

What We Heard

Community Engagement May 2023

About This Report

All responses from the online and partner engagement have been included in this report. The responses were themed and then reported. All the input was valued and influenced the development of our 2023-2024 School Success Plan that will be finalized and posted in September.

In reading through the responses, it is important that Nicholson Elementary continues to strive for an environment that is Safe, Caring and Inclusive for all community members. As well as becoming Stewards of our place, where we participate in outdoor experiences and learning about the place, we call home.

Themes Arising from the Responses

Safe, Caring and Inclusive Community

At Nicholson we will continue to strive to create a Safe, Caring and Inclusive Community, where all members can express their individual needs and support is provided to address this. Our goal for our first Priority of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is to improve relationships, engagement and a sense of belonging for all students. During the Community Engagement, we heard that parents are supportive of continuing the Community Circle practice as it supports the growth of the social and emotional competencies as well as to build in the opportunity to discuss social and emotional needs in a safe space. This also gives staff an opportunity to bring students social and emotional concerns to the School Based Team to be discussed and an opportunity to develop a plan to support individual students.

Stewardship for the Future

It was brought forth that there is a desire for the students to become Stewards of our Nicholson Community by classes developing a multi-year project that contributes to the growth and sustainability of the Nicholson playground, where the students build on leadership skills and stewardship ethic. As well as use local community expertise to support and inspire the students in learning about our local environment and ways to support its continued growth.

Public Engagement Question 1:

What are some creative suggestions for things we can do in our school to continue to improve?

- Find ways to increase funding for field trips and make it as smooth of a process for teachers to lead or coordinate field trips. Also starting a legacy club and the older kids contributing to a larger project like a naturalization of the playgrounds or other stewardship project that takes multiple years to complete and each senior class would build on it while learning and developing leadership skills and stewardship ethic
- Arrange a different discipline protocol for kids that are bullying others, as I personally am aware of a few instances that are not being taken seriously at all - some involving the same bully. I feel there needs to be something more creative than 'writing down each instance' as only keeping record of what happens does not stop the happenings.

Public Engagement Question 2:

What are some examples of key things you appreciate, or think are working well about our schools?

- Going to the Nordic Centre for cross-country skiing and learning from the instructors there.
- Hot lunches Math/reading/science teachings Extra-curricular events

Public Engagement Questions 3:

What are some examples of things you think our students should be able to experience or accomplish to enhance their learning, that they currently do not have access to?

- Learning in the community; place-based education connecting the curriculum to hands-on, real-life experiences in the place they call home. So important and engaging and will help them become stewards of this place for many years to come. Dedicate one day per week to bring in a local community member who does exemplary work in the field of stewardship to inspire the students. Celebrate and inspire
- Feeling protected by teachers from fellow classmates, and a more emotional understanding of how a bully can make a child that loves school not want to go. A student should be able to approach their teacher/principal about a reoccurring issue and actually have something done about it.