting in the development of our School Growth Plan. Their involvement on the School Planning Council has been invaluable.
- Supporting literacy through the provision of books for the library, books for kids, and our "Little Readers" program.
- Organizing many fundraising campaigns to support the addition of resources and instruments for our school music program and the establishment of individual class emergency kits.
- Working with the teachers in the organization of our "A Night of Stars", providing refreshments and highlighting the importance of parental involvement in our PAC.
- Developing and organizing our school year book.
- Worked cooperatively with staff to implement the British Columbia Fruits and Vegetables Program to encourage the healthy eating habits of our students.

Building Expertise

At Windebank, we are always trying to find ways in which we can "connect" with the kids both in the classroom and school. To this end, we have chosen to build our students' expertise in the following ways:

- S.W.A.T. (Students with an Aptitude to Teach). A number of our Intermediate students are trained to work with younger students to assist them with their literacy skills
- Literature Circles: Many of our Intermediate students are becoming more adept in their literacy skills.
- Six Traits Writing: Intermediate students are developing the ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions of their writing through a variety of activities.

- Master of Ceremonies. Our student leaders have an opportunity to lead our student assemblies.
- Sponsored a Valentine's Dance for Primary students and their parents to enjoy the dances taught to the students during physical education classes.

Giving Back to the Community

Part of what we do as citizens is to give back to our community. As a school we have worked hard to provide a generous donation to:

- UNICEF
- The Terry Fox Foundation
- Mission Food Bank

Growing As Learners

Windebank's School Growth Plan was developed from discussions with staff, focus groups, and the establishment of long term goals. It strategically outlines our directions for the next school year. While continuing to support the goals of improving students' literacy and numeracy skills to further establish our current trend of exceeding the Provincial, and District FSA averages for reading, writing, and numeracy, we are also looking at the goal of social responsibility to assist our students in contributing to their school and community, and solving problems in peaceful ways.

Growing As Citizens Locally and Globally

In January, our primary and intermediate students gained an enhanced appreciation of the Aboriginal heritage of some of our students through drumming, art, and story telling activities. Our English as a Second Language program is growing and we are very fortunate to be host to a large contingent of International Students mostly from the Republic of Korea.

Having Fun!

All of us work hard to improve student success, but we do everything we can to make this very important goal of improving our learning an enjoyable and memorable experience. At Windebank we believe in having fun!



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