

## Prairie South Schools School Community Council Initiatives From the Past

- Organized a parent night on the new Math Curriculum and how parents can help at home. We sat on the In-Motion committee to engage youth in physical activity. We attended the Respect Ed Ed workshop and will assist with presentation in the Fall.
- To support student well-being our SCC had presentation from 40 Development Asset Coordinator. We arranged for her to speak to Grade 9 students and complete an Asset Inventory. Staff shared this information with parents at student-led conferences. The plan is to continue with this target group throughout high school and adjust supports as needed. In support of Learning Improvement Plan (LIP) the School Community Council is hosting a contest celebrating the reading and writing of all students attending our school. In June there will be several draws for local gift certificates (clothes, gas, food etc!) You may enter the contest in two ways:
  - 1) Volunteer Reading Program - Pick up volunteer reading form from office. Complete form and return to office to have your name entered in the draw. Enter as often as you like!
  - 2) Publish Your Writing - Enter a writing piece (not exceeding 200 words) that you have written in class or on your own time. A committee will select articles to be published in local newspapers. Each time you enter your name will go into the contest draw.
- Academically our SCC supported our school's math learning goal by devoting a section of our monthly newsletter for giving math tips to students and parents, with a focus on vocabulary. A math puzzle was also included so that parents and students would work together to solve it. They also planned a post  $\pi$  day serving pieces of pizza on March 15; and they celebrated our students' learning about  $\pi$  by selling pieces of homemade pie at our Curricular Fair in April.
- Their non-academic goal was to support our school's bully-awareness goal. One of our SCC members attended the Red Cross RespectEd course along with me and three of our grade six students, and together we formed a RespectEd group at our school, with plans to share what we have learned with the rest of the staff and students.

- The SCC is also planning to purchase pink t-shirts for the staff and students to wear for our STAND UP to Bullying Day.
- They help to plan a Grade K to 6 conference based on Healthy lifestyles, anti-bullying, etc. They were also part of working on our math helping to set up Math nights for elementary parents learning about the new Math.
- The SCC put a reading challenge in place late in the fall. Each student who read a book and completed a very short book report form was allowed to enter their name into a draw which would take place in June. They could only enter once per month. The SCC decided that the prize for students in K-6 would be a bag full of brand new books. The prizes for 7-9 and 10-12 would be an iPod per group. They thought that young kids would read and love the prize of new books, which they are still interested in at that age. They thought that the iPod would be a good incentive for older kids who do not normally read.
- They have encouraged parents to get involved by being present in the classroom as volunteers. They have also hosted a muffin morning after which parents were encouraged to stay and witness the learning that takes place in their child's class.
- School Goal: 80% of student reading at grade level - SCC implemented a reading program, students read at home and log their minutes, for free books.
- School Goal: Math problem solving - SCC math fair night, each student made up their own word problem, and had to solve other grade alike problems.
- Our SCC is supporting our learning goals of math, reading and writing. They are also supporting other school/division initiatives including nutrition/in-motion and front yard landscaping:

(a) SCC Picks: Each SCC member has purchased and read novels to promote. They each select between 2-4 books at different reading levels and the titles with short summaries are placed in the newsletter to "advertise". The books are then placed on display in the library for students to sign-out.

(b) The SCC is purchasing an e-reader (or a kindle) for the student in the school who has read the most books. This student has been selected by our library assistant through circulation and observation. This award will be presented at our Annual Awards Day in June.

(c) The SCC has purchased a Net Book, mini-laptop, to award to the student who is selected from submitted answers to the weekly math problem which is published in the school newsletter.

(d) The SCC has sponsored a creative writing competition for K-12 students. The story has to show evidence of the writing process and it must be fictional and less than 1500 words in length. The competition closed May 15th and the SCC members are reading and selecting winners. Awards will be given at our Annual Award Day: \$100 - K-3, \$100 - 4-6, \$100 - 7-9 and \$100 - 10-12. The SCC deliberated on prizes, but it was agreed that each category would receive \$100.00.

(e) The SCC is helping with our 5km challenge. One SCC member is part of the planning committee, and they helped with planning throughout the initial discussions. Community members/parents are asked to be on each team from grades 5-12.

(f) SCC is planning landscaping the front yard with perennial beds and cement stepping stones. One of the SCC members is ordering all of the perennials. We have purchased the moulds for the stones and at our barbeque the first day of school, students/families will be asked to purchase and paint their stones. PAA students will create the stones for the ongoing project.

- The SCC is promoting the 40 Developmental Assets in the community by sharing information and hosting events within the school - i.e.. we have a 'Join your kid for lunch' luncheon coming up in June. The SCC purchased books at all levels to give to all student to promote literacy. The SCC partnered with the CSLP to offer a walking program and challenge in the school to promote 'In Motion" activities within the community.
- Math problem of the month to increase awareness and support our math goal.
- Any prizes we give away are sports equipment or swimming, bowling, skating passes. This supports our In Motion goal.
- The SCC ran 3 math stations at our Olympic School Activity Blast, again supporting our math goal.
- The SCC still continues to support us with our in-motion and they partake in a variety of activities throughout the year.
- The Writing and Appetizer night - where parents and students work on a writing piece together. This idea supports our goal to improve writing skills at all levels within the school. The SCC asked Tammy Sillers to come and facilitate the evening.
- The major emphasis has been on the hot lunch program.
- They have helped with fitness nights, anti-bullying awareness, nutrition by providing a healthy meal to students and workshops on selected items from last year's survey like drug and alcohol awareness and healthy relationships.
- Our SCC supported our LIP and our school goals by helping to fundraise for our annual Christmas dinner and some of our Circle of Courage initiatives.
- SCC is supporting our LIP non-academic goal dealing with in-motion/nutrition by ordering and purchasing of water bottles for all students. An art contest was set up to create images for the water bottles with two designs chosen. Half of the water bottles display one image and half the other. The water bottles are to be kept at school to help students remain hydrated. A child's physical wellbeing has a huge impact on a child's ability to learn. Our SCC will be supporting our academic goals by placing math problems and suggested reading materials in the newsletters.
- The school newsletter contests are all in support of different aspects of the LIP.
- Our SCC hosted two parent Mini-conferences this year with topics directly related to our LIP. They also support our In Motion initiatives - in fact one is attending the workshop

on In Motion as well as Safe School Initiatives (anti-bullying) through provision of leadership at the school level.

- Yes they are supporting our LIP - writing - letters to soldiers and advice to next year's students. They have also helped support our Bully awareness (continued from last year) and our building community connections initiatives by doing bully dance presentation and sponsoring speakers.
- One of our goals is writing and our SCC are providing funds and words of support on school generated writing folders and pencils. Also, another one of our goals in discipline was supported by bringing in Ronald Morrish for a parent night.
- In Motion, supplied outdoor equipment to all of our classrooms.
- Serious dialogue and discussion was held around how learning can be enhanced for students. This year the SCC members felt they could have impact in two areas they felt would help improve student learning in general:
  - a) Took over fund raising to supplement funding for our Nutrition Program to help ensure that students who did not have access to a nutritious breakfast or dinner would be able to access such. This was a result of research information brought forth by SCC members concerning how being hungry effects the ability to learn.
  - b) The second major initiative was that the SCC did an analysis of our building and how academic achievement is recognized. From their analysis a number of things have taken place including posting of large student posters in entrance highlighting academic achievement, as well as a new way to format plaques and how they are displayed in the building.
- Our SCC is supporting our LIP by sponsoring our reading and writing goals. The SCC provided prizes for an Olympic Writing Contest and have provided books and food for five BOOK Club meetings.
- The SCC is supporting our learning improvement plan. We did for five months, publish math problems in the monthly newsletter to be completed and returned for a prize. We publish monthly writing from various grades in our school/community newsletter.
- Our SCC is supporting our writing goal by sponsoring the "Write to Win" contest. Students are asked to write about something from our community that they appreciate and why. They have gone through the draft process and suitable entries will be on the town website. All participants will be entered to win one of two fantastic prizes.
- The SCC has supported our non-academic school goal of building assets in the 40 Developmental assets. They have sponsored a parent information night and plan to provide future support by being a bridge in the community.
- Our SCC has chosen to support two of our initiatives; our Bullying Policy and our Nutrition Plan. They have provided input from the onset of development to the stages of actualization. They have tailored their programs to support and complement the school and PSSD plans.

- SCC members can support the importance of student involvement in the portfolio process. SCC members can share with parents the 'role of parents' during Education Week.
- Information sharing on what curricula is being implemented. Discussion on homework room and parental support of new curriculum.
- SCC a key component in survey delivery to students/parents. SCC plans community activity to promote assets. Staff/SCC gather data to share with students/community.
- Help with planting and be a resource for equipment and supplies. SCC will provide the tea and goodies and help with directing traffic and greeting. Chantel as communication contact will write newsletter articles which will also be placed on the website. SCC will be present during Education week and do a short introduction and outline plans and involvement.
- Help find presenters, help with organization and serve lunch during Student Convention.
- SCC will be active in assisting the school in providing community support and resources for education around cyberbullying and digital citizenship. The SCC will plan and deliver a community workshop around cyberbullying in early 2011.
- Family Fun Nights at the school starting in November 2010.
- SCC will attend a workshop on DI so that they understand its value. Increase the SCC knowledge of DI in the areas of diversity and acceptance, learn different types of learning, and learn about their own learning styles.
- Hunger in MJ, shovelling Freedom Writers, Remember the Titans, Family Fun Day, Kick Butt Day, Anti Bullying. Names of speakers, some SCC members may be able to do presentations. SCC will be invited to join us for meals and special events to help foster a sense of belonging.
- Support the use of instructional time for planning and the implementation of activities. Acknowledgement of community service by students.
- Assist with promoting. Possibly assist with reading for those students who are in need and lack home support. Brainstorm other ways of support.
- Producing brochure for understanding the new math progression. "High School Math for Parents." Write in newsletters (1 x per month) about careers and the math they require. Bi-monthly newsletter articles on the supports that are happening in school for academic issues. (tutors, HIP, Intervention) Website publications on communication with school. At least 1 SCC member at school functions. Host BBQ for Terry Fox Run. Create awards for students (spirit awards). Sponsor.
- Possible support as SCC is still considering way to support. Host special event to support in motion. Organize weekly gym nights in the evening for students and parents to attend and participate. Arrange for special guests to address assemblies, (Larry Segal, Megan Smith, Jeff Fox - YMCA). Contribute in motion ideas into monthly newsletters. Arrange for healthy snacks for school.

- SCC will host another parent night this year in February with focus on several topics: In Motion, Drug Awareness, Academic strands (Reading), Junior Achievement, among others.
- Using the results of the data from the SOS program, staff, students, and the SCC will develop strategies to encourage student connectedness.
- Provide supports to parents to be directly involved in their children's learning and development. Organize & support parent events. (spread the word) Attend meetings & actively engage in children's learning. Put a small blurb in the newsletter about the SCC functioning. Support three events that promote community involvement and learning vocab. Contact local businesses to support the school (prizes, volunteers). Include "tip" in newsletter of strategies parents can use. Create a SCC pamphlet that promotes learning and the SCC and when possible add vocabulary strategies that parents can use at home.
- Parent nights and others as planned by SCC to support Literacy.
- Parent information night - Aspergers (March). Athletics information night (March). Sponsor an Author's night (May). Math Problem of the Month in newsletter and prize awarded (Monthly). Spookfest Math station.
- The SCC as well as the staff will attend the training sessions to gain an understanding of the importance of being asset builders. SCC will advertise for the evening parent session and provide PR for the event. SCC will plan events to be held in conjunction with the school and the community that will help build assets. The SCC will work through the search institute to find ideas/ways to engage the community.
- The SCC is part of the Community Education ministry initiative and has selected the outcome "Students, school staff, parents and community members are involved with the school and their own life-long learning" as their goal. One of the indicators of success for this outcome is percentage of families participating in Student-Parent-Teacher conferences. SCC will promote conferences with positive talk in the community. SCC will put up posters celebrating the conferences. SCC will provide coffee, nutritional snack and babysitting at each conference.
- Involved in school wide activity days.
- SCC members volunteering in school on occasion and are visible to the students, staff, and families.
- SCC was given data for both goals at the beginning of the school year. Reading was from the common assessments done by staff. In conjunction with staff, a goal for each issue was identified and a brainstorming of possible experiences or activities was held. Target students were taken to events like WE Day and Grandmother Moon as part of creating a group of students preparing to make a change in the school environment.
- The SCC supports the student well-being goal by providing opportunities for the students to experience social events within the school, such as the Christmas meal and

June barbeque. They also make a conscious effort to attend school functions and lend a hand, working side-by-side with the students, focusing on developing relationships through shared conversations.

- Reviewed data and how we were doing at the Mid-year review in February.
- The SCC chair and vice-chair participated in the Red Cross Respect Ed Training the school staff received.
- The SCC sponsored a writing contest for all students. The writing piece was based on the Respect Ed curriculum that teachers had used in their classes. Each student received a \$15.00 Scholastic Gift Certificate. This event covered both the writing and the Respect Ed Goal.
- The SCC sponsored a hot dog sale and PINK baking sale on A Day of Pink. All members worked at that sale and wore pink t-shirts along with the staff and students.
- Host child care activities at student led conferences
- Organization for Literacy Carnivals as well as Self Esteem Hip Hop Performance Student Well Being Goal: 5 km Challenge, an in-motion committee SCC representative
- Academic Goals: SCC book picks, poetry competition, math word problems in the newsletter; future plans include battle of the books and math bingo
- Endorsed and supported a K-12 home reading program
- Endorsed and supported 'Upstanding & Outstanding' student leadership initiative
- Collaborated with the principal, staff & students in the creation of school goals
- Provided resource support in the form of prizes for an at home reading program
- Provided feedback and moral support when school goals were discussed at the SCC meetings
- Anti-Bullying initiative support
- Input to the creation of the Pre-K outdoor classroom
- Provided resource support in the form of prizes for an at home reading program
- The SCC is supporting the Student Well-Being Goal related to bullying. To this date they have purchased a variety of posters to promote positive leadership in the school. They have supported the school by bringing in speakers to present to the students and parents on Anti-bullying. They also support positive leadership in the school through their hot lunch program.
- SCC attended the Lunch & Learn held at the school in October and organized lunch for students, staff, and parents.
- SCC organized a "Reading Workshop" for parents – April 24<sup>th</sup> at the school.
- SCC provided funding for motivational speakers and books for the Reading Workshop.
- To support the reading goal, the SCC sponsored a Reading Challenge. Each classroom set a goal of total books to be read in a period of approximately 1.5 months. At the end of the challenge, all classrooms that achieved their set goal could take part in a dance party, also supporting the well-being goal.

- To support the well-being goal, a member of the SCC led noon hour intramurals once every 2 weeks. He increased their exposure to games that may not be as frequently played by the students.
- SCC has sponsored a guest speaker to talk to the students about drugs and alcohol. That evening, the SCC sponsored the event to speak to parents and community members about youth and drugs.
- The SCC sponsored a member to attend a Drug and Alcohol conference with the school's SADD committee staff member.
- Provided opportunities in our community for our students to get involved in special events that target our belonging and generosity goals.
- Connected us with the MJ Police Association to be involved with the bike skills park project
- Our SCC contributed to the purchase of Leveled Literacy Intervention Blue Kit for use with our school reading goals.
- Our SCC organized two motivational speakers to support the Student Well Being Goal of student inclusion and sense of belonging. The SCC also had opportunity to take part in the speaker presentations as part of their own PD.
- Organized book fair during education week to promote reading by encouraging parents and families to have books at home to read.
- Sponsor special guests/performers for reading goal
- Exploring ways with school personnel to teach empathy and compassion to improve our safe and caring learning environment
- The SCC planned and sponsored a Parent's Night on the topic of student advocacy entitled 'We're Better Together'.
- The SCC bought books so each of the children in the school could get a free book for Family Literacy Day.
- The SCC reviewed the data results from the Whole Class Reading Assessment and from the Tell Them From Me Surveys. The SCC had a voice in the student well-being goal and what could be done to increase this motivation. The SCC discussed ways that they could contribute to the learning goals. The SCC were given progress reports on the LIP goals at each SCC meeting.
- Reading Goal: Organized a reading blitz during education week which involved all grade levels and parents. The SCC supported teacher initiatives regarding the reading goal.
- Well Being Goal: We organized a Secret Santa activity in December for the elementary students. The SCC continued the traditions of a Turkey Toonie Lunch, Staff Appreciation, and grad recognition. The SCC was actively involved in the Meet and Greet in the fall.
- In-Motion-The SCC provided funds for a school booking at YARA Centre
- Support for the Recess Guardian project with the grade four/five class

- The SCC was consulted on the school goals at the beginning of the school year and had input into suggested changes or opportunities to support. The SCC also reviewed the support plan and made suggestions pertaining to the student well-being goal of engagement. The SCC members involved in a student/staff/parent forum on school engagement.
- The SCC worked to provide support for whole school anti-bullying through a presentation.
- Volunteered and supported the book fair at the school. Gave away prizes and books to the kids.
- Have started planning the new playground to encourage kids to be active at school outside school hours.
- The SCC sponsored Challenges and Choices to over 800 students representing 10 different schools. The students we encouraged to overcome challenges in their lives.
- SCC sponsored 5 Book club meetings and 3 writing contests that support both academic goals and the student support goal.
- The SCC reviewed raw math scores and data to see the areas of where our students are strong and weak.
- The SCC has begun to promote school/community initiatives to support our student well-being goal.
- The SCC purchased books for each student pre-school – grade 6 to give out at the Christmas concert to further our 'reading for pleasure' indicator.
- The SCC runs a reading contest logging hours spent at home reading for pleasure. Students receive one 'arm charm' for each hour of at-home reading. Each hour gets one entry into a draw for a \$15 Scholastic gift certificate. A draw is made every time the school achieves its 150 hour overall goal. (An elementary and secondary prize is awarded each draw.)
- The SCC purchased bookmarks for each student K-12 to celebrate their achievement in their bi-weekly LIT goals.
- The SCC sponsored a gift certificate to encourage parents to complete the TTFM survey in the fall. 60% of our families participated.
- The SCC supported activities during the week of Family Literacy Day by promoting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Reading Challenge, volunteering to lead literacy activity stations, and provided a popcorn snack for students.
- The SCC led and helped plan events for Education week including presenting a story and presentation on dental health to our primary students.
- The SCC researched and brought in a guest speaker to speak to our students about respecting each other on the Day of Pink, April 10. This was in an effort to promote student-welling at our school in response to data collected from our Tell Them From Me Surveys.

- The SCC was involved in the creation of the academic school goals and supported the goals by communicating them in the community.
- The SCC held hot lunch days and supported school sponsored events to assist with the well-being goal.
- Supporting reading goals with Book Fairs, prizes (books) and Reading is Magic Theme Family Night at the school.
- Family nights (movies) and in-school assistance on student well-being goal to promote positive school culture.