



# The Steffie Scoop

## NOVEMBER 2023

École Steffie Woima Elementary School

Chinook's Edge School Division #73

### Library News

Our Book Fair is Back!  
November 15th-23rd!

The Book Fair will be in-person shopping. Scholastic is not offering online shopping for this school year. Classes will be shopping during their regular scheduled library times. There is no shopping before or after school, with the exception of after school shopping on November 22 and 23.

Parents are welcome to shop on the evenings of Wednesday, November 22 and Thursday, November 23. Parent shopping is also open all day on Thursday, November 23.

Hours for the Book Fair will be 8:40am - 3pm November 15 - 23, with extended shopping also available on November 22 and November 23 from 3pm - 7:30 pm.

Scholastic sends limited copies of books, so popular titles sell out quickly. However, the library keeps a display copy for everyone to see so items may be ordered. Delivery time for items is quick as items ordered arrive when the book fair is sent back to the warehouse. Items ordered at the bookfair should be in classrooms by Tuesday, November 28.

Thank you for your support!



### Fundraising

A huge THANK YOU to all the parents and grandparents that helped out with our casino, both as volunteers and babysitters! It was a highly successful two days that will provide a large contribution to our playground fundraising efforts.

Now that snow has started falling, it's time to look forward to the holidays and our annual plant fundraiser! Order forms were sent home at the end of last week. Orders can also be completed online.

Please consider supporting our school for your poinsettias, wreaths and holiday arrangements.

Thanks,  
Kate Thomlinson  
SWES Fundraising Chair



Orders can be placed online at  
<https://steffiewoimaelementary.growingsmilesfundraising.com/home>

### Principal's Message

October has been a busy month at Steffie Woima.

With the wonderful fall weather, until very recently, our students were outside enjoying the warm days and beautiful leaves. A huge thank you to our parents for helping us keep both the front and back loops as safe as possible. Please do not walk your students through the driving lanes and use the sidewalk instead. The back loop is for dropping off or picking up only and if you wish to come into the school, please park on the street. Thank you again to everyone for your efforts to keep the kids as safe as possible.

During this past month, our teachers have been assessing where students are with their reading, writing, and mathematics skills so we know how to best help students move forward in their learning. Teachers are working with their students to ensure that they have 'good fit' books to read. To improve their reading skills, our students need to be reading books at their own level. The books should be ones that they can read successfully with a high rate of accuracy in recognizing words. Reading is an essential foundational skill for success in school and the world of work. I can't emphasize enough the importance of ensuring that your child is reading every night as it makes a huge difference in the development of their literacy skills and long term academic success.

Parent and teacher conferences are coming up on November 22 and 23! We are looking forward to seeing all of you. We truly appreciate your support and help as our partners in the education of our students!

As you likely know, we have lost many play structures this past year as they were deemed to be no longer safe. This year, our Fundraising Society will be supporting the efforts of the school to raise funds for a new playground and will be meeting in the next few weeks. As a staff, we will be having a 'Christmas Store' (White Elephant Sale) in the gym in December during the last week of school. Students can purchase gifts for their parents or siblings with all items being under \$5.00. We will be looking for donations of gift items for our Christmas Store throughout November and early December. If you have some items you would like to donate, please drop them off at the office. We will be needing some volunteers to work at the Christmas store during class time. Our Environment Club will be helping with this project as it is all about regifting and reusing! Thank you in advance for all of your support!

Have a great month of November!  
Ms. Eadie-Gyori—Principal



### Hot Lunch

Thank you to Leah Inkster for her partnership in coordinating hot lunch days!

Thank you to this month's volunteers:

Angela Le Blanc  
Tina Denniston  
Jordan Gillard

Deadline to Order December Hot Lunch is November 19th!

If you need a hand finding where to order hot lunch, please contact the office.





## Safe and Caring

### ÉCOLE STEFFIE WOIMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

November Safe & Caring Message  
**Our School Wide Expectations**

#### Importance of Whole School Language & Expected Behaviour

At Steffie Woima we have a school-wide approach for consistently teaching expectations to our students. We use a learning and problem solving approach to support our students in solving problems that arise. Our expectations of how student interact at school is connected to the expected behaviours that are important when they are teenagers and adults. We believe that it is important to explicitly teach our kids how to successfully regulate, problem solve, and resolve conflicts. These are life long skills.

Helping kids acknowledge and learn from their mistakes requires support from both school and home. Parents and staff at Steffie are partners in growing kids! By teaching kids to take personal accountability and owning their part in problems, we teach them how to deal with mistakes. We all make mistakes and experience regret for the choices we wish we could take back. It is important to learn to fix or grow from the mistakes we make. It is also important that we take what we've learned to help us deal with problems in the future. This helps us learn how to self-regulate and work through conflict.

Our school wide expectations were created based on an understanding that children need these specific skills to be successful in the future. Kids want to be kind and want to do well.

They can do this when the adults care about them, have healthy, consistent and clear boundaries and are explicitly taught how to work through their emotions and situations.



### Hands, Feet, and other Objects to Yourself

**we teach our students this because...**

This keeps everyone safe!

It is really important to work with our kids on regulation skills. We help them co-regulate when they need us. Co-regulation is when you or staff at school are attuned to the child when the child is upset. Our body language, our tone of voice, our reassurance and our breathing helps the child calm.

Eventually with this modeling and teaching students learn to self-regulate. They slowly are more able to manage and respond to emotional experiences. When our emotions are controlling us, we first feel and act, and only then think. Learning strategies to regulate in difficult moments helps kids to feel better and supports their relationships.

When students have difficulties following the expectation of keeping hands, feet, and other objects to themselves, we talk the situation through, try to determine what is leading to the difficulty, and make a plan as to how to regulate the next time they are in a similar situation. We often practice the strategies as well.

The more kids can recognize their emotions, triggers and what they can do in distressful situations, the more they will be able to regulate when in situations. As adults we need to be able to keep our hands, feet, and other objects to ourselves as it is against the law and chargeable as assault. Working with children around this expectation supports them as teens when social interactions become more complex and as adults in the world of work and home.



### Kind, Clean, and Courteous Language

**we teach our students this because...**

This shows caring towards others!

Being kind and polite to others makes them feel comfortable and safe. We express our thoughts, feelings and connect with others through language. Using expected language develops a child's social and emotional skills, social awareness, self-regulation, relationship skills and self-awareness. These are all skills that help us build healthy relationships and friendships.

We teach our kids that expected language changes in different contexts. It is expected to yell when playing with friends but not in the classroom or at the dinner table. Knowing what is expected to say and when to say it is also an important life skill.



### Listen and Follow Directions

**we teach our students this because...**

This shows responsibility and also keeps everyone safe!

When kids practice listening and following directions, it helps them learn that there are times when it is critical to follow an adults directions. If a vehicle is driving by and you tell them to stop, they need to be able to follow that direction. If a police officer asks you to stop, it is important that you can follow that direction. Learning how to follow the directions of the adult allows children to be at rest (which helps others around them feel safe), impacts their ability to complete tasks, learn new skills, and keep them feeling calm and secure as they know what comes next. We also teach children that they should not blindly follow older peers and adults but to follow the directions of an adult when it is a safe and reasonable request. Children who have a difficult time actively listening and following reasonable adult directions, often have a difficult time learning and can create disruption in the classroom that interrupts other children's learning as well.

As children mature, the ability to follow directions keeps them safe in moments of distress. It also helps them with workplace relationships.



## School Council News

This month's meeting was highly informative as we had the pleasure of hearing from our district superintendent, personally. Jackie Swainson brought news from the school district and we discussed the three main priorities they hold for our schools. Academic excellence, Social/emotional well being and career connections. The district is hard at work developing many plans to create amazing opportunities for our students.

On behalf of the school council, I would like to congratulate the staff members who received awards for their many years of service this month as well as send a fond farewell to Ms. Friedrich on her retirement. Our success as a school learning community thrives on your outstanding services and we are thankful for your commitment!

As a parent myself, I do want to encourage your attendance to school council meetings where we have the chance to learn of what is happening around our school, and in our district when it comes to the safety and well being of our students.

If you have any questions or would like more information on attending school council meetings, don't hesitate to reach out and ask! We are a welcoming and fun group to hang out with for an hour or so once a month.

Next meeting will be in the school staff room on Nov 21, 2023 @ 7:00 pm  
Hope to see you there!

Meg Weiskopf  
School Council Chair

