



TOMAHAWK SCHOOL 2022/2023 RESULTS REPORT

Principal: Fran Bell



Our students possess the confidence, resilience, insight and skills required to thrive in, and positively impact, the world.

Area in Focus: **Students demonstrate Success and Well-Being**

Our Vision:

Our students possess the confidence, resilience, insight and skills required to thrive in, and positively impact, the world.

Our Mission:

We assure supportive learning environments, meaningful experiences and healthy relationships that create opportunities to develop resilience, to gain diversity in perspectives and to achieve enduring success.

Baseline Study Participants:

Tomahawk School Principal
Tomahawk School Staff (Certificated and non-certificated)
Tomahawk School Council
School Counselor
Division Principals for Literacy and Numeracy

Why was Student Success our area of focus?

Tomahawk School believes that students who demonstrate the positive, personal characteristics noted above are better able to find success in all aspects of their education: academically, socially, behaviorally, and mentally.

- Our society has become increasingly complicated, and our students are also facing a number of complicated challenges.
- Many students come from changing family dynamics, which may create sharing two households or single parent homes.
- Technology has brought many distractions, such as video games and social media.
- Anxiety and mental health challenges are more prevalent in today's students, with residual stress from the prior pandemic.
- Some student families are facing economic challenges and financial strain.

- Some students are showing a significant struggle maintaining appropriate behaviour at school which creates stress for fellow students, teachers, and parents.

Tomahawk students are supported and encouraged daily, but more can be done to ensure that all students are building the characteristics that will allow them to grow and flourish at Tomahawk School, and in today’s complex society. Our Development Plan looks forward and has specific strategies to build *characteristics for success* in each and every student . This Result Report looks back at the successes and challenges for Tomahawk School in the 2022/2023 school year.

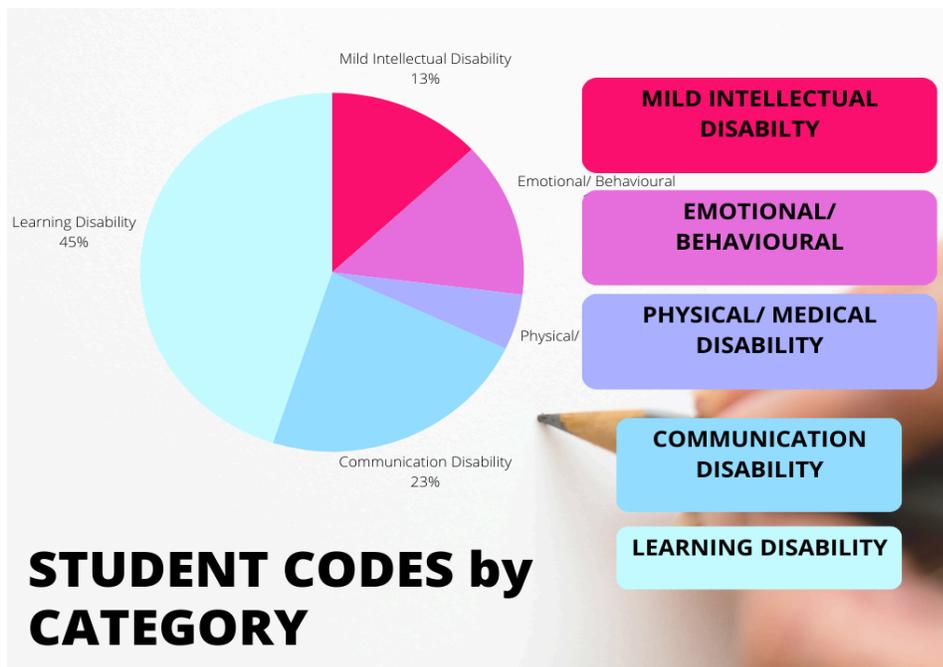
2022/2023 Baseline Data

Data:

- Our data shows that 32 students are supported by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) requiring accommodations academically and/or behaviorally.
- Our data shows that Tomahawk students improved in literacy. Overall, good improvement was made last year but 40% still remain below grade level in reading.
- Our data shows that Tomahawk students need to improve in numeracy.
- Our data shows that in our new school year approximately 35% of our students are receiving counseling services from our school psychologist.

2022/2023 RESULTS... What can we see now?

STUDENTS SUPPORTED BY IEP (Individualized Education Plan)

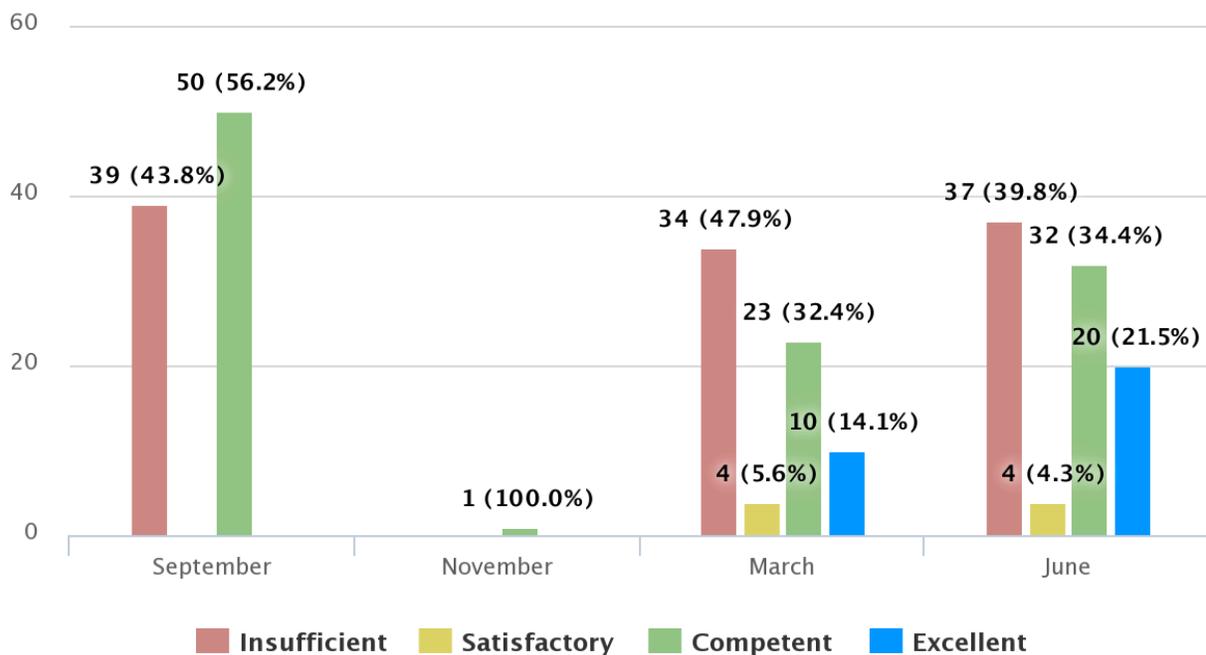


Last year, 32 students were supported academically and/ or behaviourally on Individualized Education Plans (IEP). Teachers and Educational Assistants work closely together to ensure that students are fully supported by modifying academic work, using technology to complete work, or even working directly with an EA to review instructions or have instructions read aloud. Staff work very hard to ensure that all students receive the support they need for their success. In an ideal world, more EA support would be available in all our classrooms, but Tomahawk School is very proud of the excellent support provided by carefully utilizing the expertise of our small staff.

READING / LITERACY LEVELS Grade 1- 6 :

Fountas & Pinnell (English) Results – All Periods

School Year: 2022–2023, School: Tomahawk School



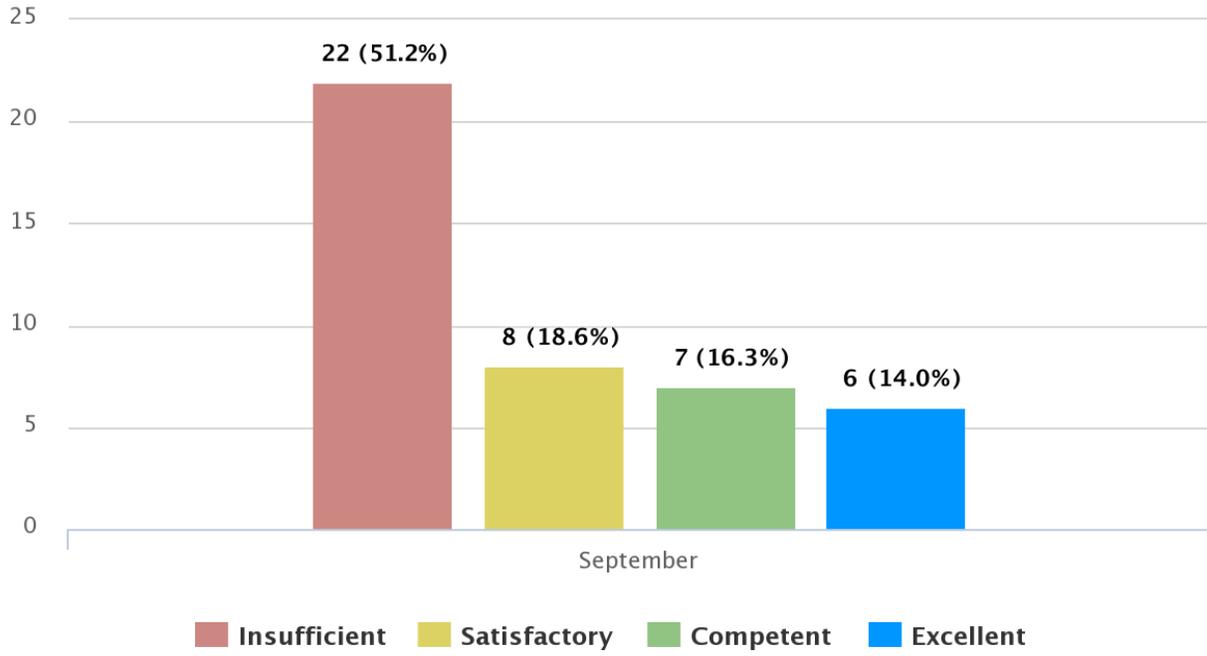
Tomahawk School has been deeply focused on improving literacy skills for all our students. Last year was our second year with teachers working closely with our Literacy Lead to ensure excellent teaching practices supporting literacy in each classroom, in particular, small group instruction. As the graph above demonstrates, the hard work is paying off as we see more students achieving an EXCELLENT mark by the end of the year in comparison to September.

Students receiving a mark of insufficient are provided with additional literacy support 3-4 times a week. This focused literacy intervention aims to move students from insufficient to satisfactory by targeting specific areas of literacy need. **Slowly and steadily, positive growth is occurring.**

LITERACY LEVELS (RCAT) GRADES 7-9:

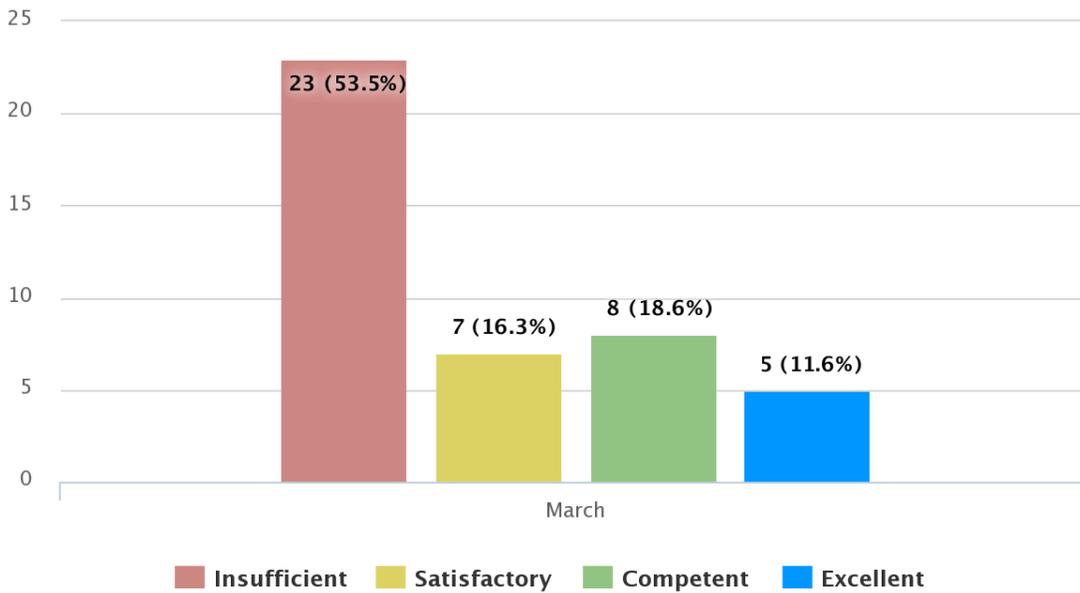
RCAT Results – September

School Year: 2022–2023, School: Tomahawk School



RCAT Results – March

School Year: 2022–2023, School: Tomahawk School



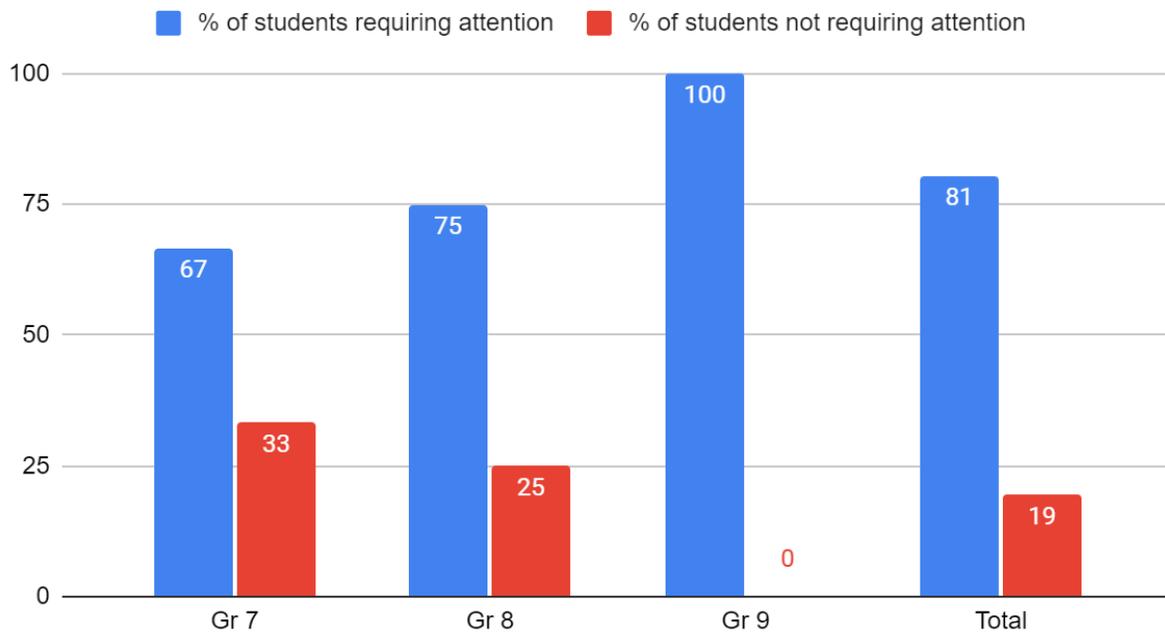
RCAT is a literacy assessment focused on comprehension for junior high students. As the results above show, students are maintaining but not necessarily improving their scores. However, the RCAT will continue to be taught, reviewed and assessed in the coming years so students should be able to demonstrate an improved score in the years ahead.

Writing:		
Writing Results:	School March 2023:	Divisional March 2023:
	28.4% writing below grade level 40.9 writing at a satisfactory level 21.6% writing at the competent level 9.1% writing at the excellent level	21.4% writing below grade level 39.3% writing at a satisfactory level 29.6% writing at the competent level 9.7% writing at the excellent level

Tomahawk School completed our first Divisional writing assessment in March. Overall, our results are very comparable to the overall Divisional results which is very positive. However, with 28% of our students writing below grade level it is clear that some focused work on writing is needed. Teachers were able to review this data and have adjusted their practice to support specific lessons in writing. In 2023/2024 students will have the opportunity to complete two writing assessments and hopefully our overall results will improve.

MIPI NUMERACY LEVELS Grade 5-9:

Tomahawk School Mipi Data Sept 2023



The MIPI Math/ Numeracy Assessment demonstrates that the majority of Tomahawk students need support to be successful in all areas of basic numeracy. Similar results were evident last year and thus teachers have begun to focus on identifying which specific concepts are challenging for students. Many students struggle with basic math facts and completing math questions correctly within a reasonable amount of time. To aid student success, additional numeracy support is provided through a Numeracy Lead, specific math manipulatives have been provided for student use, and math strategies have been introduced to reinforce foundational numeracy skills. With this increased focus, students should demonstrate growth in the years ahead.

2023 ALBERTA EDUCATION SURVEY by STUDENTS and PARENTS:

In the spring of 2023, students from Grade 4 to 9 complete the Alberta Education Assurance Survey. Parents of students in Grade 4-9 are also provided the opportunity to complete the survey online. The survey gathers results around Student Engagement with Learning, Teaching and Leading, Learning Supports, and Parental Involvement.

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

2021 and 2022 were great years for Tomahawk School as measured by the survey results. However, 2023 has seen a decline in some key areas. It is important to analyze the results to understand the possible story behind this decline. Some key findings include:

- Eight parents responded to the survey. Although the input of each and every parent is important, the small number of respondents must be noted as less than 10% of our school population.
- 60 students responded to the survey from Grade 4-9. However, when the individual questions were analyzed many students, particularly those in Grade 4-6, did not answer some key questions but chose DO NOT KNOW as the answer. This would also affect the overall score in a negative way.
- STUDENT GROWTH and ACHIEVEMENT declined from 81% in 2022 to 68% in 2023. Of the eight parents who responded, five parents were from Grades 4-6. This is significant because at the time of this survey the Grade 4/ 5 class at Tomahawk School was struggling with some needed teacher changes. At the time of the survey, the class was still experiencing some change, but then settled for the rest of the year with a teacher in place for the year. However, it seems that the turmoil of that timing greatly affected both parents and students at the time of the survey, which is understandable.
- TEACHING AND LEADING also had a decline in 2023. However, the issue seems again to be tied to the difficulties in Grade 4/ 5. When asked the question if they were satisfied with the quality of education at Tomahawk School the 8 parents responded with 13% Very satisfied and 50% as satisfied - so 63% were positive. But, when asked specifically about the quality of teaching the same 8 parents had a 50% dissatisfied score. Clearly, at that time there was a concern with the programming in Grade 4/ 5.
- On a positive note, LEARNING SUPPORTS, which measures a welcoming, caring and respectful, and safe learning environment, maintained a positive rating of 73% in 2023, which was just a small change from the 80% of 2022. Tomahawk School works very

hard to provide a respectful and safe environment which was recognized by the survey participants.

- The area of GOVERNANCE also declined. Clearly parents were not satisfied with the amount of parental involvement in decisions about their child's education. This may have again been affected by the concerns about Grade 4/ 5 at that time, but this is still an area of concern and consideration moving forward.
- Students responded positively stating satisfaction with the broad PROGRAM of STUDIES being received, including fine arts, technology, and PE. But the Tomahawk response rate of 59.4% is still a bit lower than the Alberta average of 77.4% so our school can still continue to improve both in our delivery and in the student recognition of all that is offered.
- Students and parents maintained positive support for Tomahawk School being a SAFE and CARING school environment, with a rate of 77% (81% last year). This is an important measure as feeling safe, respected, and treated fairly are foundational to support effective learning.

CHANGES and POSSIBLE SUPPORTS for the survey of 2024:

- Students will be provided with more guidance in completing the survey with each question being read aloud for younger students to ensure students are fully able to provide a well informed answer.
- Parents will be encouraged to engage with the survey with a goal of increasing our response to a higher number to provide greater validity to the data.
- Parents now have access to an ongoing form on the Tomahawk School website that allows parents to provide comments, suggestions, or concerns as often as they desire. Hopefully, this access will allow parents to feel they do have a say in their child's education. #Share a Thought Survey
- Finally, the teaching staff at Tomahawk School has had no changes this year, which should support a more positive response from survey participants.

PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TEST RESULTS for Grade 6 and 9 :

The classes at Tomahawk School are quite small therefore our PAT results can be easily affected by one or two students who may have complex needs not recognized by a standardized assessment such as the PAT. However, it is still important to note areas of success and areas for improvement:

- Grade 6 students were overall successful with 66% achieving acceptable results, and 17% achieving Excellence in English Language Arts. The results were very similar in Mathematics.
- Grade 9 students had solid results in English Language Arts, with 67% achieving acceptable and 11% of the 9 students achieving Excellence. Mathematics for Grade 9 was very challenging with 11% of students achieving the acceptable standard. This will be an area for staff to carefully review to prepare students for 2024 assessments.

- Overall, Tomahawk School PAT results are a bit lower than that Alberta average which means our staff and students have room for improvement. Careful review of the PAT data will aid our understanding of which specific areas may need to be addressed.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP (Grade 6-9)

Student Leadership is a program offered to all students in Grade 6 to 9. Each year a number of students are willing to volunteer to lead a number of key activities for our school population. This important leadership opportunity continues to grow with more students joining each year. The student leadership team has a number of key duties:

- Master of Ceremonies (MC) at monthly school assemblies and special events.
- Organize and promote special events for students such as TWIN DAY, BACKPACK DAY, Candygrams for holidays, etc.
- Assisting the secretary by covering the office phone over lunch time.
- Announcing school announcements each morning
- Making and serving a healthy, light breakfast each morning to all students
- Maintaining information on the school sign out front of the school
- Setting up and taking down the chairs for all school assemblies
- Promoting and maintaining our school recycling program

Last year, four of our Grade 9 student leaders participated in a provincial student leadership seminar and all students expressed interest in continuing with student leadership in high school.

It is very encouraging to see our student leaders building important leadership skills that will continue to serve them in the years ahead. Tomahawk School benefits from the fantastic work done by these dedicated students, but as well, the students benefit as they develop their personal leadership.

COUNSELING SUPPORT

Tomahawk School is able to provide all students with access to a certified counselor weekly. The counselor is at Tomahawk School for only one day a week, but the counselor works very hard to ensure that all students seeking support receive both individual and group support on a regular basis. Across Alberta, there has been a recognition of the mental health needs for students of all ages. Tomahawk School recognizes this concern, and encourages all students to access the counselor for confidential support.

At the end of the school year, our counselor left for a new position. In 2023/2024 a new counselor will be retained, with the hope of maintaining that position moving forward.. As well, we recognize that more counseling time would also be beneficial, however, at present all students seeking counseling are being seen on a regular basis. Approximately 20% of our student population access the counselor. As well, the counselor presents on important topics such as bullying, friendship, and anxiety to all students during class health time.

Factors influencing results outside of our control

Learning From Home

- A learning loss from Covid online learning continues to be identified. It will take a few years of intervention to make up that gap. Thankfully, specific interventions are in place for literacy and numeracy aimed at reducing the learning loss.

New Curriculum and Professional Development

- The Alberta Government has moved forward on introducing a new curriculum starting with Grade K to 3 English Language Arts and Mathematics. Teachers are supported with quality professional development around teaching the new curriculum but it takes time for staff and students to adjust. Teachers at Tomahawk do not have another teacher on staff for collaboration with the same grade level, leaving the bulk of collaboration to occur on PD days.

Demographics

- 10% of students were absent for over 10 days across the school year. Chronic absenteeism is an issue for a handful of students.
- 32 of our students are supported by an IEP with learning, emotional, or behavioural disabilities.

Timing

- Most assessments and screeners are given in September, but some students are still experiencing a lag from summer. Students often improve significantly as they adjust back into the rigor of school. A comparison between assessments from the beginning of the school year to the end of the school year often gives a clearer picture of individual student progress.

Conclusion and Lessons Learned

- LITERACY is improving. Tomahawk School has a strong program of intervention and effective classroom practice that is making a positive effect.
- NUMERACY is lagging. Numeracy intervention will be implemented to support students at-risk, and classroom practice will provide a focus on foundational math skills appropriate for each grade level.
- LEARNING NEEDS are being identified and supported. However, more Educational Assistant support would allow greater student success and progress.
- STUDENT LEADERSHIP is thriving and allows students to see themselves making a difference at Tomahawk School.
- COUNSELING SUPPORT is available for all students from a certified counselor. PSD and Tomahawk School continue to seek ways to improve access.

- The Alberta Education Assurance SURVEY showed areas of concern, particularly around teaching and learning. Specific steps were taken to improve this area.
- Rural schools around the province are struggling with demographic declines. Tomahawk School maintained a school population of 100 students, however, the population is not growing significantly. Tomahawk School continues to share the RURAL ADVANTAGE of a small, rural school with small classes and unique program opportunities.
- DATA COLLECTION is essential to our understanding of student needs and success. We will continue to utilize the best assessments and analyze the data collected to positively support student success.
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT will continue to be provided for all staff to maintain effective, current and responsive teaching practices at every grade level and to effectively implement the new curriculum as it is introduced.
- WELL BEING for students and staff must always be considered as we know that wellness is the foundational support for a successful school.

THE RURAL ADVANTAGE

Tomahawk School will continue to promote the advantages of a small, rural school. Our students are receiving a quality education with the benefit of small class sizes. Our students also enjoy learning in nature as they explore our ten acre school location. Our School Council, local families and community are deeply committed and supportive of our school. Tomahawk School has the rural advantage.

Thank you for your review of this report.

Sincerely,

Ms. Fran Bell

Principal of Tomahawk School

Tomahawk School Council Report for the year 2022 - 2023



Executive:

Chair: Desiree Janzen

Vice-Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Carmen Vanderwell

Treasurer: Maria Androschuk

Meetings were held MONTHLY on the third Thursday of each month. Meetings were held ONLINE, with the last meeting in June a hybrid meeting - Online and in person. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for September 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM in person at the school. All executive positions will be open at that meeting, in particular, the Chair position must be filled.

Normal attendees were the three executives, Principal, Trustee, and 3-4 parents. Total: 8-9.

Highlights of the year:

- School volunteers completed a CASINO night in August/ 2022. The funds of approximately \$19,000.00 were sent to the Friends of Tomahawk (the financial arm of the School Council)
- The School Council provided a very LARGE amount of busing funds this year. The increased cost of bussing for field trips has made an impact on the school council budget. This year the School Council provided **\$11,000.00** for field trip bussing costs, plus an additional \$1400 to help with costs of the Ski Day. It was discussed at the final meeting that these costs would not be sustainable moving forward. The Principal will begin to look for additional sources of funding for bus costs and/or limit the field trips taken by teachers and students. In comparison, in the prior year the School Council paid approximately \$4000 for bussing costs. The increase is due to the bussing costs charged from the contractors, and a few additional field trips this year.
- School Council/ F of T raised funds this year through the sale of Hot Lunch, Flowers, and school supplies. The budget is healthy due to few funds being spent over the last few years with limited school travel, but it is noted that less funds are being raised through fundraisers. Casino funds are important to sustain a healthy budget.
- The School Council/ F of T held a Christmas Extravaganza at the local Agra centre. This event will be an annual fundraiser and community event that provides a marketplace for local vendors, and a Christmas shopping market just for children.
- Hot Lunch continues to be one of the most visible, and appreciated, services from the School Council. This year an effort was made to increase the number of volunteers as two ladies do the bulk of the work. Three other volunteers are now assisting.
- School Council/ F of T are exploring the possibility of extending ETransfers to parents for payments for hot lunch and other fundraising events.

- School SWAG prices were shared with the Council and items were purchased by the school community this spring. T-shirts, hats and hoodies are being worn by many students!
- School Council is well informed about all aspects of the school through the Principal's report. Discussion was held regarding the low enrollment, particularly in the younger grades, the School Development plan was reviewed, changes in staffing, and the loss of the portables to other PSD schools. The loss of the portables was difficult at first for the school community, but it is now anticipated that a new gym will be coming as a part of these changes.
- School Council continues to discuss ways to involve more parents and ensure that all parents are aware of the services provided by the School Council. Next year a brochure will be made outlining the primary purposes of the School Council and an information booth will be held at the "Meet the Teacher Night" in September.

LOOKING AHEAD...

School Council anticipates the following items will need to be addressed next year:

- A new Chairperson will need to be found
- Ideally, a Vice Chair as well. It is expected that other executives will continue in their roles.
- A Playground Renovation Committee will need to be formed to help complete grants. Two pieces of playground equipment have been identified as needing to be replaced asap.
- A GYM renovation is expected starting next summer to be ready for the Fall of 2024. This is highly anticipated by the whole school community.
- School Council will continue to cover the busing costs for field trips, however, a budget will be set to ensure that the costs are able to be covered. The school principal and the School Council will monitor this closely as the year progresses.
- School Council will connect with other councils through attendance at COSC, and other PSD events.
- School Council will continue to grow involvement from other parents/guardians.

Respectfully submitted,

Desiree Janzen - School Council Chair

Fran Bell - Principal