

## **2009-2010 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 for next year.

Our **school plan** identified four main priorities for 09-10. They included maintaining 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. Our second priority was to *support students with organizational skills and to assist them to become responsible learners*. 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 third priority was to *support students in coordination with divisional resource personnel and student support services*. We were able to access the necessary supports in order to provide for the individual needs of our students. This year we used the services of the speech/language pathologist. Our fourth priority was *student safety and school pride with a focus on building healthy active kids*. Through the continued implementation of our nutrition plan, we offered 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 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. The plan for next year is to maintain the progress we have made in the four priority areas and build upon our successes with the hopes of keeping ORS a great school!

### **The following is a recap of the highlights of ORS in 2009-2010**

- Terry Fox Walk raised over \$900 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
- Asthma and anaphylaxis training was delivered to all staff
- ORS participated in a bus review
- Sports teams competed in soccer, volleyball, curling, badminton, and track & field
- Continued to participate in "Manitoba in Motion"
- Vanguard Credit Union donated a "Back to School" backpack
- Halloween costume parade to the Seniors' Housing and haunted house
- Remembrance Service held
- Usborne book display, Read-a-thon, and monthly Scholastic book orders
- Home and School Association meeting was held and items discussed were the School Plan, the nutrition policy, safe schools, and annual fundraising
- Participation in the Daily Health Awareness Team's program on Healthy Lifestyles
- Christmas cheer was collected and distributed
- Annual Christmas concert was a huge success
- Traditional Christmas turkey dinner prepared by parents for the staff and students
- Grade 5-8 annual curling bonspiel was held at the Oak River Rink
- Custodial change as Mrs. Usunier moved to Souris and Mr. Shane Bates was hired
- 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
- Grades K-8 worked together on an Olympic theme
- Grade 5-8 downhill ski trip
- Miss Rebecca Arnold completed her student teaching experience at ORS
- 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 “Go Active Fitness Challenge”
- Connor Radcliffe did work experience at ORS
- Bookmobile visited ORS once a month
- I Love To Read month was celebrated
- Earth day tomato planting
- Zone Legion Commander, Ken Young made presentations to ORS students who had won prizes at the zone and district levels
- Grade 5-8’s traveled to Winnipeg for their field trip aboard the Prairie Dog Central Steam Engine
- ORS Track & Field for Grades K-8
- Grade K-4 field trip to Sandy Lake, MB
- Plan of Pride was very successful
- New student council members elected for next year
- Grade 5-8’s worked on the school yearbook and have included 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 the school division finalizes **staffing** for next year. There will be some changes to ORS. Mrs. Gage (Secretary, EA, Librarian) and Mr. Bates (Custodian) will be returning to ORS. The teaching staff will be Ms. Kathleen McCullough (Principal & K-4 teacher) and Ms. Tia Willis (Grade 5-8 teacher). Mrs. Lewandoski and Ms. Knight will be teaching at Rivers Elementary next fall.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their support over the past 12 years. I will have very fond memories of beginning my career as a teacher and as a Principal in a wonderful school with such a supportive community. I have seen firsthand the benefits of a small school and have experienced the wonders and challenges associated with it.

I wish each and every student success in the rest of their school experience and future endeavors.

**Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer!!**

Ms. Anita Knight  
Principal, Oak River School