



# South Oaks School

## Year-End Community Report for 2020-21

### About Us

We are a K-4, Early Years School, with approximately 360 students, 22 teaching staff, and 19 support staff.

Our mission is to create a positive learning environment, which promotes well-being and learning.

We are committed to the well-being of our students and staff.

Our goal is that all students will learn to be “Safe - Kind - Learners” in school, on the playground, on the bus, etc.

We are learning how to integrate Deeper Learning competencies with a solid foundation of academic learning.

We are currently rethinking and refreshing the digital learning space in our school!

### Contact Us

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### Planning Priority #1

Reopen the school safely for students and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Year-End Accomplishments

- Prepared the school facility and the staff for COVID safety protocols before students returned to school in the fall.
- Revised school plans to accommodate staggered recesses, cohort groupings, separate entrances, etc. to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the school.
- Implemented a “COVID safe” Open House event to harmonize all the adults and help students to feel safe coming back to school after the lockdown.
- We communicated the many COVID updates to our parent community and answered any questions or concerns as best we could.

### Planning Priority #2

To explore best practices for teaching positive student behaviour, based on the book, “Building Behaviour” (by Jessica Hannigan).

#### Year-End Accomplishments

- Promoted staff awareness of the 6 research based “best practices” for building positive student behaviour. These include Social/Emotional Learning, PBIS, Character Education, Restorative Justice, Culturally Responsive Teaching, Trauma Informed practices.
- Our support team selected an area of interest from the above list and began exploring and learning about the topic, as time and opportunity allowed.
- Some of this learning was shared at staff meetings and will continue to be shared as we learn more, until all staff have a general understanding of these best practices.

### Planning Priority #3

For teachers to engage and reflect on new pedagogies to promote academic success in Literacy and Mathematics.

#### Year-End Accomplishments

- Teachers implemented new pedagogies, but not the type we had expected! The new pedagogies, rather, focused on how to effectively teach students during the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e. physical distancing, remote learning, etc).
- Regular collaboration times were planned, where cohorts of teachers met to discuss challenges, innovate their practice and work collectively to meet the constant demands of teaching in a pandemic.
- Reflecting on our practice became more informal, frequent and grassroots based. A lot of critical thinking was required from all departments to manage frequent pivoting throughout the year.

