

February 8, 2012



Brunskill School



"Learning is the Work " Learning At Brunskill

Mathematics in Saskatchewan

This will be the first installment dedicated to mathematics. The purpose of this information is to help explain the philosophy of our math curriculum, explain the mathematical "strands" and also to explain how you can help your child.

Mathematics has not changed since our generation went to school. However, due to research and experience, there is a marked change in *the way* mathematics is taught in present-day Saskatchewan schools. In Saskatchewan, "the K-12 Mathematics curricula are designed to prepare students to cope confidently and competently with everyday situations that demand the use of mathematical concepts" (Saskatchewan Mathematics Curriculum, 20).

The four overarching goals of mathematics identify the characteristics of thinking and working mathematically. At each grade level, our students work toward achieving "outcomes" related to reaching one or more of the following goals.

- 1) Logical Thinking** – Students work to develop and apply mathematical reasoning processes, skills and strategies to new situations and problems. For example, students use inductive or deductive reasoning to solve problems or think of a variety of ways to solve a problem (using a picture, concrete objects or symbols).
- 2) Number Sense** – Students work to understand the representations (symbols), relationships between, the properties and the roles of numbers. For example, students understand the relationship between different operations (multiplying by 10 will get the same answer as dividing by .1) or representing numbers in a variety of ways (using a picture, concrete objects or symbols).
- 3) Spatial Sense** – Students strive to know and understand 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional objects and the relationships between geometric shapes. For example, students construct models of 2-D and 3-D objects and explore how those shapes move across different planes.
- 4) Mathematics as a Human Endeavor** – Students use mathematics as a way of knowing and respect that all humans are capable of learning depending on their personal experience and needs. Students learn to value other perspectives and approaches to mathematics while also valuing their own strengths and knowledge.

Students should be encouraged at school and at home to view mathematics as a way of meeting a need. By attaining all four mathematical goals, students will gain the confidence and tools necessary to succeed in future mathematical applications.

The next math information bulletin will contain information on how the mathematics goals are achieved through student attainment of curriculum outcomes and indicators.

Dates to Remember

- ◆ Monday, Feb. 20
Family Day Holiday
Students do not attend school
- ◆ Feb. 21 - 24
February Break
Students Do Not Attend School

Ms G. Swerhone - Principal

Mr. H. Hamilton - Vice Principal

Mrs. D. Diederichs &

Mrs. N. Swystun - Office

Mr. S. Skjerven - Superintendent

*Mrs. M. Androsoff - School
Community Council President*

Ms T. Denby &

*Mrs. Y. Turnbull - Home &
School Presidents*

Ms A. Ringstrom - Trustee

Lunchroom Survey

Thank you to everyone for the overwhelming response to our SCC sponsored Lunchroom Survey. Roughly 100 families returned one to the office! Teachers also completed a questionnaire in order for their voices to be heard. We would like to share the results and the things we have worked on because of your comments and concerns.

First, the number of supervisors we are allowed to employ depends on the number of students we have staying for lunch. We currently have three supervisors circulating in the lunchroom while students are eating and one in the senior wing for a total of four supervisors. After the students are dismissed, one supervisor helps students get ready in the junior wing, one supervisor goes outside and one stays in the gym until all students are gone. Once all students are outside, the supervisors circulate around the playground, field and hill as well as monitor the entrances of the school.

Second, in response to the survey results, we have adapted and made some minor changes. At the time of the survey, 49% of parents were happy with the lunchroom situation and 48% were not happy. The largest reason for malcontent was the fact that siblings were not able to sit together at lunch. Many parents also indicated they were unhappy that their child had to sit on the floor. So, to try and accommodate as many concerns as possible, we have made a seating plan so that all of our grade one, two and three students are not sitting on the floor during lunch for four days of the week. We now have a "picnic lunch" once per week in the large gymnasium so students can sit with their siblings or friends from other grades.

Third, lunch supervisors and teachers are now in the hallways immediately after students are dismissed reminding students to quickly get to the lunchroom and begin eating. This has resulted in more students in the gym eating before 11:50. Students are also being dismissed at 12:10 which allows 20-25 minutes for the students to eat.

If your child has needs that fall outside of what we can provide, please consider:

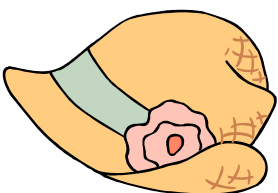
- Coming to school and eating with your child
- Having another responsible adult come to eat with your child
- Taking your child home for lunch
- Making other arrangements

Once again, thank you to all of you for taking the time to let us know your thoughts, ideas and opinions. Please review the lunchroom expectations below with your child. With the parameters we have to work within and the number of children staying for lunch, we need everyone's cooperation and support.

Lunch Period Expectations

- Get lunch kit and proceed quickly to the lunchroom
- Enter the lunchroom quietly and respectfully
- Stay seated while eating
- Leave hands to self and eat own lunch
- Deposit garbage in the garbage and recycling in recycling containers
- Stay seated until 12:10. Students will be dismissed when area is clean
- Walk quickly and quietly to locker and put lunch kit away
- Dress appropriately for the weather and head outside
- Everyone should remain outside for the remainder of the lunch period

Spirit Day - Tuesday, February 14th



The Bear Ambassadors will be hosting a Hat Day on Tuesday, February 14th. The Bear Ambassadors would like to ask that if you are able, please make a \$2.00 donation to wear your hat in support of the Children's Hospital Foundation. Classroom teachers will collect donations.

In addition to Hat Day, a Sock Hop (mini-dance) will be held the same day from 11:00 a.m.- 11:40 a.m. for Grades K-5. Students from the Bear Ambassadors will be leading dances such as "The Twist", "Hokey Pokey", and much more!

Volunteers Desperately Needed



We desperately need volunteers to take over the duties of our Home and School. The present volunteers have been working hard for your children for over 6 years now and really want a break. This group is very important to our school because their work provides the funds which enable us to bring in groups like the opera, performers, the symphony, to go on extra field trips and purchase equipment that we couldn't otherwise get. Please see the job description below. We need to build an entire new group this year. Please consider volunteering your time to ensure this group continues. Thanks!

Home and School

- made up of parents from the school
- fundraises throughout the year for the school to support school initiatives
- organizes and carries out activities for the school community
- accounts for money spent

Gentle Reminders – We Need Your Help!

Just a reminder about our procedures - re: getting into the school after 4 pm. We have always asked the children in the Before and After School Program to take everything they need to take home after school to the program at 3:30. Recently the supervisors of the program have kindly let students and parents into the school to claim forgotten items but this practice has become too overwhelming for the supervisors to continue because of the number of requests. We also had a major theft of some very expensive computers from our office area this past week-end. This theft happened sometime between Friday at 4:30 pm and Monday am. Unfortunately, when we have numbers of people wandering around the school after hours our caretaker and the Before and After School Program supervisors cannot be certain which people are in the school legitimately and which people have just wandered in looking for an opportunity to help themselves to equipment. Also, they have other jobs to do. We have no other choice but to really tighten our policy about locked doors to limit the access to our school. We are sorry if this causes families some inconvenience but we need to keep our school a safe place at all hours. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter and for your understanding. You might want to remind your children to remember to take all their belongings to the program after school.

We have also had a complaint from the Community Association who run programs in the school after hours about the water, snow and dirt that is being tracked into our gym area. We do have signs asking students and visitors to remove their outside footwear before they enter. We would again ask that parents coming in to pick up their children remove their outside footwear so we can keep that area clean for the people who come in to use the gym at 6:00. For example, yoga is often in the small gym at 6:00 pm and those participating lie on the floor. It is very uncomfortable for them to lie, even on mats, on the dirt that has been tracked in. We don't have the staff or the time to mop the floor between events in the gym so we need to keep it clean. Thanks again for your cooperation with this.

We also still have younger children being dropped off at the school by 8 am or earlier who are not in the Before and After School Program. When staff come to work they find the children all over the school as I suppose this is great fun for them to have the run of the school. **Please do not just drop your children off at this time. There is no one here who is able to look after them.** Please put them in the Before and After School Program where they will be supervised. We need to ensure that the children are safe at all times. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Grade 6 - 8 Dance

On Wednesday, February 15th, the Student Leadership Council (SLC) will be hosting a Grade 6-8 dance in support of the World Wildlife Federation (WWF). Admission is a \$2 donation to the WWF.



Students pay their admission at the door. A concession will be available. Teachers are recommending that students bring no more than \$5.00 to purchase concession items. The dance will begin at 1:30 p.m. and end at 3:30 p.m.



Brunskill School
101 Wiggins Avenue
Saskatoon, SK
S7N 1K3

(306) 683-7130
(306) 657-3904

EAL Parent "Coffee Talk"

"Coffee Talk" starts this week, February 9th, and will continue until the end of March. "Coffee Talk" is a *free* program for EAL parents/grandparents looking to practice conversational English. "Coffee Talk" meets Thursdays from 1:45 – 2:45 p.m. in Miss Hill's EAL classroom.

If this program is popular, I will add more days!

Coffee Talk Days:

February 9th, February 16th, March 1st, March 8th, March 15th, March 29th



So far we have been blessed with a mild winter, however, for people who suffer from asthma the cooler weather can be problematic. This is because cold weather, especially the cold winter dry air, can trigger attacks by constricting airways. The chilly night air is especially problematic for some as it's not warmed with the sunlight at all.

Your child's asthma may get worse if there is a sudden change in temperature. Here are some ways to prevent cold air from triggering an asthma episode:

- 1) Before your child goes out in cold weather, make sure your child wears a scarf that covers the nose and mouth. This can help to warm and humidify the air that your child breathes in.
- 2) Let your child exercise indoors on cold days. You may need to ask your child's teacher to let your child stay indoors during recess.

Children's asthma is frequently triggered by second-hand smoke. Here are some ways to protect your child from smoke:

If you smoke, try to quit. Do not smoke in the house. Ask anyone who smokes to smoke outdoors. Remember that cigarette smoke stays on clothes. If a person who has been near cigarette smoke is close to your child, this can make your child's asthma worse. Stay away from smoky areas. Help your child stay away from cigarette smoke when you are out. Do not let anyone smoke in the car.

Brunskill Bear Ambassadors

The Brunskill Bear Ambassadors are made up of students in grades 5 and 6 who are interested in promoting school spirit, and working to make Brunskill a better place to be.

Miss Hill, Ms Rollo, and Mrs. Wachs – along with the rest of the staff at Brunskill – would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Bear Ambassadors. Students involved in Bear Ambassadors have been taking turns stacking chairs in the lunchroom since the beginning of December. Their work has allowed the staff and students to get outside quickly after dismissal (for safety reasons), and has helped Mr. Isaac be able to clean the gym quickly in order for its use after lunch.

It is a 'quiet' job, but an important one. Thank-you to those students in the Bear Ambassadors who have been working hard for our school!



We're on the Web!

<http://www/schoolsPrograms/elementaryschools/brunskill/about.html>