

# Arborg Early/Middle Years School

## Annual Community Report

### June 2009

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## School Profile

Arborg Early/Middle Years School is a Grade Kindergarten-8 complex located on David Street in Arborg, Manitoba. At present during the 07/08 school year, there are 308 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 twenty 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 2009-2010

### Administration

-Brad Harding (Principal)

### Early Years

- Renate Gruenenfelder (K)
- Cheryl Chwaliboga (1/2)
- Grace Marteinsson (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

- 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

### Classroom Enrolment 09/10

K135- 26	5/6- 20
1/2- 22	5/6- 20
1/2- 22	5/6- 20
1/2- 21	7/8- 24
3/4- 21	7/8- 23
3/4- 22	7/8- 22
3/4- 22	



## Year at a Glance

This year was very successful and students enjoyed an abundance of special visitors and events. In addition to our yearly artist in the school and Manitoba Theater for Young People, students also enjoyed an archer, skipping group, story teller, and bead making. Arborg hosted a divisional activity day for all grade 1-8 students. Mrs. Burak and the other Phys.Ed teachers in the division worked extremely hard to organize and make this event a success.

The AEMYS Parent Advisory Council was able to successfully raise enough funds to provide new playground equipment for all students. In order to have the structure in place for September 2008 they were provided a bridging loan from the schools division. Through their continued efforts this year, they are very close to having this loan paid off in its entirety.



AEMYS is now home to a state of the art weather station. This weather station is updated every fifteen minutes and can be accessed on our school website. This weather station is used to teach students about weather, but is also accessible to anyone who is interested in seeing current or historical weather data for Arborg.

## 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: **Safe and Caring Schools, Curriculum, and Assessment.**



### 2008-2009 School Plan Summary

#### 1. Curriculum

- By June 2009, 90% of all grade 1-6 students will be achieving at grade level in numeracy.

All of the identified strategies in this area were implemented throughout the 2008-2009 school year. Grade 1-6 teachers had the opportunity to assess and provide interventions to students. Feedback from teachers indicated that they have seen improvement in students. Each teacher is still working with more than 10% of students so we have not reached our intended target. The staff indicated that this is still an area we need to work on as a school in order to help students who have difficulty comprehending math concepts.

- By June 2009, all Early and Middle Years students' literacy skills will improve with 90% achieving at grade level in reading and writing

All of the identified strategies in this area were implemented throughout the 2008-2009 school year. The resources and teacher focus on this outcome has helped us experience a high level of success this past year.

6+1 Traits was reported to be a positive addition to our school and ensures consistency within our school. This is our second year of implementation and staff reported that they are becoming more confident at implementing the traits, but it still requires further development.

Reading data is collected for grades 1-8. We now have data for the past three years on students and have the ability to look at students and look for trends to indicate that further support is required.

## 2. Safe and Caring Schools

- By June 2009 students will develop their understanding and demonstrate examples of good Citizenship.

Character education materials were purchased and implemented within early years classrooms and middle years TAG meetings. We identified this as being a good addition to our school, but further development was required. Staff are cognizant that it takes multiple years to see the benefits of new programs. Character education was identified as being an excellent companion to our EBS system. To continue to develop our capacity with character education, additional resources have been purchased for the 2009-2010 school year. TAGs were also grouped for intramurals, but there was some difficulty with having the mixed ages together. EBS meetings occurred monthly to discuss data and make recommendations on areas to focus. The committee was pleased that there were less incidents to report and the items being addressed were minor school wide issues such as litter and hallway movement.

- By June 2009, all Evergreen schools will continue improvement efforts to provide safe and caring environments for all students

Character education was implemented by K-8 teachers through classroom activities and TAG. Early Years borrowed the videos each month from the TRC to use in their classrooms. The school has purchased its own set of videos for use next year. Early Years teachers also indicated that further resources would be helpful for implementation in their classrooms. Based on this feedback, further resources have been ordered.

- By June 2009 students will demonstrate greater awareness of healthy living and lifestyle choices.

The Parent Advisory Council was able to purchase new play structures for AEMYS. This was accomplished through grants, fundraising, and a bridging loan from the Board. In addition to replacing the old structure we were able to also provide the middle years students with a fitness structure.

Early years kits were developed to provide items that could be taken outside for use. We will continue to monitor and supply the kits. A large container of items were available for 5-8 students outside of the gym.

A qualified physical education teacher was put in place for the 2008-2009 school year. The local recreation commission partnered with the school in May in order to provide K-4 teachers with professional development and materials for the Run, Jump, & Throw program.

### 3. Assessment

-By June 2009, all teachers will use Student Achieve to electronically record student assessment and produce reports to parents.

All K-8 teachers use Student Achieve to produce report cards. Grade 5-6 teachers received training in order to effectively use Student Achieve to record student assessment data in order to complete the new report card. Grade 7-8 teachers will be implementing a new reporting system for 2009-2010.

Grade 1-6 PLC/Intervention time was scheduled for 2008-2009. Teachers found this time very beneficial and enabled them to work together to improve student learning. The additional time to work one-on-one and with small groups of students also enabled teachers to provide a level of support to students that they had not had the ability to provide in the past. Unfortunately this time will not be available next year and teachers will have to find ways to organize their instruction to provide opportunities to work with students requiring additional supports.

- By June 2009, utilize school assessment data to inform instructional practice to improve achievement

Assessment data was shared with staff throughout the year. In September 2008, staff identified areas to be worked on during Early Dismissal days. Based on the data, teachers discussed and planned strategies to implement within their classrooms. This focus enabled us to significantly improve reading results throughout the school. The data collected has also enabled the entire staff to recognize that the majority of our students are not intellectually engaged and in the “flow.” A large percentage of our students are academically engaged, which demonstrates that we still have work to do in regards to engagement. This led to discussions during our school planning day on how to address this issue. One of the ideas was to tie into our student engagement initiative and develop an environmental club. In this way we can enhance our recycling efforts. Begin a greenhouse, composting, and beautifying our school grounds with the products of these different activities. We anticipate that by incorporating these elements into our classroom instruction, students will learn through doing and even see the results of their work.



## School Plans for 2009-2010

The following is a list of priorities that have been identified for the 2009/2010 school year.

1. Sustainable Development
  - Education for Sustainable Development
2. Student Engagement
  - Relevance
  - Arts
  - Student Assessment
3. Safe and Caring Schools
  - Character Education (citizenship)
  - Positive Relationships
  - Balanced School Day

## Successes and Challenges

AEMYS has been recycling for the past few years and have made other efforts to reduce our environmental impact. As we move into the upcoming year we will be engaging students with environmental sustainability through composting and a school greenhouse. We are looking forward to having the ability to grow our own plants to beautify our school.



The Parent Advisory Council has been continuously fundraising to finish paying for our new play structures. The PAC was successful at being the recipient of the Arborg Chili Fest for 2009. They have already helped with a pancake breakfast, bake sale, and yard sale to raise startup funds for this years Chili Fest. They will also be helping with a social during the summer and the Chili Fest event in September.

We have had some issues with our floor in the foyer this year and tiles have been coming off of the floor. During Christmas break the tiles were replaced by the south bathrooms. During Spring break the tiles had to be replaced by the North washrooms. Since that time tiles have begun to come off in the office area and will be replaced over the summer.