



# Turtle River School Division *Community Report*

## 2012 – 2013

TRSD School Board Office



808 Burrows Road  
McCreary, Mb. R0J 1B0

### Mission Statement:

***Turtle River School Division's mission is to assist students to reach a high degree of self-actualization to become both self-sufficient and contributing members of society.***

### Role and Mission

The Board of Trustees of Turtle River School Division is responsible for policy formulation which provides the structure and organization for the education of students within its boundaries. The implementation of these programs is guided by the major goals of assisting students to reach a high degree of self-actualization to become both self-sufficient and contributing members of society.

The Board will focus on the overall needs of its students. Notwithstanding this, the Board will pay due regard to its responsibilities to the community and encourage a high quality of education. The degree to which the Board attains its goals will be measured through the use of standard evaluation tools, internal and external testing and the performance of students in their chosen endeavours.

The Board, in implementing its programs, will draw upon the unique skills of staff and its use of progressive and varied methods of instruction. In doing so, the Board will maximize the use of specialized facilities to provide the greatest opportunity for student learning and social growth.

### Division Profile

Superintendent of Schools: Bev Szymesko  
 Acting-Secretary Treasurer: Shannon Desjardins  
 Transportation/Maintenance: Dean Bluhm  
 ICT Director: Steven Hopfner  
 Computer Technician: Jeff Fudge  
 Board of Trustees Chair: Fabian Gingras  
 Vice Chair: Gwen McLean  
 Trustee: Dan DeLaurier  
 Trustee: Dana Gurke  
 Trustee: Gordon Wilson  
 Phone: 835-2067  
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 Website: <http://trsd32.mb.ca>

<b>Students:</b>	May 2013	–	744
<b>Staff:</b>	Teachers	–	60
	Support Staff	–	42.5

*“Learning today for tomorrow”*

### **Message from the Superintendent**

I would like to begin by thanking you the parents and community members for all of your help and support this past school year. In all of our seven schools there are hard-working staff members that do their best to provide your children with the best education possible.

This past school year has had its share of challenges. The department has implemented a new Class Composition and Size initiative where class sizes in grades kindergarten to grade three have been capped at twenty students. In addition, this year we voluntarily implemented the New Provincial Report Card while simultaneously switching over to Maplewood; a new electronic attendance and mark system. New curricula in various subject areas have been slowly implemented as mandated by the department. The province is currently phasing in new mathematics initiatives to help support student learning in this subject area. And lastly, we have seen concerns from you the parents regarding the loss of grade 7/8 shops programming.

However, as a result of these challenges we have seen many positives result. Class sizes are smaller and as a result your child will be assured to get a maximum amount of support in class. The new report card is more parent friendly and consistent. Parents now have full access to their child's daily attendance and progress in their courses. At your convenience you can now see how you're your child has done on an assignment, see what assignments are outstanding, and determine their current standing or mark. Our division math leads and committees have already been working hard in order to better equip teachers with training and resources. Over the last school year the division focused on equipping schools with all of the latest math manipulatives and resources to support teaching in all of our schools. In addition, we have developed division-wide common exams to help support student growth of essential skills and help prepare them for their Grade 12 Provincial Exam.



The concerns from our stakeholders; you the parents and community are very important to myself and the board of trustees. We want to facilitate the best possible learning environment. I want you to know with all sincerity that it was a difficult decision that we had to make in eliminating the grade 7/8 shops programming in our division.

However, what I can tell you is that the division has been focusing on strengthening its High School Technology Education Programming. This next school year will see a new Automotive program begin in September; being offered in Glenella. In addition, we have been meeting with and developing alliances with ACC in Brandon in order to get students advanced credits and standing in various programs/trades before they even leave high school. This relates in savings to you as a parent and student while allowing your child an opportunity to discover and see if this is something they want to pursue as a career.

Additionally, we have also been establishing and setting-up Program Accreditation with

Manitoba Education and Apprenticeship. This will allow for your child to gain valuable experience in a trade and earn credits towards their diploma while in high school. Our programming will meet higher standards set by the department in order to ensure we are approved for accreditation. This would allow for students to possibly receive hours towards receiving their final trade certificate. Overall, this will be more motivating for students and help support them as they progress with their education.

We appreciate your feedback and concerns and will definitely take these into consideration as we plan and setup new programs in the future. Please continue to help guide us as we plan for the future. In the Fall, we will be releasing a new “Strategic Plan” for our division. It is simply a “5 Year Plan” that helps guide our division as we continue to work towards meeting our mandate and progressing in offering a quality education program that meets the needs of our students and community.

I look forward to working with you in the future and want to congratulate all of this year’s graduates. May everyone have a safe and relaxing summer.

Yours truly,

Bev Szymesko, Superintendent

## **TRSD Divisional Goals & Priorities**

### New Division Goals

1. School Climate
2. Student Engagement

*This year the Division focused on two new areas: School Climate & Student Engagement. A Five Year Strategic Plan was developed as a guide in focusing on new initiatives to help support these goals.*

### Past Goals

1. ICT - Technology
2. ESD – Sustainability
3. Healthy Schools & Communities
4. Staff and Student Retention

*The Division Planning Team has found that we have made great progress towards the past goals with demonstrated success and growth. While we may still indirectly focus on these areas, it has been decided that we need to focus our planning towards new areas of growth.*

*The continued feedback from our stakeholders; you the parents, the students, educators, principals, trustees and the communities help guide our divisions' future and direction.*

## **Summary of Division Activities & Highlights this School Year**

1. **Excellent Sports Programming** (golf, track & field, baseball, cross-country running, soccer, basketball, curling, volleyball, and badminton)
2. **Fantastic PD** – Professional Development for our Staff Members (First Steps in Math, Kathy Nunley, SAGE/LIFT, URIS Training, First Aid/CPR, EDI – Early Development Indicator Training, New Report Card Training, and Faye Browlie)
3. **New French Revitalization Program** – This program started late, but once it got going, it was unstoppable. The focus was on K to 6 students this year. Added a French consultant and provided students with exposure to French Culture. Most students attended Festival du Voyageur on February 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and had a French Concert presentation on May 24<sup>th</sup>.
4. **Sustainability**- This year we had a challenge between all of our schools in our division. It focused on reducing waste, recycling, reducing paper usage and implementing sustainable living and practices in our schools. In addition, the division purchased a division dish set.
5. **Learning to 18** – This year the division passed a new policy regarding learning to 18. This revolves around the legislation of mandating students to stay in school until they're either 18 years of age or they graduate. The division is looking at new ways to keep students in school, engaged and attached to learning.
6. **Speech Language** – This year our division started off the year without a Speech Language Pathologist. However we were really blessed to obtain temporary services from a neighbouring clinician and from the department.

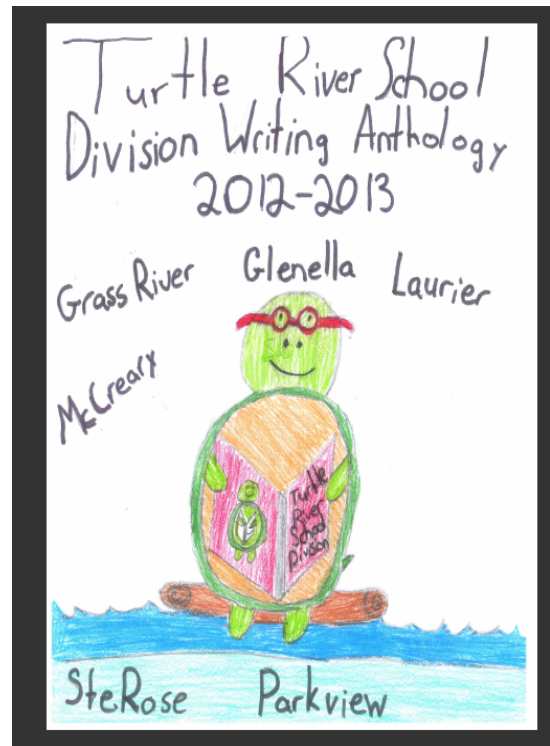
7. **Alonsa, Our Community School** – Hosted a Multi-Cultural Day where they celebrated various cultures within the community. Various Cultures and Ethnicities were demonstrated in both food and culture.

8. **Division Technology at a Glance**

- I. I pads in all schools. Next year we will continue to deploy additional tablets in schools.
  - II. Windows 7 has been established as a platform for all division computers.
  - III. SMART Boards in most classrooms
  - IV. Mobile Lap Top Labs in every school
  - V. Maplewood for Teachers, Administrators, & Parents.
  - VI. New Library Portal – All school libraries are now linked together in a data base than anyone can search through the school websites.
9. **Think Day 3** – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Think Day was held on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Alonsa School. This was a day where “Live Different” presented to Grades 8 to 12 students on Equity and Social Justice issues.



10. **Division Writing Anthology** – This year the division has had all seven schools collect submissions of writing from every student in the division. It is a way to celebrate our writing, share our writing, and participate in the publishing of our writing. This is still being compiled will be submitted for printing in the near future. Please expect to receive a copy in the fall.



11. **Respect in Schools** – This year the division has mandated that all of their professional staff members (teachers) complete this program. Time was also provided for our paraprofessionals (EA’s) to complete this training which focuses on bullying and safe and conducive learning environments. In addition, Grade 10 to 12 students were also mandated to complete this program as it correlates with the physical education health component.

12. **Science Olympics** – On April 26, 2013 the Division hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Science Olympics. It was held at Alonsa School with all Grades 4-8 students attending. At this event, students engaged in hands-on science activities to problem-solve and learn various scientific theories.



13. **Divisional & Provincial Assessments** – As per Manitoba Education's mandate, the division administers the Grade 12 Provincial ELA (English) and Math exams. However, with the new math curriculum, the Grade 12 Math Exam was optional. However, our division decided to participate in completing the exam with the course value only being worth 5% of a student's final mark; in comparison with the typical 30% of a final grade. Additionally, the Grade 3/4 and 7/8 assessments were also completed. Divisionally, we complete the Gates and WRAT assessments. These are both English and Math assessments that allow us to gain data that drives our planning and programming for all of our division's students.

14. **TTFM – Tell Them From Me** – is a survey that students from Grades 6 to 12 do in schools online. It is a computer survey that asks students about bullying, feeling safe, and even what they want to see improve in their schools.



*"Learning today for tomorrow"*

## *Assessment Policy*

Turtle River School Division Policy Statement states: "Turtle River School Division believes that assessment, evaluation and communication of student achievement are essential to the teaching and learning process. These practices should be carried out in a positive way that supports continuous learning, development and personal growth for students. The ultimate goal of assessment is to help develop independent, lifelong learners, who regularly monitor and assess their own progress." (This policy reflects and supports the new provincial policy on assessment.)

TRSD is committed to the implementation of **Assessment For Learning** ("gives teachers information to modify and differentiate teaching and learning activities"), **Assessment AS Learning** ("requires that teachers help students develop, practice, and become comfortable with reflection, and with a critical analysis of their own learning"), and **Assessment OF Learning** ("is summative in nature and is used to confirm what students know and can do, to demonstrate whether they have achieved the curriculum outcomes").

### First Aid and CPR

All Turtle River School Division staff members are trained in Standard First Aid and C.P.R. Level C. We feel it is of the utmost importance that all adults, whom the students see throughout the day, be prepared to the best of their abilities for all emergencies.

### Full Time Kindergarten

We have completed our third year of full time kindergarten for all students in our division. Turtle River School Division has seen fantastic results because of this initiative. While the overall impact will not be totally seen for many years, our students are showing positive indicators of growth in skill development and acquisition. Many Divisions in Manitoba have recognized the significance of providing full-time Kindergarten and are following suit. The results across the province are amazingly positive and it looks like in the near future the province may mandate it. We will continue to track these students with great enthusiasm as they continue with their learning.

### Kindergarten Here I Come

Kindergarten Here I Come continues to be a huge success in each school in our division. As a result, it was expanded from 5.5 fulltime days equivalent to 7.0 fulltime days equivalent. The objective of this project is to have our children learn the necessary pre-reading, numeracy, and social skills in a relaxed and entertaining environment and to lay the foundation for positive school experiences in the future. The students are provided with the opportunity to become familiar with the students with whom they will be attending kindergarten in the fall. They also meet the school staff. They become familiar with the kindergarten routine, the kindergarten classroom, and the layout of the school. They are given the opportunity to ride the bus if they are rural students.

### First Steps in Math

Turtle River School Division has continued training new staff members in First Steps in Math. As a result, every teacher in Grades K to 8 has been or is currently being trained in this incredible program. First Steps in Math is a program which will enhance mathematics instruction. In this program, teachers become familiar with the developmental phases all students pass through as they learn Mathematics, and are provided with diagnostic tasks which will identify each child's progress and challenges.