

## **Principal's Report - November 2014**

### **Teacher Negotiations:**

As you may be aware, contracts for teachers as well as for support staff expired on August 31, 2014. Right now representatives from all key stakeholders are involved in meeting to decide which issues will be settled provincially and which issues will be left to local bargaining. You may have heard that certain employee groups have held strike votes but parents are being asked not to panic. These votes are a regular feature of collective bargaining and do not indicate that a strike is on the horizon.

### **Staffing:**

Lisa Hyslop resigned as she found another position closer to her morning job. We have hired Whitney Chisholm as a 0.5 EA.

Karen Sercherchi is currently off on leave for personal reasons. Jessica Choi has been filling in and has agreed to stay in the role until Karen returns.

We will be posting for Donna Muldoon's job in the near future. We hope to have the new hire decided as soon as possible to allow for a smooth transition for the students.

### **School Council Insurance:**

The OCDSB will be providing and paying for the school council's liability coverage for the policy period 1 November 2014 to 1 November 2015.

**EQAO:** Further analysis of our EQAO data revealed that our students are still struggling with multiplicative thinking as well as with multi-step problems in Math.

### **School Improvement Goals:**

This year our school will be working on 4 distinctive goals.

For the purposes of our School Learning Plan, we will be working towards improved outcomes in Mathematics by teaching with a focus on problem solving and building mathematical vocabulary.

In Literacy, we will be working on a school wide project of developing a writing continuum. Inspired by the work of Sandra Herbst, the writing continuum is an assessment tool that uses co-constructed criteria and is meant to follow student development from kindergarten to grade 6.

For Social Development, we will be focusing on building resiliency in our students. Resiliency is the ability to steer through serious life challenges and find ways to bounce back and to thrive. Our school is part of a pilot project called 'Reaching In, Reaching Out' (RIRO). This year all of our kindergarten teachers are being trained on how to develop resiliency skills in young children. For more information, you can visit [www.reachinginreachingout.com](http://www.reachinginreachingout.com).

For Safe and Inclusive Schools we will be focused on promoting diversity in our school so that all members of our community feel safe and welcome.