

2008-2009 School Report to Community

It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to share the successes of Oak River School with the public. The following report will outline our goals, our achievements and the direction we will be taking next year.

Our **school plan** identified five main priorities for 08-09. They included improving upon the *balanced literacy and numeracy* programs at all grade levels, which we have attempted to do by increasing the time allotted to ELA and Math. Regular testing has been done to assess individual student growth in the area of literacy. SuccessMaker has been utilized by grade 1-8 students again this year. Our second priority was to *support teachers in attending relevant PD and build upon curriculum resources*. Teachers attended Professional Development in areas relevant to their teaching. Our school budget was used to obtain the necessary resources for subject areas. Our Home and School Association financially supported purchases of many resources for the classrooms. Our third priority was to continue to focus on *student organization and home and school communication* with the hopes of assisting students to reach their potential. With parent support and financial assistance from the student council we purchased daily planners, which have been a valuable tool for organization and communication. Our fourth priority was to *maximize the use of resource personnel and student support services* available through the division. We were able to access the necessary supports in order to provide for the individual needs of our students. This year we also had a guidance counselor, Mrs. Jo-Ann McTavish who was in our building on a regular basis to provide presentations to entire classes, work with small groups, and do individual counseling. This year we also used the services of the speech/language pathologist and the divisionally provided psychologist. Our fifth priority and perhaps the most in depth, was *student safety and school pride with a focus on building healthy active kids* through the implementation of our nutrition plan. We have continued to offer nutritional combos on a daily basis along with our milk/juice program. We have also provided a hot lunch at least once a month. Our library and the student council shared the planning for hot lunches and also shared the profits. We kept students active by offering a variety of intramural activities as well as extracurricular sports teams. We have addressed safety in several ways. Lockdown procedures were practiced, as were fire drills. Bus safety rules were reinforced and evacuation drills conducted. Safety has also been addressed through education and close monitoring of student behavior. We have worked very hard to instill school pride in all of our staff and students. Staff worked together to plan monthly activities that built spirit, engaged our bodies and our minds, and were connected to lifestyle awareness. We plan on maintaining the progress we have made in the areas above and would like to build upon our successes with the hopes of keeping ORS a great school!

The following is a recap of the highlights of ORS in 2008-09

- Terry Fox Walk raised over \$1178 for cancer research
- Open House was held following a picnic lunch for families
- Student Council magazine campaign with the profits to be used to subsidize costs for school activities
- Presentation to K-4's regarding dog bites by the Minnedosa Vet Clinic
- Asthma and anaphylaxis training was delivered to all staff
- Sports teams competed in soccer, volleyball, curling, basketball, badminton, track & field, and softball
- Continued to participate in "Manitoba in Motion"

- Vanguard Credit Union donated a “Back to School” backpack as well as office furniture that has been put to good use in ORS classrooms and the office
- Hamiota Gymnastics Club donated equipment to our school
- Halloween costume parade to the Seniors’ Housing and haunted house
- Remembrance Service held
- Successful book fair totaling over \$800 in sales and many Scholastic book orders
- Citizenship activities facilitated by Mrs. Gray and Mrs. McTavish
- Participation in the Daily Health Awareness Team’s program “Color Your World”
- SuccessMaker continued in our school
- Grades K-4 collected pennies for the community playground project
- Christmas cheer was collected and distributed
- Annual Christmas concert was a huge success
- Curling instruction was provided by Randy Lints on behalf of Midwest Rec.
- RRSD Trustees Tour
- Grade 5-8 annual curling bonspiel was held at the Oak River Rink
- Grade 6 students participated in Career Trek
- Artist in the School for K-8
- Drink tabs collected for wheelchairs
- Nutrition Combos were offered daily through the canteen along with our milk program
- Students spent time cross-country skiing and snowshoeing
- Eco-Van conservation presentation for all grades funded entirely by the Little Saskatchewan Conservation District
- Manitoba Forestry presentation and visit by Smokey the Bear (a.k.a. Mrs. Brown)
- Grade 5-8 downhill ski trip
- Milk Spirit Week activities were organized by the student council
- Free pancake breakfast prepared by staff and grade 8 students for all students and staff
- Students participated in the “Fitness Challenge”
- Savannah Wurtz spent Community Heart Day working at our school
- Connor Radcliffe did work experience at ORS
- Bookmobile visited ORS once a month
- I Love To Read month was celebrated
- Earth day clean up was held
- Area around our new trees was leveled and a new sand box built as a part of our Sustainable Development Grant
- Zone Legion Commander, Maureen Farrant made presentations to ORS students who had won prizes at the zone and district levels
- Grade 5-8 students painted signs for the 125 celebrations which are displayed through town along highway 24.
- Ms. Knight presented to the RRSD Board of Trustees on the connections kids at ORS make with each other, with our community, and with the world around us
- Grade 5-8’s traveled to Brandon for their field trip to the Art Gallery and the Aviation Museum
- ORS Track & Field for Grades 1-8
- Grade K-4 field trip to Austin, MB
- Plan of Pride was very successful with purchases made and art work done in the form of a mural in the hallway to improve the atmosphere of our building
- New student council members elected for next year
- Grade 7/8 camp trip
- Donation of fish and aquarium supplies by Carole Black
- Yearbook committee created a wonderful collection of ORS memories
- Grade 8 graduation ceremony held

Upon compiling this list I realize the many accomplishments and memories that we have shared at ORS this year. I encourage family and community members to take advantage of invitations to ORS events in the upcoming years. We are all an important part of the education of children and should share in their experiences and successes.

At this time of year we always look at **staffing** for next year. There will be some changes to ORS. Mrs. Brown is retiring from teaching at ORS after 36 years. We wish her all the best health and happiness in her retirement years. Mrs. McTavish will not be returning to ORS next year as our guidance time has been given up for next year in order to utilize our allocated staffing in the classroom. Mrs. McTavish will be continuing with guidance in Rivers Elementary and Collegiate. We will miss the enthusiasm she brought into our building. ORS Teaching staff will be Mrs. Lewandoski and Ms. Knight. Mrs. Usunier will return as custodian, and we hope to see Mrs. Gage back as Secretary/Librarian/Educational Assistant as Mrs. Therrien has accepted a permanent position at Hamiota Elementary. Our grade combinations will be K-4 and 5-8. Mrs. Lewandoski will teach K-4 ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, Art & Music as well as Grade 5-8 Social Studies. Ms. Knight will teach Grade 5-8 ELA, Math, Science, French, Art, Technology, PE & Health as well as K-4 French, Health, and Technology. Since we have been reduced in staffing by 0.5 time we will be functioning with only 2 teachers this upcoming year. This means that admin time and some prep time for teachers has been reduced as well. We would ask that you be considerate of this and please keep calls to a minimum during class times but are more than welcome to contact teachers at noon, before or after school. We hope that any further changes will be minimal and will not affect student learning.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer and looking forward to the 2009-2010 school year!!

Ms. Anita Knight
Principal, Oak River School