

ALONSA SCHOOL

COMMUNITY REPORT 2019/2020

Alonsa School Life

Alonsa School is a K-12 school with an enrollment of 125 students. There is a professional staff of 10 and support staff of 6. There is one secretary, one librarian, one caretaker and one cleaner, one community connector with a support worker as well as five bus drivers. All staff work together to create a positive, clean, and supportive learning environment.

This year we had multiple changes during the year. First, we had two staff leave at Christmas time with only one new person coming into grade 3/4. The vacant position was covered by the reallocation of assigned teaching duties for the existing staff. We did hire one additional EA for the purpose of increased support. The second change, was the impact of the Covid 19 virus.

School personnel work to make a difference by recognizing, encouraging and celebrating student learning. To fulfill this motto and to accom-



Alonsa School

plish this mission all staff strive to provide a safe and supportive environment that promotes the unique development of all students.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the importance of student and staff safety was paramount and lead to suspension of classes from March 23 until June 29.

Alonsa School had suspension of classes starting March 20th until the end of June. Student achievement on report cards was based upon success to March 20th and remote learning afterward.

As learning gaps due to attendance was an area of concern and as classes were suspended due to the pandemic, the concerns over learning gaps remain. Continued learning was addressed with remote connection and homework packages. However, learning gaps will be addressed over the next school year through integrated instruction.

The school focus of literacy, numeracy, engagement and mental health and sustainable development will continue to be the focus for next year.

June 2020

The year in review

Special points of interest:

- School Profile
- School Mission
- School Motto
- Parents and technology access
- School priorities
- Assessment Policy
- Math and ELA focus
- Sports Participation
- Fond farewells and Passing the Torch

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School Priorities

#1. To build a positive school culture. Strategies:

- Themed Presentations
- Spirit weeks
- Encourage a positive and respectful environment

#2 To improve literacy and numeracy. Strategies

- Reading Recovery
- 6 Period Day
- Courses that run all year
- Incorporated use of technology
- Attendance tracking

3# To promote student independence. Strategies

- Encourage and support independence
- Self-directed learning
- Learning Centers
- Options in Assignments

Provincial Examinations, Assessments, Goals

Each year, Alonsa School students write the Provincial, divisional or local examinations in June. Provincial ELA and Math Assessments are written first, followed by Grade 9 to Grade 11 exams later in June. All provincial required courses have regularly scheduled exams scheduled towards the end of the June.

As the provincial exams are written in June information about performances is not available until the following year. Last year the Grade 12s writing

- the ELA Provincial exam performed about the provincial average.
- Our school average on the Essential

Math provincial exam was slightly below the provincial average.

- Our school average, on the applied math exam, was slightly below the provincial average.

Because of the class suspensions this year, there were no examinations written in this school. As no exams were written we do not know how well our students would have preformed on provincial assessments.

mRLC

Currently Cr. 4 to 9 follow the instruction pattern of the mRLC for math. To date, results for all levels have been positive.

Division and School Goals

Based on provincial assessments and surveys, the Division and School Goals are showing more improvement in sustainability and gradual improvement in academics and engagement at all grade levels.

We are working continuously on the issues of Mental Health as this factors into attendance, social interactions and academic performance in all grades.



Grade Level Success and Credit Attainment

This year all students from K to Gr. 8 completed their year and advanced to the next year.

Of the Grade 7 to 12 students, 40 of 51 students achieved their credits in math. Of those that did not achieve credits they will have additional supports to be successful.

For the ELA classes, 37 of 45 students achieved their credits in ELA. For those

that did not achieve credits, they will have additional supports to be successful.

In Gr. 3 most students were either meeting or approaching numeracy expectations and reading comprehension expectations.

In Gr. 7 almost all students were meeting or approaching the Mid-Grade 7 level of the Number Sense Assessment and are developing or established in all categories

of the Student Engagement . In the Grade 8 reading and expository writing, most students were either approaching or meeting the performance.



Continuous Improvement

Teachers and EA's assist students to develop their capability for working both successfully and independently.

There is the continued utilization of the opportunity room as an additional step in behavior intervention. Students who have difficulty self regulating are provided opportunities to self-regulate first in the classroom and then the opportunity room before for further interventions.

Phone calls were made when students

were not in school, as attendance plays an important role in academic achievement. As absences increase, instruction is missed and gaps in learning occur. After the recent suspension of classes, the gaps are larger and more diverse. We are and will be working to close these learning gaps, with the help of parents there will be success.

Our Breakfast program changed with the addition of a community connector support worker. She prepared the breakfasts,

*All progress begins with a dream.
What we can conceive we are able
to achieve.*

snacks and lunches while in school and packages for home during the suspension of classes. The Community connector reached out to support families.

The school is regularly collecting data to help guide the school improvement.

Sports

Our students performed well in the sporting areas this year. Even though the competitive year was shortened, students have well represented this school to other communities.

Soccer—Senior Boys and Girls and

Junior Boys and Girls—

Mr. B. Dupasquier

Volleyball—Senior Boys and Girls

Mr. M. Reimer

—Junior Girls and Boys

Ms. Steiner

Curling—Senior Boys and Girls and

—Junior Boys and Girls

Mrs. Asham and Ms. Doran

Having a shortened year for athletics, the following activities were in preparation or planned for the last few months of school

Basketball

Badminton

Track and Field

Baseball

Hopefully, next year will be a better year.



Safety and Security

This year the hold and secure safety protocol continued within the school safety procedures. All doors were locked at all times. East and south doors were monitored before school during breaks and at lunch time.

Any visitor arriving at the school was to come to the south door where there is door bell. Staff are able to come to that door to help you.

The east and south doors are not monitored during class time as the doorbell is located at the south entrance.

In addition, anyone coming to the school who is not known by the staff monitoring the door will be asked to identify themselves and the purpose of the visit.

Staff and students are aware of the importance of the lock and secure procedure. Although it may be inconvenient it is for



the purpose of student and staff safety.

These procedures will continue until there is a viable system that allows for changes to occur while maintaining school student and staff safety.

Special Events

Special events are to interject novelty, spirit and information into the routine of the school. This years events have been no exception.

School Presentations

Manitoba Theatre for Young people put on a performance for students this year. They are a regularly appearing group to this school.

Tell Them From Me Survey—which

provides a student perspective of bullying, school climate and student engagement within the school was not completed this school year.

Spirit Weeks, Christmas Dinner, Breakfast with Santa, —to create a community spirit within the school population

The Christmas concert—which showcases the talents of our K to 6 students.

Other events: Book Fair, Remembrance

Day,

Due to the suspension of classes

Graduation Ceremonies will be conducted during the summer. The awards will be distributed along with report cards at the end of June.



ALONSA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A year together cut short!

Our year together cut short.

As we all know, Covid 19 cut our time in school together short with the suspension of classes. But, before that happened we managed to fit in some fun and important programs at Alonsa Community School.

We continued to offer some previously implemented programming such evening gym nights, breakfast program, free lunch program, numerous presentations, I Love To Read Month guest readers, Christmas Store, Christmas Dinner, empathy programming etc. Unfortunately some programming and presentations booked for the remaining months of the school year had to be cancelled. We have hopes that such programs will return during the 2020-2021 school year.

The ever important attendance tracking and home contact continued during the school year. This is an essential home school communication and will continue during the 2020-2021 school year.

We want our students and families to know that although we were apart, fun things will be waiting for us when we return like our school gardens!

The Community Connector as always participated in professional development as well participated on a number of important councils and committees.

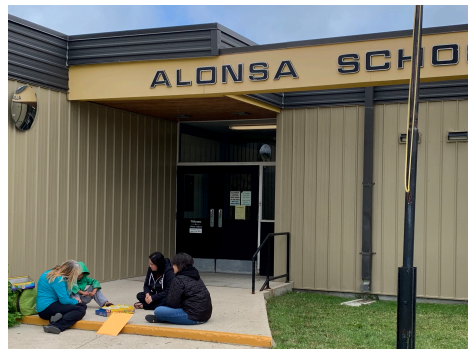
Indigenous Inclusion Directorate Advisory Council (IIDAC)

As of September 2019 the Community Connector was appointed to the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate Advisory Council. IIDAC serves as an advisory council to the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate. The Indigenous Inclusion Directorate provides leadership and co-ordination for departmental initiatives in Aboriginal education and training. The Indigenous Inclusion Directorate operates from within Manitoba Education and Training. The primary role of the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate is in research, policy development and strategic initiatives. This is accomplished in the spirit of cooperation and consultation with many groups and individuals, such as school administrators, educators, students, parents, Aboriginal and community organizations and other government departments. The Indigenous Inclusion Directorate works in partnership with First Nations communities and organization in Manitoba. It is a huge honour to have our Connector be appointed by the Minister of Education to this council.

Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba (CNCM)

The Manitoba Council on Child Nutrition was created as a non-profit organization in 2001. The Manitoba School Boards Association played a key role as a founding member and continues to provide critical support. Founded on the passions of individuals who wanted to address the impacts of poverty on their communities, and especially school-aged children, the Council remains dedicated to addressing the needs of children.

Representatives from health, education, social services, business, the volunteer sector, and community services and agencies work with the Council to raise awareness about nutrition and the need for nutrition programs in schools. The Council supports over 280 school and community-based breakfast, snack, and lunch programs, serving over 32,000 children and teens each year. This is also a very important council for our Connector to be part of as the board helps to make vital decisions as to how school nutrition programs look in our province.



ALONSA COMMUNITY SCHOOL Staying Connected!

Students are away. How we remain connected...

While so much looks different for our students and their families, one thing has remained strong and true- the compassion and care that the staff of Alonsa Community School holds for our families. From teachers preparing homework packages, to the deliveries on their door steps, our passion to support our families not only remains, but grows stronger!

Alonsa Community School remains connected with our students and their families during the school suspension. School staff are engaged through numerous means. Information on the newly made school Facebook page where new features like the sharing of our school meal program recipes, important messages from TRSD, fun web based activities, honouring of our 2020 Graduates etc are shared. But the most rewarding and important work happens during our home visits (while physical distancing) and the delivery of care and homework packages. While Covid 19 has caused a huge disruption to our home lives as well as our school lives, it has also allowed for something positive to happen, a bond between school staff and parents/guardians. A trust, a positive relationship!

Thank you to the many loved ones of our students for allowing us to step a little closer into your lives, thank you for trusting us! You all deserve a round of applause, your dedication to your child's education and well being through these difficult times has not gone unnoticed!

LIBRARY NEWS

Everyone in our school has the opportunity to visit the library. Library classes for the Pre-School to Grade 8 students are scheduled on certain days of the six-day cycle. All students have the opportunity to visit me first thing in the morning any day of the week to exchange their books as often as they like!

All students from Grades from 7-12 have the opportunity to come down to the library during their study periods, lunch and regular breaks to sign out books, work on assignments, study and read. Students in these grades also have the opportunity to come for a library period at any time at their teacher's request.

This year we held two Scholastic Book Fair. As always I wish to thank everyone who purchases items at these Book Fairs as every purchase benefits our school by putting new books on our shelves and into the hands of our students! Your support helps us build a library that I am proud of!

I also take care of all the Scholastic Book Orders that are placed throughout the year from Kindergarten to Grade 12. We do receive a small percentage back on the monthly book orders as well, all of which is also put right back onto the shelves of our library. Something new is the ability for parents to place their order on-line, select me (Barbara Anderson) as their "child's teacher" and I will ensure your order is submitted and delivered to your child.

Is there a certain book you would like to see in our collection? I am always asking for ideas from students and staff as to which books they would like to see in our library. I do my best to order books that engage and inspire all ages and if anyone has suggestions, I welcome them.

We have an awesome school website where the Library has it's own web pages. You can search to find out which books we have by going to AlonsaSchool.ca ; click on **Programs and Services** and there you will find the **Alonsa School Library** pages where you can search by clicking on **Library Search**. You can also search Turtle River's other school libraries as well.

In 2019-2020 we faced new challenges and experienced a shortened in-school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope this message finds our families and friends healthy during this trying time. Enjoy the summer holidays, I hope to see everyone back at school this fall!

Thank you for believing in reading and the importance of books in your child's life!

- Mrs. Barbara Anderson



Alonsa School

6 PTH #50
Box 6
Alonsa, MB
R0H 0A0

Phone: 204-767-2168
Fax: 204-767-2279



Making a Difference through Empowerment

The Power is in the ACES!!!

Suspension of Classes

As classes were suspended in March, student progress has been a priority over the last months of this year and will continue into the next school year.

Teachers are working to address the learning gaps that have occurred due to the loss of instructional time for all students. These learning gaps will present a very diverse class composition when learning resumes in the next school year.

The report card is issued at the end of June for students. This report card presents an assessment of learning that has occurred over the suspension period and/or how the gaps will be addressed in the upcoming school year.

Student Council;

This year the student council was active prior to the suspension of classes in March. The council members worked on a rotational basis in the canteen at lunchtime and restocked the drink machine when necessary.

They organized the spirit weeks that took place over this year. When held—Christmas, February, March—, they included themed dress up days and special activities to promote the participation of all students of the school.

The council organized some special day activities around Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and were preparing future activities in May and June.

The council works to support events that are for the benefit of all students of this school and to support programs that build community of the student body of this school. The student council plays an important role in Alonsa School.



A Fond See-You-Later and Good-Bye

This coming year we will have some new faces in the School. As there has been some changes to staff assignments, the class arrangements will be K/1, 2/3, 4a, 4b, 5/6, 7/8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

As there is no longer Grade 2/3 and 3/4 classes, the Grade 4 students are now in a separate class of Grade 4. Ms. Johnson and Ms. Janz will be teaching Grade 4a and Grade 4b respectively. Grade 4a will be in the Grade 3/4 room and Grade 4b will be in the previous Grade 5/6 room.

All other teaching staff have some change in teaching assignments. Mr. Dupasquier music and PE, Mr. Reimer math, sciences and social studies, Mrs. Caumartin Gr. 2/3, Ms. Steiner will be teaching Grade 5/6. Mrs. Zalluski will be

teaching the K/1 class. The Grade 7/8 class will be instructed mainly by Ms. Doran with a rotation of high school teachers.

We are saying good-bye to the Graduating Grade 12 students. Although a small graduating class of regular and mature students, the Grade 12 class embodies the spirit of graduation—the culmination of 12 years of formal education.

We said good-bye Ms. Grant and Mrs. Buchanan who left in December and will be saying good-bye to Mr. Kristalovich who is leaving at the end of June.

We wish them all well on their individual journeys as the years pass.

We will have an opportunity to say our good-byes to our Graduates at the the

Graduation ceremony on July 25, 2020.

For those students who will not be returning to Alonsa School we offer a fond farewell. We hope that your time in this school gave you many good memories.

As this school year closes another year is set to open for 2020/2021.

