



We are all on a learning journey together - Communicating Student Learning Update

Today you will receive your child's Mid-Year Progress Report. This is the 3rd part of a 5-part initiative that our entire staff has set out to do with the intention of communicating more clearly with your child and with you about your child's progress. The curriculum, and how we teach it has evolved, and we are doing the same. The reports will talk about your child's strengths, area for growth, and next steps for their learning. In addition, you will find artifacts of their progress in their ePortfolio.

We have our students embark on inquiries all the time in class. It is the best way to learn. We too as a staff are embarking on our own inquiry to investigate how best to communicate student learning using ePortfolio as a tool. While we wait for the Ministry and School District to assemble a report template, we have devised our own. Because we know this document will change, we are less concerned about the shape and form of the document at this time, and more concerned about the progressive experience your children have while they are taught, assessed, and made aware of their own self while in the learning process.

By now you have visited your child's portfolio. Portfolios from class to class will look different. At this early stage of our inquiry, two main factors affect what is in your child's portfolio. First is your child's age/ability to independently input their own artifacts of learning into the ePortfolio, and second is your child's teacher's experience with ePortfolio and technology in general. Some of our teachers have taken on this learning challenge this year, and have already been working with this tool for 5 months. Others have been doing this for 3 years. Thus, our ePortfolios will look different from class to class, and will have varying amounts of content. Depending on how your child's teacher communicates with you, some of you will receive a paper copy of the mid-year report, while others will receive only digital version.

I have mentioned this at our PAC meetings, but as the Principal, I am incredibly proud of our entire staff for taking on this challenge as a collective. It is a lot of extra work on their part to learn and implement this. As we continue on this learning journey and gain skills, our ePortfolios and approach will evolve. Already we have learned so much, and already know what to do differently next time to take our learning to the next level.

Why are we doing this? The new approach ensures that the teacher, student, and parents are all directly involved in the process. The teacher, child, and parent have jobs to do to support the learning process. It makes several aspects of communicating student learning intentional:

- 1) Teachers are assessing and commenting on student strengths, areas for growth and the next steps that are required to take learning to the next level.
- 2) Students are aware and able to talk about their strengths, areas for growth, and the next steps that are required to take learning to the next level.
- 3) And parents are expected to be part of the process, and share their thoughts and feelings about their child's progress. Yes, there is a section in the ePortfolio that you can comment on your child's work and/or what your child's teacher has commented with regards to your child's next steps to learning.

Remembering that our intention is to improve how we communicate student learning, we hope our student-centred approach will have our students more aware of their strengths and what they need to do next. Instead of talking about everything in general terms (the old way), teachers are honing in on, and going deeper with the most important aspects of your child's learning, and that you as parents are more connected to the process. Also, at any time, please do not hesitate to connect with your child's teacher if you have questions.

Bearing in mind your part of the triangle, I'd like to leave you with some homework. I'd like to encourage you to take moment, sit with your child and look at their Mid-Year report and have a conversation. Celebrate the strengths, chat about the areas for growth and maybe together come up with your own plan to reach goals. Lastly, your input is important to us. While you are in the ePortfolio, please leave a comment in the comment section. If you'd prefer to not leave a comment, please click the star button so your child's teacher knows you've seen it.

We are all on a learning journey together.
Bill Juhasz
Principal



Last year we ran across Canada, now we're running across Europe and Asia.

Our jogging program for all students from Kindergarten to Grade 7 is continuing. We aspire to run three times/week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (weather permitting).

As a review for our new students, step one is to get everyone participating, trying their best, and have the mindset of striving to improve. Step two will be for students to make improvements. We will know that we are making improvement because we will be timing everyone periodically. Already there are some athletes who can run the whole distance without stopping. It is also obvious that this opportunity will transform others who are struggling to even run 200m. This initiative is not designed to be a competition with others, but to be a physical and mental challenge for each individual to persevere and aspire to improve their personal time, all the while building their cardiovascular capacity and strength.

Our initial goal for individual students will be for each to jog 1 KM (3 times around our school) without stopping to walk. As a school-wide goal, teachers have been tallying up their class KMs for the week, and together adding up our school-wide total of KMs run by everyone. We will show our school's progress by mapping our progress on a large map of Europe and Asia that is displayed in the front hallway. We started this run in November in Lisbon Portugal, and are almost in Athens Greece. So far we have run nearly 5000K kms. It will be interesting to see how long it will take us to get to Tokyo. We'll keep you posted.

A few other tips/notes:

- Parents are welcome to join us
- The parking lot will have limited access from 10:00-10:10pm for safety reasons.
- Please ensure that your child has suitable footwear for running. It is very difficult to run in boots.
- Parents can help by providing additional opportunities for your children to exercise outside of school. This could happen by signing them up for community sports and/or activities at the Thompson Community Centre.



Our International guests from China are here!

We're off to a great start with our new friends from China who have settled in nicely under the leadership of their teacher, Ms. Kim. They have a very busy schedule full of exciting events during the day, evening and weekends. They've been mixing with other Thompson classrooms and coming out to basketball. They will also be presenting at our upcoming assembly this Friday at 1:15pm.



Celebrating Vaisakhi at Thompson on April 12

We will have a planning meeting in the library on February 22 at 6:15pm (during movie night).

If you would like to be on the planning committee, please come with your ideas on how we can make this a special day for the whole school. Whether you celebrate Vaisakhi or not, we hope you can join us.

* **For those who don't know, Vaisakhi is a festival-like celebration of the Sikh New Year.**

Reminders:

Sharing Assembly Friday Feb 8th at 1:15pm

Friday is also a School Spirit Day.
Theme is **"Flashback to the 1980s"**



IMPORTANT DATES

- February 7, Thursday – Communicating Student Learning (CSL) Report #3
- February 8, Friday – Pizza Day
- February 15, Friday – Professional Development Day (school closed)
- February 18, Monday – Family Day - (school closed)
- February 20, Wednesday – PAC meeting at 9:00 a.m.
- February 22, Friday - Hot Lunch Day (preordered online)
 - Movie Night 6pm - save the date
 - Vaisakhi Celebration Planning Meeting 6:15p.m.
- March 1, Friday – Pizza Day
- March 1, Friday – The Walrus Performance at 1:30 p.m.
- March 8, Friday – Hot Lunch Day (preordered online)
- March 11 to 15 – Talent Week
- March 18 to 29 – Spring Break



Gung Hay Fat Choi