

Annual School Development Report

Acreman Elementary

2024-25



Mission Statement: To ensure learning for all in a safe, healthy learning environment

Strategic Issue:

Increase family engagement in teaching and learning at Acreman Elementary. (Determinants: *Optimal Learning Environments, Positive Relationships*)

- School Development Family Survey (“Family Engagement” scale)
- Staff Anecdotal Reports

Year-end Summary of Progress. What evidence do you have to support this progress?

The rate of positive response on the “Family Engagement” scale for the 2024-25 School Climate (Parent) Surveys has “significantly increased”, more than doubling the three year average for the school. This mark is nearly three times higher than the current two year provincial baseline. The “Family Support” and “School Climate” scales for the school are each reported as being maintained at “good” and “acceptable” levels respectively.

These results are exciting given the effort by the entire school community to improve in this area. General family and community involvement at Acreman has always been strong; however as denoted in the strategic issue, the goal was (and remains) to involve families, more specifically, around academics at Acreman. It was a chance to connect parents to the fine teaching and learning that is happening at Acreman. This we felt would improve conversations around student learning going forward thereby further increasing the quality of learning at Acreman.

A number of actions had been identified to bring about that change including an adjustment to the annual “Meet the Teacher” event which this year featured a more informal meet and greet style complete with coffee and refreshments. The aim was to attract as many families as possible to the event and to provide time for informal connections and conversations to occur between staff and families.

Staff had also agreed to make at least one telephone contact with each of their students' families before the end of Term One of the school year with the goal of establishing foundational relationships with parents prior to the need for a potential call of concern being sent throughout the year.

Each class hosted at least one curriculum event to which families were invited. Teachers hosted events around the 100th Day of School, Christmas Magazine Showing, Book Publishing Parties and a NL Traditional Kitchen Party along with the assemblies and Christmas concerts that have been traditionally featured.

Regular student presentations at the beginning of school council meetings were an attempt to demonstrate to our school’s leadership group how learning in today’s classrooms is evolving. There were presentations on the use of base ten blocks for learning Math and on *Canva*, a new digital presentation software that students use.

Finally, Acreman School Council led a “Hands Down, You're the Best” positive messaging campaign that was proudly displayed in the hallways of the school. Social emotional learning remains critically important and inextricably linked to learning. Learning is positively influenced when students observe a positive, healthy partnership between home and school in all environments.

Next Steps...

It will be important that the school continues to seek ways to involve families in teaching and learning at Acreman both generally and at a one on one student level at Acreman. This will continue to be challenging in a society which is busier than ever for families and in which homework does not seem to hold the prominent place it once used to. We will of course encourage teachers to continue to have meaningful, routine conversations with students’ parents at any time throughout the school year.

More generally we will continue to aim to increase the response rate for families within the School Climate Parent Survey so that the conclusions reached from the surveys are more representative of our entire school community.

Acreman Elementary would like to offer its sincere appreciation to staff, families and school council for your ongoing support of the school and your continued efforts in school development!