

Principal's Message

Welcome back to another very exciting school year. It is such a pleasure to see everyone again and to witness the eagerness of all the children and staff to embrace routine again. Summer is wonderful but routine and cooler temperatures are appreciated.

The school has a new bus loop which is wonderful for the children's safety. We are so pleased to have this reconstruction of our playground and parking area.

The new construction of the bus loop has meant a few new changes:

- 1) *No one is allowed to park in the bus loop.* There is not enough room to pass a bus and / or the buses to pass a car. The result is that the buses could be significantly delayed in adhering to the time schedule of their route. As well, we certainly don't want any accidents.
- 2) *There is a short, new section of Alboro Street that has been designated as no parking.* The buses were unable to make the turn onto the street with the parked cars. As a result the buses were having to back up several times to angle their way around the corner onto the street. This created a very serious situation as buses cannot see the space behind them and this practice is very dangerous and unsafe. The school is grateful that this situation has been remedied.
- 3) Another situation at the school is that we have increased in staff so that *there are not NO visitor parking spots.* In fact, there are not enough spots for all the staff. One staff person is required to park on the street. This is an unfortunate result but I am grateful that we have more staff to meet the needs of our diverse student population.

Parent Council AGM & Barbecue

The AGM is planned for Tuesday, September 25 starting at 5:30 p.m.

Nominations and election of the Parent Council executive will take place at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Shannon Ross, the school social worker, will present on Mindfulness at 6:15 p.m. Several classes have taken the Mindfulness course with Mrs. Ross and two classes will again be taking the course starting in January. Mrs. Ross will have a short presentation explaining the program and outlining the parents' role to support this specific teaching in the school.

Phoenix School Goals

The school has set three goals which are a continuation of last year's goals.

These goals are:

- To continue to develop students' proficiency with their math facts so that 80% of the students achieve a '3' or '4' rating on each term on the report card
- To develop students' critical thinking skills so that 90% of the students are achieving a '3' or '4' rating, each term on the report card
- To increase 80% of students' awareness of the effects of poverty around the world

This year is the school's turn to work collaboratively with the Literacy and Numeracy Coaches designated by the school division. I find it exhilarating that the professional community I belong to, the St. James-Assiniboia School Division, takes seriously the learning achievements of all of its students. As professionals, we are always seeking to improve the learning environment and instructional practices for our students.

All of our instructional practices are based on current research. The instructional practices really do not resemble the schools of a few decades ago. As well, the furniture does not resemble the furniture when I was growing up and going to school. There is also new research about furniture that promotes learning and addresses different styles of learning.

Should you have any questions about your child's education, you may arrange a meeting with your homeroom teacher and / or the administration. We appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss your child's learning and progress.

PLEASE VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE FOR THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION ON WHAT IS HAPPENING AT PHOENIX SCHOOL AND OUR SCHOOL DIVISION.

<https://www.sjasd.ca/school/phoenix/Pages/default.aspx>