

2023-2024
School Learning Plan

SCHOOL STORY

Mount Pleasant Elementary School is a vibrant educational institution nestled in the heart of Vancouver on the unceded and the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nation. The school is an integral part of the thriving Mount Pleasant neighborhood, serving as a hub for learning, diversity, and community engagement.

With an enrollment of 260 students and a dedicated team of 40 staff members, Mount Pleasant Elementary is committed to providing a welcoming space for children and parents of all backgrounds. The school proudly values diversity, recognizing the richness that different perspectives and cultures bring to our learning environment.

Over the years, we have passionately focused on social justice, fostering a sense of awareness and advocacy among students. As we continue to champion inclusivity, our current emphasis has shifted towards delivering relevant and accessible literacy and numeracy instruction to all learners. We believe in providing a well-rounded education that equips students with the skills and knowledge needed for success in an ever-evolving world.

At Mount Pleasant Elementary, inclusivity is not just a philosophy, but a practice. We are dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of all students.

We are proud to provide specialized services for students with Indigenous ancestry. We are also committed to reconciliation and enhancing the knowledge and teaching the value of Indigenous cultures and histories to all learners. Recognizing the importance of honoring and preserving Indigenous cultures and ways of learning, our school is committed to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for all.

As we look towards the future, Mount Pleasant Elementary remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering a love for learning, embracing diversity, and preparing students for a bright and inclusive future. We invite you to join our community, where every child is valued, and every background is celebrated.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS?

Mount Pleasant students are well-versed in advocacy for others and advocacy for self. In the report cards teachers regularly give feedback on how students own their learning and advocate to be included with their individual learning profiles. Formally the students give staff feedback on how their needs ought to be met at goal-setting conferences as well in the self-assessment activities for report cards.

Mount Pleasant students see their strength in the inter-personal and social-emotional domains and many set goals for themselves in academic areas.

AS A SCHOOL COMMUNITY, WE ARE WORKING ON THE FOLLOWING TO:

Improve student achievement in literacy and numeracy, physical and mental well-being, and belonging

Year 1: Scanning and Focusing

Current Performance in Language Arts: Currently many of our students are performing where there is much room for improvement. Here is the breakdown of our report card data:

Emerging: 21 students (8%)

Developing: 101 students (38.7%)

Proficient: 94 students (36%)

Extending: 38 students (14.6%)

Current Performance in Numeracy: The data indicates that over half of the students are proficient, which is a positive sign. However, there's a significant portion in the developing stage, and a smaller group that's emerging.

Emerging: 16 students (6.3%)

Developing: 63 students (24.9%)

Proficient: 130 students (51.4%)

Extending: 44 students (17.4%)

Objective: Utilize a variety of measurement tools to identify specific literacy and numeracy needs among students. This will allow staff to take a deeper dive into the needs indicated by the report card data.

Actions: Implement the **3 Step Write** and **Vernon Measurement Assessment Tools** for literacy and numeracy evaluation.

- Employ self-assessment strategies to encourage student reflection and ownership of learning.
- Define learning standards for numeracy in both **curricular competency** and **content**.
- Decide in primary and intermediate team meetings what common measures to be used for numeracy assessment

Year 2: Learning and Taking Action

- **Objective:** Strengthen connections with students and caregivers, and enhance professional development for staff to improve student outcomes in literacy and numeracy.
- **Actions:**
 - Foster meaningful engagement with students and caregivers to support their educational journey.
 - Increase professional development opportunities focused on effective literacy and numeracy instruction.

- Prioritize funding through the finance committee to support these initiatives.

Year 3: Checking and Reflecting

- **Objective:** Evaluate the impact of the implemented strategies and refine instructional approaches to further improve literacy and numeracy.
- **Actions:**
 - Assess the effectiveness of actions taken in the previous years using established metrics.
 - Identify areas requiring additional support or intervention.
 - Fine-tune instructional methods to ensure all students are receiving the support they need to succeed.
 - Employ self-assessment strategies to encourage student reflection and ownership of learning.
 - Define learning standards for numeracy in both **curricular competency** and **content**.

Improve equity

Equity Improvement Plan for Mount Pleasant Elementary

We aim to create an inclusive educational environment that celebrates diversity, promotes equal opportunities, and supports every member of the school community.

Current situation economic equity: Mount Pleasant Elementary School is taking steps to support students and their families. Here's a summary of the assistance provided:

- Lunch Assistance: Approximately 35 students are on the VSB lunch program (about 13.9% of the student population)
- Weekly Grocery Gift Cards: 10 families – (not same families as are recipients of weekly grocery hampers) limited not by need but by the amount of donations the school receives
- Grocery Delivery: 10 families – (not same families as grocery gift cards) limited not by need but by the amount of families that can be serviced by our charitable partners in grocery delivery

These initiatives are crucial in ensuring that all students have access to the nutrition they need, which is essential for their academic success and overall well-being.

Current situation academic equity: Mount Pleasant Elementary with a total population of **251 students**, has 34 students (or 13.55%) ministry designated as having specific learning or behavioural needs. All students are fully integrated into regular classes with the help of 8 School and Student Support Workers (SSW-A), three resource teachers, and a 0.4 FTE counsellor.

Strategic Goals

1. **Community Engagement:** Strengthen partnerships with the **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)** and local community organizations to recognize and celebrate the diverse accomplishments of our neighborhood groups.
2. **Educational Excellence:** Implement and refine teaching strategies based on the **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)** framework to cater to diverse learning needs and styles.

3. **Barrier Reduction:** Identify and mitigate barriers that affect students from lower economic backgrounds, new Canadians, and those with diverse abilities to ensure equitable access to education.

Action Plan

1. **Celebrating Diversity:**

- Organize monthly events in collaboration with the PAC and community leaders to showcase cultural traditions, languages, and achievements.
- Create a 'Diversity Wall' where students can share their heritage and personal stories, fostering a sense of pride and belonging.

2. **Universal Design for Learning:**

- Provide professional development for teachers on UDL principles to design flexible curriculums that accommodate individual learning differences.
- Work with district learning services to incorporate assistive technologies and resources to support varied learners, including those with disabilities. Offer lunch and learn opportunities for all staff to learn about and help integrate these technologies.

3. **Supporting Economic Equity:**

- Establish a 'Needs-Based Resource Fund' with the assistance of PAC and private donors to assist students requiring financial support for educational materials, field trips, and extracurricular activities.

4. **Welcoming New Canadians:**

- Develop a mentorship program pairing new Canadian students with peers to help them navigate the school system and integrate into the community.
- Monthly 900-930 coffee meet-ups in the activity/lunch-room for new Canadians and new Mount Pleasant Families to meet with YFW and with PAC representatives

5. **Accessibility and Inclusion:**

- Revisit the 2022 accessibility audit of the school facilities and implement necessary modifications to ensure physical accessibility for all both for physical and gender diversity
- Lunch and learn opportunities for staff to learn more about inclusive practices and sensitivity towards students and parents with diverse abilities, diverse cultural and political backgrounds, and gender diversity

By embracing these strategic goals and actions, Mount Pleasant will move closer towards the goal equity and inclusion, where every student has the opportunity to succeed and feel valued.

Continue on our journey of reconciliation with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit

Our Commitment to Reconciliation

Our school is dedicated to a journey of Reconciliation with the Indigenous community, recognizing the importance of mutual respect, understanding, and partnership. We are committed to ongoing actions that honour First Nations, Metis and Inuit heritage and contributions.

Ongoing and Future Activities

- **Land Acknowledgements:** Continue the practice of acknowledging the traditional territories. Both student and adult led, at all school events and public gatherings as a sign of respect and recognition. Acknowledgements will be increasingly personalized and used as a time to dive into history, appreciation, and commitment to Reconciliation.
- **Cultural Integration:**
 - **Artist in Residence:** Collaborate with artist Alex Ramirez to integrate Squamish weaving techniques into student art projects, enriching their cultural appreciation.
 - **Guest Speakers:** Host speakers like, in the past, Elder Brian Macdonald from the Dene Nation in 2023 and, in this coming year, Stacey Gallagher in 2025 to share Indigenous perspectives and wisdom.
- **Cultural Practices:**
 - Conduct smudging ceremonies with IEEW Dena Galay across all divisions, fostering an atmosphere of spiritual awareness and cleansing.
- **Educational Resources:**
 - Display the **First Peoples Principles of Learning** in every classroom to embed Indigenous ways of knowing into our educational ethos.
 - Perform another library audit (last one was in 2019) in partnership with the Indigenous Education Department to ensure materials reflect and support the goals of Reconciliation.

Community and Family Engagement

- **Parent Advisory Committee (PAC):** Strengthen ties with the PAC through monthly welcoming breakfasts, connecting families with valuable resources and support.
- **Family Support Team:** Our team, including a counsellor, Youth and Family Worker, and Indigenous Education Enhancement Worker, will continue assisting families with accessing educational and food security resources, such as Jordan's Principle and CityReach programs.

Celebrating Indigenous Contributions

- **School Events:** Ensure Indigenous community members are honored at events like the Mount Pleasant Remembrance Day Assembly and Sports Day, highlighting the achievements of Indigenous veterans and athletes (e.g. Olympians).

Continuous Partnership

- Seek out and embrace opportunities to collaborate with the Indigenous community in Mount Pleasant, aiming to amplify Indigenous influences and voices within our school and beyond.

Through these concerted efforts, we aspire to build a school culture that not only acknowledges but actively participates in the path towards Reconciliation, fostering a deeper understanding, and respect for Indigenous worldviews and knowledge.

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE'RE ON TRACK?

Monitoring and Evaluation

- For academic advancement we will be sharing data from School Wide Writes, Vernon Assessment within primary and intermediate teacher groups
- For physical and emotional health we will use data gathered from the Student Learning Survey, MDI and EDI
- Establish an **Equity Committee** comprising school staff, students, and PAC representation to oversee the implementation of the plan. This committee will meet twice during the school year for a lunch debrief.
- Conduct bi-annual surveys to gather feedback from the school community on the effectiveness of the equity initiatives and school initiatives on our journey to Reconciliation
- Review with staff and PAC and adjust the plan annually based on feedback and changing needs of the school community.