

V.K. Greer Principal Profile

Updated Spring 2014 by the V.K. Greer School Council

Three samples of Principal Profiles were provided from a document entitled 'School Councils – A Guide For Members'. It was felt that all skills listed in the samples were valuable and would hopefully be found in any Principal that would come to serve at V.K. Greer or any other school. For this reason, we chose not to take time to list or rank desired traits, but rather to focus on highlighting some unique characteristics and priorities of our school.

V.K Greer Memorial Public School is located at 130 Muskoka Road 10 (at the corner of Greer Road) in Utterson, ON. It sits about half way between Bracebridge and Huntsville, just a minute from Highway 11, and borders the village of Port Sydney within the larger Town of Huntsville area.

The current student population is close to 220 students filling 10 Classrooms. Full-Day Kindergarten was introduced for the first time this year. Portables are no longer in use at this time.

As it is a rural school, all students are assigned to a school bus however some students do walk or bike to school. Macaulay Tree House runs a before and after school program at V.K. Greer also.

The school is situated on a large property with rocky areas, extensive woods, walking trails, a large open field, 2 playground areas, and plenty of hill space for tobogganing. The school has cross country ski equipment as well as snowshoes for student use in winter months. The sugar bush is a favourite feature of this property, and students participate in the tapping of trees and the preparation of maple syrup in the sugar shack each spring with the help of dedicated staff and volunteers.

A School Garden for growing vegetables and herbs is currently being worked by students, staff and families with the leadership of the Farmers In The Playground program. Students learn about gardening, healthy foods, safe food preparation and cooking methods, and they enjoy sampling what they harvest and prepare. Volunteers have kept the garden going over the summer months.

V.K. Greer has had a Healthy School Committee in partnership with the local Health Unit for the past 2 years. Several initiatives have been introduced such as:

- the STAND Council (a student committee leading anti-bullying activities)
- Healthy PALS (a group of trained students leading playground activities with an aim to increase play options, help all children to feel included, and to decrease bullying)
- Roots of Empathy (a classroom program that reduces aggression among children while increasing empathy, caring, self-awareness, and understanding of others)
- PLAY, FUEL, CHILL, and CHAT Weeks (theme weeks to promote healthy living choices/habits)
- Can You Feel It? (to promote understanding, recognition and management of stress for intermediate students)
- Salad Bar (an opportunity for all students to try a variety of healthy foods and share a meal together)

Healthy Active Living is a new initiative within the Board that is being promoted within V.K. Greer school and by the Healthy School Committee. New resources for QDPA (Quality Daily Physical Activity) have been introduced to assist Teachers with including QDPA at various times of day and in connection with various curriculum elements. DrumFIT has been introduced also and seems to be very popular!

Our School Council is small (average 15 members) yet fairly active (about 7 meetings, 3 fundraisers, 1 Winter Fun Day and 9 Family FUN Nights per year, as well as representation at the Welcome Back Corn Roast, JK Information Night, and Grade 8 Graduation). Parents/Guardians are encouraged to be a part of

School Council so that they will:

- Have a VOICE in their child(ren)'s education
- Celebrate Student and School ACHIEVEMENTS
- Plan/Run/Attend FUNDRAISERS for WISH LIST items
- Learn about & promote PARENT ENGAGEMENT
- Plan/Run/Attend FUN events with their kids

Our WISH LIST items currently include: Sporting Equipment/Jerseys, Drama/Costume Costs, Student Field Trips (\$10/student/year), Graduation costs (plaques, food), Musical Instrument Rentals, and Primary Playground Improvement. The School Council communicates with parents via the entranceway bulletin board, announcements in monthly school newsletters, and our e-Council email list.

Our School Council has had an excellent rapport with our current Principal, Ken Waddell, over the past 4 school years. He has been very supportive, particularly in our efforts to raise awareness about School Council amongst Parents/Guardians at V.K. Greer. Although we are not listing and ranking skills, we do want to highlight that Ken's thorough and timely communication with School Council has been especially appreciated. Ken regularly gathers our opinions on matters arising (such as School Dress Code, Winter Electives, Positive Space, and Safe Entry) and routinely keeps us informed about activities or changes at the School, the Board or the Ministry of Education (such as School organization plans, School Budget, student activities, implementation of Full-Day Kindergarten, EQAO, Strategic Directions and Strategic Action Plans, changes to fundraising and money-handling procedures, and new trends in education). Ken's communication has helped to keep Parents/Guardians both informed and engaged. We hope that we can look forward to this same positive rapport and thorough communication with future Principals.