



# Angus McKay School

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## CSA Principal's Report – Sept 2024

Welcome back!

Students have experienced a positive beginning to our school year. They are happy to be back at school and are adjusting to their new routines, new teachers, and classmates. As well, the students, staff and community has been incredibly welcoming to me over the past few weeks, and I have loved getting to know everyone. Angus McKay has lived up to its billing as a wonderful place.

We welcome the following new staff to Angus McKay this year:

- Educational Assistant Laura Cartlidge – joining from Arthur Day Middle School
- Educational Assistant - Julia Hamm – who is new to the education system
- Reading Recovery and Grade 3/4 - Balbaldeep Malhi - joining from John De Graff
- University of Winnipeg Teacher Candidate - Gabrielle Burnell – placed with Mrs. Surridge
- University of Manitoba Teacher Candidate - Hayden Brander – placed in Phys. Ed. and Kindergarten with Mrs. Treffner and Ms. Kozak
- Jashan Saini – Nutrition Facilitator

A big thank you to our two teams of patrols!!! They are doing an incredible job for the following reasons: they are reliable, punctual, and incredibly diligent when it comes to keeping our students and our community safe. We were lucky to begin the school year having all of our Grade 4's trained with experience on post in the spring. This has made for a smooth and confident start. Thank you to our Patrol Teacher Leaders: Mrs. Laurin-Clark and Ms. Schroeder.

RETSd has had to shift to a new Student Information System this year, moving from TYLER to PowerSchool. Presently, demographic and health information amongst other very important points of information are easily accessible by school staff. More detailed inquiries may take time to collect from Divisional Support Staff. Thank you for your patience as we onboard new processes and communication tools as 10 year's worth of student information is uploaded.

Manitoba's 2024 Budget announced a provincial nutrition program, where all students will be able to get a nutritious snack when needed. The universal nutrition program will be available in every school in the province, including Angus McKay. Information and structures are still be organized, but RETSD has already hired a Nutrition Co-ordinator, secured a vendor for menu selection and delivery, and school based nutrition facilitators, who will have training and a food handler's certificate in each school. More detailed information to follow soon.



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For this school year, Angus McKay has been selected as a pilot school for the revised Science Curriculum. Mrs. Lauren-Clark will be co-teaching selected units and materials alongside all of the Grade 1/2 and 3/4 classroom teachers over the course of the year. The five dimensions of the new curriculum are: Indigenous People within the Natural World, Science Identity, Scientific Knowledge, Practical Science and the Nature of Science.

Angus McKay has also been selected as one of the pilot schools for the new Kindergarten Report Card that will roll out for the second and third trimester reporting periods. Divisional professional development will occur for school staff in December and April.

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, the Province announced a shift towards Device Free Schools. We know this is a big and unexpected change for many of our families and students. RETSD schools and staff have been working through this announcement and the implications and will be sending a second letter home shortly. In the interim, we will work with families and students to provide a distraction free learning environment, while also providing appropriate digital learning teachings. The Division is also working through the impact on its current policies, which will be completed prior to the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline set by the province.

## Upcoming Events:

We will continue to send home a semi-monthly ***Ahead at Angus*** bulletin about general school important dates and upcoming events. The next one will be mailed on Friday. Classroom teachers may also be sending home classroom specific information and calendars.

Run Club starts on Thursday – Divisional Early Years Cross Country meet will be either September 24 or 25<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Treffner is organizing along with other teachers during lunch hour.

There has been discussion about starting additional clubs sooner this year – due to the number of wasp incidents being quite high, along with the warm weather.

Photo Day is September 23

September 26<sup>th</sup> will see students on a field Trip to Bunn's Creek Park that will include some Land Based Teachings. Students will be engaged in lessons around water and medicine plants along with other activities. Students are also invited to acknowledge Orange Shirt Day the next day September 27<sup>th</sup>.

October 4 – Terry Fox Walk

Respectfully submitted,

Jean-Paul rochon