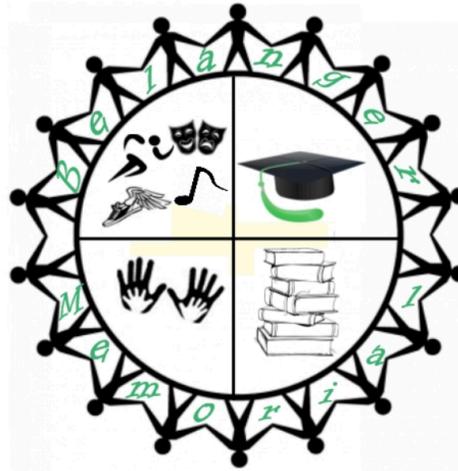


*2022-2023 School year*  
**Submitted Nov 2023**  
**Annual School Development Report**

**Belanger Memorial School**



***At Belanger Memorial School we value a safe and comfortable environment for students, staff and families. We are committed to fostering the engagement of learners with their peers and teachers to learn, grow and develop into well-rounded individuals with good heads on their shoulders and skills that will serve them well into adulthood.***

## Strategic Issue: Wellness and Positive Relationships

**How did you know this was a Strategic Issue? What evidence did you have?**

- PMF data showed a drop in Positive Climate results from 54% to 38% (lowest in 4 years)
- Low results for student engagement (27.2% positive)
- results show that students feel teachers do not care about them; negative perception of student-teacher relationships (60% of students felt that teachers would not be excited to see them if they returned)
- Conversations amongst high school students indicate they are not enjoying school, perceive there is 'no fun' in school
- Participation and engagement by high school students in school wide activities is low

**Year-end Summary of Progress. What evidence do you have to support this progress?**

### *Physical Wellness:*

- The Terry fox walk and walk to breakfast were some examples of activities that went over well
- The Participation Nation Unplugged after school program was averaging 18 students per session which is a fantastic turnout. Nearly every student from grade 3-6 participated at least once and our Festivals of Sports had excellent turnout. We had a solid core of Unplugged leaders and we welcomed other high school volunteers and we had a surprising number (13 total) show up at some time or another to interact positively with the younger students.
- Our Marble Mountain Ski Trip was a huge success with 90 students attending, many of whom were first time skiers!
- We hosted boys and girls soccer tournaments and both went over very well with lots of positive feedback!
- Our high school had multiple sports programs this year with high participation rates.
- The gym is now open for all high school students during the full hour of lunch and recess and there's plenty of activity happening there every day.
- The younger students get lots of outdoor play time during recess and lunch and are quite active during these times.
- We've had a lot of great feedback about lunch being served on Fridays by volunteer groups in our community.
- Ms. McCarthy has visited various classes to offer yoga sessions and that has gone over quite well.
- We had a public health nurse complete dental and hand hygiene sessions with primary students.

- **Our grade 10-12 students will be going on a hike on a mountain trail, as will our grade 6-9 students.**

### **Mental Wellness**

- **Student Council had a Christmas Ball and a Valentines Dance. Both were very well received.**
- **Drama club and jam club happen weekly and offer a chance for non-athletic students to be part of a school club.**
- **We had many spirit days**
- **We split the entire school into 16 house teams, each with students from varying ages and with teachers. These teams got together for school activities and competitions, allowing everyone to feel part of a team and to interact positively with students outside of their close peer groups.**
- **Various outside presenters came to the school including Youth Ventures, Youth Outreach (Western Health), MADD, Kids Help Phone, Grenfell/Memorial University/Marine Institute, and the Armed Forces**
- **We had musical performers Jim Payne and Fergus O’Byrne to presentations and workshops with our students.**
- **Student council organized a mini Winter Carnival where we did activities in our house teams and collected points. The students seemed to really enjoy that.**
- **Kindness Week was held with great participation from students.**
- **The Grade 1 class really enjoyed the Roots of Empathy program!**
- **Our younger students had various celebrations and events like 100th day and grinch day.**
- **Lots of smiling, joking and positive interaction happens every day in our school.**
- **We had a wonderful family literacy day with a lot of positive feedback from families.**
- **Our school community is kept up to date with regular newsletters and frequent social media posts showcasing all kinds of positive things happening in our school.**
- **We had a scholastic book fair.**
- **Students regularly get recognized for their positive behaviour with PBS tickets from the staff. Every two months we have a draw for prizes and there are auctions at the end of December and the end of June for students to use their tickets for prizes.**
- **We recognize birthdays by posting them up on a bulletin board every month and doing daily birthday announcements on the PA**
- **The cafeteria has been established as a “chill area” or common area for high school students during lunch and recess.**
- **A Guitar stand was installed in the common area with two guitars for students to play.**

- The school purchased board games for high school students and also for elementary students for when the weather is not nice enough for playing outside at recess and lunch.
- Hallways are decorated with lots of positive bulletin boards and achievement recognition.
- We have bird watching activities happening at the wetlands for our younger students.

### Next Steps...

#### *Success in Physical Wellness*

Although there's always room to grow, we feel that physical wellness is a strength at our school. We hope to maintain and build on that strength.

#### *An Identified Area for Growth in Mental Wellness*

One issue that we've identified this year as an area for growth is promoting respect for teachers. More specifically we've had a number of incidents where students have blown up at teachers in moments when they have felt stressed, upset, or a sense of injustice. This fits under the mental wellness category. This is an area we've recognized as an issue to work on.