



REPORT

Recognition of Excellence

***Buddy Days Program
Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program***



RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Buddy Days Program *Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program*

For the past three years something special has been taking place at Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program which has impacted the culture of the school in a profound way. It all began with a simple request by the student council: "Would it be possible to have a 'Buddy Day' where students in the high school would be partnered with students in the elementary school to participate in a variety of activities?" During the first year there were a couple of events planned. Based on the success of the program, Buddy Days has evolved and is now schedule along monthly themes. In addition to eating and playing together at lunch time on 'Buddy Days' the 2013-14 schedule of events is as follows:

September is 'Goal Setting' month where each student writes down a personal goal as well as an achievement goal for the year. These goals are recorded on a piece of paper and sealed in an envelope until a checkpoint in the middle of the school year. At the end of the year students re-visit their goals and tell their buddy whether or not they have met their goals; they also decide on a goal for the summer.

October's theme is, "I'm thankful". Among other things, buddies share with each other what they are thankful for.

In November, buddies meet together to plan a "random act of kindness" during the anti-bullying assembly.

In December, buddies make cards together for people in the community who may be lonely. This year buddies are planning to team up to go carolling in the community.

January will see buddies spending lunch and recess together.

In February, buddies will revisit their goals for the mid-year check in.

March will be marked this year by Winter Olympics in which buddy teams will join together to go for the gold in the spirit of competition, friendship and good sportsmanship.

April is time for the annual Easter egg hunt.

In May, buddies will participate in a community clean-up and singing for seniors as a part of education week.

Field Day in June is the final buddy day of the year. Students enjoy rotating through a series of field day activities in order to gain points and win ribbons. A part of the day is spent reviewing the current year's goals and setting new ones for the summer.

Buddy Days enhance our character education program and are key to our overall school improvement plan. Through this program older students serve as leaders and mentor younger students. As student leadership is embedded throughout our school, collectively our students have developed a strong student voices and a sense of responsibility for the broader community.