



MME VAL'S REVIEW SEPTEMBER 2023



What an incredibly busy start of the year this September has been! Every day, I am increasingly amazed by the professionalism, passion and care that I see from our Firebird staff. I am also impressed by the kindness and generosity I see in our students.

So much has happened this first month, and I want to take the time to share it with you. I believe it is important for families to see the wonderful and meaningful work that happens in our school! As a mom myself, I ask my 8 year-old son every evening: "What did you do in school today, Matéo?". Most days, I am met with a "I don't know" or "nothing". I am 100% certain that he is not doing nothing all day! And the same goes for your children... they do A LOT every day! My hope is that my monthly reviews will provide you with an insight of what's happening at Mitchell.

While I will not be able to share everything every month, I will do my best to include every division in at least one of my monthly reviews this year.

I hope that you enjoy this insider's look into the world of Mitchell Elementary!

Sincerely,

Mme Val
Mitchell's Principal

PS: Look at these amazing educators I have the privilege of working with everyday!



1.

START OF THE YEAR ASSEMBLIES

In early September, we had two assemblies; one for primary, and one for intermediates. The intent was to establish clear expectations and get to know each other! It was also an opportunity for Mr. Narbett and I to remind and teach our students about what it means to be a Mitchell Firebird!



| We Are Respectful F.I.R.E.B.I.R.D.s | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| F | FRIENDLINESS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are kind, polite and optimistic We smile, greet and include others |
| I | INDEPENDENCE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We try our best We practice healthy routines and habits |
| R | REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We take care of nature and our school grounds |
| E | ENCOURAGEMENT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We support one another We advocate for others |
| B | BE EMPATHETIC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We use kind words and actions We listen to others |
| I | IT TAKES A TEAM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We work together and accept others for who they are |
| R | RESPONSIBLE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We think before we act We choose to be safe |
| D | DARE TO DREAM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be true and be yourself We are confident and proud |

2.

MEET THE STAFF EVENT

What a vibrant atmosphere we had at Mitchell on the evening of September 21! It was truly amazing to meet so many of you! Thank you for coming to this event!

During that evening, I shared with families the thoughts our staff had when asked: "What makes Mitchell great?"



3.

TERRY FOX RUN

I must acknowledge the hard work of Mr. Narbett on this initiative. As a Principal, I feel blessed to have him as my admin partner at Mitchell! We had an amazing assembly where we learned so much about Terry Fox and his legacy. The assembly finished with a fun dance warm-up, and then all classes made their way to the field to run or walk for 30 minutes. By the end, I could tell most students were exhausted! I was so proud to see that many of our students, like Terry Fox, pushed their limits to run/walk for the cause of cancer research! Mitchell also did extremely well fundraising for the Terry Fox Foundation; we raised \$791! Thank you to all Firebird families who contributed so generously to this important cause!



DIV. 10 - MATH PROJECT
INSPIRED BY TERRY FOX

\$791



LEARN MORE ABOUT
TERRY FOX AT

www.terryfox.org

4. ORANGE SHIRT DAY

On September 22, staff gathered in the gym to engage in some important (un)learning and vulnerable and rich conversations around decolonizing our educational practices. To support us in our learning, the district organized a whole morning of presentations; an Indigenous dancing group and keynote speaker Dr. Dustin Louie. This work helped guide us in our planning for National Truth and Reconciliation Day (Sept. 30) and Orange Shirt Day (Sept. 29).

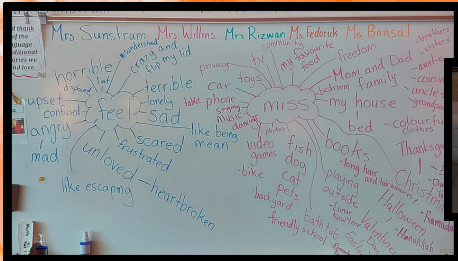
On September 29, we encouraged students to come to school wearing orange shirts. This has become somewhat of a tradition in Canada, since 2013. The initiative was started by Phyllis Webstad. If you are not familiar with Phyllis' story, I encourage you to watch this short video to learn more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GE1F5nBQmME> .

To mark Orange Shirt Day at school, we had an assembly on Sept. 29 to be together and reflect on the steps that we can take towards reconciliation.

Many classes also worked on the topic of reconciliation this month. Check out some of their amazing work on the next page!





Our library has a rich selection of books to support learning about truth and reconciliation - Thank you Ms. Fedoruk!