

PARENTS, DID YOU KNOW...?

The month of March has been declared *Perfect Attendance Month*, but why is school attendance such a big deal? The following information is taken directly from the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils' brochure, *Supporting Regular Daily Attendance: What Parents Can Do to Support Learning in Manitoba Schools*.

Did you know...

- Attendance in school is mandatory in Manitoba – not optional;
- If your child is 10 minutes late every day, he/she will have lost six days of instruction by the end of the school year;
- If your child misses only two days per month of school, he/she will have missed one month worth of instruction by the end of the school year;
- If your child misses 15 days of school every year, he/she will have lost one year of instruction by the end of grade 12;
- Students who attend school regularly are more engaged in learning, have a greater sense of belonging in their community, and are more likely to graduate;
- Individuals without a high school diploma are twice as likely to experience unemployment and earn a lower income than high school graduates;

What can families do to support good attendance?

- Participate in school events and activities to demonstrate your support for school and education;
- Talk to your kids about the importance of attendance, starting at an early age;
- Communicate regularly with the school if there is a problem or a concern and find ways to work together to solve it;
- Help your child with preparing and planning for the upcoming school day to lessen anxiety;
- Plan with other families in your neighbourhood to have children walk to school together;
- Plan appointments around the school day whenever possible;
- Plan vacations and outings around the school year whenever possible;

Your actions speak louder than words! Be on time and show that you value regular attendance and education!