



NIPAWIN SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 61

PREMIER'S BOARD OF EDUCATION AWARD

NAME OF SCHOOL DIVISION: Nipawin School Division No. 61

NAME OF BOARD CHAIR: Mrs. Maryanna Burton

NAME OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: Mr. Jim Sekulich

NAME OF TYPE OF PROGRAM YOU ARE NOMINATING:

Community Education Programs: An Integrated Services Approach

GOALS OF THE PROGRAM:

It is widely accepted that the core function of the schools is to provide educational programming. This core function is being hampered by factors that influence a student's learning and, to an ever increasing extent, these factors are outside the direct influence of educators. To address this issue, the Board of Education for the Nipawin School Division has provided direct and indirect support for the development and implementation of community education programs. These programs have been developed within the framework of the integrated services model. Thus, programs extend beyond the traditional mandate of education and into the human service areas of social services, health, justice, and include community partners such as the Town of Nipawin and Nipawin Metis Local 134. These programs are not solely the school's programs; these programs belong to the community and the agencies that provide human services in our communities.

The primary object of these programs is to address the multiple needs of children and youth. The programs are inclusive, open and based on educational excellence. In realizing this goal, each program respects the diversity of children and youth in the community and is culturally responsive.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Over the last four years, the Board of Education has supported the development of the following community education programs:

- Youth Counsellor
- Youth Group
- Community Justice
- Elder/Outreach Program
- Outreach Pre-school
- Nutrition for Kids
- Early/Extended Learning Opportunities Program
- Student Support Centre

DIRECT BOARD INFLUENCE AND PARTICIPATION IN THE INNOVATION:

The Board of Education has provided direct support to these programs in terms of budgeted dollars for new personnel, capital projects, equipment and supplies. In addition, the Board has provided in-kind support that includes allocating the time of existing personnel, the use of facilities and equipment. By providing these supports, the Board of Education has taken a leadership role in establishing the philosophy of community education through an integrated services approach. Students in the Nipawin School Division will surely benefit from the Board's leadership in this area.

INNOVATIVE NATURE OF THE PROGRAM OR PROJECT:

The conceptual framework of community education programs, delivered through an integrated approach, is not new. The innovation, in this case, rests with the actualization of this conceptual framework in the community of Nipawin and, increasingly, throughout the Nipawin School Division. The Board's direction has been to extend the concept beyond the school simply using human service agencies and community groups to assist in the delivery of educational programs. The Board wants the various agencies and community groups to work in a collaborative and co-operative frame to address the needs of children and youth. The result of the Board taking this direction has been the establishment of a number of community education programs. These programs have emerged from partnership and a shared responsibility for the welfare of children and youth. No one agency owns the programs.

SUSTAINING OF THE INNOVATION WITHIN THE PRESENT SYSTEM OR SCHOOL

The partnerships we have developed over the last four years have brought not only financial sustainability to the programs, but there is a belief on the part of the partners that by working together and collectively supporting the program, no one group will be left alone. We all have a responsibility to ensure that the program is sustained.

COST OF THE INNOVATION RELATED TO THE BENEFITS ACHIEVED:

Program Name	Total Cost	Benefit
Youth Counsellor	\$47,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 161 students served annually • Interagency programs involvement • School presentations
Youth Group	\$30,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32 children and youth served during the summer program • Activities are cultural, recreational, and family events • Provides a meeting place for children and youth • 56 children and youth were involved in an assessment profile
Community Justice	in kind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling and mediation for Young Offender programs
Elder/Outreach	\$90,680.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of children and youth in after school and evening programs. • Continuity provided by a year round program. Children have continuing programs during school breaks. • Families feel more connected to the school. • Elder provides a highly valued service. • Transition to school and to other schools in our system is made easier for students. • The self-esteem of student is developed.
Outreach Pre-School	\$20,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 families were part of the program last year. • Parents are involved in program development and implementation. Program development is flexible so that parent needs can be addressed. • Parent education sessions are a part of the program. • Parent support network is developed. • Students have a positive transition to school.

Nipawin Nutrition for Kids	\$19,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noon lunches are provided to 35-40 students daily.
Early/Extended Learning Opportunity Pre-School	\$26,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition to school for pre-school children with severe and multiple disabilities. • Assessment and the development of personal program plans can take place before the child enters kindergarten. • Resource support for pre-school children designated disabilities. • “Circle of Friend” supports the integration and inclusion of students with disabilities in programs. Typically developing students and designated students are part of the learning activities. • Program development involves parents, teachers, resource teachers, health personnel, and administration. • Social skills program supports the child's needs as they learn to play in larger groups. The programs include “expert play partners”.
Student Support Centre	\$90,164.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 students were part of the Student Support Centre during the 2000-2001 school year. • Re-entry is available for students who leave school. • Students in grades 7 to 12 are supported by this program. • 44 credit courses were offered. • Students earned 72 credits. • 7 students graduated from Grade 12. • 7 students were teen parents. • 6 students were involved in parenting courses. • 9 students were involved in the production of a video “We Are Alcohol” and performed it at the Yorkton Drama Festival.

PROGRAMS DETAILS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

YOUTH COUNSELLOR

The benefit resulting from the Youth Counsellor's work is best understood by his work in the following:

- Tragic Events Support
- Presenter - school prevention and information initiatives
- Interagency Programs:
 - Body Walk
 - Brain Walk
 - Preschool
 - Drugs and Alcohol
 - Conflict Resolution
 - Parent/Child Mediation
 - Anger Management
 - Bullying
 - Family Dysfunction
 - Suicide
 - Parenting Strategies
- Interagency involvement, by working in collaboration and co-operation with:
 - R.C.M.P.
 - Social Services
 - Mental Health
 - Public Health
 - Doctors
 - Crisis Centre
 - Victim Services
 - Outreach Program

YOUTH GROUP

- The Youth Group offers programs and activities for children and youth. There are two groups, 6-12 year olds and youth aged 13-17.
- The Youth Group provides a variety of activity centres and, in the future, a drop in centre.
- The Summer Youth Program was part of the Outreach Summer Program.
- Activities include cultural, recreational, and family events
- A Youth Profile has recently been completed. This study included 56 "at risk" children and youth and will identify the needs the program hopes to address in the coming year.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE COMMITTEE

- At this time, we provide support for Young Offenders programs. These supports include counselling and mediation.

ELDER/OUTREACH

- The Outreach Program is a program that operates throughout the year and includes special programs run during the summer holidays, Christmas holidays, spring break, and Easter holidays.
- The Outreach Program focuses on family contacts and acting as advocates for parents and children.
- Outreach workers support students at school and provide after school activities – crafts, cultural events.
- Outreach programs are integrated with the operation of the school and community based activities.
- Workers act as advocates for families
- The Outreach Program assists students in transitioning between schools.
- The outreach worker focuses on building a student's self-esteem and thereby helps students develop their courage and sense of belonging.
- The Elder is an important part of the Outreach Program.
- An emphasis on continual growth enhances the quality of the program.
- A hot noon lunch was provided during the summer program.

OUTREACH PRE-SCHOOL

- Parents are involved in the program development and the implementation of the program. They support their children in the classroom and become comfortable working with the pre-school worker.
- Parent sessions provide opportunities for parents to learn about topics they have selected and to address issues that are of concern to them.
- During the time parents were together at the pre-school, they have developed a support network.
- Parents who have been part of the program have returned to do presentations.
- Connections to the Outreach Workers are established.
- Transition for pre-school students into kindergarten has been made easier. These children are prepared for the transition.

NUTRITION FOR KIDS

- This is our oldest program and it was established in approximately 1991.
- The program provides lunches to 35 – 40 students daily. We have had up to 60 students in the program.
- The program relies on a community volunteer committee.
- The committee raises money through grants, in-kind contributions and special fund raisers such as the annual soup and sandwich lunch.

EARLY/EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- This pre-school program provides an integrated and inclusive educational environment for children who are severely or multiply disabled.
- Designated pre-school children are provided with resource support and specialized programming.
- Easing the transition to schools is one of the purposes. The program operates in the elementary school 2 afternoons a week for the entire school year.
- Assessment and the development of personal program plans can take place before the child enters kindergarten.
- Resource support for pre-school children with designated disabilities.
- A “Circle of Friends” provides an opportunity to have student with disabilities interact with students from other classrooms. Typically developing students and designated students are part of the learning activities.
- Program development involves parents, teachers, resource teachers, health personnel, and administration.
- Social skills programs support the child’s needs as they learn to play in larger groups. The programs include “expert play partners”.

STUDENT SUPPORT CENTRE

- This program has been designed to serve students who would not be in school, or are likely going to drop out in the near future.
- 45 students were part of the program during the 2000-2001 school year.
 - 34 Division IV and 11 Division III
 - 27 were full time students
- 44 different credit courses were in subject areas covering grades 7 to 12.
 - 142 courses were attempted
 - 72 credits were earned
- The Student Support Centre offers counselling and parenting courses. During the 2000-2001 school year, 43 students received some counselling.
- Special activities included the production of “We Are Alcohol” video and attending the Yorkton Drama Festival.

- The centre includes an Odyssey Learning System and Columbia Learning Lab.
- Outreach Worker provides support to students who are part of the Student Support Centre.
- The flexible timetable offered at the centre accommodates teen parents and independent students who work an opportunity to attend school.