

Mission Statement

We believe that John Pritchard School, as part of the community, fosters the development of individuals to their potential as life-long learners and as responsible members of society; and promotes their sense of emotional and physical well-being, their self discipline and their acquisition of academic and real-life skills in a caring, positive environment.

2008-2009 - School Profile

John Pritchard School

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Website: <http://schools.retsd.mb.ca/JP/Pages/Welcome.aspx>



Our School

History:

John Pritchard School has a long and interesting history. Many details about the school, its origin, changes, significant events, additions and staff have been gathered together and are presented with pictures on our website (<http://schools.retsd.mb.ca/jp/Pages/SchoolHistory.aspx>).

The original building was the “imposing, three-story, red brick structure”, built in 1915 and called Lord Kitchener School, which can still be seen from all directions. Additions were made in 1949, 1953 (building #2), 1956 (to building #2), 1967, 1975, and 1985. Building #2 was demolished in the fall of 2003. The school’s name was changed in the late sixties, to John Pritchard School.

Present:

For 2008-2009, the school conducts classes in grades Kindergarten to Grade 9, with a population of 465 students and 39 full-time equivalent staff members. Our elementary population (K-6) is significantly smaller (110) than the junior high population (355). The full range of socio-economic conditions is present, and we have a significant number of students from other countries who attend our English as an Additional Language (EAL) and International Education (IE) programs. Renovations to a basement area were completed over the summer of 2008. The area now functions as a Community Room. It serves as an office area for our school Social Worker, the divisional Newcomer Reception Facilitator, divisional Settlement Workers, and the Adult EAL Teacher, and is a meeting and teaching area for our special education students, Adult EAL Learners, and parent groups. John Pritchard School is proud to be a member of the network of

UNESCO associated Schools, and has achieved National Accreditation in that network, which is supported by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

Programs

Instruction at John Pritchard School is based upon the English curriculum as outlined by Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth. At the elementary/early years level, an emphasis is placed on improving literacy and numeracy. At the junior high/middle years level, we are moving towards a model which incorporates teams of teachers using interdisciplinary teaching.

The student body is organized into House Teams. This system builds engagement and “spirit” in students through friendly competitions and the accumulation of points, with the winning team given an opportunity to celebrate at the end of the year.

Our EAL/IE program population ranges between 45 and 65 students, depending on the time of year. The school provides a welcoming environment for our “new” Canadians and our visiting foreign students, and prepares them for the many challenges they face, both in the classroom and in the community. A sharing of cultural experiences is encouraged and facilitated.

Through various projects and activities, across all grades, the staff of John Pritchard School endeavour to promote the ideals of UNESCO, and reinforce the four pillars of Learning for the 21st Century (learning to know, to do, to be and to live together). This has resulted in recognition as a National Level School in the UNESCO ASPnet.

Student Assessment

Students are continually assessed, both to assist teachers in planning instruction for the class or for individuals, and to gather information for evaluation purposes.

Teachers may use a variety of methods or tools for assessment, such as: individual projects, group projects, experiments, investigations, debates, presentations, observations, work samples, journals, tests, exams, and quizzes.

The school may report to individual parents at any time as necessary to ensure student success. Formal reporting takes place three times a year. Student/ Parent/Teacher Conferences are held at all formal reporting times except the final report (unless there are exceptional circumstances). This year we are continuing to implement Student Portfolios and Student-Led Conferences at all levels.

The School as a Safe and Secure Place

John Pritchard School makes every effort to follow and to communicate the guidelines of the division's Code of Conduct. The code outlines the expectations for Students, Staff, and Parents which are necessary for all to feel that John Pritchard School is a safe and secure place.

John Pritchard has six basic statements of expectations for students. These have been printed on large placards which are posted at various locations in the school. This year, we will continue to emphasize our five basic rules in "friendly" language:

1. Helping Hands, Friendly Feet and Mouth
2. Ready, Sit and Learn
3. Move to class quickly and quietly
4. Be respectful of all staff
5. Take responsibility for your actions

A Behaviour Matrix has been developed and students have been taught appropriate behaviour in the various areas of the school.

John Pritchard has an Emergency Response Plan, and practices for Evacuations, Lockdowns, and Site Relocations

School Plan

Our School Plan has a number of exciting initiatives, in the areas of Technology (teacher skills enhancement and curriculum integration), assessment, behaviour, Aboriginal support, and active (global) citizenship.

Some activities supporting these initiatives are:

- Early Years focus on literacy and numeracy
- Integration of technology, through the TTT Project
- Implementation of the House System
- Using categorical funding to "purchase" additional services of a Social Worker, a Teacher Intern, and a Learning Assistant.
- Helping students behave and contribute positively in our school, in our community and beyond
- Expanding our activities within the UNESCO Associated Schools Network
 - Teacher Conference
 - Provincial Forums
 - Students Without Borders
 - Sharing activities with another member school (Munroe)
- Assessment PD activities
- Tutoring during most lunch periods
- Enriching Aboriginal perspective awareness

Our Students

We have five student leadership teams in the school. Our Students Without Borders will be working on the promotion of the UNESCO ASPnet goals and themes through various school and provincial, and possibly national/international activities and initiatives. The “Brick-by-Brick” group is raising funds to build a school in Kenya. Another group is our E-Team which will promote sustainable development through a comprehensive recycling program. Additional initiatives are planned after the recycling program has been firmly established. The junior high Physical Education Leadership Team (PELT) has expanded to include Grade 8 students as well as Grade 9, and is very active. The Aboriginal Mentorship Team will focus on awareness activities for the group and for the whole school.

Parents in the School

The Parent Advisory Council at John Pritchard School has existed for many years. The Council is an advisory council, made up of parents/guardians of students enrolled at John Pritchard School.

The demographics, and the span of ten grade levels, present an added challenge for the Parent Advisory Council to continually be aware of the needs of a small elementary/early years population of students and parents, and the larger junior/middle years population of the school.

The primary focus of the Parent Advisory Council is as an advisory body, although one fundraiser (Craft Sale) is conducted in November. Over the years, the money raised has funded or contributed to the new play structure, bleachers for the Manitoba Gym, other playground equipment, refrigerators and microwaves for the lunchroom, Spring camp for Grades 5 and 6, Staff Appreciation Week, registration for the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils Annual General Meeting, and Workshops.

Parents are invited to attend all meetings. Volunteers are needed for various activities throughout the year and parents are welcome to attend as many or as few meetings as they are able.

For More Information

Principal: Ted Stoesz

Vice-Principal: Ian Grant

Website: <http://schools.retsd.mb.ca/JP/Pages/Welcome.aspx>

Email: jp@retsdb.ca

Parents, alumni and interested parties: To receive JP news and notices through email on a regular basis, you may join our News and Notifications email distribution list. Send an email to jp@retsdb.ca with your request. Alumni (students and teachers) may sign-up for our 100th Anniversary celebrations to be held in 2015. Again, go to our website, click on the Projects tab on the left side, and fill in the on-line form.

