

HAZEL M. KELLINGTON SCHOOL

Allen Hanke

Principal

Ph. (204) 476-2323

BOX 696

NEEPAWA, MB

ROJ IHO

www.hmk.bpsd.mb.ca

Jason Young

Vice-Principal

Fax (204) 476-3449

Hazel M. Kellington School: 1983 – 2008



HMK Staff '83-84



HMK Staff '07-08

Hazel M. Kellington continues to be a kindergarten through grade 6 school serving the needs of Neepawa and area students and their families. In the last 25 years, HMK's enrolment has been as high as 433, and as low as 353. Class sizes have varied over the years (the largest class that can be remembered in the last 25 years is 35 students in a grade 6 class), but overall, class size trends have been towards smaller numbers as the student/teacher ratio has seen small reductions by the Board over the years.

The most noticeable change in HMK over the last 25 years has been with the school itself. Throughout the 1980's it became very apparent that the school needed some major work done, so the Board initiated a Building Evaluation Report. When the report came back, it determined that the cost of upgrading the building systems (architectural, structural, mechanical, and electrical) would be prohibitive. In 1992 the division purchased the remaining residential lots on the block and disposed of the houses. This was both in anticipation of a potential project as well as to maximize the size of the school yard. The Board forwarded the building report to the Public School Finance Board (PSFB), and after some deliberations, finally received approval in 1994 to proceed with the design and planning of a construction/renovation project. The Board struck a building committee which included teachers, administrators, board members and upper administration. There were numerous meetings of this committee over the next several months, with lots of discussion, both within the committee as well as with the PSFB. The goal was to construct a functional school while balancing need, practicality and cost. The plan that was selected called for two phases, with phase one including the construction of a new classroom section north of the existing school on what was at that time the west part of the big kids' playground,

and renovations to the existing "open area" and music room. The new part of the school would have a central library as its main focal point. With literacy being one of our primary educational goals, there could not have been a more fitting choice for the heart of the school! The library would also house the R. J. Bradley Science and Health Resource Centre which was dedicated to the memory of Bob Bradley, a highly respected teacher, counselor, administrator, and educational leader at HMK for a number of years. The second phase included the demolition of the old section of the school, including the upper and lower hallways, gymnasium, office, kindergarten room, staff room, MPR, and library. Phase two also called for the construction of a new gymnasium which was to be built south of the music room on the west side of the school yard. Since the PSFB plan for the new gym did not include a stage or hardwood floors, the local School Board decided to fund the construction of a storage area that would be large enough to accommodate a portable stage and chairs, as well as hardwood floors. It was at this time that major events such as the NACI Major Production and the Grade 5 Operetta found a new home at the Roxy Theatre. Construction began in the spring of 1996. In September of '96 the renovations to the open area were not quite finished, so the grade 5 and 6 classes had to be held in the old gymnasium for the first few weeks!! In December 1996, students and teachers literally picked up their belongings in the old school and made their way over to the new classroom section for the first time. Finally, on December 3rd, 1997, after nearly two years of construction, the new /rebuilt Hazel M. Kellington School had its official opening to rave reviews!



Hazel M. Kellington Staff 1996-97

In addition to the new school, HMK has seen many other changes since 1983. One of the most noticeable is in the area of technology! Back in 1983, there was one TRS-80 computer in the entire school! Shortly thereafter there was a major debate as to whether the school should purchase Commodore 64's or Apples. The decision was made to buy four Commodore 64 computers (Apples cost approximately 1.5 times as much!). One of these computers was placed in the lower hallway, one in the upper

hallway, one in the open area, and one in the library. These four machines were purchased through fundraising and direct support from the community. As funds were available, computers were added, and eventually Kellington was at the point where there were enough computers to have an entire lab of Commodore 64's. Although the technology itself has changed a great deal, the philosophy the school uses in implementing technology has not. We continue to rely on the Board and community to support hardware and software acquisitions so we may provide the best possible learning opportunities for our students! Currently, the school has a lab of 29 computers, as well as up to six computers in each classroom. In grades 5 and 6, each classroom has at least one desktop computer and three laptops. The entire school is networked, and there is wireless capability in the grade 5 and 6 area which allows the laptops to be shared between classrooms as needed for various projects. There are four laptops that teachers can sign out of the office, two data projectors on carts that can be signed out for use in classrooms, five classrooms with data projectors mounted permanently, six computers in the library, laser printers in the office, lab and library, ink jet printers in over half of the classrooms, three digital video cameras, six digital still cameras, six scanners, and a fully functional school website (www.bmk.bpsd.mb.ca). Our school was selected in 2003 by Industry Canada into their "Network of Innovative Schools" (NIS) for a three year technology project, and continues to this day to be a leader in the integration of technology into the curriculum.

Another noticeable change over the last 25 years is in the area of special needs education. In 1983 programming for students with special needs was called "Special Ed" and our school had one educational assistant (EA). The name of the program was eventually changed to Developmental Resource, and now is known as the Student Support Program. Over the years the province has recognized the special needs that students have and has responded by providing guidelines for students to qualify for special needs funding. This funding provides a portion of the money for an EA – the remainder of the money must be made up by the division. Currently there are 13 EA's working at HMK. The additional special needs funding and the corresponding hiring of educational assistants has greatly expanded the educational options for special needs students. Twenty five years ago special needs referred mainly to severe cognitive and physical disabilities. These students were usually taught in a self contained classroom, particularly for language arts and math, and participated with the regular classes whenever possible. The current definition of special needs has expanded to include many different learning disabilities and conditions. When individual programming is needed it is provided either by the classroom teacher, or by the resource or student support teacher. There is an expectation among classroom teachers that children with special needs will be in their classroom for much of the day. Over time the goal of the school has always been to look at the individual needs of all kids and provide programming that best suits their needs – whether that be in the regular classroom, the resource room, or the student support room.

Our school has a rich history that includes many "extra" activities that over time have become traditions. These "extras" have had tremendous support in various ways from

the community. Some of the activities you may recall include: the Terry Fox run/walk/BBQ; grade 6 patrols; intramurals; our Remembrance Day Service; neighborhood cleanup; the noon skating program; Christmas performances; school choir; learning and science fairs; Spring Fling; grade 5 Operetta; and the grade 5 and 6 biennial camp trip to Camp Assiniboia.

Hazel M. Kellington School has a long standing tradition of providing excellent educational opportunities to the children who attend. This was most recently recognized by *Today's Parent* magazine which listed HMK in their "Top 25" schools in Canada (September 2007 issue). With vast curriculum changes the school system has seen over the last 25 years, the staff at HMK has maintained high standards that are appropriate for the children in their care. The strength of the school has always been in the people who work here. The dedication of the entire staff to the betterment of children, along with the support that staff provide for each other are the things that set Hazel M. Kellington School apart. The goal of the school has always been to do what is in the best interest of our community's children. We pride ourselves in preparing kids to face the challenges that lie ahead; whether they are academic or social.

In closing, it would be unforgivable for a write-up on the history of our school to exclude at least a paragraph on the overwhelming support shown by the parents and community at large (including the School Board). Time and again the school has initiated projects that would never have seen completion without the support shown by the community. Whether it be for computers, playgrounds, field trips, books, extra noon supervision, classroom volunteers, sound systems, or artists in the school, it has been the parents and community that have been willing to donate both time and money in support of the education of the children. Our Parent Council, although small in number, has been a never ending source of encouragement and support, both moral as well as financial, over the years. Agencies such as the RCMP, Big Brothers, Child and Family Services, Children's Special Services, and Children's Mental Health are always willing to lend their support. Service clubs such as Rotary/Inner Wheel, Kin Club, Elks/Royal Purple, Lions/Lionelles, Odd Fellows/Rebekahs, and UCT are continually open to suggestions and ideas for school improvement. Local businesses readily donate products and expertise for various projects. Our school is without a doubt extremely fortunate to have felt the support it has over the years! Thank you for helping us to do what we can for the children in our care – it truly does take a community to raise a child! Here's to the next 25 years being as successful as the last 25!!

Respectfully compiled and submitted by the HMK administrators 1983 – present:

John Nelson 1983 – 2002

Ron Jesson 1994 – 2004

Allen Hanke 2002 – present

Jason Young 2004 – present

and on behalf of Bob Bradley, administrator: 1983 – 1994