

Pēwāsēnākwan Primary School



**Parent and Student
Handbook
2022-2023**

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Parents and Community

Please feel free to come to the school and visit the school at any time.

We believe that the school belongs to the community.

Coffee is always on.

Should you wish to volunteer to help in the school,
please feel free to come in and talk to any staff member.

Mission Statement

Our mission at Pēwāsēnākwān Primary School is to provide a caring environment developing the qualities of self-esteem, identity, creative thinking, a love for learning and respect for self and others realizing that quality education is an individual life-long process involving physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and social development to produce happy, responsible citizens.

School Pledge

I will do my best because education is for me, my Family, my Community and my First Nation.

Nika-akamēyimon tahto-kīsikaw osam ni-kiskinwāmāsowin oma oci niya ni-nīkihikwak,
nīcisanak, ni-taskisnan ēkwa ni-nīci-nēhiyawak.

School Morning Song

(By Irene Carter)

Pewasnakwan oma Miyo kisikanisitan.

Pewasnakwan ekwa Kwayas pimotetan

Kwayas atosketan Miyowicetotan

Pewasnakwan oma

A new dawn is here. Let's have a good day. A new day is here. Let's take the right path. Let's
make the day worthwhile. Let's get along. A new day is here.

Message from School Administration

Tānisi kahkiyaw.

Parents, Guardians and Students, welcome to another school year at Pēwāsēnākwān Primary School. Lianna MacDonald nitisīkāson. I am a proud member of Onion Lake Cree Nation and have taught in Onion Lake for the past 17 years. All but one year has been at Pēwāsēnākwān. My administration partner this year is Ms. Tamara Pahtayken. We are very excited to start this school year as we are still in the process of laying a brand-new foundation for our little ones. With the opening of the 5th school on our great Cree Nation last year, exciting times are ahead for our education system.

This year, we will house students from HeadStart to grade 1. Our philosophy is to treat every child in our care the way we want our own children to be treated. We believe that our young people are merely lent to us from the Creator and that they deserve the same dignity and respect as adults. Your child's mental, physical, spiritual and emotional safety is our top priority. Remember that we want to work with you, parents and guardians, as a team in your child's education. Please feel free to reach out anytime for any of your child's needs. Thank you for trusting us with your little ones. We promise to love them just as much as you do.

Ms. Lianna MacDonald
Principal

School's General Objectives

1. To teach children social skills and VIRTUES such as respect for self and others, cooperation with others, responsibility for their actions (accountability) and positive leadership skills.
2. To help students develop positive self- esteem by instilling the teachings of who they are and where they come from.
3. To instil a love of learning, risk-taking, critical thinking, and independent learning skills, that will continue throughout their lives.
4. To encourage the parents and other community members to become involved in school activities.

School's Specific Objectives

1. To improve students' achievement in the core subjects with an emphasis on Language Arts and Mathematics.
2. Create a climate that challenges students to achieve at their maximum potential.
3. To further develop the Cree Language Curriculum using nēhiyaw pimātisiwin as a path to lead us.
4. To fully understand and utilize the adaptive dimension within the curriculum.
5. To fully assist in the emergence and development of the Cree Immersion Program
6. A thorough understanding of Treaty Rights and their implications.
7. Centre all teachings around themes that revolve around Critical and Creative Thinking, Problem-solving and Conflict Resolution.
8. To infuse nēhiyaw pimātisiwin into the school by practicing our language, our songs, our dances and our ceremonies.

Central Office

Director of Education	Mr. Fred Dillon
Assistant Director of Education	Mr. Terry Clarke
Superintendent of Education	Ms. Pauline Muskego
	Ms. Delia Harper

Staff Placement at Pewasenkwan Primary School –2021-2022

Room	Teacher
HeadStart 01	Mrs. Amanda Cardinal
HeadStart 02	Mrs. Noella Thompson
Pre-Kindergarten 01	Mrs. Adrienne Naistus
Pre-Kindergarten 02	Ms. Laynee MacDonald
Pre-Kindergarten 03	Ms. Sandra Moochewenies
Pre-Kindergarten 04	Mr. Jonathan Whitstone
K01	Ms. Eileen Chocan
K02	Mrs. Anne Wahobin
K03	Mrs. Alexis Parr
K04	Miss Roxanne Boyer
101	Miss Breanna Dillon
102	Mrs. Penny Harper
103	Miss Jasmine Phillips
Physical Education	Mr. Jedner Morin
Grade 1/2 Cree Instructor	Mrs. Sarah Waskewitch
Inclusion Catalyst	Ms. Melanie Quinn
ELA/Math Catalyst	Mr. Waylon Whitstone
Library	Mrs. Eleanor Sparvier
Instructional Support	Mrs. Leslie Arcand
Instructional Support	Ms. Delma Cook
Instructional Support	Miss Jaeden Albert
Instructional Support	Miss Jayden Chocan
Instructional Support	Mr. Trent Pahtayken
Instructional Support	Miss Sheniya Fineblanket
Instructional Support	Ms. Trissin Worm
Instructional Support	Mr. Jeffery Heathen
Instructional Support	Ms. Serena Pahtayken
Instructional Support	Ms. Stephanie Waterhen
Guidance Counsellor	Mrs. Vivian Chief
Principal	Ms. Lianna MacDonad
Vice- Principal	Ms. Tamara Pahtayken
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Ruby Whitstone
Cook	Ms. Leona Lewis
Home-School Liaison/Oskāpēwis	Mr. Colby Whitstone
Janitor	Mrs. Doris Belly
Maintenance	Mr. Kerry Stanley

Important Dates to Remember:

September 1- First Day of School
 September 5-Labour Day
 September 14-Early Release-2 pm
 September 19-HeadStart and Pre-Kindergarten students start
 September 30-Truth & Reconciliation Day
 October 10-Thanksgiving Holiday- No school
 October 12-Early Release-2 pm
 November 1-Professional Development-No school
 November 10-Remembrance Day
 November 11-First Nations Unity Day
 November 15 & 16-Reporting with Parents (4:00-7:00 pm)
 Dec 23-January 6-Christmas Break
 January 9-School reopens
 January 27-Professional Development
 February 8-Early Release-2 pm
 February 20-24-Winter Break
 February 27-Back to School
 March 8-Early Release
 March 28 & 29-Reporting with Parents (4:00- 7:00)
 April 7-Good Friday
 April 10-14-Easter Holidays
 April 17-Back to School
 May 10-Early Release-2 pm
 May 19-Professional Development-No School
 May 22-Victoria Day/ No School
 June 20-Treaty Day (tentative)
 June 21-Aboriginal Day
 June 28-Last day for students
 June 29-Last day for staff (Admin)

Onion Lake School Health Policy:

The school supports educating the whole child to ensure that s/he receives all the conditions necessary for her/him to achieve their best in all aspects of school. In doing so the school offers porridge for breakfast, hot meals for lunch and an afternoon snack to those students who require them. The education system does its best to educate the students in making healthy lifestyle choices. This includes physical well-being, emotional well-being and mental well-being of the child. As part of our health curriculum we educate the student to choose healthy foods for their diet. Thus, in our schools we are trying to offer the students healthy alternatives for their lunch. In doing this we would like to request that the parents cooperate by helping your child bring healthy/nutritious food in their lunch. Your child's lunch should reflect the suggestions from the Canada Food Guide. Sending foods such as pop, chips, candy and warm ups should be avoided. We also have some peanut allergies in the school. We are asking your

cooperation in helping us make the school peanut & peanut butter free to ensure the safety for all students.

Rights and Responsibilities of Students:

1. Every student has the right to an education designed to meet his/her particular needs.
2. Every student has the right to be respected as an individual.
3. Every student has the right to be listened to.
4. Every student has the right to a safe, protected and interesting learning environment.
5. Students have a responsibility to listen to instruction and perform their learning task diligently.
6. Students have a responsibility to treat staff with respect.
7. Students have a responsibility to listen to the opinions of others and not interfere with the learning of other students.
8. Students have a responsibility to ensure that their conduct does not present any danger to the safety of other students.
9. Students have a responsibility to use their facilities and resources in a careful and conscientious manner.

School Day:

Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 11:45 a.m. for lunch. Afternoon classes begin at 12:30 p.m. and end at 3:10 p.m. Recess in the morning will be from 10:30 – 10:45 a.m. and in the afternoon at 2:00 – 2:15 p.m. It is expected that all students will be in class on time.

Dress Code:

Students are to wear clothing which is presentable, comfortable and non-offensive. Hats are not to be worn in the school. **Running shoes are required footwear for activities in the Gym.** It is suggested that students have a pair of inside shoes if possible. “Heely” shoes are strictly prohibited from being worn at Pewasenakwan Primary School.

Leaving the classroom:

Students may leave the classroom only with the permission of the teacher. Students are encouraged to use the washroom before school, at lunch and at recess time. All students will use the water coolers from the classrooms.

Illness and Injury:

If a student becomes ill or injured while at school, every effort will be made to contact the parents/guardians. If in the event that the child has sustained a serious injury, and we cannot contact the parents/guardians, the school administrator will use his/her own discretion as regards to medical attention. **The school is not responsible for taking students to medical appointments at the Health Center.**

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Pewasenakwan Primary School provides students with a broad range of extra-curricular activities emphasizing healthy competition, personal, social and cultural enrichment, participation, sportsmanship and leadership.

Attendance:

Children must attend school until they reach the age of sixteen. Parents are legally obligated to ensure that their child maintains regular attendance until that time. In addition, students who attend school regularly tend to achieve much higher in school. Therefore, the school will follow this procedure:

1. The parents of these students will be contacted if the school has not been notified, in order to determine the reason for the absences. If the child is absent for three days in a row with an unexcused absents the home-school liaison will visit the child's home to identify any challenges.
2. Students must be in school before 10:00 a.m. or they will be marked absent for the morning. If they leave school before 2:00 p.m. they will be marked absent for the afternoon.
3. Doctor's notes will not be accepted to use as an excused absence. **Excused absences are only considered for Cultural Leave and Bereavement.** It is up to the parents to inform teachers if such events occur.

Homework Policy:

1. Students in Kindergarten and Grade 1 will receive homework every Wednesday evening.
2. Students who are behind in certain subjects or who have transferred in, etc., may need extra help. In addition to such help as may be given at school, the teacher may suggest certain forms of work which may be done at home and request the cooperation of the parents or guardians.
3. Pupils should be encouraged to read and study at home. At no time will the child be assigned more than 30 minutes of homework.
4. Online homework assignments will be utilized more this year.

Student Promotion Policy:

Recent research indicates that there are advantages in retaining a student in a grade early in their educational program. To be considered for promotion to the next grade, **all students** must achieve the Minimum Grade Level Standards for their respective grade. The teachers at each grade level have developed the standards and assessment tools. These will be reviewed on an annual basis and it is expected that these standards will be raised as we implement strategies to improve student achievement levels. Exceptions to these standards will only be made for designated students and their progress will be monitored through their respective IEP's. The bottom line is that students need to acquire the requisite skills at a particular grade level in order to proceed successfully the following school year. The following procedures will apply within Pewasenakwan Primary School.

Students Retention (Repeating) Guidelines: Parents must be informed at every step

1. Only under highly exceptional circumstances should a student spend more than four years in one Division and more than two years in one grade.
2. *When considering retaining a student the main criteria used should be what would be of the best interest of the child.* Achievement of Minimum Grade Level Standards and student attendance will be an important component of this step.
3. *When there is a possibility a child might be retained the following will occur:*
 - *The parent will be notified as soon as possible that their child is having academic difficulty.*
 - *The resource room teacher will be asked for recommendations.*
 - *If there continues to be a concern a meeting will set up with the parents to discuss the concerns and develop a recovery plan before the end of January.*

School Rules:

1. During bus time and recess, students will enter and leave the school through the assigned door.
2. Students are to remove his/her outside shoes when entering the school on rainy days or when it is muddy.
3. The following things are **NOT** to be brought to school: cell phones, I-pods, I-pads, tablets, hand-held electronic games, sunflower seeds and make-up items.
4. Students must remain inside the school areas as defined by the outside perimeter fence.
5. Students are not to leave the school area during the day unless arrangements are made with the parents. At no point in time is a student ever allowed to walk off school property alone. Each student is to stay at school for lunch.

Bussing:

1. Everyone is to ride the same bus home that they came to school on.
2. **Any different bussing arrangements must be made through AL WHITSTONE AT ONION LAKE TRANSPORTATION, TRAINING AND CAREERS @ 344-4961. Transportation MUST be called FIRST when alternate drop offs are being arranged. Transportation will then inform the school of those changes. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL AS THE ARRANGEMENTS CANNOT BE HONOURED.**
3. Students should remain seated when the bus is moving.
4. Do not distract the driver during the trip.
5. Do not throw things around in the bus or from the windows of the bus.
6. Show respect to your driver and other bus riders.

Please note: riding the school bus is a **privilege, it is not a **right**. Students are expected to show respect to the bus driver, fellow passengers and the school bus. Breaking of rules will be dealt with by school Administration and the Bussing Coordinator. Continuous/Serious incidents may result in a suspension from the bus in which the parents/guardians are responsible to drop off/pick up their child from school.

Administration Intervention for Misbehaviours:

Generally; students do their best, but at times, they forget to use their **virtues**. When students are sent to the office; because of their misbehaviours, it is important they understand what they have done wrong and understand what virtue they should have used. As part of this process, each child is considered as an individual. When dealing with misbehaviours each situation will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The administration may consider these possible responses:

- Correct the situation by reconciliation
- Talk to an elder
- Talk with a councillor
- Talk to the vice- principal
- Talk to the principal

******When a child is continually repeating their misbehaviour, the parent will be informed, so that we can find a solution to help the child become more successful.

*******The school **will not tolerate** bullying, extreme disrespect, and fighting. In addition to the above interventions possible actions for these behaviours may include

- Student being sent home,
- In-school suspension,
- Out of school suspension.

*********The Onion Lake School Board considers the following behaviour as resulting in

Immediate Suspension:

- Possession of illegal drugs, trafficking, or alcohol in school,
- Smoking or consumed illegal drugs or alcohol,
- Weapons, assaults and vandalism.

STUDENT AWARDS

MONTHLY AWARDS:

To promote pride and a sense of belonging within our students, EVERY child will receive a personalized award EVERY month that will be personalized by the teacher. These awards can be as fun, silly and unique as possible. It is up to the teacher to get her list of awards to the **Monthly Awards Committee** ONE week before scheduled assemblies so that there is time to produce and distribute these awards. Some examples of awards are *Friendliest Student*, *Biggest Smile*, *Most Contagious Laugh*, *Best Hugger Award* and can be anything you can think of. Please make these awards as personalized and positive as you can for the students and families.

Perfect Attendance: Each student who has perfect attendance for that month shall receive a Perfect Attendance Certificate.

Cree Language: One child from each classroom will be chosen who displays the best attitude and tries to speak Cree in the Cree classes.

Cleanest Classroom of the Month: The classroom who displays the cleanest environment after every school day will be recognized.

Highest Attendance: The classroom with the highest overall attendance (without excused absences) wins

the biggest teddy bear. 2nd and 3rd highest will also be awarded with bears.

-Monthly attendance awards will be done in the classroom for the 2021-2022 school year. Please make time for these once a month.

YEAR END AWARDS:

In keeping with the monthly award theme, the Year End awards will be the same. EVERY student will receive a personalized award (thought of by the teacher) at the end of the year along with a gift. These personalized year-end awards should distinguish from the monthly awards and be just that much more special to the students and families. Some examples could be *Homework Award, Math Whiz Award, Home Reader Award, Hard Worker Award, etc.* The following awards will also be distributed at the end of the year.

Year End Perfect Attendance: Zero days absent throughout the year regardless of reason with the exception of funerals and busses not running due to weather.

Year End Near Perfect Attendance: Three days or less absence throughout the year regardless of reason with the exception of funerals and busses not running due to weather.

Cree Award: This award is given to the student who has made the greatest progress in Cree Language Development in Kindergarten and Grade One.

Gym Award: This award is given to the student who has made the greatest progress in Gym in Kindergarten and Grade One.

Nēhiyaw Pimatisiwin Award: This award is given to the student who displays virtuous attitude and characteristics throughout the year in their everyday life.

RCMP Attendance Trophy: This trophy is given to the classroom in the school that has the best average attendance throughout the school year.