

# Cedar Elementary

Year: 2022-2023

Principal/Vice Principal: C. Wood/M. Ingalls



## Our School Story

### **What are the unique, positive characteristics that we celebrate in our school/community?**

Cedar Elementary is a Kindergarten to Grade 7 school with an enrollment of approximately 351 students for the 2022-2023 school year. Our school has a unique and rich history. Originally our campus was Cedar Junior Secondary School, home of the Spartans. It later became home of North Cedar Intermediate (Grades 4-7) and then in 2016, we became Cedar Elementary School when Woodbank Primary combined with North Cedar Intermediate. We are now home to the mighty Timberwolves.

A dedicated parent group who volunteer on the school's PAC supports Cedar Elementary School. The PAC organizes many fundraising opportunities throughout the school year. They generously support learning opportunities for all students.

Our school enjoys a positive connection to our local community. I.e. Fire Station, local businesses, highschool, etc.

### **What are the important demographics of our school and community?**

Our students are currently organized into 15 divisions, with many divisions including split grades. Our school also hosts a Strong Start program which is accessed by many families in our catchment area who have preschool aged children. There are approximately 100 students registered in our Strong Start Program. Our school is located on the traditional, unceded lands of the Snuneymuxw people and we are grateful to work, learn and play on this beautiful land.

Cedar Elementary School students mostly live in the surrounding rural area and represent diverse family structures, socio-economic backgrounds, ethnic and cultural groups. Our catchment area is very large, and many students go to and from school on a school bus. There are approximately 62 students of Aboriginal ancestry attending our school and we believe in integrating Aboriginal Understandings in all facets of our learning through the First Peoples Principles of Learning.

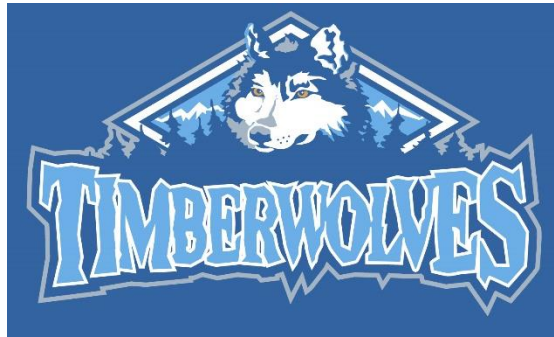
## Our School Goals

### **1. Literacy goal (Continuous improvement of instruction and assessment):**

Our goal is to increase our students' reading accuracy, fluency, and comprehension through evidence-based practices in the five areas of reading (Phonological awareness, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.)

### **2. Social responsibility goal (Safe, caring and healthy learning and working environment that is inclusive of the diversity of our entire learning community and Truth and Reconciliation):**

Our goal is to increase our students understanding of Personal and Social competency and use self-assessment to identify their strengths, interests and areas for growth. Common Language used at Cedar school focuses on our PACK traits of – Problem Solver, Accountable, Cooperative, Kind.



## Our School Celebration Story

Cedar Elementary had a strong focus this year on Social Emotional Learning. This included monthly virtues, assemblies and mindfulness strategies taught in individual classrooms.

As a pilot school for CASEL, we delved as a collective group into learning about the five frameworks. As part of this process, we reflected on our own social emotional learning as individuals and as a school team to identify first steps for our school.

As a school team, we ended the year reflecting in a real way the celebrations and challenges of the year. We are happy to share some of the moments we are most proud.

-The outdoor learning focus in our Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes came to life. Our students social-emotional development and sense of wonder/inquiry grew exponentially. The outdoor story workshops engaged every learner into creativity and literacy.

-80% of our Kindergarten to Grade 3 demonstrated literacy proficiency on our PARS assessment. For many learners, their growth this year was exponential, and many learning gaps were closed through collaborative Tier 1, 2, and 3 strategies.

-Teachers created rich STEM learning experiences including robotics and simple machine design and creation.

-Deep reflective, transformational conversations focused on truth, reconciliation, and anti-racism were authentically embedded into classrooms and through school assemblies. We ended the year with a beautiful Indigenous celebration for National Indigenous day. This included a dedication of a cedar bench that was dedicated to the lost children who never returned home. Students enjoyed learning and playing the Lahal (also known as the bone game).

The Entrepreneur fair was a huge success! Grade 6/7 students planned and prepared a product to sell. The process included financial literacy and marketing strategies where students tapped into their critical and creative thinking skills. The gym opened up to welcome shoppers from all grades in the morning and parents were welcomed to shop in the afternoon.

-Our grade 7 leadership team provided an incredible variety of school spirit events including colouring contests, "sparkle and neon" days, inspirational bulletin boards, and class activity bins. They also led the "Fun field Day" as well monthly assemblies and morning announcements.

The school was very proud to put on an Art Show featuring artwork from grades K-7 – Painting, Process, Art, Clay and Mixed media. This was a lovely way to welcome back parents and caregivers as restrictions from Covid were lifted. We had an amazing response and welcomed over 500 people from our greater school community.

The year ended with a lovely BBQ put on by PAC and the North Cedar Fire

# NLPS Board Goals

Choose a goal

## NLPS Board Objective(s)

Click or tap here to enter text.

## Collaborative Inquiry Goal

### PLAN



**Scanning:** What's going on for our learners? How do we know? Why does it matter

**Focusing:** Where will concentrating our efforts make the most difference? How are we contributing to the situation?

As we begin each year, we reflect on our growth and needs in alignment with our district's Board Goals. We establish goals for our collective vision to guide our work. This year, due to the demands of working and learning together during the pandemic, we are focusing on two primary goal areas – Literacy and Social / Emotional Well Being that align to our board's goals. At our end of the year reflection, we believe that those goals will continue to be areas of need in the 2022/20232 school year.

### ACT

#### Literacy:

- School wide review of PARS data and reading assessments
- Explore the inquiry question: How might learning and teaching through choice help students improve their English Language Arts skills so that they are more successfully able to process, construct and create?
- Professional learning related to growing Story Workshops

#### Social Responsibility:

- Ongoing professional learning with the CASEL Framework including identifying programming that will address school needs.
- Personal and professional learning in our understanding of being active anti-racist.
- Engage our intermediate students in leadership opportunities related to community service in areas of their interests.
- In primary grades, a rich connection to the Early Learning Framework.
- Promote, teach, practice celebrate PACK beliefs.
- Develop shared understandings related to school wide expectations, supports, and structures.
- Continue school wide traditions and celebrations to increase sense of connection to our school community.

# OBSERVE

**Checking:** Have we made “enough” of a difference?

**Evidence:** How do we know? What evidence do we have to show our impact?

**Literacy:**

- PARS data/NLPS Literacy Assessment
- Students demonstrate more confidence, engagement, and interest in reading
- Classroom assessment data
- Progress monitoring in intervention groups

**Social Responsibility:**

- Student self-assessments Core Competencies
- Grade 4 and 7 survey data
- Students being able to explain/demonstrate their own giftings, talents, and interest
- Students demonstrate value for the giftings, talents, and interest of others
- Parent feedback

# REFLECT

**Lessons Learned:** How and when will we share our progress and insights?

**Next Steps:** What are our next steps for students? What do we need to learn more about?

- continue our journey to promote/strengthen a safe and positive culture at Cedar Elementary. School wide initiatives to promote PACK – Problem solving, accountability, cooperation and kindness will help to strengthen our community. We will be persistent and positive in our educative approach.