



BLUMENORT SCHOOL

BENGALS UPDATE 25 - MARCH 1, 2024

The Umbrella Project @ Blumenort School

Welcome to **Purpose** month at the Umbrella Project!

This month we are going to work with students to learn about **purpose** and their meaningful contribution to the world. As we always say at the Umbrella Project, all of the skills are important and work best together! The happiest kids are able to understand their own needs and their contribution to the bigger world around them. How will a sense of purpose help my child? Purpose is the feeling that the things we do and the choices we make have meaning and make a difference. This makes us feel happier and more confident and gives us a set of guiding principles that help us make decisions. When kids have a sense of purpose, it is easier for them to keep going when things get difficult because they can see a bigger picture. This can make them less likely to get stuck in the small trivial details that don't matter in the long run. The journey of life isn't linear so it's important to live each day with a bigger set of goals and values that can make even the toughest of days feel worthwhile. Having a sense of purpose is so important that it can actually help your children live longer, healthier lives.

DO A FAMILY CULTURE BRAINSTORM by DR. JEN

Creating a family culture is a great way to help your child start the journey of identifying with a bigger purpose. What do I mean by family culture? Culture is the behaviors that are characteristic of a group. This can encompass just about anything, from the types of foods you choose to the leisure activities you do together to the higher principles you value. Feeling like a part of something bigger helps us start to establish our sense of purpose.

Start purpose-month by brainstorming together all of the things that you value most as a family. You can do this on a white board or a big sheet of paper that allows space for everyone to write down their ideas. A few questions you can reflect on are: What characteristics do I have that I am most proud of? What brings me joy? What have I done lately that makes my life feel meaningful?

Here are a few examples that came up in my family: seeing the world, having new experiences together, enjoying healthy, delicious food, using generosity and kindness as much as we can, and supporting our friends and family. Once you have everyone's ideas down, reflect on the ones that resonate most with everyone and put them somewhere your family can regularly see them.

The more multi-generational, the better, so don't forget to include grandparents if they are able. If not, just take a few minutes to reflect on their sense of purpose as well. Culture can be passed down for many generations. In my family, a great example of this is generosity. Although my grandfather is no longer with us, he left a legacy of generosity and this family exercise has been a great way for me to share that with my children. Focusing on generosity helps me feel purpose in my day to day life and also makes me feel like part of something bigger that my family contributes to the world.

A child's sense of purpose will continue to evolve over their lifetime, so this exercise should be fluid and open to change and input from your child over time. Remember, when children are committed to a culture/home they feel part of, they will want to help shape it in ways that will help them to excel. When identification with that group is lost, they can feel frustrated and withdraw, a situation seen often in teens. Make sure your child's voice is heard when you work on your shared family culture.



World's Finest Chocolate Almond & Assorted Chocolates Fundraiser

Our annual, school-wide World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser is coming to a close on Monday, March 4th. Please have all chocolates and/or money returned to our office. Thank you again for your support!

Report Cards & Parent-Teacher Conferences

Please keep the following dates in mind...

- Monday, March 18th - Report Cards will be available to view on the Parent Portal.
- Thursday, March 21st - K-Grade 8 Parent-Teacher Conferences. More info to follow.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year

Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now open. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to register their children in January for September entry, as this will assist schools in planning and scheduling. Early registration also provides the opportunity to participate in upcoming orientation events in spring. To be eligible for September registration (2024-25 school year), children must be five years of age on or before December 31, 2024. Students are required to attend the school within the catchment area where they reside, which ensures balanced enrollment across the division. For more information on school catchment areas and how to begin the online registration, please check out...

<https://hsd.ca/schools/student-registration/>

Bengals Music Department

Here are some dates to make 🎵 of in the Music Department:

- **SOUTH EAST MUSIC FESTIVAL - TUESDAY, MARCH 12th**
 - Blumenort singers will be participating. Location: Grace Mennonite Church in Steinbach.
 - 4A and 4F perform together at 10:15 am.
 - Bussing will be provided, and singers will be back at school for lunch time.
 - Grade 4 students should wear black/dark bottoms, and plain black top. (Shirts with logos may be turned inside out, if necessary).
 - Grade 5-8 Noon Choir performs at 1:15pm. They will be leaving school at 12:20pm, and be back at school by approximately 2:45pm.
 - Noon Choir students should wear black/dark bottoms, and our black school Music shirts - which will be handed out that morning.
 - The Festival is open to the public, and we would love to have family members in the audience!
 - Admission is \$3 per session, \$20 family rate per session, or \$20 individual person festival pass.
- **BLUMENORT GRADE 5-8 SPRING CONCERT - THURSDAY, MAY 9th**
 - Location: Blumenort School Gym at 2:00pm and 7:00pm.
 - Featured in the concert will be our Grade 7 and 8 Band, Grade 5-8 Noon Choir, and...Thwacked! a Fractured Fairy Tale/Musical.
 - Please mark this date on your calendars, as it is very important that all Band and Choir members are able to make it!
 - Grade 5-8 students had the option to audition for parts in our Spring Musical, and the cast list has been set! Once the Music Festival is behind us, rehearsals will begin for the singing, dancing and acting will begin. If you are interested in helping with costumes, backdrop painting, or gathering props - please contact Mrs. Sawatzky in the Music Department!

Bengals Athletics

- **BASKETBALL**
 - Our basketball season is wrapping up next week.
 - Our Bengals teams have learned a lot from their coaches and have experienced a lot of success.
 - Grade 8 Girls Playoffs are Tuesday, March 5th at Stonybrook Middle School.
 - Grade 8 Boys Playoffs are Thursday, March 7th at Kleefeld.
 - Come out and cheer them on!
- **BADMINTON**
 - Our Grade 7 and 8 badminton season will start in March with tournaments happening in late April.
 - Sign-ups will be posted the first week of March.



**Principal: Dave Schettler - dschettler@hsd.ca • Vice-Principal: Vanessa David - vdavid@hsd.ca
10 Park Street • Blumenort, MB • R0A 0C1 • Phone: (204) 326-1757 • Fax: (204) 326-8125
Main Email: blumenort@hsd.ca • Website: <http://blumenort.hsd.ca>
twitter: [#BlumenortHSD](#) • Instagram: [blumenorthsd](#)**