



# Woodlawn School Planning Priorities

Woodlawn School is an environment where education and culture empowers our students to grow into **CARING, CONNECTED** and **CONTRIBUTING** global citizens.



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## WOODLAWN SCHOOL INFORMATION

- Woodlawn School is a Kindergarten to grade four Early Years School with 564 students. We have a teaching staff of 33 Full Time Equivalents filled by 36 teachers including 3.5 Learning Support Teachers; 1.5 Music, 1.5 Phys. Ed., . . .5 Reading Recovery, 1 School Counselor and 2 Principals. Support Staff include 1 head secretary, 1 part time secretary, 1 library clerk, 11 educational assistants, 1 head custodian, 2.5 evening custodians.
- Our staff believes that building purposeful and positive relationships with students and their families has a direct correlation with students' abilities to grow socially, academically, and intellectually. We have a school wide Bucket Filling theme which promotes respect and kind behaviour amongst students, staff and community.
- Woodlawn Early Years School has an inclusive philosophy and provides a variety of support services to students who are experiencing academic, physical, social and/or emotional challenges. We have incorporated a MakerSpace and an Outdoor Learning Classroom into our school.
- Woodlawn School celebrates diversity and 22% of our students are English language learners having immigrated from several countries.
- We have been a proud participant in the Roots of Empathy Program for the past 8 years.
- Woodlawn School is proud to partner with an active Parent Council Advisory which fundraises on a continual basis to provide our students and school with extra curricular programs and activities.

## SCHOOL PRIORITIES SEPTEMBER 2016- JUNE 2019

**NUMERACY:** Students will strengthen their algebraic reasoning skills and number sense through communication, critical thinking and mathematical fluency.

**LITERACY:** Students will become confident, independent, critical thinkers who are curious and motivated to read, write, and communicate effectively in a variety of ways.

**SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELL BEING:** Students will be able to identify their needs, learning strengths and challenges and find ways to meet their needs in appropriate ways. Students will recognize and appreciate the diversity of others.

## 2016-2017 Intensive Focus on NUMERACY INSTRUCTION

### Expected Outcomes

By May 2017 students will improve their:

1. ability to model and **communicate** their mathematical thinking.
2. ability to **think critically** about math.
3. **computational fluency** by developing an understanding of equality and relational thinking.

### Teaching and Learning Strategies

#### PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICES

- Focus on efficiency, accuracy and flexibility
- Make thinking visible by sharing, reflecting and talking about ideas through oral and written communication
- The Inquiry process will be used in classrooms
- Problem Solving will be a focus
- Daily fluency practice: Develop, practice (working with the strategy) and recall of facts
- Visualization strategies will be taught, used and assessed
- Guided math groups will be implemented
- Staff professional development will focus on numeracy

#### LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

- Math rich environments including the following 4 components-content, fluency, problem solving, collaboration will be developed in each classroom
- Vertical Learning Surfaces will be used to make thinking visible
- Integration of math into all subject areas will be encouraged

#### LEVERAGING DIGITAL

- Seesaw, Fresh Grade, Explain Everything and other apps will be used for student learning and parent communication
- Online student and teacher demos will be shared
- Staff will explore the SAMR (substitution, augmentation, modification and redefinition) model of using technology as a tool and will strive for the augmentation and modification levels

#### LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS

- Staff will develop an understanding of a common math language across grades using Learning Maps
- Use of community, parent and staff math resources for school wide assemblies
- Celebration of Learning evening will focus on numeracy
- Staff will reach out to parents through the use of the Woodlawn website, Twitter accounts and other apps with informative numeracy information

## Belief Statements

We believe that a school culture which builds strong **RELATIONSHIPS** with students and their families creates the conditions to improve student learning outcomes. We welcome, nurture and encourage positive communication and relationships.

We believe in **INCLUSION**; meaning everyone is welcome, valued and safe. Every student is involved in every way possible.

We believe we are teaching the **CHILD FIRST** and the curriculum second. We work on developing a 'can do' attitude, self-esteem and belief in oneself as a learner.

We believe that a strong emphasis on developing **LITERACY** skills sets the foundation for learning and success across all other environments.

We believe that all forms of **PLAY** (educational, physical, creative, and free) must be included in the learning environment to engage the brain and foster critical thinking skills.