

MISSION STATEMENT: *Fisher Branch Early Years School will provide a positive, safe and caring environment where individuals are encouraged to continue their love of learning. The staff will work with the community to ensure that their children are offered a complete education by providing students with the knowledge and skills required to become lifelong learners.*

Report to the Community 2006-2007

Fisher Branch Early Years School

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Fisher Branch Early Years is a Kindergarten to Grade 4 school located in the heart of the town of Fisher Branch. The school population for 2006-2007 is 87 students, with a teaching staff of 5.25. The school's team consists of 4.5 classroom teachers, .4 principal, .35 resource, .25 guidance, 1.0 secretary/librarian and 3 educational assistants.

Goal #1: By June 2007, all students in the regular program of study will demonstrate an improved reading score of a minimum of one grade level.

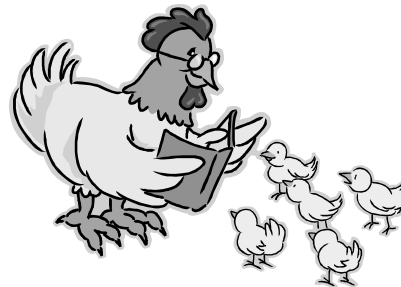
Reading continues to be an important skill - it is crucial to being an informed citizen, to succeeding in one's chosen career and is key to personal fulfillment. But first things first, children who read do better in other subjects and in all aspects of schooling and beyond. As the world becomes more complex, reading is increasingly important for children trying to find their place in it. With this in mind, our school focus was on literacy and reading.

- ◆ Teachers continued to work with small groups of children in the LEIP (Grades 1 & 2) and the SOAR (Grades 3 & 4) reading intervention programs for 40 minutes every day.

- ◆ A number of guided reading strategies from the guide *Success For All Learners* were integrated into the regular classroom instruction.

- ◆ The Literacy Consultant, Ms. Angie Burdett, continued to meet with the classroom teachers and provided a variety of ideas that were incorporated into the classrooms.

- ◆ DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) Time from 1:00 - 1:15 p.m. continues to be a great hit! Most students have a library book in their desk to read whenever they might have a few minutes of spare time.



- ◆ The classes had a number of "Reading Parties" throughout the year. For the reluctant reader, this was one incentive that worked!

- ◆ Book Buddies continued to promote cooperation and enjoyment of reading as the

Grade 1 and Grade 3 classes and the Grade 2 and Grade 4 classes paired up for a forty minute session twice a month.

- ◆ Children enjoyed **I Love To Read Month**. Many activities were planned and it was well received by students and staff.

Scores from classroom assessments indicated a majority of the students increased by a minimum of one grade level in reading.

Remember to read to your child each day. Besides spending quality time together, you'll go a long way towards boosting your child's interest in and ability to read.

Goal #2: By June 2007, continue to establish and nurture student self-evaluation and goal setting.

This year was the second year that the focus was to work on self-assessment, goal setting and portfolios for **all** grades. The children continued to use their binders as personal portfolios. The portfolio continued to provide an avenue for valuable and continuous communication between the students, parents and teachers. Children became more aware of themselves as learners and became better at goal setting.

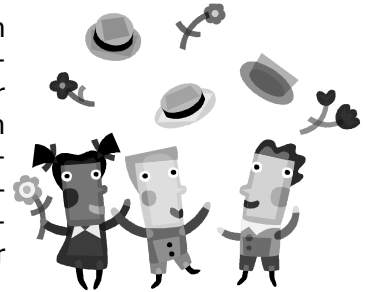
Again, at the beginning of the school year, all children completed a page on goal setting. These goals were revisited three times during the school year. Self assessments continued to be done throughout the school year in core subjects.

Learning Logs were kept in Grades 1 & 2 (T.W.A.S.) and Journaling/Reflection was completed for Grades 3 & 4.

"Three Stars and a Wish" sheets were included with each report card. Parents were asked once more to complete the 'three stars' (compliments) and one 'wish' (area child might improve) for each reporting period. Your child continued to benefit from your response to the 'stars' and 'wish' as it helped build self-esteem and also continued to help establish goals for the year.

Children improved at responding positively to others' work. Compliments helped the students recognize when they had done something well. Overall, children demonstrated more positive self concepts as a result of this goal.

This year we continued to implement a "Homework Reward Activity". Chosen on a random day throughout each month, students who completed their homework for that day were rewarded with a 20 minute fun activity. Children with incomplete homework assignments were responsible for completing their assignments during this time.



Students, teachers, and parents are all beneficiaries of this form of assessment and it will be continued in the 2007-2008 school year, as a routine part of the school program.

We all want our children to feel safe and to be safe at school. With the concern of 'bullying' in our society, it is important for children to learn how to handle these types of situations in a correct and caring manner. To reinforce the concept of working together the following strategies were continued to be used:

- ◆ Monthly school-wide assemblies were held with a focus on character building. Five names were drawn from the "Good Citizen" Club and they each received a prize.
- ◆ Using the Second Step Program, children were taught to understand anger and anger-management activities.
- ◆ Bulletin Boards promoting good citizenship and proper school behavior continued to be displayed in the main hallway. Students who received no "time-outs" for each half of the school year continued to be rewarded with a prize and had their names on display for a **job well done**.
- ◆ A display of **100 nice things to Hear and Say** adorned the bulletin board by the office.
- ◆ Students were better able to identify 'bully' behaviors and were more skilled at dealing with them. Class meetings continued to be held daily/weekly to discuss issues and to problem solve possible solutions.

School Celebrations:

Homework Reward Day
Reading Party
Christmas Concert
Community Caroling
Halloween visit to Seniors
Terry Fox Run
Good Citizenship Awards
100 Day Celebration

I Love To Read Month
(Grandparents, Parents,
Bus Drivers)
Winter Carnival
"Yes I Can" Award
Winter Carnival Poster
Contest
Pyjama/Teddy Bear Day
- Kindergarten
Read & Win Contest
100 Book Club Certificates

Board Games in the Gym
Individual Portfolios
Goal Setting
BUDS Program
Book Buddies
Star of the Week
Behavior Incentives within
the classroom
Spirit Week
Sports Day
Class Field Trips
Spring Tea

Scholastic Book Fairs
Information Night
Robin Chestnut Juggler
Gr. 1's hatch Chicks

