



# Mittell Middle School Community Report for 2015– 2016



School Mission  
*To provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment  
in which to learn and grow.*

Grant Plett

Principal

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## Planning Priorities of the School

**Priority #1** - To help students struggling with reading and other literacy skills to strengthen these skills and give them tools enabling them to work effectively at or near grade level.

### **Accomplishments**

- ❖ A new in-class Literacy Support program helped many students make gains in reading.
- ❖ More than 20 students were supported in small literacy groups outside the classroom.
- ❖ A new program called 'Words Their Way' was used in many classes to build students' vocabulary and spelling skills.

**Priority #2** - To review and develop school-wide practices addressing the unique characteristics of our Middle School environment.

### **Accomplishments**

- ❖ 'Google Classroom' was incorporated into many classrooms strengthening home/school communication.
- ❖ Our new student council was highly successful in involving students in planning and leading social events, fundraising efforts, and social responsibility initiatives.
- ❖ Teachers worked with an HSD Learning Coach to write an MMS continuum for 'Mental Math'.
- ❖ Several new programs were developed to involve our Grade 7s in introducing and welcoming the Elementary School's Grade 4s to Middle School.

**Priority #3** - To involve students increasingly in inquiry learning.

### **Accomplishments**

- ❖ A program called 'Genius Hour' was used in Grade 8 allowing students to develop ELA skills while studying topics of personal interest.
- ❖ All teachers studied and discussed the book Essential Questions, enabling them to help students ask better questions for 'inquiry learning'. Several teachers attended divisional workshops to further their learning and enrich their practice in this area.
- ❖ Technology was used effectively in gym classes to help students assess their own physical health and learn how to improve and maintain it.
- ❖ A school-based 'Deeper Learning Team' was assembled to work with a divisional Learning Coach to introduce divisional deeper learning goals to our staff and students.

- ❖ A Student Council was elected in September, involving students in planning and leading a number of events such as the Christmas Basket Raffle, raising over \$700 for the Dr. Goodbear Foundation.
- ❖ Our Parent Council developed plans for a schoolyard beautification project, which will include the planting of shrubs and trees. Several successful fundraisers were held to begin putting together the necessary financial resources. Student groups jumped in energetically to help out.
- ❖ MMS presented its first major musical drama, *Annie JR*, involving many students as actors, singers, set builders/painters, and so on... a tremendous school and community success!
  - ❖ The MMS Visual Arts Fair was held, allowing students to showcase their artistic talent as they displayed the creative artwork they do at school and at home.
- ❖ Our Grade 7/8 Band and Choir performed at KR Barkman Park as part of Steinbach Arts Council's concert series.
- ❖ A new MMS music program was started as a large number of Grade 7/8 students regularly set their alarms early to attend Jazz Band rehearsals.
- ❖ Our MMS athletes brought home four cross country banners as well as one for basketball.
- ❖ MMS students were provincial contest winners in both the 'Concours d'art oratoire' (French speech competition) and the Firefighters Burn Fund art contest! Significant accompanying cash prizes for the school helped us purchase a kiln for the Art program.
- ❖ Our Grade 8s enjoyed their first Camp Cedarwood retreat, benefiting from healthy outdoor education and team building activities, and the relationships developed in the process.

Highlights From  
2015-2016