



We at McIsaac School/École McIsaac believe our school should be a place where we feel safe and accepted for who we are. When we use polite words and get along, school is fun for everyone.

Nous, a McIsaac School/École McIsaac croyons que notre école devrait être un endroit où nous nous sentons en sécurité et acceptés pour ce que nous sommes. Lorsque nous sommes polis et respectons les autres, l'école est un endroit agréable pour tous.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,
Welcome to a new school year. As the new principal at McIsaac I look forward to working with you to support your child's educational experience and to make it a positive one. There are many things we can do to support each other in the process and one of them is to ensure open lines of communication. At McIsaac we will use a variety of methods to keep those lines open, one of them being a monthly newsletter, which Mrs. Kathryn Church has generously volunteered to compile for us.

There are many ways to become involved in your child's education and one of them is to volunteer your time and your talents. Since we all have different schedules and talents it would be unfair to expect all of you to do the same things for our school. If you feel you have something to offer in terms of support for curriculum, sports, music, field trips etc. please let us know. There may even be things, which you can do from your own home. The parent advisory council will be running programs, which you might like to become involved in. Together we can make a difference in your child's performance at school

and attitude towards school.

Try this little quiz to determine how supportive you can be with your child. Give yourself five points if you feel you do this "all" the time; zero if you "never" do it, or a score in between.

1. ___ I'm patient. I allow my child to learn at his/her own pace.
2. ___ I encourage my child to do his/her best work. But I recognize that it may not be A-level.
3. ___ I praise effort as well as work achievement.
4. ___ I tell my child to take breaks from hard assignments.
5. ___ I never yell when my child doesn't grasp a concept.

More than 20 points means you're as supportive as can be. 15 to 19 points is average. Below 15 means changes may be needed.

If there are issues or concerns which arise throughout the year, I would appreciate hearing from you so that we can work on solutions, together and make this a rewarding year for your child.

Thank you,
Simeon Priddle, Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 24: School closed in the PM, teacher PD

October 6: Parent Advisory Council Meeting at 7 PM

October 15: Vaccines for Grade 4 and 6

The roof repairs at McIsaac are just about complete and other than some traffic issues there have been no major concerns and we thank the Physical Education staff for their cooperation during this period.

School Safety: To this point in the year we have not been able to hire a crossing guard for the school parking lot (if you are interested please contact the school or division office). There have been a number of safety issues evolving in the parking and drop off area and they are ones which we as adults could easily avoid. There are two signs in the drop off area indicating no parking but people still insist on stopping there and dropping students. There has been double parking on Balsam St. and people not stopping for children on the crosswalk on Princess. If you MUST drop your child off please do it further from the gate entrance where students need to walk. We are working on a solution to the problem and ask your cooperation until that plan can be put into place.
PLEASE RESPECT OUR STUDENTS' SAFETY.

We ask that all visitors to McIsaac please check in at the office so that we will know who is in our building.

McIsaac School École McIsaac
PAC
parent advisory council

Parent Advisory Council meets the first Monday of every month. Next meeting is October 6, 7 p.m. in the Staff Room at the school. The annual back to school barbecue went over well. Thank you to all the volunteers and families who supported it. We now have a Facebook group if you

would like to join search for McIsaac PAC.

PAC is currently searching for an Events Co-ordinator and a Volunteer Co-ordinator. If you are interested in helping out or need more information on the above fun activities, call Amy at 687-3865.

We hope to see some new faces at the meetings this year. Child care is available by contacting Mr. Priddle or Amy prior to the meetings.

"Every little child has inside of him an aching void which demands interesting and exciting Play. And if you don't fill it with something that is interesting and exciting for him, he is going to fill it with something that is good and interesting and isn't good for him." Theodore Roosevelt Jr.



Caught in the Middle

This year the McIsaac Guidance program is offering your child the opportunity to take part in the *Caught in the Middle* program.

What is it?

Caught in the Middle is a support and education program for those children who have been affected by family separation or divorce. The program is designed for children in grades 3-6. It provides children with the chance to work through their questions, their concerns and their anxieties. The group will be lead by Family Conciliation counsellor Chris Buehler and school counsellor Carrie Alexander.

When and Where?

The program will be delivered on Mondays starting on September 29 from 3:00-4:00 pm for a total of eight weeks. It will take place in the Guidance Office at McIsaac School. Your child will be out of classes for a short period of time each week and work missed will be completed at the teacher's discretion.

Group Size

The group will consist of six to eight children.

Weekly Themes

- Self-esteem
- Family Restructuring
- Loss, anger and grief
- Feelings
- Dealing with family conflict
- Loyalty issues
- Step-families, blended families
- Legal concerns

Benefits for Families

- Easing stress of separation and divorce
- Building self-confidence
- Kids talking to kids
- Learning to cope with feelings
- Providing reassurance and feedback
- Letting go of anger and guilt
- A time for fun

If you would like your child to take part in this program, please call Carrie Alexander at the McIsaac Guidance Office by September 24. If you have any questions you may contact Chris Buehler at 687-1730 or Carrie Alexander at 687-7448.

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH



Hi. Hopefully everyone's ready for the new school year and to celebrate 25 years of French

Immersion education in Flin Flon. The teachers have been working hard thinking up ways that we can mark such a milestone and the volunteers in CPF will be helping (and looking for more help) to make it a successful year.

Canadian Parents for French is a Canada-wide organisation that aims to support English speaking parents in their choice of having their children's education conducted in the French language. Our locally run Chapter helps to finance and organize different cultural events so that the students can experience the Canadian French language and culture outside of the classroom.

We will be holding our annual Mom's Pantry fundraiser later in the fall and possibly a Book Fair later in the year. The money raised goes towards various events as well as the \$1000 bursary we bestow on a Gr.12 French Immersion student each year and to help support the Gr.5/6 trip to the Festival Du Voyageur in Winnipeg, always very exciting and challenging. The local CPF board consists of:

Co-Chairs: Dianne O'Brien, Jane Hair, **Vice-Chair:** Joanne Ziehlke, **Treasurer:** Crystal Kolt, **Secretary:** Twyla Storey, **Publicity and Public Relations:** Debbie Bailey and **Room Reps. Chair:** Sue Ryan. We are still looking for people to volunteer as Room Reps for each class so that information can be passed on when necessary and to be a point of contact for parents with children in the Program.

Sometimes, as parents, we are concerned that our decision to put our child into French Immersion, when we ourselves do not speak French, is somehow risky and might be detrimental to our child's education. Remember that the teachers have all learned a second language and understand the frustrations and fears we have as parents and the challenges that face our children. So if you have concerns whether it's about their progress, homework or other issues, talk to your teachers. They are all very sympathetic, or contact one of the board members or other parents or students within the Program. Someone, I can assure you will have "been there, done that and got the T shirt". That's what comes with 25 years of experience in French Immersion.

We look forward to seeing you at future events.

The Flin Flon CPF Chapter

