



Hope everyone is staying warm this winter. We have certainly had more snow than usual. I thought I'd send a note to update folks on what had been happening this winter at Thompson.

**Professional Development**

• Communicating Student Learning

This has been our second year where our whole staff has been focussing on student assessment, and using ePortfolio as a communication tool for student learning. This year, we have narrowed our focus to explicitly build a culture of thinking in our classrooms. Teachers are using new teaching strategies to “making thinking visible.” Students are responding to this instruction by making ‘their’ thinking more visible as well. This can be seen by the work they are doing in their ePortfolios. If you would like to see what all our classes are doing in this area, connect to the link off our webpage called [“Our Story.”](#)



*Parents are invited to access their child’s ePortfolio on Tuesday February 18<sup>th</sup> to see their child’s most recent work, as well as a summative progress report from their teacher. This date for access is later than previously advertised because our school was recently invited to pilot a “NEW” reporting format that the Ministry of Education is considering as their new format for progress reports in the province. Because the more valuable, and detailed assessment information is found in the ePortfolio, this new ministry form, done through an application called “MyED” can be described as a summative assessment offering performance scales based on student work from September until now. These reports are intentionally brief, so that the emphasis can be placed on the ePortfolio.*

• First Peoples’ Principles

Another curricular focus we have been exploring is the adoption of our First Peoples’ Principles, and making connection to that in our teaching. We as a staff learned more about this during our last Pro-D day, and will bring more of that to our students both in class and during our multi-aged team activity scheduled for Feb 21<sup>st</sup>.

• Core Competencies and SOGI

On Feb 12<sup>th</sup> we had a Curriculum workshop about the new Core Competency features in our curriculum, and next we will be updated on curricular connections to SOGI.

*Reminder – It is a Professional Development day on February 14 (tomorrow), so there will be no school for students. Also, Monday February 17<sup>th</sup> is the Family Day holiday, so there will be no school on Monday either.*



### Learning Environments

We are thrilled to report that all of our classes now have data projectors, and although we have yet advertised this fact to parents, the students have definitely noticed that they no longer use individual desks (like the ones we used when we went to elementary school), but they now sit at tables instead. All classes have new furniture. With the onset of the new curriculum, the learning environment has been intentionally designed to be much more group-oriented and student-centred. In terms of a learning environment that has changes 'unintentionally', we unfortunately had a flood in Mr. Stokes' classroom when the pipes to their heater froze a few weeks ago. Like always, the class made the best of the bad situation, and they will soon be heading back to a freshly remodelled classroom.



### Student Council

Student Council is collecting socks for people who are homeless. This is a reminder to please send socks to school for this initiative.

### Thompson Basketball Program

The Girls' and Boy's grade 6/7 basketball program is up and running. It will culminate with a basketball tournament at Burnett Secondary school on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Coach McCaskill and Coach Juhasz are very impressed with the effort and enthusiasm of their players. In March, we will be starting a fun grade 5 program for girls and boys.

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## Important Dates:

<b>February 14</b>	<b>Professional Development Day (no school for students)</b>
<b>February 17</b>	<b>Family Day Holiday</b>
February 21	Hot lunch day (pre-ordered online)
February 26	PAC Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
February 26 – 27	Family Photo night
February 27	Pink Shirt Day
February 28	Pizza day and Bake sale (Grade 7 fundraiser)
March 6	Hot lunch day (pre-ordered online)
March 13	Talent Show
<b>March 16 – 27</b>	<b>Spring Break (no school for students)</b>
April 3	Hot lunch day (pre-ordered online)
<b>April 10</b>	<b>Good Friday (no school for students)</b>
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Easter Monday (no school for students)</b>
April 14	Class/Team/Panorama Photo at 9:00 a.m.
April 15	PAC Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
April 17	Pizza day
April 21	Parent Teacher Conference – <b>early dismissal at 1:45 p.m.</b>
April 22	Parent Teacher Conference – <b>early dismissal at 1:45 p.m.</b>
May 1	Hot lunch day (pre-ordered online)
May 8	Pizza day
May 11	Kindergarten/Grade 1 and Grades 6/7 Immunizations
<b>May 15</b>	<b>Professional Development Day (no school for students)</b>
<b>May 18</b>	<b>Victoria Day (no school for students)</b>
May 19 – 21	Elevate Ultimate
May 22	Hot lunch day (pre-ordered online)
May 27	PAC Meeting at 9:00 a.m. (Annual General Meeting)
June 5	Pizza day and Sports day
June 12	Hot lunch day (pre-ordered online)
June 18	Year End Assembly at 10:15 a.m.
June 19	Pizza day
June 23	Grade 7 Dinner and Dance at 4:30 p.m.
June 25	Farewell Assembly at 9:00 a.m. Last day for students
<b>June 26</b>	<b>Administrative Day (no school for students)</b>