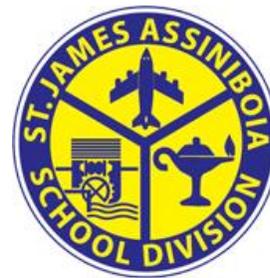


report

to the community



Heritage Elementary School

2016-2017



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The Early Years (K-5) provides a nurturing environment where children are encouraged to investigate, create and discover. Children develop their competencies in language and literacy skills, thinking and problem-solving skills, social and emotional development, independence, creativity and knowledge in preparation for becoming responsible citizens. Instruction in the following curricula: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education/Health and the Arts is focused on meeting the unique needs of Early Years students. Instruction focuses on the integration of subject matter and hands-on activity-based approaches to learning.

Last Year's School Accomplishments (2015-2016)

Heritage School students, at all grade levels, focussed on increasing their individual literacy skills through reading and writing connections.

- Purposeful, authentic reading and writing tasks were implemented on a daily basis across all content areas.
- Differentiated Instruction and Universal Design principles were used as an instructional framework to meet the various learning needs in the classrooms.
- Students were provided choice within a structure to allow for engagement and authentic purposeful literacy activities.
- Reading and writing connections were strengthened through the use of 'mentor texts' to teach form, genre, text features and author craft. Student work was regularly published, valued shared and celebrated.

Heritage School students, at all grade levels, focussed on improving their Problem solving skills through the communication of mathematical reasoning and by applying appropriate knowledge processes and strategies.

Daily mathematics learning was woven throughout the day to maximize:

- Mathematical thinking opportunities through exploration.
- Rehearsal and automaticity of basic facts and mental math in game-based play and in applied contexts.
- Teacher and student interaction with small groups/individuals to engage in conversations about student's thinking and support learning of problem solving through teacher questioning.

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Heritage School is to create an environment which fosters positive self-esteem, optimal academic growth and responsible social interactions.

School Profile

Number of teachers: 15
Number of students: 191
Grade levels: K-5

School Highlights

These include:

- Daily breakfast / snack program
- A full day / every day Kindergarten program
- A Reading Recovery program to support struggling readers
- Math Intervention for Kindergarten students
- School-wide home reading program
- Enrichment activities and Resource programming to meet the needs of individual learners
- A leadership program for grade 4 and 5 students
- A wide variety of field trip opportunities funded by our parent council
- AAA activities, including a 'talking circle', to promote Aboriginal awareness and integration
- An extensive Physical Education program, including extra-curricular opportunities for all students.

Heritage School students had the opportunity to learn about and foster positive mental health while respecting the importance of self and others.

Wellness of Others:

- Our 'Blue and Gold Team' (student leadership club), planned a variety of activities for the school related to Student Voice.
- Grade 4 and 5 students participated in the 'We Act' program in conjunction with WE DAY 2015. The 'We Act' initiatives were linked to Social Studies and ELA curricular outcomes.
- A variety of local and global charities (depending on classroom interests) were selected for our students to research and support.
- Classrooms continued to focus on Sustainable Development initiatives and incorporated ESD activities into curricular programming.

Wellness of Self:

- Primary grades were introduced to the Mind Up curriculum with a focus on self-regulation and resiliency.
- Students participated in the Tell Them From Me survey, and the data was used by our Leadership Students to plan follow-up activities.
- The School held a 'Wellness Week' of activities.

A Quick Snapshot of the Classroom

Mathematics: Our mathematics programming is focused on creating hands-on real life applications for mathematical learning. Teachers at all grade levels have a focus on mental math strategies, problem solving and daily routines to keep instruction engaging and meaningful.

English Language Arts: As a school we continue to have an increased focus on enhancing writing instruction and assessment through our involvement in the "Regie Routman in Residence" program. As well, we offer a variety of interventions designed to support our struggling literacy learners, including an additional whole school guided reading time for every student who is reading below their appropriate reading level and a summer reading program designed to maintain student reading levels over the summer months.

Science: Science programming, at all grade levels, has a focus on hands-on learning experiences that keep students motivated and enthusiastic. Technology is an integral part of science instruction and is being utilized, to different degrees, at all grade levels.

Arts: We have a dynamic arts program at Heritage School, including regular music and visual arts classes. In addition, we offer a primary and intermediate choir as well as an after-school drama club for interested students.

Planning & Goal Setting

School goals are created using the Divisional Strategic Plan as the guideline (www.sjsd.net/planning). The goal setting process begins in early Spring and includes input from students, teachers, parents and the community. Goals are developed around the needs and direction of the various departments with student progress and achievement and our mission and vision statement as our focus.

Extra-curricular Activities

A large variety of activities are available for all students.

- Cross-country running club
- Indoor soccer
- Basketball
- Marathon Club
- Cross-country skiing / snowshoeing
- Floor hockey
- Volleyball
- Primary Choir
- Intermediate Choir
- Drama Club
- Blue and gold team
- Recycling / green team
- Games club
- Authors and Artists club
- Speed stacking team
- Lego club
- Just Dance Club

This Year's School Goals and Priorities (2016-2017)

1. By June 2017, all students will see themselves as readers and writers and will achieve their individual reading and writing goals.

- Students will have the opportunity to set goals and will be able to see their personal growth through reading/writing conferences.
- Students will engage in writing activities that are authentic and unique to them. Students will choose to write frequently and for a variety of reasons with a focus on personalizing their writing craft.
- Students will see themselves as writers and published authors, able to communicate thoughts and ideas with confidence.
- Time, choice and structure will be provided to students in order for them to explore and write independently.
- Celebration of student writing will be frequent, authentic and clearly observable in the classroom environment and beyond.
- Language rich classroom libraries, with a wide variety of reading genres will continue to be a focal point and will be supplemented throughout the year.

2. By June 2017, all students will see themselves as mathematical problem solvers, making sense of problems and discussing their solutions.

- Students will have the opportunity to: think and reason effectively, solve various types of problems accurately and efficiently, communicate clearly using mathematical language and representations, demonstrate deep understanding of number sense and demonstrate automaticity of basic facts and mental math strategies to support problem solving.
- Students will use common language to describe mathematical reasoning and explain their understandings.
- Rich problem solving tasks will be designed by teachers to engage students successfully in a wide variety of problem solving contexts.
- Teachers will elicit, value and celebrate varied approaches and solution paths that students can take to solve problems.
- All teachers will implement common grade level tasks which will be analyzed by grade level teams to determine levels of understanding and plan next steps in classroom instruction.

3. By June 2017, all students will have had the opportunity to explore the concept of positive mental health in relation to self (emotional well-being and personal dignity) and others (equity, social justice and cultural awareness/respect).

Wellness of self:

- Grade 4 and 5 classrooms will participate in 'Project 11', designed to help support students and teachers in bringing mental health awareness, along with positive coping skills into their lives.
- Staff at all levels will continue to incorporate the WITS philosophy into classroom instruction.
- Staff and students will organize a 'wellness week' that will focus on physical and mental health strategies.
- The school will participate in the 'Tell Them From Me' safe schools survey and the data will be used to determine future areas of focus.

Wellness of others:

- AAA programming will be incorporated into all classrooms throughout the school.
- Staff and students will continue to engage in discussions related to sustainable living, digital citizenship and bullying awareness.
- Blue and Gold Club will continue to be the leaders in Student Voice related activities in the school.
- Each classroom will participate in a classroom directed project, or school wide initiative, related to social justice and/or global awareness.