



**Turtle River School Division**



## Report to the Community Spring 2014

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*"Learning today for tomorrow"*

# Turtle River School Division *Report to the Community* 2013 - 2014

### TRSD School Board Office



808 Burrows Road,  
McCreary, Mb. R0J 1B0

### Mission Statement:

*Turtle River School Division's mission is to assist students to reach a high degree of self-actualization to become both self-sufficient and contributing members of society.*

### Role and Mission

The Board of Trustees of Turtle River School Division is responsible for policy formulation which provides the structure and organization for the education of students within its boundaries. The implementation of these programs is guided by the major goals of assisting students to reach a high degree of self-actualization to become both self-sufficient and contributing members of society.

The Board will focus on the overall needs of its students. Notwithstanding this, the Board will pay due regard to its responsibilities to the community and encourage a high quality of education. The degree to which the Board attains its goals will be measured through the use of standard evaluation tools, internal and external testing and the performance of students in their chosen endeavours.

The Board, in implementing its programs, will draw upon the unique skills of staff and its use of progressive and varied methods of instruction. In doing so, the Board will maximize the use of specialized facilities to provide the greatest opportunity for student learning and social growth.

### Division Profile

Superintendent of Schools:	Bev Szymesko
Acting-Secretary Treasurer:	Shannon Desjardins
Transportation/Maintenance:	Dean Bluhm
ICT Director:	Steven Hopfner
Computer Technician:	Jeff Fudge
Board of Trustees Chair:	Fabian Gingras
Vice Chair:	Dan DeLaurier
Trustee:	Gwen McLean
Trustee:	Dana Gurke
Trustee:	Gordon Wilson
Phone:	835-2067
Fax:	835-2426
Website:	<a href="http://trsd32.mb.ca">http://trsd32.mb.ca</a>

<b>Students:</b>	May 2014	–	727
<b>Staff:</b>	Teachers	–	62.5
	Support Staff	–	44.5



## **Message from the Superintendent**

During the last year we have seen many changes both as a division and in education as a whole. Many of the changes are a result of both new provincial legislation and our own divisions Strategic Plan that has outlined what steps need to be accomplished to get us closer to where we want to see our division. Our division may be smaller than most, but it is mighty in the ability we have to implement change so quickly. Our combined efforts in planning have allowed us to be a division that is visionary and a leader in many ways. As phase one of our strategic plan, our division introduced a new Automotive program this year which was very successful and complements what we have to offer our students as choices in programming and supports interest in various vocational trades. We want to continue to support students and provide them with options that will allow all students to be successful.

In addition, we have been developing partnerships with ACC in Brandon and RRC in Winnipeg in order to offer students advanced placement and standing in various programs. Furthermore, the division has been building partnerships with neighbouring divisions in sharing programs and resources so that we can better serve our students and communities.

This year has also seen the division begin the process of having our existing programs accredited with Manitoba Apprenticeship and helping support students with apprenticeship work placements. As we continue to plan and look towards the future, we are looking at phasing in new programs that will continue to complement technical vocational studies for students. There is a huge upcoming demand for jobs in the trades and the future is bright for students to have fantastic careers in these areas. It is very exciting to see students enter into various fields of studies after they graduate and begin careers in various trades.

This year the department has announced a direction for divisions to focus on vocational education and dual credits. They want to see divisions continue to align schools with colleges. They too are forecasting the need for trained and skilled trades people and are promoting and working towards education being more interconnected from K-12 with post-secondary institutions.

I am happy to report to you that our division's vision has already been focused down this path. All of our seven schools have been working hard to setup programs and supports that will provide your children with the best education possible and provide students with options and choices to obtain the skills and tools necessary to be successful.



As we look into the future the division will continue to plan and offer new programs that will support student learning and allow for all students to achieve success. As you are aware this year we have implemented Drama or Numeracy Enrichment into our middle school programs. Each school surveyed the wants and needs of students in order to help decide what focus students and families want to see added to student learning.

In addition, the division has complemented our transportation services to include local services to help support families and community services. We are always looking at our services and programs that we can offer and continue to adjust them when feasible.

The department has changed the way we apply for some of the funding grants we receive and as a result we are aligning our models accordingly in order to meet regulations. As a result we will be able to offer new initiatives and programs to schools. Career Development, Aboriginal Academic Achievement, Technology Education and Education Quality Grant are just a few of the new grants that the department is offering additionally to our categorical grants. It's not that these are all new; they have just changed in the way funding can be obtained, utilized, and reported on to the department. It is evident that there is a huge push for Technology and Vocational studies.

As our division implements more programs that allow us to align ourselves with Manitoba Education and Apprenticeship. This will allow for your child to gain valuable experience in a trade and earn credits towards their diploma while still in high school. It is an opportunity to explore various trades and see if they have an interest in this area. Our programming will meet higher standards set by the department in order to ensure we are approved for accreditation. This would allow for students to possibly receive hours towards receiving their final trade certificate. Overall, this will be more motivating for students and help support them as they progress with their education.

As we continue to develop our programming we are looking at expanding into different areas that will support student growth, skill development, and overall future employment. It is important that you constantly reflect and evaluate yourself as you continue to change to meet the needs of your students and community. Apple Computers is only as successful as they are because they continue to keep reinventing themselves. Don't be complacent, don't settle, and keep looking into the future.

Congratulations to all of the graduates this year. I hope that everyone has a safe summer.

Yours truly,

**Bev Szymesko, Superintendent**



## Division Priorities (2012-2015)

1. School Climate
2. Student Engagement



*This year the Division continued its focus on our above two priorities: School Climate & Student Engagement. The 5 Year Strategic Plan developed in 2012 has been guiding us as we implement new directives and initiatives in order to support the divisions vision. We feel that we are positively working towards meeting these goals with our activities and programs.*

## 2013/14 Division Goals

### School Climate -

By June 2015, Relationships will improve within Turtle River School Division schools.

### Student Engagement -

By June 2015, Turtle River School Division students will have an increase of academic achievement by 10% overall.

By June 2015, Turtle River School Division students will have an increase of student graduation rate from 63% to 80% .

By June 2015, Turtle River School Division students will have an increase of course attainment/ success rate of 80% or greater.

*The division has been making excellent growth and progress in these areas. It has been implementing new programs that foster student climate and engagement in school and learning. At the school level and division level we are seeing positive changes. We are excited to evaluate these goals at the end of next year and see if we were able to successfully meet our expectations.*

*As we continue to look towards the future and continue to grow and plan, we will be updating and revising our strategic plan next year. As part of the planning process in the new year we will be inviting all of the stakeholders to a meeting in order to help plan the direction of the division. We value the continuous feedback we get from our stakeholders; you the parents, the students, educators, principals, trustees and the communities that help guide our divisions' future and direction.*

### Summary of Division Activities & Highlights this School Year

1. **Exceptional Sports Programming** (golf, track & field, baseball, cross-country running, soccer, basketball, curling, volleyball, and badminton)
2. **Fabulous PD** – Professional Development for our Staff Members (First Steps in Math, Dawn Reitaug, SAGE/LIFT, URIS Training, First Aid/CPR, MTS TAC, French PD for K-6 teachers, Barbara Colorosa, )
3. **Division Social Worker** – This year the division was able to recruit Mrs. Heather Graham as our division social worker. Heather has been providing school and students with excellent services that allow for guidance and counseling for students and staff members. She is there for someone to talk to, helps out in some pretty sticky situations and provides therapy type services using various forms of music, yoga, art, and even sand trays (pictured). In addition to individual services she provides classroom intervention programs such as “Second Step”. Mental Health and Wellness is very important and too often we overlook it until it is too late. Healthy is not only physical, but emotional and mental wellness is also very important. Mrs. Graham has also been participating in an after school beading program.



4. **Committees** – This year the division has implemented a few new committees. The division now has grade group committees, allowing teachers the ability to connect and share ideas. However we have also added a student voice and social justice committee. These committees have allowed teachers and students an opportunity to learn, share and plan together.

5. **French Revitalization Program** – This was the second year of our French Revitalization program in the division. We have started phasing in French into grades K to 8. We have applied again to receive funding and continue this program. The French Consultant, Ms, Charlene Christensen, has not only provided supports to all K to 8 teachers in our division in their classrooms but has assisted in providing French cultural performances in our division for students and training for staff members. This grant has also provided us with funding that has allowed some classes to go to cultural field-trips such as Festival du Voyageur.

6. **Division Writing Anthology** – This year the division was compiling student writing for a writing anthology. Unfortunately the task became too onerous. As we were collecting writing it became apparent that this task was much larger and complicated than first anticipated and we were missing many students writing. This has resulted in us rethinking what we were doing. Instead, we have decided to try again next year, earlier in the school year, providing classrooms and students with much more time to complete their writing. We are still planning on publishing the past writing in addition to new submissions. Please watch for this over the next year.

- 7 **Divisional & Provincial Assessments** – As per Manitoba Educations mandate, the division administers the Grade 12 Provincial ELA (English) and Math exams. This was the first year of the new math exam. Additionally, the Grade 3/4 and 7/8 assessments were also completed. Divisionally, we complete the Gates and WRAT assessments. These are both English and Math assessments that allow us to gain data that drives our planning and programming for all of our divisions students.

8. **Learning to 18** – This was the first year the division utilized the new Learning to 18 policy. This policy aligns the division and schools up with current legislation that mandates students attending school until the age of 18 or when they graduate. We want to keep students engaged in school in some form and will continue to work towards supporting all students and families in whatever way we can.

9. **Speech Language** – This year our division was able to successfully recruit Mrs. Trudy Campbell as our Division Speech Language Pathologist. She has provided us with excellent services for all of the students in all of our division schools. Our model has changed, providing more service to students and schools than in the past. She has brought fresh ideas and programs to help students and staff as they develop language skill. In addition to regular school services, Mrs. Campbell has even provided a training/workshop on a new speech tool: EET.



10. **Sustainability**- To start off the school year, Parkview Colony was named the ESD competition winner in our divisional challenge. This year's ESD focus was an individual school-based focus. Earth Day was celebrated by all schools in their own way. The division ESD committee has organized another competition that schools will participate in, beginning in the Fall of 2014. The division has continued to implement sustainability in our everyday division practice and in all of its operations.





11. **Science Olympics** – On April 28, 2014 the Division hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Science Olympics. It was held at Glenella School with all Grades 4-8 students attending. At this event, students engaged in hands-on science activities to problem-solve and learn various scientific theories. Students built pinewood cars, pierced balloons with skewers, built toothpick and marshmallow towers and tried to implode a 50 gallon barrel. Everyone had a blast!



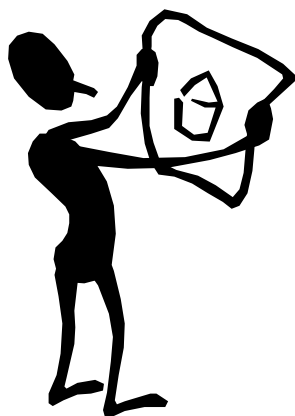
12. **Gingerbread Workshop** – In December, every student in Grades K to 3 participated in our divisions' Gingerbread Workshop. This is a fun half-day program where students experience activities based on the Gingerbread theme. The focus is on numeracy and literacy skills. However, other key skills are being taught and learnt such as social skills, sharing, and team building. Students learn about patterns, money, graphing, counting, and prediction all while singing songs, reading stories, making graphs, counting money and building a full-size gingerbread house with candy they purchase from a candy store that they get to take home when the workshop is over. It is really popular with students, parents and teachers.



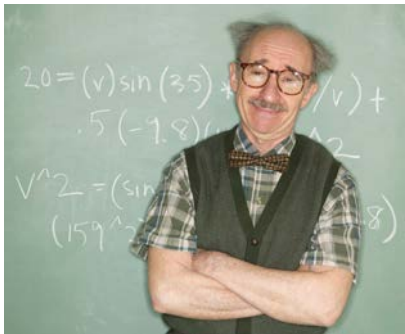
13. **TTFM – Tell Them From Me** – is an online survey that students from Grades 6 to 12 do in schools online. This is our third year participating in this program and we have found it to be a great way to provide us with important information and data that we use for planning. The TTFM survey is a chance for students to offer their ideas about ways to improve our schools. TTFM asks students questions about overall well-being at school, including their mental, emotional, and physical health. It is completely anonymous and has now become a provincial program that all schools and divisions participate in nation-wide.

#### **First Aid and CPR**

All Turtle River School Division staff members are trained in Standard First Aid and C.P.R. Level C. We feel it is of the greatest importance that all adults, whom the students see throughout the day, be prepared to the best of their abilities for all emergencies.



14. **Numeracy** – This year we continued training new K to 6 teachers in our division with First Steps in Math Training. The division Senior Math committee has developed new common exams for grades 9 and 10. The division has selected a numeracy lead and also implemented new numeracy directives that coincide with the new math curriculum. The department has setup a five year numeracy plan to assist in increasing numeracy instruction. As well, divisions have developed a math network that also shares and discusses math in our province.



15. **First Steps in Math** - Turtle River School Division has continued training new staff members in First Steps in Math. As a result, every teacher in Grades K to 8 has been or is currently being trained in this incredible program. First Steps in Math is a program which will enhance mathematics instruction. In this program, teachers become familiar with the developmental phases all students pass through as they learn Mathematics, and are provided with diagnostic tasks which will identify each child's progress and challenges.

#### **Assessment Policy**

We are committed to effective assessment of student learning. As a result, we promote **Assessment For Learning** ("gives teachers information to modify and differentiate teaching and learning activities"), **Assessment AS Learning** ("requires that teachers help students develop, practice, and become comfortable with reflection, and with a critical analysis of their own learning"), and **Assessment OF Learning** ("is summative in nature and is used to confirm what students know and can do, to demonstrate whether they have achieved the curriculum outcomes").

#### **Full Time Kindergarten**

We have completed our fourth year of full time kindergarten for all students in our division. Turtle River School Division has seen incredible results because of this initiative. While the overall impact will not be totally seen for years to come, our students are showing encouraging indicators of growth in skill development and achievement. Just many other divisions have just started implementing full-time kindergarten. They are recognizing the significance of providing full-time Kindergarten and are following suit. The results across the province are amazingly positive and it looks like in the near future the province may mandate it. We will continue to track these students with great enthusiasm as they continue with their learning.

#### **Kindergarten Here I Come**

Kindergarten Here I Come continues to be an enormous success in each school in our division. We offer the equivalent of 7 full days to students in the months of April, May and June. Each school tries to schedule in 10 half days and 2 full days but sometimes it looks slightly different dependent on the school. The aim of this project is to have our children learn the necessary pre-reading, numeracy, and social skills in a relaxed and entertaining environment and to lay the foundation for positive school experiences in the future. The students are provided with the opportunity to become familiar with the students with whom they will be attending kindergarten in the fall. They also meet the school staff. They become familiar with the kindergarten routine, the kindergarten classroom, and the layout of the school. Additionally, they are given the opportunity to ride the school bus.

**Community Schools** – Alonsa is our Division's Community School. This has been an incredible year where they have been able to advance the programming and options in the Alonsa Community to record levels. They started a new summer program for students that will continue again this summer. In addition, this year they have brought in "Artists in the School", fiddling, beading and a breakfast and snack program just to name a few of the programs being offered. After school programming for students and community members has increased drastically thanks to the hard work of the school community connector: Amanda Gurke.

**Provincial Report Cards** – While this was the third year our division has been using the new report card, the province officially mandated their use in the province.