



# Report to the Community

## Spring 2015

<http://trsd32.mb.ca>

*"Learning today for tomorrow"*



Turtle River School Division

2014 - 2015

## Report to the Community

### 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  |
| Secretary Treasurer:        | Shannon Desjardins                                    |
| Transportation/Maintenance: | Dean Bluhm  |
| ICT Director:               | Steven Hopfner  |
| Computer Technician:        | Eric Rochon   |
| Board of Trustees Chair:    | Gwen McLean   |
| Vice Chair:                 | Dana Gurke  |
| Trustee:                    | Pam Vandepoele  |
| Trustee:                    | Karey Wilkinson                                       |
| Trustee:                    | Gordon Wilson   |
| Phone:                      | (204) 835-2067  |
| Fax:                        | (204) 835-2426  |
| Website:                    | <a href="http://trsd32.mb.ca">http://trsd32.mb.ca</a> |

|                  |               |   |     |
|------------------|---------------|---|-----|
| <b>Students:</b> | May 2015      | – | 717 |
| <b>Staff:</b>    | Teachers      | – | 69  |
|                  | Support Staff | – | 47  |



## Message from the Superintendent

It is hard to believe that the school year is already coming to an end. The division has seen a lot of successes over this past year and I will do my best to highlight just a few of these achievements.

Just recently we have announced that our division will be receiving over a **\$1 Million dollars** to build a new facility that will house a **new Electrical Construction program** at Ste. Rose School. This will mean so much to our students, our division and our communities. We are excited about breaking ground next year and have already heard a lot of enthusiasm from students and community members. This new Electrical Construction program will complement our existing Automotive Program as we continue to offer students and community's access to choices and programs in our division that will complement their learning and career goals with exposure in various trades that will allow all students to be successful.

In addition, we have now developed an **Articulation Agreement** in principle with RRC in Winnipeg and still working on another with ACC in Brandon. We have made a lot of progress towards completing agreements this year; but we are still working to develop the agreements formally. These agreements will offer students advanced placement and standing in various programs.

Career Development is an important topic in education with more focus than ever being seen this past year. Are we supporting and preparing students for the workplace? Are we giving students the appropriate guidance needed for them to be successful after high school? A provincial group was created amongst all of the divisions in Manitoba and the department created a new working group. Funding has been reallocated as a new focus is being placed Career Development opportunities for students. **"Focus on the Future"** is the name of this new initiative that sees our division working with Beautiful Plains and Pine Creek School Divisions in order to provide our students with further Career Opportunities and develop programs that will intentionally help students figure out what career options might interest them the most.

Next year will welcome Judy Watson as our divisions' **new Career Coordinator**. We will be sharing her with the fore-mentioned school divisions as she will help schools and students with Career Development programs. She will focus on supporting students having more access to opportunities that will support their career growth. She has already been in contact with schools regarding a presentation from the *"Safe Workers for Tomorrow"* and is already looking at the Grade 9 student *"Take your Child to Work Day"*. She has a lot of experience in various areas and a wealth of knowledge. She will also help students take advantage of Apprenticeship opportunities in their communities and help students and schools experience career options and expose students to many career choices available. We are excited to see what she will be able to do to help support our students and communities.

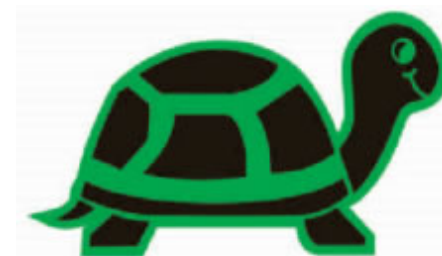
This year our division continued exploring our ability to have our existing programs **Accredited** with Manitoba Apprenticeship. Our region is challenged by the number of Apprenticeships we are able to offer students and by accrediting our programs we can offer students the similar outcomes and support them working towards their trade certification (Level 1). In order to become accredited, a division must meet the following three requirements: the curriculum must be approved; must have a facility and equipment as per the trade requirement; and must be taught by a certified Red Seal instructor. There is still potential to one day seeing this occur in our division and we will continue vetting out this option for our students, schools, and communities.

This past year the Premier announced the need for divisions to work with post-secondary institutions and offer more "dual credits". It was noted that we need to further our relationships. In addition, the department initiated a new program titled **PATHS; Provincial Accreditation Through High School agreements**. This was the pilot year that focused on only two trades, with this opening up to all vocational trades this coming school year. The PATHS option is something we are exploring further as a way of meeting the requirements for having our division receive accreditation. It would allow for schools to become accredited as opposed to divisions. In addition, the curriculum requirements are easier to attain approval for credits as it follows the trade certification.

**Apprenticeships** will still be an option for students on an individual basis. Placements are setup between students, employers, and schools. We will continue to promote and support this option for students where available and with our new Career Coordinator hope to have further opportunities.

The division is continuing to plan for **Vocational programming** and options that we can build upon while we strengthen our current programming. As you are aware, next year will mark the return of our **Grade 7/8 Industrial Arts and Home Economics programming** with added opportunities at this level for Power Mechanics. 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.

Our division is 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.



## Division Priorities

(2013-2015)

1. School Climate
2. Student Engagement

*This year the Division continued its third year of focus on our above two priorities: School Climate & Student Engagement. We have made tremendous gains and will be evaluating our goals and celebrating our achievements at the end of this year. In October 2015, the division will be developing new priorities and goals in a three-year plan.*

*In addition, our 5 Year Strategic Plan developed in 2012 to 2017 will be revised during this upcoming "planning" year. The New Strategic Plan will take us into the future as a guide for the 2016 to 2020 years. Our current plan has served the division well as a guide and in making steady progress at implementing new programs and initiatives in our schools and division.*



## 2013-2015 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.

*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, we will continue to invite the stakeholders to give feedback, input, and advice in to how the division should grow and what its next steps are for the future. We value your ideas, opinions, and thought we get from the various stakeholders; you the parents, the students, educators, principals, trustees and the communities that help guide our divisions' future and direction.*

## Budget Highlights for 2015/2016

1. Grade 7/8 Industrial Arts, Home Economics, and Automotive
2. Breakfast Programing
3. Fieldtrip Funding Increase
4. Increase of \$25 per student in base funding to schools.

### Sustainability-

This year the division ran its 2<sup>nd</sup> ESD Challenge with great success. All 7 of our schools participated and while it was a close competition over the 6 month competition this year's winners were Parkview Colony School. This marks their 2<sup>nd</sup> straight win in the competition and with the numbers this small school put up it is evident as to why they are our reigning champions. Congratulations to all of the schools, staff and students for participating and having fun!



Above is a picture of Parkview Colony Staff displaying their winning plaque, along with their 100% Recycled Park bench prize. Schools and students have already been asking about our next Challenge and the enthusiasm is fantastic to see. The division ESD committee will be meeting in the fall to discuss planning another competition in the future. The division has continued to implement sustainability in our everyday practice and in all of its operations.

### Highlights of ESD Challenge Division-Wide Accomplishments

- recycled 24, 223 plastic bags,
- recycled 1, 029 plastic bottles,
- recycled 7, 364 aluminum cans,
- reduced our overall power consumption,
- reused and repurposed over 9,555 items,
- had 7 schools participate in over 80 activities

**Learning to 18** – This was the second year the division utilized the new Learning to 18 policy. We have been running an online learning environment called **PLATO** for students to attain credits in specific cases. In some cases it's because the student is deficient in credits or in others it's a way to allow students to take a course not being offered in the school. This new system of learning is helping to support students staying in school and sometimes simply reconnecting to continuing their learning.

The Learning to 18 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.

**Speech Language** – Mrs. Trudy Campbell served 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 increase in service to students in schools has shown many positive effects on both students and schools. Next year, she will continue adding to our current programs by offering some training sessions for both teachers and parents in helping support Speech and Language development.

**Social Worker** – Mrs. Heather Graham will be leaving our division at the end of this year. The division will be hiring a new social worker to replace Mrs. Graham. She has provided students with one-on-one counselling, small group counselling, and even whole class (large group counselling). She has did many classroom intervention programs such as Second Step that supports students. **Mental Health and well-being** for both students and staff members is now emerging as a top priority across the country. Mrs. Graham has used her expertise in yoga and meditation to help students learn about themselves and use various strategies to support their overall well-being. She has worked in this division for over a year and will be missed as she has performed a fantastic job in supporting students, staff, and schools.

**OT/PT Services** – This year has been a challenge to support students with limited access to Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy services. Our region is feeling the pressure after the Health Authority amalgamated and staffing was reallocated. We have been advocating for the need for service and support in our region and hope to see an increase to services for the next school year.

**Sports** – Our division did very well this year having great success at Zones and Provincials. Students in our division are good athletes and talents have emerged with great success seen in various competitions. I am proud of all of the hard work that staff and students from schools do in order to train and develop their skills. The sportsmanship that we see in competition helps supports student’s character growth. I would like to acknowledge all of the help and support that our dedicated staff members do in volunteering their time in supporting students as they learn, grow and develop into young athletes.

**TTFM – Tell Them From Me** – is an online survey that students from Grades 6 to 12 do in schools online. This is our fourth year participating in this program and we have found it to be a great way for students to have a voice and tell us what they are feeling. The survey has been able 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. This upcoming school year will allow us to analyze the data from the survey further to support future planning so support students.

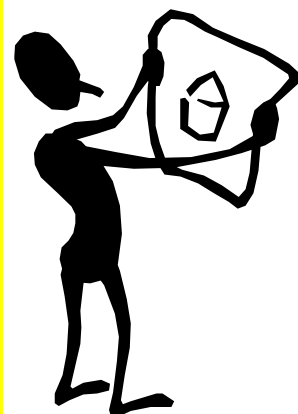
**Divisional & Provincial Assessments** – In January and again in June, students in Grade 12 ELA and Grade 12 Math write a Provincial Exam. The division’s scores have been very comparable to that of the province. The exams are worth 30% of a student’s final grade and summarize all of their learning. 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.

**Career & Guidance** – This year the division has placed more emphasis on building more career development awareness with students.

- One way we have accomplished this is with the teaching of “**Lifework**” courses in High School. Many students take courses that allow them opportunities to become exposed and develop their employability and career development options.
- Next year we are planning on adding more credits that allow students to gain Career & Workplace Experience credits.
- A second way was with the purchase of Career Cruising and some of its other integrated programs: Path finder and The Real Game.
- The Real; Game is a program that allows students to take on an occupation in a simulated model and experiences typical roles of that assigned trade or occupation.
- Pathfinder has been developed this year and should see students integrated over the next year. This program has had every school principal trained over this past year in how to use it to support students course planning and graduation. Additionally, it will help students determine what courses they need and will work to let them choose their next years courses online.  
<http://www2.careercruising.com/default/cplogin/TR#>
- Career Planning must be intentional and begin early. How early? The research is saying that it should start in Grade 1.

#### **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.



**Divisional Committees** – This year the division has implemented a new committee; the Technology Education Committee. This committee discusses and advises in regards to vocational programming in our division. It is a chance for instructors to meet, compare notes, and look at ways of working together to further each other’s programs.

One committee I am the most proud of is the Student Voice Committee. This committee sees the student leaders gather together from each school to provide suggestions, plan events, share ideas, and discuss ways that the division and their schools can be more effective with students and learning. This is important information straight from students on how we can make schools better. One initiative that came out of this committee was the fact that they wanted more presentations in the schools, especially Robb Nash. Mr. Nash is a speaker that these students seen at the Leadership Conference they attended in October 2014 and felt that his message was so motivating, powerful and inspiring, that all of their student bodies needed to hear and see him. On June 12<sup>th</sup> 2015, he presented to the division at Alonsa School.

Our Numeracy committee has been developing common exams for high school mathematics. We now currently have three common exams in grades 9, 10 & 11 math. The discussions and conversations allow for teachers to discuss teaching and assessments practices. We are seeing a lot of success from these committees and they are proving to be an effective tool allowing for planning and communication to take place. As we move into the future we are looking at more ways to further develop teachers professionally, analyze and discuss what the data is telling us regarding student learning and support teachers as a New ELA Curriculum is unrolling next year.



## **Full Time Kindergarten**

After five full years of full time kindergarten, students and families have benefitted greatly from this program. Turtle River School Division has witnessed incredible gains made by students as a result; in not only in academic areas but also socially and emotionally. Our students are better prepared for school than other students in other divisions. The rest of the province and other divisions have been slowly integrating this model and we are seeing more and more fulltime Kindergarten programs. More and more research is confirming how important early learning is to a student’s overall growth and they are recognizing the significance of providing full-time Kindergarten. The results across the province are amazingly positive. We will continue to track these students as they continue with their learning.

## **Kindergarten Here I Come**

Kindergarten Here I Come continued this year providing students with the equivalent of 7 full days of programming during the months of April, May & June. Each school tries to schedule in 10 half days and 2 full days but sometimes it looks slightly different dependent on the school. This pre-kindergarten exposure has had outstanding success for both families and schools. The goal of this program 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 with in the fall. They also meet the school staff and even their new teacher. It is amazing how far this goes with students in removing anxiety and helps to support school readiness with families. Students 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. The province has been recognizing what a fantastic and dynamic program we are running and has increased our funding to continue to grow our ever-expanding programming. This year, Community Connector Amanda Gurke continued expanding the community programming with many great programs after school and in the evenings while programming special activities during the day. Students and community members have had increased access to many new programs, presentations and community events.



## Math & Numeracy

**Numeracy** – The division Numeracy committee has developed **new common exams for grades 9, 10 & 11**. The division's Numeracy Lead established a **New Numeracy Plan** for the division which has identified a number of recommendations for schools. The department has also setup a five year numeracy plan to assist in increasing numeracy instruction.

**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.

### **New Literacy & Numeracy Consultant**

The Division has hired a new Consultant for Numeracy and Literacy to support students and school programs. They will complement current teacher programs an instruction helping to develop effective student learning models.

### **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").

### **French Revitalization Program**

This was the third year of our French Revitalization program in the division. We have phased in French into grades K to 8 . We have applied again to receive funding and continue this program. The grant has identified a three-prong approach to teaching and supporting French Language instructions. The first is the benefit of a French Consultant to support teachers and to model and work with students in the classrooms. The second aspect is the cultural exposure and experiences to students. And the third and last part of the program is the continued professional growth for teachers with training and professional development.

The French Consultant, Ms. Keely McFadden, 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.

FIA is one form of this PD for teachers where we saw Romeo and Denis; two French trainers come to work with teachers for 5 days in our division. In addition, we sent teachers to Dauphin and Brandon for French Methodology instruction.

This year we were able to send a number of students to Festival du Voyageur as part of the cultural exposure part of the program. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate with allowing for us to send all students as we had to cancel due to extreme weather conditions that were unsafe. We also brought in Romeo and Denis to perform a concert for students as well as bring in a French Theatre group to perform for students.

### **Division Writing Anthology**

This year the division published the long-awaited **2012/2013 Writing Anthology** Compilation. Every family in the division received a complimentary copy with some copies being placed in school libraries. We are very proud of the students excellent writing submissions. We have very talented students in our schools and division and the creativity and imaginations made reading this compilation relatively easy with one problem; it is difficult to put down!

### **Tools for Success**

The Grade 7 to 9 Area Grade Committee developed a couple new support documents for students and schools to benefit from and support success!

- **New Course Calendar Guide**
- **New Graduation Planner**
- **New Grade 8 to 9 Transition Plan**

The New Course Calendar lists possible courses for students and describes what the course is about. This will allow for students and families to make an informed decision regarding what courses they would like to see and choose. For example, should you take Photography or Videography? Included in this booklet are the rules and regulations regarding graduation requirements and what courses are needed to graduate with what type of diploma.

The graduation planner is a guidance too for the school guidance counsellor or principal to use when looking at a student's course transcript and planning each year what courses the student requires to graduate.

The Grade 8 to 9 Transition plan summarizes a number of recommendations for schools to follow to ensure the transition for students from middle school to high school goes smoothly.

### **Professional Development**

The field of education is ever-changing and as a result educators need to continue refining and honing their skills.

This year our division has brought in some fantastic PD and that is thanks to the PD Committee. Charlie Appelstein, author of "No Such thing as a Bad Kid" and University of Manitoba Professor, Dr. Jennifer Katz are just a few of the presenters that supported growth in our division. They focussed on Universal Design for Learning and Mental Health for students and staff members.

Principals have been doing training in Career Cruising, working with Data and in Leadership. The emphasis has been on developing stronger Numeracy in our division.



<<http://www.charliea.com/charlie.html>>



<<http://www.threeblockmodel.com/>>

## Special Presentations in our Division

This year the division in conjunction with Alonsa's Community Schools brought in three special presenters for students. These presenters focussed on bullying and mental health.



<<http://www.rachelashleymusic.com/>>

## **Robb Nash**



<<http://robbnash.com/>>

## **FLO**



<<http://www.flosoul.com/>>

## Look to the Future

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.

The Division is developing a New Student Services Policy that will support student learning in our division. We will continue to plan and support families and students as they grow and gain skills that will support their career aspirations.

The future looks bright and we are excited as there are a number of new initiatives that will continue to support the growth of our division and schools in many positive ways. Please see some of the new things to look forward to in the future of Turtle River School Division:

- ✓ Breakfast Programs
- ✓ Grade 7/8 Home Economics, Automotive, and Industrial Arts
- ✓ New Electrical Construction Program
- ✓ New Career Development Credits
- ✓ New Literacy & Numeracy Consultant
- ✓ New Career Development Coordinator
- ✓ New Student Services Policy
- ✓ New Division Strategic Plan 2016-2020
- ✓ New Division Plan 2015-2018
- ✓ New K-12 ELA Curriculum

- ✓ New Vocational Studies Plans
- ✓ PD – Jennifer Katz – UDL – Universal Design for Learning Professional Learning Group
- ✓ New Division Social Worker
- ✓ New Course Calendar
  - New Courses being offered
    - E.g. Curling, Hockey
- ✓ New MOU & Articulation Agreements with ACC and RRC
- ✓ New Student Services Policy
- ✓ New Focus on Data in regards to Assessments and Planning
- ✓ More funding for schools to the student base amounts and for field-trips
- ✓ More Options for students in regards to access to Trades Programming
  - Apprenticeships
  - Accreditation
  - PATHS
  - Career Expos' and Fairs
  - Presentations
- ✓ French Revitalization expanding to Grade 9
- ✓ New Numeracy Plan / Initiatives
  - Jump Math Focus
  - PRIME Focus
  - FSIM

As the world continues to change, so must our division in what we do and how we do it. Many of the current occupations are changing or completely vanishing. In a recent presentation from Manitoba Jobs in the Economy, they presented a slide which identified a number of jobs that experts have predicted will no longer exist in the next ten years:

- Print Journalist
- Taxi Dispatcher
- Toll Booth Operator
- Video Store Clerk
- Word Processor / Typist
- Retail Cashier
- Photo Finisher
- Postal Worker
- Social Media Expert

As a result, our division needs to continue to evolve in order to meet the needs of students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We need to continue to build on our current programming but also embrace change as a positive thing that will help us become prepared.

***“We must remember that it’s not that we need to be doing more; it is simply that we need to do it differently.”***

*Congratulations to the graduating classes of 2015 and I wish you all a safe summer!*

Sincerely,

**Bev Szymesko, Superintendent**