

Arborg Early/Middle Years School

Annual Community Report

June 2010



School Profile

Arborg Early/Middle Years School is a Grade Kindergarten-8 complex located on David Street in Arborg, Manitoba. At present there are 282 students attending our school from approximately 186 families. Over half of our student population is rural and therefore bussed to school.

The School's professional staff of nineteen includes a full time Principal, two Resource Teachers, Guidance Counselor, and a Reading Recovery Teacher. Thirteen Teacher Assistants work with the resource teachers and classroom teachers in providing support to students. In this school, there is an important emphasis placed on using a collaborative approach among staff for the planning and delivery of programs. The staff also includes one secretary, one library clerk, two custodians and a dayman.

STAFFING FOR 2010-2011

Administration

-Brad Harding (Principal)

Early Years

- Renate Gruenenfelder (K)
- Cheryl Chwaliboga (1/2)
- Grace Marteinson (1/2)
- Sheila Stoyanowski (1/2)
- Gwen Stallard (3/4)
- Holly Elsworth (3/4)
- Cheryl Johnston (3/4)

Middle Years

- Tanya Harding (5/6)
- Alicia Yablonski (5/6)
- Cheryl Bates (5/6)
- Richard Truscott (7/8)
- Dianna Kicenko (7/8)
- Wanda Sparkes (7/8)

Resource

- Heather Gudmundson
- Crystal MacDonald

Specialty

- Cheryl Bates (1-4 PhysEd)
- Shelly Burak (Counselor & 5-8 PhysEd)
- Carlin Kilbrei (Music)
- Robin Paul-Ballard (French & Reading Recovery)

School Enrollment

September 2006- 296
 September 2007- 308
 September 2008- 300
 September 2009-285
 September 2010- 271

Classroom Enrolment 10/11

K135- 21	5/6- 21
1/2- 18	5/6- 21
1/2- 17	5/6- 21
1/2- 17	7/8- 21
3/4- 24	7/8- 20
3/4- 24	7/8- 22
3/4- 24	

Year at a Glance

We had an excellent year at AEMYS and our students have worked extremely hard and have demonstrated how much they have learned through their portfolios. Our grade 7&8 students were the first group that had the opportunity to participate in our newly formed Band program. Being a small community we are extremely fortunate to be able to offer band and the community support is essential to its continued success. The Arborg Band Boosters have worked very hard during the past year to support the program and I encourage parents to help out by becoming involved with this group.



Our school environment club which began this year has setup a composting program as well as visited Riverdale Place to learn more about recycling. Our composting program has been very successful and we quickly filled three composters throughout the winter. In order to handle the amount of compost we produce we applied and received a grant to construct a three stage composter. Curtis Gallichon took on the job and built a composter that will suit our needs for many years to come. We

are now at the stage where we will need to begin turning our compost material to aerate it.

AEMYS is in the process of erecting a greenhouse on school property. The goal will be to have a functioning greenhouse that classes and our environment club will be able to use and utilize our compost. We are hopeful that we will eventually be growing plants that can be sold locally and help cover the cost of supplies for the greenhouse to operate.



School Planning

Each year in May every school in Evergreen School Division has a school planning day. During this day staff, Parent Advisory members and the community are welcome to attend and develop a plan to help guide our efforts for the following school year. This year our areas of focuses were: **Education for Sustainable Development, Students Engagement, and Safe and Caring Schools.**



2009-2010 School Plan Summary

1. Education for Sustainable Development

- Students will acquire and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and life practices that contribute to a sustainable future.

Throughout the year we have been working very hard to promote sustainable development as a school and within the classroom. Manitoba Education describes this concept as:

Incorporating key themes of sustainable development – such as poverty alleviation, human rights, health and

environmental protection,

climate change – into the education system. ESD is a complex and evolving concept and requires learning about key themes from a social, cultural, environmental and economic perspective and explores how those factors are inter-related and interdependent. To accomplish this we established our school environmental club, began a



composting program, and continued to implement our character education program and philanthropist club.

Throughout the year students have been involved in various classroom activities that involve various aspect of sustainable development.



2. Student Engagement

- Students will be engaged in relevant learning experiences in a wide variety of real world contexts.
- Student will be provided with the opportunity to experience arts programming.
- Students will be engaged in assessment practices that improve student learning, guide teaching and provide parents with information on students in their learning.

Students at AEMYS enjoy a very strong arts program. Grade 5-8 students have been fortunate to have Mrs. Sparkes to teach them Art. Her creativity and expertise in this area has allowed our students to find creativity within themselves that they may have not realized they even possessed. In addition to this, all of our teachers include art activities within the regular curriculum. In addition to Art our grade 5/6 students also have Drama with Mr. Truscott who works with students on various aspects of drama including the incorporation of technology to create commercials. All of our grade K-8 students enjoy music classes with Mrs. Kilbrei and our grade 7/8 students now have the option to participate in our newly formed band program.

Over the past number of years we have been working on assessment as a school and as an entire division. This year marked the second year of a new report card for our grade 5/6 students and the first year for grade 7/8 students. The new reporting model is based on reporting student outcomes and provides more specific information to parents than the traditional single percentage per subject.



3. Safe and Caring Schools

- Students will develop their understanding and demonstrate examples of citizenship.
- Strong relationships are developed as students and staff are deeply connected to others through the work they do together.
- Provide safe and caring environments for all students.
- Students will be able to link diversity to the democratic process for a better society.

During the 2009-2010 school year AEMYS implemented the Balanced School Day schedule based on its success at other school in Manitoba and across Canada. In February we surveyed staff, students and parents. The results indicated that having two supervised eating periods was a positive addition. It allowed students to sit and eat a proper snack, rather than having nothing or grabbing something to eat on the run while playing. This was a concern, especially for younger students who could potentially choke. The new schedule also

improved the physical activity of our students since we decided to implement a school walking program. All students walk for ten minutes a day. During this time they can walk with friends and have a casual conversation. Our hope is that promoting walking will turn into a lifelong practice for our students. Some other benefits include less time dressing and undressing during the winter months and students are not as hungry at the end of the day when they return home.

Staff at AEMYS are always working towards building strong relationships with the students. Some of the strategies we use to accomplish this include: classroom conversations, engaging classroom activities, extracurricular sports, school clubs, and field trips. We follow an Effective Behaviour Support model towards discipline. This model attempts to avoid merely giving consequences for misbehaviour. The goal is to also have the student learn from their mistakes so they can better avoid the same mistake in the future.

As mentioned previously our philanthropy club is very active at the school and participates in various charity events throughout the year. These events are sometimes planned ahead of time and are sometimes in response to global or local disasters.

School Plans for 2010-2011

The following is a list of priorities that have been identified for the 2010/2011 school year.

1. Citizenship
 - a. Relationships
 - b. Wellness
 - c. Student Voice
 - d. Social Justice

2. Student Engagement
 - a. Relevance/ Essential Understandings
 - b. Arts
 - c. Physical Activity
 - d. Early Learning

3. Sustainable Development
 - a. Education for Sustainable Development
 - b. Balanced School Day
 - c. Character Education



Successes and Challenges

AEMYS has been focused on Education for Sustainable Development throughout the school year and I am pleased to say that we were recognized by Manitoba Education as an EcoGlobe School. We will continue our efforts in this area in future years. Our goal is to model and teach students how to reduce their impact on the environment and that we all need to work together to ensure that there is “enough, for all, forever.”

During the summer there will be some maintenance projects happening at the school. The bus loop at the front of the school will be receiving some upgrades, which include a boulevard to help separate the traffic on David Street from the busses. On the inside of the school the bulletin boards will be replaced. Earlier in the Spring the roof was replaced on the gym and



we are just waiting to have the flashing completed. Overall our school is in very good condition. Our main goals in the upcoming years will to replace all of our lockers, upgrade the student washrooms, and find additional ways to make our building more environmentally friendly.

