



PIYESIW AWASIS (THUNDERCHILD) SCHOOL

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Parents/Guardians:

Piyesiw Awasis school would like to inform parents and the community of some changes that the school is undergoing. This year at Piyesiw Awasis we are focusing on the word PISIM. This is seen as Pimatsowin (life), Imih-how-win (prayer), Sah kitowin (love), Instotahomona (teachings), and Manacihtowin (respect). We are teaching students that it is important to respect others, and to make good decisions for themselves. **The school is also focussing on three important areas for students so that they can make good decisions:**

- 1. Focus on Thunderchild teachings and learnings such as history of Thunderchild; our Year-at-a-Glance events include a focus on Thunderchild so that students take ownership and knowledge of the events; learning about protocols of feasts; and including it in the classroom; with positive reinforcement, visible action by all teachers and staff; PISIM will become the goal within the school and will become visible with students feeling good about themselves;**
- 2. The Cree Language – this year the Cree language is using the Total Physical Response Method in which students are actively involved in the spoken language and we have planned Cree events for our students and community; and**
- 3. All students will be proficient and higher in their Literacy, Writing and Math skills; we have hired excellent Literacy and Math Support Teachers to provide ongoing support to our teachers; we are working on avoiding the gaps and closing the gaps.**

The school is very student centered, this means that the well-being of all students are considered when decisions are made. The goal is to work on students self-esteem, confidence, and respect for self and others. Through our ARC training and working with the mental health therapist we have discovered that a lot of children are traumatized and are at risk.

The school is going to continue to work on ensuring that all students are treated equally and that all students are given the opportunity to have their self-esteem and confidence built up. This year on October 31st, the school will be hosting a GYM BLAST for students. This includes games, treats, face painting, etc. We are aware that not all parents can provide a Halloween Costume for their child as well as classroom treats. So instead of having students feeling excluded we are planning a fun-filled exciting day for the students so that they can have the energy to spend family and friend time Hallowe'ening.

It is our professional responsibility as teachers to ensure that ALL of our students feel safe, feel loved, feel heard, and feel supported. This is our mission at Piyesiw Awasis and it would be great if parents helped us create this environment for all of our students.

We welcome parents to come to the school and introduce yourself to the administration and staff. We understand you may have concerns and we are open to hearing them however we are asking that everyone come with an open mind and some solutions to the problems you may have that will meet the needs of all our students. We will ensure that the communication with parents and community continues to be a priority. Hiy Hiy Nanaskomtinawaw Kahkiyaw!

Nancy Clark
Principal