



Parent/Teacher Conference March 9th & 10th
Please call the school to book appointments.

March 2017

Why Are Parent-Teacher Interviews Important?

Parent-teacher interviews are a valuable tool to help you and your child's teacher(s) work together for your child's educational success. By attending the interview, you are showing your child that you value their learning and are interested in what they do. If you value education, your child will also value education. You are also showing your child's teacher that you are interested and prepared to participate in and support your child's learning.

This is your chance to find out how your child is getting along in school and what is going on in the classroom and playground. It is also the teacher's chance to learn more about your child and report to you about your child's progress at school.

During the interview:

- Be clear about what you want out of the interview at the beginning.
- Refer to your list of questions to make sure you have not left anything out.
- Don't hesitate to make notes while the teacher is talking so that you will remember what he or she said once you get home.
- Ask the teacher about the classroom rules and discipline, homework procedures, and overall expectations for students.
- Ask about your child's work habits, behaviour, participation, and learning style.
- Highlight your child's strengths. We all have weaknesses, but we build from our strengths. Share knowledge and experience about your child.
- Listen carefully and be open to other points of view. It is difficult to stay focused on your child, the student, if either of you is defensive.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK YOUR INTERVIEWS

Sincerely,
Nicole Bobick

Important Notice To Parents!

Any students who are staying for gym nights, being picked up by an alternate person, dropped off by the bus at an alternate location or going to a friends house, needs a written note. The note must have the details, the names of the students and signed by the parent. This can also be communicated in the agendas.

Thank you.

**Spirit Week March 20-24
Watch for information coming home soon!**

Lifetouch Canada will be taking Kindergarten Grad pictures on March 21st at 1:00 pm.



Birch River School will be taking Junior Kindergarten & New Senior Kindergarten registrations beginning in the month of March. JK Children need to be 4 years old by December 31, 2017. SK Children need to be 5 by Dec 31, 2017. Please register as soon as possible. A birth or baptismal certificate and Manitoba Health card are needed when registering.

Birch River School Staff would like to wish everyone a wonderful Spring Break .
School resumes April 3rd.



March is Perfect Attendance Month

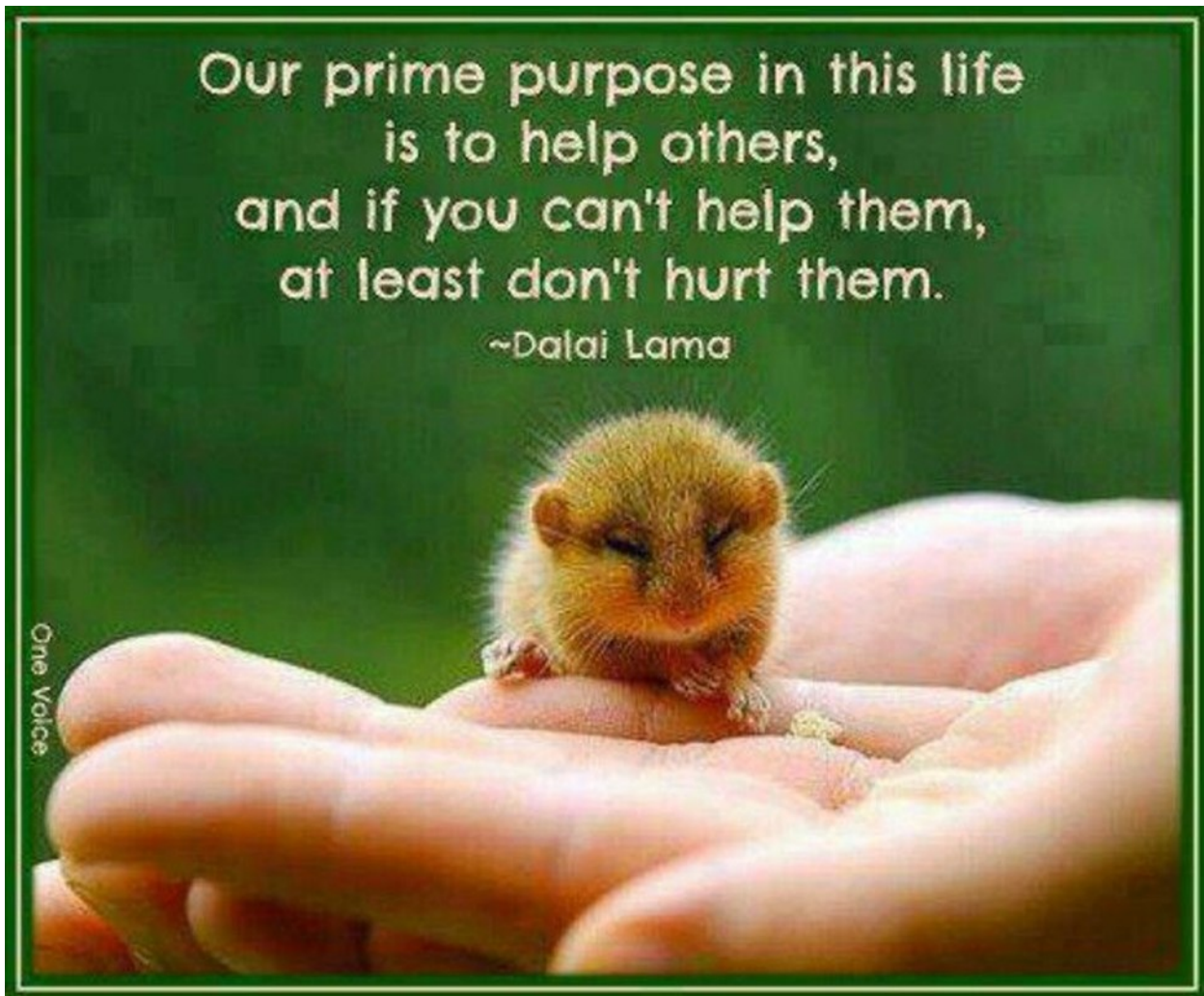
Did you know?

- Attendance in school is mandatory in Manitoba—not optional?
- If your child is 10 minutes late every day, they will have lost six days of instruction by the end of the school year?
- If your child misses only two days per month of school, they will have missed one month worth of instruction by the end of the school year?
- If your child misses 15 days of school every year, they will have lost one year of instruction by the end of grade 12?
- Students who attend school regularly are more engaged in learning, have a greater sense of belonging in their community, and are more likely to graduate?
- Individuals without a high school diploma are twice as likely to experience unemployment and earn a lower income than high school graduates?

Restitution Corner

Strengthening Students: Step One Stabilizing

By stabilizing feelings first you and your child will be able to think and solve the problems without the emotions of the situation leading the conversation. The MindUP program tells us that when we are frustrated, angry, fearful, or sad there is less activity in the front part of the brain; the thinking part of the brain. This makes it hard to make good decisions because we are using another part of the brain that is responsible for reactive behaviours such as the fight, flight, or freeze responses. By stabilizing our feelings first by taking time to breathe and calm our bodies we enable the thinking part of the brain to take back control and this helps us to make better choices and problem solve in a more positive way.



Swan Valley Youth Soccer Registration Night

Tuesday, April 4 & Tuesday, April 11, 2017

5pm-8pm

Arena Lobby

For youth born in 2012 or earlier

Do you want to learn how to curl?

Come to a curling clinic and learn how.

Open to students in grades 2-5

Sunday, March 5 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. – limit of 24

Cost: \$10 snack included. All equipment will be provided just wear sweat pants and bring a clean pair of indoor running shoes.

Instructors: Marni Zamzow, Jennifer Mangin, Jeff Leadbeater, Kari Goethe

Come find out how much fun it is to curl!

Register by Thursday, March 2 by contacting Marni Zamzow

at 734-3370 or email Marni at mzamzow@svsd.ca



Birch River School is celebrating 30 years with the School Milk Program. Congratulations to all the staff, students, and parents who continue to ensure nutrition takes priority at school.



Keep my child up to
the top of the class in the year

Use the following information
to help your child

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Speech Language Corner

I hope everyone had a nice February.

The question for the month of March is whether or not, the month will come in as a Lion or a Lamb.

The **Lion or Lamb comment is an Analogy.**

Analogies teach us to think beyond the obvious meaning of words but instead to look at word associations.

Analogies are a comparison between two different things in order to highlight some of point of similarity.

Analogies engage the listener and excite the imagination.

In the case of the Lion or Lamb analogy, a roar is associated with the word Lion and gentle, softness is associated with the word lamb.

The analogy of course, is referencing "Weather" which can certainly be described as gentle or a roar. Snow can fall gently and wind can roar.

Analogies are an example of higher level vocabulary understanding.

Use analogies in your everyday speaking which is an excellent vocabulary strategy to expand yours and your child's vocabulary.

A strong speaking vocabulary build strong learners, readers and writers.

Here are some examples of **Analogies.**

Her voice was cotton candy.
The puddle was a mirror.
She said I am an angel.
My backyard was a lake after the rain.

Her eyes were sparkly diamonds.
The storm was a lion.
The sun is a hot balloon.
The ocean was a mad dog.
You are my sunshine.

Listen for analogies and explain the meaning of them to your children this month.

Make contest to see who can learn/identify the most analogies.

Have a great March and let's see if April Showers brings May flowers!



WHAT IS BETTER BEGINNINGS?

-Better Beginnings is a Swan Valley program that supports the health and learning of young children (from birth to age five) and their families.

-It is the goal of Better Beginnings to give all children and/or parents in the Swan Valley an equal chance at healthy living, time spent together, time spent with others, literacy, and school-readiness skills.

-This program offers a two-hour drop-in session in community Kindergarten classrooms: Benito, Birch River, Bowsman, Minitonas, and Swan River (Heyes – Taylor – Ecole) schools.

-It is a **FREE** program and is open to **all children from birth to 5 years** who are accompanied by a parent or babysitter.

-Sessions offer playtime, crafts, stories, song, rhymes, healthy snacks and family resources.



-You do not need to sign-up or call ahead and you don't have to be on time or stay until the end. You are welcome to join any or all of the offered sessions. You just need to show up to participate.

Your role as a parent at Better Beginnings:

Parents/babysitters are in charge of each child that they bring to Better Beginnings. However, if there is conflict between children and the parent is unaware, the leader or another parent may intervene on your behalf until it comes to your attention. It is important that Better Beginnings is a safe place for all children.

Parents should encourage their children to participate in age-appropriate activities. Parents are encouraged to participate alongside their children during all activities in the session.

Examples of parent participation are:

1) Joining your child on the floor to build a tower or do a puzzle together.

2) Joining in the circle during songs, rhymes, or other activities. Feel free to sing along!

3) Directing your child to the floor for story time. Sit down with them to help them get involved with the story and stay interested.

4) Some crafts may require parental help. Be available to HELP with cutting or gluing etc. but try not to do it all for them. Remember that the appearance of the end product is not what's important. Crafts are a great way for your child to learn dexterity, creativity and independence.






Better Beginnings is a "Positive Parenting" program. When your child misbehaves, explain to them the behaviour that is acceptable and encourage your child to use their words to express themselves. Try removing your child from the problem or distracting them with another activity rather than spanking, belittling, yelling or other similar forms of punishment.

Information about parenting, discipline issues, health, stages and development etc, is available for all parents. Just ask your leader, or contact the Better Beginnings coordinator for any information you may require.

Birch River School Better Beginnings will take place on March are 3, 7, 15, 21 from 10:00-12:00 in the Nursery School Room. For more information call Leader Dee Dee Dvorak @ 204-734-8101.

March 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 Day 6 - JK Cream of Chicken Vegetable Soup Grilled Cheese Basketball Champs 10-6	2 Day 1 Pizza Burger & Veggie sticks	3 Day 2 - JK Macaroni Taco Casserole & Salad Skiing
6 Day 3 Perogies, Smokie, & Corn	7 Day 4 - JK Report Cards Go Home BBQ Chicken Quesadillas Coleslaw	 8 Day 5 Tuna Salad Sandwich Mushroom Soup Robert Munsch in Minitonas JK-Gr.5 ICE Presentation Gr. 6-8 @ESRSS	9 Day 6 - JK Parent Teacher Evening Pancakes, Sausage & Fruit	10 Day 1 No School Parent Teacher
13 Day 2 - JK Subs Macaroni Salad	14 Day 3 Gr. 8 Transition Meetings Meatloaf, Potatoes & Corn	15 Day 4 - JK Egg Salad Sandwich Beef Vegetable Soup	 16 Day 5 Pork Chops/Baked Potatoes/Peas	17 Day 6 - JK Baked Spaghetti Garlic Toast/Pickles
20 Day 1 Roast Chicken/Dressing/Potatoes /Broccoli	21 Day 2 - JK Hamburger Oven Potatoes/Carrots Kindergarten Grad Pictures 1:00	22 Day 3 Tomato Soup Chicken Salad Pita	23 Day 4 - JK Sloppy Joes & Salad	 24 Day 5 Pizza Sale
Spring Break March 27-31				
April 3 Day 6 - JK Beef Stroganoff & Peas	4 Day 1 - JK Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap & Coleslaw	5 Day 2 - JK Beef Barley Soup & BLT	6 Day 3 Shepherd's Pie & Salad	7 Day 4 - JK Taco Salad