

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

April 25, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dosdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Balance and Diversity at Lymburn School

ORIGINATOR: N. McPherson, Principal, Lymburn School

RESOURCE

STAFF: Brenda Basiga, Carol Emir-Ahmet, Karen Gwozd-Cornish, Laurie Helland, Pete MacKay, Sue Peacock, Jan Smith, Donna Wyatt, Tim Zimmerman

INFORMATION

Lymburn School is an elementary school located in west Edmonton with an enrolment of 557 students. Enrolment has been increasing in recent years, and the school has just imposed enrolment limits and requested two additional portables. Most students come from the Lymburn and surrounding neighbourhoods, although many students attend from beyond the school's boundaries. A small number of students with special needs are integrated into regular classes, and a growing number of students need additional support.

Lymburn places a strong emphasis on academic programming and balances this with experiences aimed at helping students grow in all aspects of development. In promoting growth of the whole child, Lymburn teachers take pride in using a variety of instructional approaches and strategies. Teachers pick and choose from various sources to increase their repertoire of strategies, and they share ideas and information informally, in grade groups and at staff meetings. It is not uncommon to see several teachers in the staff room sharing ideas about strategies, or brainstorming alternative solutions to a particular challenge in one of the classes. Lymburn teachers are very supportive of one another.

The positive trend in student achievement in recent years is attributed to a school-wide emphasis on higher thinking skills and writing skills, the consistent application of high expectations, holding students accountable for their learning and behaviour, ongoing communication with parents, increased use of technology, and collaboration among teachers. Some of the key programming features at Lymburn School include:

- teacher emphasis on key learnings in core subjects
- small group assistance for students experiencing difficulty
- buddy reading, paired reading, home reading programs
- use of a wide range of quality reading material
- use of technology by students in gathering and sharing information
- purposeful, real-life experiences and the use of concrete materials
- student involvement in classroom programming and in leadership activities

Our presentation will tell a story designed to demonstrate:

- a balanced approach to address all curricular areas and other aspects of development
- student involvement in our school
- the diversity among our staff members
- the support and involvement of parents

We believe these characteristics of our school culture help our students to develop their confidence and abilities in reading and communicating, to enjoy literature and the arts, to lead a fit and healthy lifestyle, to become good problem solvers and to become effective team members.

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