



Mission Statement

Working together, we are a respectful and caring learning community where all individuals can reach for personal excellence and grow in social responsibility.

Principal
Bradford Burns

Vice-Principal
Cheryl Chuckry

About Us

- We offer programming in both English Instruction and French Immersion.
- Our student body is comprised of 568 students in K-8 including several International Students.
- Our faculty consists of 43 teachers, including 26 classroom teachers, Physical Education, Technology, Music, Band, Art, Reading Recovery, Student Support Teachers, a counsellor, a Teacher Librarian, and administrators complimented by the services of a Speech-Language Clinician, Psychologist and Social Worker.
- Our support staff includes 14 Teacher Assistants, 4 Secretaries, a Library Technician, and 3 custodians.
- We strive for **success for all** of our students.
- Parents are our partners in education. Together we have high expectations for the children of Van Wallegghem. This includes Academics, Athletics, Arts, Action and Attitude (*our 5 stars*).
- We embrace opportunities to learn in collaboration, grounding our practice in research on best practices in education.
- We strive to offer extensive extra-curricular activities for all grade levels.
- We have an active Parent Council focused on the success of all our students.



Our 5 star framework for living, learning and growing is an important part of all we do. At Van Wallegghem, all kids can reach for the stars in
**ACADEMICS, ARTS, ATHLETICS,
 ACTION AND ATTITUDE.**

2008/2009 School Plan Priorities

- linking instructional practice with research and evidence in the areas of early numeracy, early literacy and middle literacy.
- enriching learning opportunities for all students by enhancing opportunities for teacher and resource teacher collaboration and differentiated instruction.
- maintaining a positive and respectful learning environment.
- maximizing learning through Assessment and Reporting practices
- developing Literacy with Information Communication Technology.

2008/2009 Highlights

Academics

- Students continued to play a greater role in setting personal goals for learning based on clear learning targets. As well, students continued to take a leadership role in tri-conferences (student, parent, teacher).
- The library received a renewal grant from the Pembina Trails School Division in the amount of \$21 893 to renew our collection of English and French books.
- The FREE home reading program was enhanced with the addition of both French (\$3500) and English (\$1500) reading materials this year. Part of this funding came from a \$2000 donation from Parent Council. In the last two years, \$17 000 in new books for Grade 1 to 8 have been purchased. The program will continue to renew its book collection in the coming year with funding from the school budget, walkathon and student fees.
- Early Numeracy has been an ongoing focus for Early Years teachers. Additional learning materials and Math manipulatives were purchased this year that supported opportunities for students to develop a deeper understanding of number concepts and engage in higher levels of mathematical thinking.

Technology

- Interactive Whiteboards (Smartboards) were installed in Grades 1 and 2 classrooms as well as in the Support Services area. The implementation of this technology in all classrooms has continued to be supported by on-going training.

2008/2009 Highlights continued...

Technology (Continued)

- Teachers reported on the progress of each student's literacy with ICT and assessed the critical and creative thinking with ICT as well as on the responsible and ethical use of information communication technology.
- Ipod listening centres were introduced into some early and middle years classrooms.
- Document cameras were purchased by Parent Council for grade 7 and 8 Science classrooms.
- A Wii gaming system was acquired to enhance personal fitness plans and meet the social interaction needs of students with individualized programs.

French Immersion

- Students in gr.5-8 participated in a 'Journée de la francophonie' that celebrated French culture.
- F.I. Teachers have begun to identify goals and strategies to enhance the instruction and assessment of Oral French. This will be a continued focus in 2009-2010.

Student Support

- The collaborative student support model continued at VW allowing the teacher and the Student Support teacher more time to work together to ensure appropriate educational programming for all students. This includes support for those students who are at-risk, who have English as an additional language, and those who have special or enrichment needs.
- The 'Learning For Life' program was introduced this year as a way to develop life skills for students through activities targeting curricular outcomes in the context of real life, emphasizing community service and highlighting the valued role of each child in the school.

Personal Safety and Social Programming

- *Personal Safety*, including cyber-safety has been an ongoing focus and was addressed through the 'Kids in the Know' program as well as through presentations in class meetings.
- The *Olweus Bully Prevention Program* was in its second year of implementation. This year involved the introduction of class meetings once a cycle for students.
- The *Roots of Empathy* program continued for the third year involving regular classroom visits by an infant accompanied by her mother. Students studied the baby's development over the year and developed an appreciation for the needs of a baby in the first year of life. The program will continue with two new infants in the Fall.
- The *Peer Leader* program continued for the third year and involved our Grade 6 students leading activities at recess with the goal of fostering positive play opportunities for more students. This successful program will continue next year.

Athletics

- The Quality Daily Physical Education Award, Platinum Status, recognized our excellent Physical Education Program.
- We fielded inter-school teams for Grade 7 & 8 in cross-country running, volleyball, basketball, badminton, track and field, and ultimate Frisbee
- We offered clubs for running, skipping, fitness, hip-hop, and cross-country skiing as well inter-school teams for Grade 4-6 cross-country running and Grade 6 volleyball, and a Sports Leadership Program for Grade 5 and 6 students.

Arts

- The Spring Musical Production, *Stone Soup*, was a terrific success featuring our many talented Grade 4, 5, and 6 students.
- The K-6 music program was enhanced with the purchase of a class set of African drums as well as by the creation of the gr.3/4 and gr.4-6 choirs.
- Our Band program featured a Grade 6 band for the third year. This year we graduated our first musicians in the 3 year program.
- Many artists visited the school during the year to offer workshops or perform in assemblies.

Action

- Our student voice students initiated the 'Brick by Brick' campaign with the 'Heartstrings Mission' and raised enough money to build a home for a family in Uganda
- Other global citizenship activities included: Unicef campaign that raised \$2,267, 'Brush Out Poverty' art projects in gr.7 & 8 for students in Africa, and the construction of a water filter in an impoverished community in Brazil sponsored by our gr.8 Science students.
- The 'Green Team' was established this year and looked at recycling (school-wide program), reusing (initiatives around paper use) and reducing (initiatives around electricity and water use).
- Other local social action activities included: Christmas Hamper drive, Student Voice muffin sale for the Lady Bug Foundation (to strike out poverty) and 'Operation Donation' for Wpg Harvest

Home-School Connections

- The school's newsletter continued in digital format allowing immediate distribution, online archiving, and the saving of many trees.
- VW school moved to an online booking system for conferences.
- VW introduced the services of the 'Lunch Lady' every Tuesday, in order to offer a catering service that provides healthy lunches.

Building and Grounds

- A new play structure was constructed and landscaping was completed at the front of the school thanks to fundraising initiatives by Parent Council.

