

School Growth Plan 2021-2022

4-Schools



School Context

Who are we?

The 'Four-Schools' include Beaverdell, West Boundary, Midway, and Greenwood Elementary Schools which are all situated on the traditional unceded territories of the Sylix and Sinixt peoples. We are also connected by shared support staff who work in all four buildings, cultural and athletic events, celebrations, and an established professional learning community who are committed to collaboration to address the unique challenges presented by our rural locations.

Outdoor education is a practice that is threaded throughout our school days. Staff and students enjoy hiking, trail riding, snowshoeing, skiing, building shelters, winter survival day, plein air art opportunities, science-based experiments, and exploring the natural beauty of our outdoor locales to grow appreciation for environmental stewardship.

Our values are demonstrated through T.R.A.C.K.S. which are linked to core competencies that include: thinking critically, responsibility for self, analytical & creative thinking, communication, and knowing



Kettle River Exploration Day, Midway Elementary School

themselves. Staff are encouraged to 'notice' students exemplifying these traits and regular assemblies provide students a chance to hear notable examples of T.R.A.C.K.S. at work within their school communities. Looking through the lens of T.R.A.C.K.S. students are able to reflect and continue their learning journey with the intention of celebrating their growth.



Noticing

Where are we flourishing?

Members of our school communities are committed to supporting each other to reach new heights of success. Consistently students, in each of school buildings, on EDI and MDI surveys, have showed that they feel connected to staff and heard. The development of our caring communities is further supported through the opportunities to come together to celebrate as a larger school community throughout the year. Some of our celebrations have included Harvest Lunches, Winter Concerts or dramatic productions, Primary Student's Mother's Day teas, and Graduation Ceremonies.

Additionally, families are encouraged to take part in Parent Action Committees (PAC). PAC volunteers are actively involved in fundraising and supporting initiatives that encourage student participation and learning. Field trips, resources, and supplies have been generously provided through the actions of dedicated teams of parents and families to aid classroom-based activities.



The recent 2021 Federal Election inspired the Greenwood Elementary School grade 4/5 class to participate in Student Vote by running a polling station and experiencing what it is like to cast a ballot through making an informed choice.

We have also been committed to supporting students in better understanding Truth and Reconciliation through purposeful activities that include Orange Shirt Day, Honouring Residential School Survivors, Project Heart, hands-on learning experiences grounded in First Peoples Principles which include oral storytelling connected to projects that are facilitated by Indigenous members of the community, and the intentional weaving in of Indigenous teachings into all curricular areas.



Nuturing

Where can we improve?

In our 4-Schools, students are going to need support moving through life beyond the pandemic. We are noticing that many are expressing worries and understand that they are needing to rebuild their feelings of safety, security, and connectedness to the larger community.

We also want to inspire students to excel in their academic studies through strengthening our assessment practices. By providing descriptive feedback, opportunities to engage in peer and self-assessment, and on-going conversations, we anticipate that students will build a greater understanding of themselves as learners.

Additionally, we know that students learn best when they are viewing learning from the lens of wonder and curiosity. Experiential learning, that is problem or project based, provides students with the chance to view the world through different perspectives and engages them in meaningful learning challenges. Our 4-schools will create new opportunities for connectedness through outdoor education initiatives, career based learning, and help them re-engage in the joy of learning.



Wonderings

Intellectual

How can we improve and build a culture of numeracy in our schools?

Will stronger assessment practices that focus on providing learners with descriptive feedback lead to more student engagement and clarity of purpose?

How can regularly addressing truth and reconciliation practices help students to better grow their understanding of Indigeneity in Canada?

How can participation and regular practice in story workshop help young learners (K-3) to engage more in developing their writing skills?

Human and Social Development

Will experiential, problem-based learning, and guided reflection help students develop greater self-efficacy and perseverance?

Career Development

How can we grow connectedness with professionals, experts, and guest speakers to help students build a greater understanding of careers, skills, and inspire them to begin connecting to future plans?



