

# 2021 Report to Community



Meeting new challenges,  
keeping kids learning.



**SEVEN OAKS**  
SCHOOL DIVISION  
*community begins here*





Back row: Evelyn Myskiw, Diane Cameron, Richard Sawka, Derek Dabee, Maria Santos  
Front: Claudia Sarbit, Edward Ploszay, Greg McFarlane, Teresa Jaworski



## Message from the CHAIR

Who thought we'd be writing about the pandemic in another Report to the Community? If anything, the 2020/21 school year had even more challenges resulting from the pandemic than 2019/20. Our students, families and staff had to keep adjusting to new restrictions for schools and elsewhere. Once again, the Seven Oaks community rose above these challenges with determination.

We are optimistic that the 2021/22 school year will be better. We are planning for a more normal year and will begin with all of our students in full time attendance. We will return to a full program of activities but we will still need to take some care. Staff, students and visitors will continue to wear masks and observe other safety measures. We will continue to cooperate fully with the vaccine rollout.

When we started writing this report, we expected this would be the last year of Seven Oaks School Division—and all other English-language school boards in Manitoba—because of the proposed changes in Bill 64, *The Education Modernization Act*. It is with great satisfaction we have learned that Bill 64 has been rescinded. Thanks to grassroots opposition

from you and the efforts of your board, other school boards, organizations and even the City of Winnipeg, the government has finally listened and the Seven Oaks community can look forward to the division continuing to offer excellent, locally relevant programming for students and the community.

Seven Oaks parents had great concerns about Bill 64. In June, we invited parents and caregivers of our students to tell us what you think about the proposed changes in Bill 64. Over 2,000 parents/caregivers responded and the majority of them (approximately 70 per cent) are very concerned about—and opposed to—Bill 64.

As schools settle into a new year, we can strengthen our focus on keeping our students healthy and learning.

Have a great year.

**Greg McFarlane**  
Chair



# This year will be **BETTER!**



**The 2020/21 school year was  
full of challenges for everyone.**

To all the parents, caregivers, community members, to all the teachers, educational assistants, school staff—and to all our students—thank you for doing such an amazing job at keeping each other safe, helping students learning and getting us ready for 2021/22.

*Salamat*  
ਤੁਹਾਡਾ ਧੰਨਵਾਦ  
اشكر  
*Merci*



# What makes Seven Oaks, **SEVEN OAKS.**



Children get the attention they deserve. We keep class sizes low, averaging under 20 in Kindergarten through Grade 3 and averaging 22 or less in Grades 4 through 8.



The best arts programming anywhere. Music, Choir, Dance, Fiddling, Band, Drama.



We keep costs to parents low. There is no charge for musical instruments, lunch supervision and field trips. School supplies are only \$35 a year.



Every child can learn to skate, swim and ride a bike safely.



Every high school student has a teacher advisor who is their mentor and champion throughout their senior years.



We prepare students for the future with dual credit post-secondary courses, cooperative vocational programs and internships.



Our facilities are first rate and open to the community. New Schools. High School Commons. Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre. The Aki Centre in West St. Paul.



We're committed to furthering Truth and Reconciliation. Treaty Education. Pow Wow. Ojibway Bilingual programming.



We reflect our community. Heritage and Bilingual programming. Staffing. Celebrations.



We put a greater percentage of our budget into the classroom than any other Winnipeg School Division. Our administration costs are low.



We innovate. Award winning programs. Wayfinders. Met Schools. First Teacher.



Results. Graduation rate. Closing achievement gaps.





# Seven Oaks will stay **SEVEN OAKS!**

**SOSD students, parents and staff can be relieved our division will continue as Seven Oaks since the government has announced it is withdrawing Bill 64, The Education Modernization Act.**

Based on the responses to a survey from 2000 parents in SOSD, we know the majority were strongly opposed to the bill and want to keep SOSD. If the bill had been enacted, Seven Oaks and the other English-language Manitoba school boards would have been eliminated and SOSD would have been centralized with the other Winnipeg divisions into one very large region. The result would have been the loss of local voice and choice.

Instead, the Seven Oaks board and administration can continue offering programs that fit the needs of our unique and diverse community. Trustees look forward being able to to hear from you and represent you—because they now will continue to be your democratically elected voice at the division.

Although Bill 64 has been withdrawn, we wanted to highlight some of the concerns we heard from parents in the survey we distributed in June. We thank everyone who participated in the survey and whose voices helped sway the government to abandon the bill.



## Here's a sampling of what parents had to say.



Bill 64 is incredibly concerning. We need to be able to access our schools directly and the community board who run them. I have no interest in calling a government official about my child and their learning.



Keep Seven Oaks School Division as is. Why fix something that is not broken.



The parent community council makes me uncomfortable. I don't want other parents, with no education background making decisions for my child. I'm also worried that newcomers, underprivileged, or minority family voices won't be heard.



I feel like our government is taking advantage of rolling out changes while a crisis is happening. Fix our health care system. That is the number one concern for our province.



I feel that every school is like a village and each school has different needs and wants and for family say about our schools! We need our school board with members to speak on behalf of families and the children!



I am quite concerned about how students with additional needs will fare in this new system. I feel they will all be treated with one broad brush stroke versus being able to identify their unique strengths to build upon.



Let us not have a generic fix to a very diverse community. Let us keep what is working as the model for best practice.



Every division knows what their community needs and are doing great in their own areas. I feel it should stay this way so they can focus more on what every child needs in their areas.



The proposed Bill also doesn't acknowledge the actual recommendations of the educational review, rather it consolidates power and reduces community voice. We deserve better.



I am proud of what the Seven Oaks Division has done on behalf of my children. I think this move to amalgamate is wrong.



# SEPTEMBER 30



## Orange Shirt Day and National Truth and Reconciliation Day

On September 30, SOSD invites everyone to wear an orange shirt to recognize Orange Shirt Day and the first National Truth and Reconciliation Day. The day is a chance to talk about the impact of the Residential Schools, the legacy they have left and to letting every Residential School survivor know they truly matter. Wearing an orange shirt recognizes Residential School students—survivors and the children who died. It's a way of making sure we don't forget the children and survivors. The orange shirt is in honour of the new shirt worn by a young Phyllis Webstad who was sent to a Residential School—a shirt taken away when she arrived at the school and never returned to her.

Schools across the division will promote discussion and reflection on Residential Schools and the actions recommended in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report.



# Community Begins Here

## Early Years: K-5

**École Belmont**  
French K-5  
1310 Templeton Avenue  
204-338-7893

**Collicutt School**  
English K-5  
75 Cottingham Street  
204-338-7937

**École Constable**  
**Edward Finney School**  
Dual Track K-5  
25 Anglia Avenue  
204-694-8688

**Forest Park School**  
English K-5  
130 Forest Park Drive  
204-338-9341

**Governor Semple School**  
English K-5  
150 Hartford Avenue  
204-339-7112

**James Nisbet**  
**Community School**  
English K-5  
70 Doubleday Drive  
204-633-8870

**Margaret Park School**  
English K-5  
385 Cork Avenue  
204-338-9384

**R.F. Morrison School**  
English K-5  
Ukrainian Bilingual K-6  
25 Morrison Street  
204-338-7804

**Riverbend Community School**  
English K-5  
Ojibwe Bilingual K-4  
123 Red River Boulevard W  
204-334-8417

**École Rivière-Rouge**  
French K-5  
55 Swinford Way  
204-697-5962

**École Templeton**  
French K-5  
1310 Templeton Ave  
204-589-9853

**Victory School**  
English K-5  
395 Jefferson Avenue  
204-586-9716

## Early Years/ Middle Years: K-8

**A.E. Wright|Community School**  
English K-8  
1520 Jefferson Avenue  
204-632-6314

**Amber Trails**  
**Community School**  
English K-8  
1575 Templeton Avenue  
204-697-5965

**Elwick Community School**  
English K-8  
30 Maberley Road  
204-633-5641

**O.V. Jewitt Community School**  
English K-8  
66 Neville Street  
204-633-1714

**West St. Paul School**  
English K-8  
3740 Main Street  
204-339-1964

## Middle Years: Grades 6-8

**Edmund Partridge**  
**Community School**  
English 6-8  
1874 Main Street  
204-339-9889

**H.C. Avery Middle School**  
English 6-8  
10 Marigold Bay  
204-334-4391

**École Leila North**  
**Community School**  
Dual Track 6-8  
20 Allan Blye Drive  
204-694-8071

**École Seven Oaks**  
**Middle School**  
Dual Track 6-8  
800 Salter Street  
204-586-0327

## Senior Years: Grades 9-12

**Collège Garden**  
**City Collegiate**  
Dual Track 9-12  
711 Jefferson Avenue  
204-339-2058

**Maples Collegiate**  
English 9-12  
1330 Jefferson Avenue  
204-632-6641

**Maples Met School**  
English 9-12  
1300 Jefferson Avenue  
204-632-6641

**Met Centre for Arts**  
**& Technology**  
English 9-12  
321 McDermot Avenue  
204-589-9854

**Seven Oaks Met School**  
English 9-12  
640 Jefferson Avenue  
204-336-5050

**West Kildonan Collegiate**  
English 9-12  
101 Ridgecrest Avenue  
204-339-6959

## Additional Education Opportunities

**Seven Oaks Adult**  
**Learning Centre**  
950 Jefferson Avenue  
204-632-1716

**Adult Education Centre**  
1747 Main Street  
204-953-0818

**Wayfinders**  
950 Jefferson Avenue  
204-631-5849



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