

# Forrest Elementary School

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"A Place for Kids"

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## School Community Report 2007-2008

Another school year has come and gone and we bid farewell to another terrific year at Forrest Elementary. Every year, the dedicated staff at Forrest work to ensure all students have the opportunity to achieve their very best. We are very fortunate to have fantastic parental and community support.

One huge focus at Forrest this year was fundraising for a new playground structure. The former, wooden structure was condemned in the fall of 2007 and removed. Our parent group has applied for numerous grants and local fundraising efforts have been very successful. We are getting closer to being able to purchase Phase I of the new structure which will cost \$32,000 – 36,000. The support from our staff, parents, and community has been tremendous and we thank you.

We had four new teachers filling in for staff on leave this year. Lyndsay Osiowy came in to teach grade one, Shannon MacIver taught grade eight, Lyle Grobb was the school guidance counselor, and Kara Dixon served as band instructor. We also hired three new educational assistants: Tom Affleck, Deanna MacNaughton, and Cheryl-Ann Roberds.

We are very fortunate at our Forrest to have the people we have in our building working for our students. In addition to our dedicated classroom teachers and educational assistants, we have a school guidance counselor, a resource teacher, a physical education teacher, a music teacher, band teacher, and student support facilitator. We also have a two half-time secretaries and a half-time librarian. A big focus in the division is in the area of technology and we had two BATL (Balanced Approach to Teaching and Learning) classrooms set up in our school, complete with Smartboards, video presenters, digital cameras, and scanners. Two more classrooms will be furnished with this technology in the upcoming school year.

Rolling River School Division is very supportive of professional development training and inservicing for staff and we were able to attend a variety of professional development seminars and workshops this year. The divisional professional development continued with training for WEVAS (Working Effectively with Violent and Aggressive Students), Restitution, and Communicating with Parents. Staff also attended grade and subject relevant sessions outside of the division. Other PD opportunities for staff included: divisional grade group/divisional specialist meetings, and the numerous sessions offered at LIFT/SAG etc.

Highlights for the 2007-2008 school year included the Christmas Concert, Rolling River Festival of the Arts, Rockin' at the River, Artist in the School – Olfield Williams, band concerts, Olympic Sports Day, and field trips to such places as Austin, Souris, Winnipeg, and Riding

Mountain National Park. Our students participated in a variety of hands on learning opportunities this year. The Historica Fair brought social studies to life, as did the Festival du Voyageur and our annual Camp Koinonia (grade 7) winter camping trip. 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.

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. We have tried to provide more healthy food choices for our students in our canteen.

We continue to fulfill our school motto and keep *Forrest Elementary: A Place for Kids* 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.

Leah Jago  
Principal, Forrest Elementary