

Forrest Elementary School

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"A Place for Kids"

School Community Report 2006-2007

Dear Parents,

As June rapidly winds down and we say good-bye to another successful year at Forrest Elementary, it is time to reflect on the great things that have happened throughout the year. Our school motto is: *Forrest Elementary: A Place for Kids*. With continued support and cooperation from the parents and community, the hard-working and dedicated staff at Forrest continue to provide our students with a well-rounded, quality education. Our goal to provide each student with the best possible learning opportunities to achieve their personal best truly does make Forrest "A Place for Kids."

We had some new faces at Forrest Elementary this year. Crystal Barber started as our new band instructor for grade 7 and 8 band. We also hired four new educational assistants: Stacey Busch, Travis Hockley, Jacquie Waldner, and Corina Cooley. Shauna Price returned from maternity leave as grade 8 homeroom teacher and guidance counselor. We also had Alice McInnes working as Resource teacher for two months.

The success achieved by our students in all areas of school life – academically, socially, and physically is possible because of the programs we offer at the school. Academically, Forrest Elementary continued its focus on Literacy and Numeracy learning. Programs such as Guided Reading, Guided Writing, Successmaker, DIAL, Write Traits, and the Power of 10 provided our students with excellent foundation skills. A walk past our grade 5-8 classes during French showcased the AIM (Accelerative Integrated Method) program where students learn vocabulary using hand gestures. The use of technology to enhance student learning is incorporated throughout the curricula via the use of computers, both in our lab and in the classrooms. Forrest Elementary has a resource teacher, guidance counselor, and student support facilitator to assist with student programming, academic and personal supports, and mentoring. The students access the school library on a weekly basis. Our educational assistants provide one-on-one, small group, and classroom academic assistance, as well as speech/language therapy, fine/gross motor skill development and Successmaker computer assisted language and math learning.

Forrest staff attended a variety of professional development seminars and workshops this year. The divisional professional development focused on three areas: WEVAS (Working Effectively with Violent and Aggressive Students), Restitution, and Communicating with Parents. Administrators, guidance counselors, and student support facilitators attended PD on Threat Assessment. Other PD opportunities for staff included: divisional grade group/divisional

specialist meetings, middle years assessment, Power of 10, Write Traits, Appels, and AIM, and numerous other sessions provided at LIFT/SAG etc.

The grade 7 & 8 students had a very successful year in the band program under the instruction of Crystal Barber. The grade 7s and 8s made wonderful progress this year. Performances included the Christmas Concert, the Spring Concert, Rolling River Festival of the Arts, and Level 1 Band Festival in Brandon. As well, the grade 7 students attended a beginner band camp at Rivers and the grade 8s played in the combined Grade 8/9 band, which received rave reviews at the Level 1 Band Festival.

Our K-6 Music program, directed by Louise MacDonald also had another successful year, beginning with our Intermediate Choir singing at the Remembrance Day service. Our students performed at the annual Christmas concert, the Rolling River Festival of the Arts, and in our Spring Musical “Annie”. Our students spent a week learning the art of African drumming when Artist in the School, Jay Stoller, came to Forrest.

Our students participated in a variety of hands on learning opportunities this year. The Historical Fair brought social studies to life, as did the Festival du Voyageur and our annual Camp Koinonia (grade 7) winter camping trip. Numerous year-end field trips provided experiential learning and excellent educational opportunities for our students. Our students have the opportunity to enjoy many activities throughout the school year, many of which promote physical activity, healthy living, and school spirit. Events like the Terry Fox Walk, National Walk to School Day, Milk Week, Earth Day, Gym Blasts, Dances, Sock Hops, Pep Rallies, and class parties all promote active participation and encourage school citizenship. Our student council played an active role in organizing many of our school events. As in years past, the student council has contributed to the school by giving its annual Legacy Gift. This year, they plan to contribute money toward building a beach volleyball court on our playground.

Our Phys. Ed. programs continue to provide our students with excellent opportunities to practice movement and healthy living every day. In addition to regularly scheduled phys. Ed. classes, our classroom teachers are able to use open gym time. Our grade 5-8 students participate in intramural games at noon and when students reach grade 7 they can participate in extra-curricular Junior High sports. In addition to phys. Ed. our school has initiated a healthy canteen program. We have added a number of items to our menu, providing more healthy choices for our students.

We are very proud of our students, our staff, and the programs we are able to offer at Forrest Elementary and would like to thank the parents and the community for their support throughout the year. Enjoy your summer and we will see you in September.

Sincerely,

Leah Jago
Principal, Forrest Elementary