

Annual Report  
June 2015  
**Pine Ridge Middle School**



## Principal's Message

As the 2014-15 school year comes to a close it is a time to look back at the year, the opportunities we had, the successes we achieved, and the challenges we faced.

A big part of our satisfaction comes from the interaction between and among the staff and students of PRMS. Together we accomplished a great deal. Our student services team and especially our support staff have really jelled this year and together we have done some great things for students. We continued to find ways for our entire school to come together to celebrate and learn. Some of these events included our annual Turkey dinner, our first ever Pancake Lunch, the Light it Up Blue Campaign in support of Autism Awareness, and a Celebration during April in recognition of the Month of the Military Child.

These activities are just the tip of the iceberg, but serve as an indication of how important team work is here at PRMS. Without it few of these accomplishments could be realized. Team work is important in all areas of the school but I want to recognize and thank Mrs. Jackson for her tireless work as part of the administrative team. I'm proud of what we accomplished together. I hope staff and students will remember the quote shared on the first day of school: "Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable". This Kenyan proverb is something to remember, and live by.

As the year is coming to an end we are already busy looking ahead. This includes wishing our grade 8s well as they head off to West Kings to begin High School, and also welcoming a new group of grade 5s who will become Panthers next year. We also will be wishing staff who are moving on to other schools all the best, and we thank them for their service to Pine Ridge.

To everyone we wish you a wonderful summer with time to relax, rejuvenate and enjoy some down time. Another year is just around the corner.

- M Carty

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## School and Community

During the 2014 - 2015 school year, there were approximately 410 students registered in Grades 6-8. Supporting these students were:

29 teachers (17.5 classroom teachers, 1 music teacher, 2 Phys Ed teachers, part time teachers of Family Studies and Tech Ed, 1 Learning Center Teacher, 1 BIRT teacher, 1.6 resource teachers, 0.6 guidance counselor, 1 Vice Principal and 1 Principal)

17 support staff (6 Educational Assistants, a part time library technician, a part time student support worker, 2 secretaries, and a part time computer technician)

PRMS is proud of the range of programs and supports we offer to students. We offer both early and late French Immersion as well as a full range services for students with special learning needs, including a Learning Center and a Behavior Intervention program. We are also very fortunate to be able to offer comprehensive guidance within our school.



## Continuous School Improvement

Pine Ridge Middle School is involved in a process of Continuous School Improvement (CSI). It is our responsibility as teachers to continuously analyze our work and to continue to improve so that we can provide meaningful learning experiences to all of our students. During the 2014-15 school year we worked on the following goals:

### Goal 1: Student Achievement

To improve student achievement in math and literacy.

### Provincial Assessments

This year grade 6 and 8 students wrote a provincial assessment that included reading, writing, and mathematics. Results were provided to parents and school staff. This information is used to help determine areas for future focus as a whole as well as to identify those students who may need additional supports.

School results for **grade 6** are as follows:

	% meeting					
	Reading	Writing Ideas	Writing Organization	Writing Language Use	Writing Conventions	Math
<b>2014-15</b>	<b>67.2%</b> 66.4% (E) 72.2% (FI)	<b>66.1%</b> 62.3% (E) 88.9% (FI)	<b>54%</b> 50.9% (E) 72.2% (FI)	<b>63.7%</b> 60.4% (E) 83.3% (FI)	<b>49.6%</b> 48.5% (E) 55.6% (FI)	<b>53.1%</b> 49.1% (E) 77.8% (FI)
2013-14	70% (E) 89% (FI)	89% (E) 100% (FI)	78% (E) 94% (FI)	83% (E) 94% (FI)	74% (E) 59% (FI)	63% (E) 65% (FI)
2012-13	73%	90%	77%	77%	67%	60%

School results for **grade 8** are as follows:

	% meeting					
	Reading	Writing Ideas	Writing Organization	Writing Lang. Use	Writing Conventions	Math
<b>2014-15</b>	Results will be available in the fall of 2015.					
2013-14	76.4% 70.7% (E) 85.4% (FI)	87.5% 83.3% (E) 93.8% (FI)	85% 79.2% (E) 93.8% (FI)	85% 81.9% (E) 89.6% (FI)	77.8% 71.4% (E) 87.2% (FI)	69.7% 58.7% (E) 87.2% (FI)
2012-13	58% (E) 78% (FI)	89% (E) 100% (FI)	80% (E) 100% (FI)	88% (E) 100% (FI)	80% (E) 93% (FI)	40% (E) 88% (FI)

**Access to Technology:** Technology to support learning has been a priority this year. Through our tech refresh, fundraising, and support from Home and School we have managed to purchase 120 chrome books and 60 ipads for student use. It is our belief that with explicit instruction and access to this technology, it will positively impact organization, time management and achievement.

### Goal 2: School Performance

To build positive relationships within the school community (staff to staff, staff to students, student to student, staff to parent).

## Professional Learning for Staff

During the 2014-15 school year, we focused on best practices in assessment and instruction. In addition to our regularly scheduled PD, ELA and math teachers at PRMS met weekly for 40 minutes as part of a Learning Team Meeting. During these meetings, teachers monitored progress on their yearly plans, shared instructional strategies and best practices, shared resources, and developed common assessments.

During in-service days and early dismissals our focus was on the following:

- Adaptations and Differentiation
- Grading and Reporting Practices
- Formative Assessment
- Google Drive and Google Apps for Education

## Safe and Caring Environment

Pine Ridge believes in and promotes 4 elements of the Panthers' Pact:

- Respect for Self
- Respect for Others
- Respect for Learning
- Respect for the Environment



Pine Ridge also identifies itself as a PEBS school. PEBS is identifying, explicitly teaching, and recognizing positive behavior expectations in various areas of the school. Our PEBS matrix of behaviors is explicitly taught to students early in the year and then reinforced throughout the year via classroom presentations, announcements, assemblies, and support from teachers.

Each month, students who live the Panther's Pact are recognized for their positive contributions to the school. This year the Panther's Pride Awards were expanded so all teachers had the opportunity to award a certificate each month (rather than only one student per home room being recognized).

In response to concerns around attendance, we created an attendance committee to make contact with families where attendance is an issue. We also began a campaign of recognizing students with positive attendance. Each term, students who have 95% attendance or better are recognized.

## Race Relations, Cross Cultural Awareness and Human Rights (RCH) Initiatives

### Goal 3: RCH

To address issues of homophobia and gender identity and make PRMS a safe environment for all.

**Goal 4: RCH** To address issues of poverty and minimize its impact on students and the community

This year Pine Ridge Middle School once again worked to ensure the learning environment was inclusive of all learners. Some specific events/priorities that help to promote awareness, inclusion, and celebration of diversity are:

- Staff and student visits to the local food bank
- Light it Up Blue (campaign to support Autism Awareness)
- PD session (with Krishinda MacBride) regarding Gender Identity and Sexuality
- Presentations by Get Real (students from Acadia with a message of tolerance and support for all regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation)
- Presentation by Eric Cruikshank
- Special Olympics: Torch Run



## Student Involvement and Successes

PRMS offers a wide range of activities for students to participate in:

Athletics (cross country running, soccer, golf, volleyball, basketball, badminton, hockey, softball, track and field)		
Activity Leaders	Grade 8 Leaders	Spirit Club
Band	GSA	Student's Council
Call to Remembrance	Heritage Fair	Walking Club
Choir	Lego Robotics	Yearbook
Gaelic Club	News Team	
Garden Club	Science Fair	

**Athletic Achievements:** In addition to the personal achievements that many students experienced over the year, PRMS athletic teams competed and were highly successful in the following areas:

- Cross country: 1 athlete qualified for provincials
- Girls Soccer: district and regional winners
- Boys Volleyball: district and regional winners
- Girls Volleyball: district and regional winners
- Boys Hockey: winners of the Middle School tournament
- Badminton: Team district and regional winners
- Track and Field: 8 athletes qualified for provincials

**Student's Council:** PRMS has an active student's council. Each homeroom elects 2 members to sit on the student's council. The council meets regularly and discusses ways to improve student life at PRMS.

**Music Program:** PRMS has 3 bands and a choir with close to 90 students involved in the music program: 35 students in beginner band, 32 in Concert band, and 12 in Jazz band, 20 Choir.

Students have multiple opportunities to show case their talents with the following performances: Remembrance Day Ceremony, Turkey Dinner, Christmas Concert, Christmas Recital, Concert Showcase, Music Festival, Spring Concert, Concert Band Trip, Apple Blossom festival, Grade 5 Orientation.

**Attendance Awards:** Each term, students who have 95% attendance or better are recognized. At the end of the year there were over 160 students who had missed fewer than 7.5 days all year.



**Panther's Pride:** Each month, 21 students are recognized for their commitment to the Panther's Pact. Throughout the year this equals more than 200 students who receive positive recognition.

## Home & School Association

PRMS has an active Home and School who meet regularly to discuss issues related to the school, participate in fundraising, and offer support for ongoing programs and initiatives. This year the work of the Home and School focused on:

- Revision of the Constitution and ByLaws
- Purchase of materials to support school programs including: 15 chrome books; support for class trips; art and science supplies; upgrade to water fountain; and support for robotics club.
- Organization of fundraisers such as the Lions' Community Supper, Epicure Fundraiser, Subway fundraiser, and the Spring Dance which in turn support school programs.



A special thank you goes to our home and school executive (Marcy MacPherson, Leila Vokey, Pam Shepherd).