

School Council – Principal’s Report Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Celebrations and Appreciation

Thank you to our parents for your cooperation and support during the start-up. We had a great turnout to meet the teacher which was last Thursday evening.

Thank you to our community partners-

- Staples for school supplies
- United Way-60 backpacks for Tools for School
- Cobs Bread continues with their donations of products at the end of the day.

Staffing and Student Population Update

Current student enrollment is 177, we had 183 at this time last year.

Grades

Kinderpal- Mrs. Cramer-
Kindergarten- Mrs. MacNiven- AM-
Grade 1- Mrs. Thiessen
Grade 1-2 - Combined- Mrs. Bachinski
Grade 2- Ms. Stokes
Grade 3- Mrs. Backlund
Grade 4 – Ms. Balsillie
Grade 5/6- Mrs. Vanderveen
Grade 6- Ms. Kay
LST – Allison Dembicki
VP- Jae Leclerc

We also have 7 inclusive education Educational Assistants and 6.5 Educational Assistants that are funded by Jordan’s principal providing extra support to our identified FMNI students.

Mental Health Support- Avondale will have 1 social worker this year. Nadine Jackson. She will be at Avondale approximately two days a week.

Indigenous Liaison Worker- Danica Napesis will be with us Monday/Fridays

- District Elementary Intervention Literacy and Numeracy Intervention Program.
- Our school has two 1.0 EA’s(Mandi Plant) who will be working with students who need more support in literacy and numeracy. K-4
- ELL/ Indigenous – intervention targeted for our grades 4-6. (Liz Knelsen)
- Elder Darlene Cardinal- is joining us again at Avondale. She will be in the building on Monday afternoons and will be working with all the classes. (Seven Sacred teachings, Treaty 8, respect, and acceptance)

- The Nutrition Program is up and running again. There is a need in our community. Please share this information with any school community members who may need support or would benefit from the program.

Recent News

- Alberta Education has mandated screeners (assessments) for students in kindergarten to grade 3. Divisions across the province will administer a variety of screeners, depending upon the grade at scheduled times throughout the year. Universal screeners (assessments) measure a student's proficiency with foundation skills in both literacy and numeracy skills.
- We have been very busy completing mandated assessments for students in K-3 as well as our division literacy and math screening in grades 4-6
- Avondale is also participating in the piloting of DIBELS and Core Multiple Measures of Reading (CRRM) to evaluate and recommend a standardized tool for grades 1-8. Which will begin in October. Previously, we were using Fountas and Pinnell to help benchmark our students in literacy measures.
- A new ministerial order restricting mobile devices and social media was released this fall. Avondale has historically had a policy in place restricting personal mobile devices in school so the impact of this order has been non-existent.

Overview of our New Three-Plan

Priority Area 1: Inclusion

Outcome 1: Active Involvement from all our stakeholders is vital for the growth of our school community, ensuring the academic success of all.

Outcome 2- School communities are welcoming, caring respectful and safe environments where students, staff, and families have a strong sense of belonging.

Priority Area 2: Teaching and Learning

Outcome 1: Teachers responsive planning, assessment and instruction support the diverse learning needs of all students.

Collaborative Work and Staff Focus

Collaborative Inquiry Avondale Collaborative Inquiry Question Admin- In what ways does admin support the intentional teacher planning that is responsive to student needs.

- Teachers are completing their annual Professional Growth Plans and they are collaborating with Admin this Friday which is our first PL Day. These focused growth plans will also inform us of Professional Learning afternoons.
- Our morning PL will with our Division Literacy Coordinator, Diana Smith, She will be working with our teachers to reinforce students' writing skills. Together they will collaboratively explore the writing process, confirm that student learning advances from grade to grade, and determine connections to other key areas of the curriculum
- We are also working with Tracie Anthony to support our work in responsive planning with the new math curriculum. We are partnering with Swanavon in the afternoon PL times so that staff can work with a collaborative grade-level partner.

Information:

Important Upcoming Events and Dates:

- Sept 19 School Spirit Day (Wacky Hair Day)
- Sept 21- District Fun Run at Legion Field AM
- **Sept 23-27- Orange Shirt Day Activities and learning**
- We are participating in building a Reconciliation Tree as a division wide project.
 - *The concept of building a Reconciliation Tree is a way to remind ourselves that we are all part of belonging, being connected, and rooted in relationship – to the land, to our community, and to each other.*
- September 27- We will be having our Orange Shirt Day Assembly.
- Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (No School Saturday)
- Oct 14 Thanksgiving Day (No School)
- Oct 16- Parent Council Meeting
- Oct 18th Walk A Thon Fundraiser
- Oct 25 Professional Learning Day (no school)
- Oct 31 School Spirit Day- Costumes

District Communications

We are pleased to have Andre Oulette joining us this year as our school board trustee.

Alberta Schools Council Engagement Grant & Alberta Schools Council Association Workshops

We can apply for funding; the school council can decide what workshops or engagement grants they wish to apply for