



2024



SEVEN OAKS  
SCHOOL DIVISION  
*community begins here*

# Report to the Community



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## CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

### Learning Thrives in Seven Oaks

At Seven Oaks School Division, we are proud to foster an environment where learning truly thrives. Our commitment to educational excellence is reflected in the achievements of our students, the dedication of our staff, and the strong support from our community.

This annual report shares a small glimpse into our schools and paints a picture of a division where anything is possible. Most importantly, it shows you, our community members, what makes Seven Oaks such a great place to live, and what makes me proud to be a school trustee.

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with pride and optimism for the future. We remain dedicated to providing learning environments where every student can thrive. With the continued support of our community, we look forward to another year of growth, achievement and inspiration.

On behalf of your board of trustees, I extend gratitude to students, families, Seven Oaks staff and the Seven Oaks community for your engagement and support over the year.

Maria Santos  
*Seven Oaks School Division Board Chair*



**Tiffany Winchar**  
West St Paul



**Diane Cameron**  
Amber Trails, Maples



**Derek Dabee**  
Amber Trails, Maples



**Greg McFarlane**  
Amber Trails, Maples



**Maria Santos**  
Amber Trails, Maples



**Teresa Jaworski**  
Garden City, Riverbend, Rivergrove  
& West Kildonan



**Edward Ploszay**  
Garden City, Riverbend,  
Rivergrove & West Kildonan



**Evan Krosney**  
Garden City, Riverbend,  
Rivergrove & West Kildonan



**Richard Sawka**  
Garden City, Riverbend,  
Rivergrove & West Kildonan



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

I am delighted to share with you our Annual Report to the Community, which focuses on the theme of “Learning Thrives Here.” I invite you to explore this annual report and join us in celebrating the achievement of our schools, dedication of our staff, and you – the community that supports us.

Through these stories and several more, you will notice that our priority in Seven Oaks is to empower our students to recognize and realize their full potential. We believe in providing diverse opportunities that consider interests and strengths, ensuring that each student can thrive academically, socially and personally. Opportunities that provide students with not just knowledge, but with critical thinking skills, creativity, social responsibility and a global perspective.

And as we reflect on the past year, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. By fostering a culture of innovation, embracing diversity, and understanding our roles and responsibilities in Truth and Reconciliation, we will continue to cultivate a caring environment for all students.

Within this report you will also find a snapshot of our spending. We know finances are a growing concern for all families – that’s why we strategize to save our parents every possible penny and provide Seven Oaks students the best opportunities education has to offer.

Thank you for your continued trust and collaboration as we work together to ensure that “Learning Thrives Here” in Seven Oaks School Division.

Tony Kreml  
*Superintendent*  
*Seven Oaks School Division*

# WE WATCH OUR SPENDING – AND YOURS

We know finances are a going concern for all families – that’s why we strategize to save our parents every possible penny.

We’re proud to offer:

- Lunch supervision at all schools
- Before and after school programs
- On-site daycares
- No school fees
- Low cost school supplies
- No-cost field trips, special projects and other in-class activities
- Learn to Skate, Learn to Swim, Learn to Bike
- Seven Oaks cost per pupil vs Provincial average. SOSD \$13,728 vs Provincial Average \$14,941
- % of budget to directly supporting students in the classroom. SOSD 83.2% vs Provincial Average of 79.2% We consistently devote a greater percentage of our budget to the classroom

Between school supplies, band instruments, field trips/locker fees and lunch supervision alone we save parents \$740 per year, per child.

We also give kids a chance to participate in no-cost Learn to Skate, Learn to Swim, Learn to Bike programs, Sistema Winnipeg Music program in cooperation with Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and after-hours recreation programs that help kids find a place to belong.

All kids deserve the best opportunities education has to offer, both in and out of the classroom. And while nothing comes for free these days, we can ensure quality education and lifelong exploration come at as low a cost as possible.

School supplies  
**\$120 saving**



Band instruments  
**\$220 saving**



Lunch supervision  
**\$350 saving**



Field trips/  
locker fees  
**\$50 saving**



# ARTS LIVE HERE

We had an amazing year celebrating all the accomplishments of our students in the performing and visual arts in Seven Oaks School Division.



## Seven Oaks Performing Art Centre (SOPAC)

Since 2018, SOPAC has been the home to our performing arts events in Seven Oaks School Division. We had more than 280 events, productions, concerts, dance showcases, grads and more over the 2023/24 school year. We've seen many students from more than 20 of our schools come through and perform on the SOPAC stage with a sense of pride and enthusiasm. We celebrated singing in the division through an event called SO SING in early March. In April, we had more than 500 students in two shows at our Divisional Dance Day. Eight musical theatre productions were rehearsed and performed in SOPAC over the course of the year as well. These productions involved over 1300 students in the various casts and crews.



## Arts in the Park (AITP) 2024

Planning for our 12th AITP began in the spring of 2023. We had almost 40 staff members on the steering committee who worked tirelessly to plan a wonderful and engaging event for almost 9000 Seven Oaks students. The event was planned for three days and two nights, but because of weather challenges on Thursday, we had to cancel that day's activities and performances.



For some of our students, this was their first experience at AITP, and for other students, this may have been their last AITP, as they graduate from high school in June. Throughout the event we had many student performances in choir, band, fiddle, dance, guitar and Orff ensembles. Our workshops were well attended by all and included Hands-on-Art Experience, Art Goons, Red Dress Awareness, Anishinaabe Floral Painting, Storytelling with Tipi Joe, Storytelling with Rockford McKay, Prairie Plante Painting Party, Film Fest, West African Drumming and Tech Hub. In addition to the many adult helpers, we had many high school students helping to make AITP a success. Some students were on site from morning to evening helping to build stages, setting up choir risers, adjusting art work, and of course, performing! Lots of learning took place preparing for a festival like this in the rehearsing of student performances, as well as the time spent working on just over 1500 art pieces for our visual art display. It is always special for our young students to hear our older students and vice versa. Many students have mentioned AITP is the highlight of their year.



## Language is Thriving Школа R. F. Morrison School English Ukrainian Bilingual Program (EUBP)

This year at Школа R. F. Morrison School our school community has embraced and celebrated Ukrainian culture through a variety of enriching activities and educational programs.

Our English Ukrainian Bilingual Program (EUBP) focused their curriculum on significant cultural themes such as the Holodomor and patriot Taras Shevchenko, celebrating events like Malanka and Vyshvanka Day. They also organized a Ukrainian Culture community event, and our grade 6 students had the honour of singing both the Ukrainian and Canadian national anthems at City Hall for the Mayor of Winnipeg and a special guest, the Mayor of Lviv, Ukraine.

One of the highlights has been the continuation of our traditional activities, which play a vital role in preserving and passing on Ukrainian heritage. Students eagerly participated in the annual Saint Nicholas visit, where they learned about Ukrainian customs and traditions associated with this beloved figure. Additionally, our students engaged in the creation of pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs), paska (Easter bread), and perishky (stuffed buns), activities that not only foster creativity but also deepen their connection to Ukrainian cultural practices.



At Школа R. F. Morrison School, we take pride in our language program, which is designed to meet the diverse learning needs of our students. Whether Canadian-born children exploring Ukrainian language and culture for the first time or Ukrainian-born children affected by the war in Ukraine, our program aims to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for all learners. Students not only learn the Ukrainian language but also explore its rich history and cultural significance through integrated activities in both language learning and social studies.

Our commitment to cultural and language immersion is evident throughout the curriculum, where students spend dedicated time engaging with the Ukrainian language and its cultural context. By integrating language learning with social studies, we create meaningful learning experiences that encourage our students to appreciate and respect diverse cultures.

Students from kindergarten to grade 6 continued to collaborate with the Manitoba Parents of Ukrainian Education (MPUE), engaging in various language and cultural activities tailored to their respective grade levels:

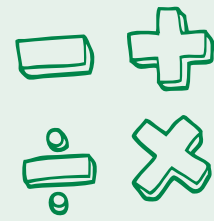
- Grade 4 students visited the Leo Mol Garden in May.
- Grade 5 students attended the Legislative Assembly in the fall.
- Grade 6 students enjoyed a memorable three-day, two-night Language and Culture Camp at Camp Manitou in April.

Additionally, teachers participated in the MPUE Ukrainian educators' professional development day in Dauphin, benefiting from insights shared by Wade Houle and other experts.

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud of the growth and achievements of our students in embracing Ukrainian culture and language. We look forward to continuing to nurture this rich cultural heritage in our school community.



# ENHANCING EARLY MATH SKILLS AT MARGARET PARK SCHOOL



At Margaret Park School, we focus on building strong math skills from kindergarten to grade 2. We use fun, engaging, and effective methods to help every child learn and grow in math. We are dedicated to fostering a strong foundation in numeracy skills among our youngest learners. Our comprehensive approach to early years math education incorporates a variety of engaging practices and innovative strategies designed to support every student's mathematical growth. The key elements of our early years math program at Margaret Park School focuses on instructional strategies, curriculum integration, assessment practices and program successes.



**Exciting Ways We Teach Math.** We have Math Talks and Mental Math sessions where students solve problems together. We also teach addition and subtraction tricks like making friendly numbers and doubling.

We explore shapes, space and measurement during our Morning Calendar Talks. Websites like Stevenwyborney.com help us teach number sense, and activities like Subitizing and Math Splats make learning math interactive and fun.

MATH CENTERS			
Grade 2s	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3
Sharon Adams, Kimberly Ryan	Mathletics	Math Games	Number of the Day
Natasha Adams, Kelly Harris	Number of the Day	Math Games	Math Games
Deborah Fazio, Brooke Evers	Math Games	Number of the Day	Mathletics

Grade 1s with Ms. Aquino

15:00

We use Jump Math, which follows Manitoba's curriculum. It helps students practise numbers, patterns, shapes, and more, matching each child's learning pace.

**Fun Learning Environments.** In Math Centres, students play games, use math toys, and work in Jump Math books. Activities like 'I have.. Who has..' and games on Chromebooks (Mathletics) make learning hands on and engaging.

**Checking Progress and Celebrating Success.** We check progress every day with Math Talks and during Math Centres. Tools like Kahoot and White Boards help us see how well students are learning.



**What We've Achieved and What's Next.** We're proud that we can adjust lessons for every student and use more technology in our teaching. Our goal is to keep making math fun and easy for all students. At Margaret Park School, we're dedicated to helping children love math and succeed in school. We're always finding new ways to make math exciting and understandable for everyone.



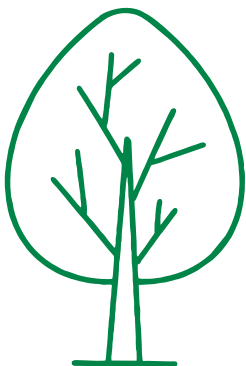


## COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

We're proud of our commitment to excellence in climate change education and collaborative climate action, which includes climate action initiatives in all our schools, dedicated climate action representatives in each school and fostering student leadership. As we move forward, we are energized by the endless possibilities for further improvement and innovation.

Throughout the year, our focus has been on amplifying student voices and involving children and youth in developing global competencies through impactful initiatives. These initiatives include inspiring Climate Action Forums, where educators and students engage in purposeful discussions and collaborative actions to 'grow the good'. Collaborations with the MTS Climate Action Collaborative Learning Team, Learning for a Sustainable Future Middle Years Climate Action Forum at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, and UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network Manitoba (ASPnet), highlight our commitment to building partnerships for a brighter future.

Additionally, our unique Sustainable Schools Residency program involving five schools reflects our collaborative approach to community actions within Seven Oaks School Division. Events such as our Student-Led Climate Justice Symposium and Climate Justice Month in April 2024 continue to engage children and youth in learning for a more sustainable future, inspiring meaningful change within our community and beyond.





## LEARNING THRIVES THROUGH FOSTERING CREATIVITY AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The Tech Hub program is not just a platform to explore a passion for technology but a catalyst that nurtures creativity, problem-solving, and technological skill sets. Our continued strong collaborative partnerships with industry leaders have significantly enhanced the program, enabling us to expand our video game design program to all six high schools. This year, our partnerships with Studio Lab XR, New Media Manitoba, Flighty Felon Games and Ogoki Learning Inc. have been instrumental in our success. Our high school program, with two site locations for our maker spaces in Garden City Collegiate and Maples Collegiate, has seen our students shine in various events. They participated in the Winnipeg game jam series hosted by Exchange Met and Red River College (RRC), and the first-ever Hyper Interactive Art and Tech festival held last November at RRC with over 250 people in attendance.

In our Middle Years program, we hosted five after-school programs, including workshops like Your Voice is Power, an Hour of Code and Minecraft education. This year, we offered four-day workshops in our Early and Middle Years classrooms, reaching over 340 students. These four-day workshops included topics on AI, Digital Citizenship, Good Gaming Practices, Misinformation and Disinformation, an Hour of

Code, and Sustainable Futures with Technologies. Tech Hub also participated in this year's GSA, Arts in the Park, and STEAM Fest, offering workshops using Microsoft Make code on how to build an arcade game. This year, we hosted seven exhibitions that included the work of the Middle Years streams, where students presented their learning journey among their peers, parents, and industry mentors.



# PUNJABI BILINGUAL PROGRAM

As we celebrate all the remarkable achievements that highlight the strengths and diversity of our community. We are thrilled to share with you the inspiring success story of the Seven Oaks School Division's Punjabi Bilingual Program.



A year ago, community voiced a passionate desire for a Punjabi Bilingual Program, reflecting the vibrant presence of Punjabi-speaking families in the Maples area. Recognizing this significant need the Seven Oaks School board identified Amber Trails Community School as the ideal launchpad for this initiative. Amber Trails administration and staff eagerly took on this initiative.

We initially planned to begin with two classes for the school year of 2023/2024: a Kindergarten class and a multi-age grade 1-2 class. However, the response from the community exceeded our expectations. Within just two weeks of opening registrations, the enthusiasm was so overwhelming that we were compelled to expand our offerings.

The Punjabi bilingual program started last school year with five classes covering grades Kindergarten through 2 with 95 students enrolled in this enriching program. For the upcoming school year, we are expanding the program from kindergarten to grade 3, totalling nine classes and serving about 160 students.

These programs are not only limited to the specific language speaking students; they are open to all students, regardless of their linguistic or cultural background. By participating in these programs, students gain valuable insights into rich cultural tapestry, fostering a sense of community and understanding that will benefit them throughout their lives. These initiatives not only serve the specific community but also enriches our entire school division and the community in general by celebrating and preserving cultural diversity and languages.

As we reflect on this success, we celebrate not just the numbers but the spirit of inclusivity and cultural appreciation that these programs represent. Amber Trails Community School has set a shining example of how education can embrace and celebrate diversity, ensuring that cultural heritage remains vibrant and relevant for generations to come.

Let us continue to support and nurture such initiatives, reinforcing our commitment to a diverse and inclusive educational environment.



# LEARNING THRIVES AT THE AKI CENTRE, OZHAAWASHKWAA ANIMIKII-BINESHI AKI ONJI KINIMAAGAE' INUN



Ozhaawashkwaa Animikii-Bineshi Aki Onji Kinimaagae' Inun (Blue Thunderbird Land-based Teachings Learning Centre) is rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing and being where we foster reconciliation by braiding Land-based education, ecological restoration, and community stewardship together for Seven Oaks learners, educators, and the extended community. We call this beautiful place the Aki Centre (Earth/Land Centre) for short.



Community stewardship and service learning have provided opportunities each year for learners to care for this land together. Each year, we harvest and plant Indigenous plant seeds, plant trees and shrubs, tend vegetable gardens and tallgrass prairie restoration areas, and increase diversity at the pond. We continue to witness and celebrate how the restoration of an ecosystem quickly becomes home again for once displaced birds, mammals, and insects.

Now in our 6<sup>th</sup> year, our beloved space welcomed and hosted over 5,000 Learners and Educators. Throughout the year, we hosted over 60 Elders and Knowledge Keepers to support the land-based learning experiences and cultural connection at the Centre. Cultural Education and the K-5 students from the Anishinaabemowin Program learned to scrape and tan deer, moose and bison hides, fillet walleye, skin and cook rabbits, tend the Three Sisters Garden, and to cook and feast together, among other activities.

A sweat lodge was built with Elder Derek Courchene alongside Indigenous Youth Cultural Credit students, and winter preparations are now in place to carry ceremony through the seasons. Each visiting class connected to the land through a historical and contemporary lens, as well as seasonal observations and activities that aim to strengthen our relationships to the land and to each other.

639 Educators took part in professional development around land-based teaching and learning. Eleven schools received plant growing stands with lights and supplies to support stewardship activities at school daily. Additionally, each school received a kit of books to support land-based practices.

With the help of many visitors, we grew over 5,000 Indigenous plants and vegetables which were planted both at school sites and around our Centre. As a school division, this year we diverted 20,858 lbs of food waste from the landfill to turn into compost, an 11% increase from the previous year.

We look forward to continuing our relationships with all schools as we journey together in Land-based Education through Indigenous ways of being and learning!



# INDIGENOUS EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION THRIVES HERE!

At the start of the school year, Seven Oaks in partnership with Manitoba Teachers Society released Resistance on the Giimooch: The Life Story of Mary Courchene, a comprehensive learning resource/curriculum which includes lesson plans and a teachers guide that can be found at our website. The curriculum is a powerful resource that was created to honour those who attended Indian Residential Schools and to provide teachers with the opportunity to delve deeply into the truth that surround the impacts of residential schools.

Our schools continue to have elders and knowledge keepers as a regular presence in their classrooms, whole school community and divisional events such as Treaty Days, solstice feasts, etc. These community events throughout all our schools encourages parents/extended family involvement with the knowledge and appreciation that Indigenous history and cultural learning is good for all.

Seven Oaks welcomed a new position of Assistant Superintendent of Indigenous Excellence in Education. Increasing numbers of Indigenous administrators, school leaders, teachers and staff provide Indigenous voice and leadership across the entire division.

This year we celebrated our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Traditional Graduation Pow Wow which saw thousands of people come out for our vibrant appreciation of Indigenous life, food, dance, music, crafts and artists. This is a true on-of-a-kind Seven Oaks community event for all nations. Our K-8 pow wow clubs, jigging, drumming and fiddling clubs are comprised of children and youth from all backgrounds who share their gifts at the pow wow; year after year, the Seven Oaks Grad Pow Wow creates kinship magic that honours Indigenous values through celebration of community.

Indigenous youth entering high school continue to have opportunities to participate in activities that allow them to build strong identity and to be firmly rooted in community. We have extended this cultural learning into the middle years with a focus on building connections and capacity for Indigenous youth before they transition into high school where they will already be part of the cultural programming that focuses on identity, land, language and community.

We hosted our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Indigenous Youth Gathering that saw 450 youth in grades 7-12 come together for a full day of inspiration through stories, dance and joy at the Burton Cummings Theatre. Indigenous excellence shone bright through our wide range of participants, with youth holding their heads high, building connections and seeing themselves reflected in the brilliant Indigenous role models presenting and performing before them.

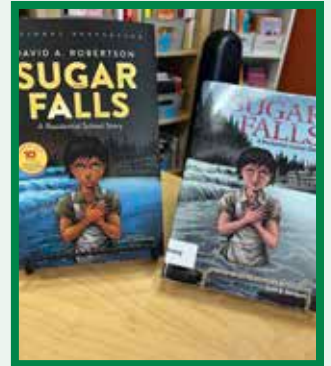
The priority of Indigenous language revitalization and preservation continues through our K-5 Anishinaabemowin program and the language programming can now be found at our middle years level with the goal of moving into our senior years. The students from the K-8 Anishinaabemowin Program and from the cultural exploration program grades 7-12 are frequent visitors to the Aki Centre where they engage in land-based learning connected to language. The Aki Centre has become a symbol of land-back both in restoration and reclamation of Indigenous ways of being, knowing and learning.



Citizenship



Collaboration and Teamwork



Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity



Collaboration and Teamwork



Media and Information Literacy

# SEVEN OAKS SCHOOL DIVISION STUDENT SERVICES

From professional development opportunities like Low Arousal training, to growing a divisional understanding around augmentative and alternative communication, it has been a busy year in Student Services. Understanding all the different ways people communicate as well as how our own behaviour impacts others, has been at the forefront of our work this year. Some other highlights from the last year include:



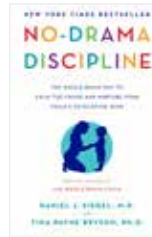
## Flower Program:

Seven Oaks School Division has teamed up with Petals West, a Winnipeg-based floral distributor, to bring weekly flower supplies to our high schools. This partnership offers our students the chance to hone their arrangement skills, creating beautiful displays for school events. From an Evening of Black Excellence to Vaisakhi Night, our students' creations shine! All three high schools participated in this program.

## Student Services Book Studies:

The Student Services Divisional team provided opportunities for staff members to engage in book studies focused on working with children and students in various capacities. These book studies allowed for engaging discussion on how we support our students and to share insights with others across the division.

The two books studied were:



**No Drama Discipline:** This book focuses on understanding the underlying causes of children's behaviour and using brain-based strategies to foster meaningful learning and growth.



**Tenacity in Children:** This book provides insight into the trait of tenacity as an essential part of a child's overall development. It emphasizes fostering persistence through supportive parenting and a conducive environment to help children build the resilience and determination needed to navigate life's challenges effectively.

## INSIGHT OVER RESTRICTION – FAMILY SOCIAL MEDIA EVENING:

We hosted a family evening with Seven Oaks' own Jamie Krutkevich Slight. Jamie shared her knowledge about research on the effects of social media on the adolescent brain and how to build digital trust with our kids. Some of the highlights included:

- How we get hooked, not just our kids, but adults too
- Multitasking and attention – we think we can but we actually can't
- Online risks and benefits to online resources
- Healthy device use for all of us

## PROJECT 11

Many of our classrooms still engage with Project 11, a program designed to address mental health and wellbeing, and personal safety. Up until last year, Project 11 was only offered in the Early and Middle Years. Last year, Maples Collegiate teamed up with Project 11 as a pilot school to help establish and develop a high school curriculum, which will be ready for implementation during this upcoming school year. We look forward to offering these same great opportunities to our high school students come the fall.



## SCIENCE THRIVES HERE

Our West Kildonan Zoology Club offers students a unique and enriching opportunity to explore the fascinating world of animals. Under the guidance of Ms. Pooley, this student-led club operates year-round, allowing members to learn about a diverse range of animals, understand their care and gain valuable teaching experience. Club members proudly showcase their knowledge at various community events such as STEAM Fest and the Whatever Sale, fostering a deeper connection with the community and promoting a love for science. Through these activities and through this extracurricular opportunity, students develop leadership skills, nurture their passion for zoology and contribute to a vibrant educational environment.

Our Science Program is designed to ignite curiosity and foster a deep understanding of scientific principles through a hands-on approach. Students engage in a variety of labs, experiments, and dissections, gaining practical experience that brings theoretical concepts to life. Outdoor learning opportunities expand the classroom, allowing students to explore and study the natural world directly. Led by a team of passionate and skilled teachers, the curriculum becomes both fun and engaging, inspiring students to develop a lifelong love for science and discovery.



# COLLÈGE GARDEN CITY COLLEGIATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Here are examples of some of the literacy work that was explored this year in our ELA communities!



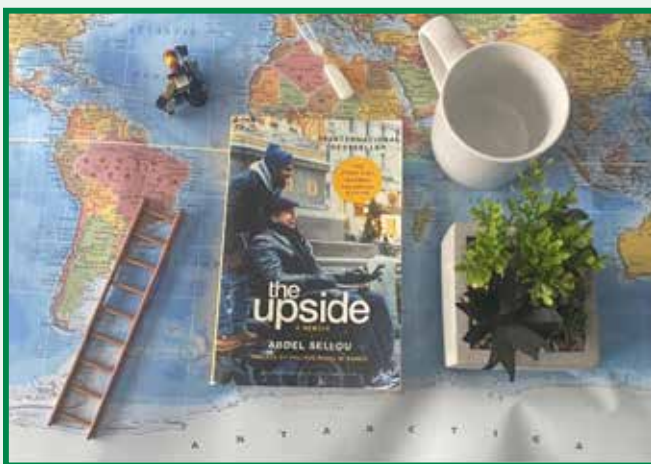
## TRC Calls to Action and Digital Literacy

Students in grade 11 English examined the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. They then created an e-book to show their understanding of those calls to action, aimed at a Middle and Senior Years audience.



## Memoir study and Multimodal Representation

As part of a study on memoirs, students chose a full-length memoir to read and at the end, symbolically represented the major ideas/themes from the text in a visual called a "book bento" and presented the ideas to the class.



## Developing Research Skills

In grade 11 English, students were challenged with the following inquiry question: How can we ask good questions and use research in a responsible way to provide accurate information to an audience? For some students, this resulted in research papers and magazine articles. For Jeffrey, his questions revolved around the important topic of Murdered and Missing Women, Girls, and Two-Spirited individuals. After reading Brianna Jonnie's book *If I Go Missing* as a class, Jeffrey continued to research this topic and then prepared a script to interview a young Indigenous woman from our school community. Not only was Jeffrey responsible for his own background research, but he also sought out the opportunity to hear from a member of a group most affected, and did so in a respectful and sensitive way. Jeffrey learned about the format of podcasting and now has a final product that he can share with a wider audience.

## Independent novel studies and collaborative inquiry projects

Several grade 9-11 English classes completed independent novel studies, guided inquiry and collaborative group work on a variety of topics and themes. Here is a display of some of the students' multimodal projects.



## Playwriting

In March 2024, a section of grade 10 ELA students took part in a playwriting workshop series led by Sara Flynn from Manitoba Theatre for Young People. The students wrote scenes or one-act plays during the process. Scripts written by Kiley Shettler, Nicholas Kalinowich, and Alisha Teodoro were chosen by the Manitoba Association of Playwrights to be included in their PlayRoots Showcase on May 12, 2024, which was the culmination of the Scirocco Drama Manitoba High School Playwriting Program.



## ANTI-RACISM

The Seven Oaks School Division remains committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment for all students. Our dedication to anti-racism and Truth and Reconciliation has been evident through the efforts and initiatives undertaken by our educators and students.

Our educators have shown commitment to professional development, engaging in ongoing training and workshops focused on equity and inclusion. By continually educating themselves, they ensure they are well equipped to support all students and address issues of racism effectively. The culture of inclusion and respect in Seven Oaks has created an environment where students from diverse backgrounds can thrive. By integrating anti-racism education into the curriculum and school activities, we are making strides in promoting understanding and empathy among our students.

A significant outcome of our efforts is that students are increasingly able to recognize racism when they see it. This awareness is a crucial step toward creating a more just and equitable community. Through discussions and educational programs, students learn to identify racist behaviours and understand their impact. We are proud to see students speaking up more about racism. Empowered by the supportive environment cultivated by our educators, students are increasingly confident in sharing their experiences and advocating for change. Their voices are integral to the ongoing transformation within our schools.

We believe in the power of positive action and are dedicated to “Growing the Good.” This means celebrating diversity, acknowledging the strengths that come from different cultural backgrounds, and encouraging our community to embrace these differences. The visibility of cultural events and groups within our schools is increasing. This is a testament to our inclusive practices and supportive environments we strive to maintain. Cultural clubs, events and displays are becoming commonplace, providing students with opportunities to share their heritage and learn about others.

Anti-racism work in our division is a continuous journey. Seven Oaks School Division’s commitment to anti-racism is reflected in the dedication of our educators, the empowerment of our students, and the thriving, inclusive environment we are cultivating. We remain steadfast in our efforts to promote equity, understanding and respect within our community. Together, we are making a difference and “Growing the Good” for a brighter future.



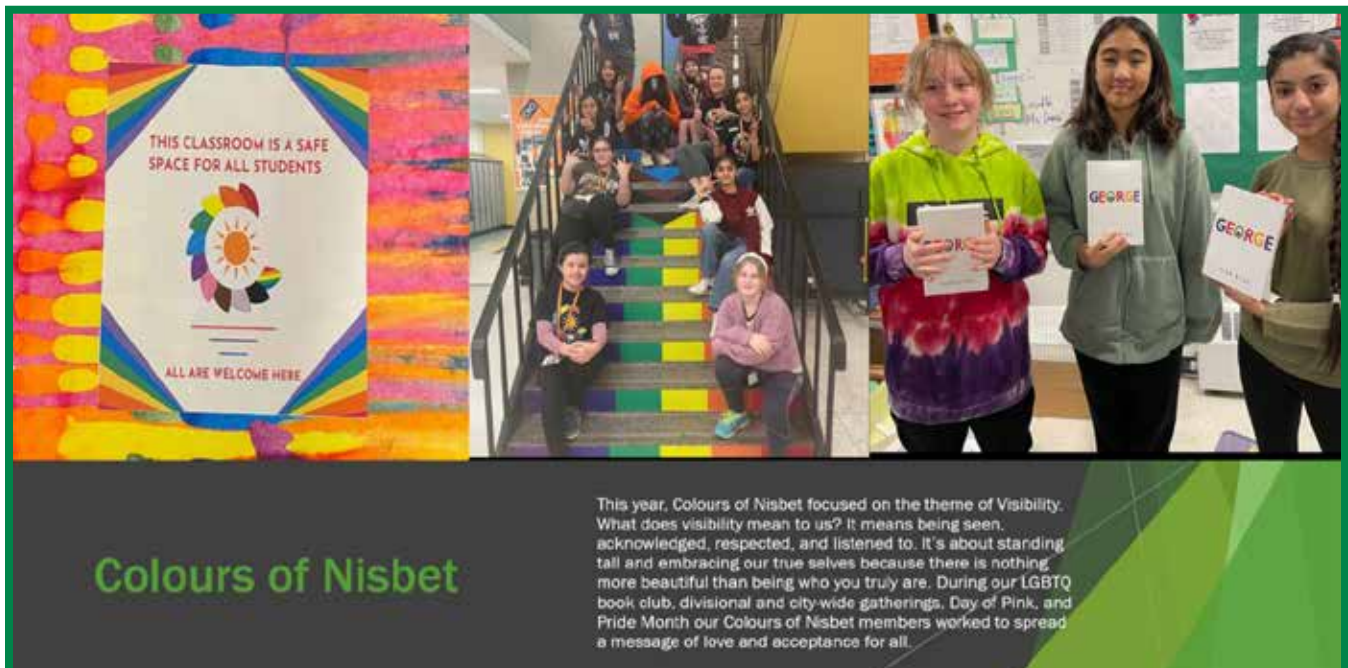
## 2SLGBTQ+ LEARNING IN SEVEN OAKS

In an Early Years context, we are really talking about how we are all unique and that each person in our school should be able to feel they can be themselves and feel safe and loved being who they are in our community. This relates to all aspects of who we are as people, how we feel and see the world. Our goal is to foster a sense that we approach life in our school Avec Coeur, which is our school motto. Each day, we are building our capacity to collaborate with everyone, to live joyfully, to build empathy, to be authentic and respectful towards ourselves and others. This is work that our teachers are doing throughout the year, but during our recent Pride celebrations, we had a few highlights:



At École Rivière Rouge, we had an assembly where we invited all students to wear a colour that they feel most comfortable wearing and everyone sat with others from all grades wearing the same colour. We read a book, “We are the Rainbow! The Colours of Pride” by Claire Winslow and Riley Samels. This book explains the significance of each of the colours in the Pride Flag.

We also had the honour of having Ace Burpee join students from one of our grade 2 and grade 4 classes to sing a song entitled Ça va aller at our assembly. This is a song from Project 11 that our teachers and students translated into French. The song is about having hope and courage to face challenges and to be the person we want to be. The team at Project 11 will even be back to visit our school again to record our students singing this song in French!



# LEARNING THRIVES HERE: A GATEWAY TO DIVERSE CAREERS

Welcome to our vibrant Career Ready program, where learning thrives across a spectrum of fields crucial to our community's growth and prosperity. Our program is a testament to our commitment to preparing the next generation of professionals in automotive, aviation, culinary arts, building trades, electrical work, plumbing, early childhood education, performing arts production, healthcare aide services and refrigeration.



**Automotive and Aviation:** We partner with many state-of-the-art facilities providing a hands-on experience in automotive repair and aviation mechanics. Students gain practical skills in diagnostics, maintenance and safety protocols, ensuring they are well prepared for the dynamic fields of transportation.



**Culinary Arts:** The heart of our community beats in our kitchens, where aspiring chefs learn culinary techniques, menu planning and the art of food presentation. Through internships and partnerships with local restaurants, our students hone their skills in real-world settings.



**Building Trades, Electrical, and Plumbing:** From blueprint interpretation to hands-on construction and installation, our program equips students with the skills needed in building trades, electrical systems and plumbing. They learn to tackle challenges with precision and creativity, contributing to the development of our infrastructure.

**Early Childhood Education:** Nurturing future educators is paramount. Our comprehensive curriculum prepares students to foster the growth and development of young minds, emphasizing child psychology, educational theory and practical classroom management.

**Performing Arts Production:** Behind every great performance is meticulous planning and technical expertise. In our program, students learn stagecraft, lighting design, sound engineering and production management, ensuring flawless execution of artistic visions.

**Healthcare Aide:** Compassionate care defines our healthcare aide program. Students receive training in patient care, medical terminology, and ethical practices, preparing them to support individuals in need with empathy and professionalism.

**Refrigeration:** Keeping things cool is hot in our refrigeration program. Students delve into refrigeration systems, HVAC technology, and environmental sustainability, mastering the principles that keep our community comfortable and efficient.

At the heart of our program is a commitment to excellence and innovation. Through partnerships with industry leaders and hands-on learning opportunities, our students graduate not only with technical proficiency but also with the confidence and adaptability necessary for success in today's competitive job market. We are proud of our 80% employment rate this year, directly related to the internships of students.

Join us at our Career Ready program and embark on a journey where learning thrives and futures are forged. Together, we build, create, nurture, and innovate for a brighter tomorrow.

Learning thrives here. Are you ready?

## STEAM FEST 2024

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Seven Oaks hosted our third annual STEAM Fest. For a day, Maples Collegiate was transformed into a STEAM educational hub with both student and teacher excitement! Students from grades K-8 celebrated STEAM education by taking part in workshops, interactive displays, and presenting their classroom learning in the forms of tri-board and models displays.

Students had the opportunity to communicate their classroom learning to peers and professionals in the community who were volunteering as judges for the day. It was an amazing experience for our students. A huge thank you to all the staff and students who volunteered their time and expertise for the day!



## EARLY YEARS LITERACY - LEARNING THRIVES HERE!

In Seven Oaks, we believe that when children have a strong foundation in literacy, they are more likely to do well at school, become lifelong learners, and reach their full potential to live The Good Life in which they have hope, belonging, meaning, and purpose. We are committed to supporting each student's unique learning journey, valuing and celebrating their strengths, interests, cultural background, curiosity, and intelligence. Our teachers prioritize building trusting relationships with students by setting high expectations, presenting meaningful content, and giving them choice and voice. This approach brings joy to the teaching and learning process.

We are committed to creating schools and classrooms where all students and educators can thrive. To support our educators in refining their teaching approaches, schools in our division have engaged in consistent and intensive whole-school professional learning focused on effective literacy instruction to improve student achievement, engagement, and enjoyment. Throughout the year, we have collected data to assess the effectiveness of our literacy practices and their impact on student achievement. It is crucial for us to continuously evaluate our methods and be open to intentional adjustments in our language goals, instruction, and assessment to ensure success for all students. Using a residency model, school leaders and teachers received coaching and mentoring to demonstrate effective instructional and assessment practices, creating and maintaining a positive and joyful culture where all learners thrive as readers and writers. Schools across the division collaborated to draw from each other's strengths.

Our teachers acknowledge each child's individual experiences with print, paying close attention to what they notice when reading a text and what they may miss. By carefully analyzing students' work, our teachers gain insights into how to teach each child responsively. Understanding the interconnectedness of reading, writing, and oral language, as well as the significance of sharing stories, is crucial for our educators. We believe that all children can learn and make progress. Our teachers create appropriate learning experiences for each child, regardless of their starting point. By listening to our students' stories, we gain a deeper understanding of their reading and writing abilities and strengths.

Surinder Sembhi, Grade ½ Teacher

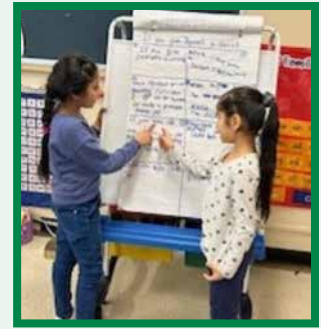
*Drawing colourful pictures was her forte, even though translating her ideas into words was challenging. I let her imagination soar on paper, capturing her vibrant inner world in vivid illustrations. Then I helped her turn her drawings into stories. These drawings became windows into her creativity and stories waiting to be told.*





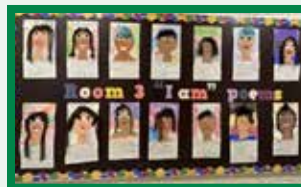
Paramjeet Ranouta, Grade ½ Teacher

*“I expose my students to rich literature through mentor texts. Reading and analyzing these mentor texts allows my students to learn how authors use language to create meaning. They then learn to emulate the author’s writing style in their writing.”*



Sian Leonard, Grade ½ Teacher:

*“We had a theme of “identity” for this year, and all of our writing projects allowed students to explore part of their identity. When students are at the centre of what is being taught, they are more engaged, and the learning experiences become so much more meaningful.”*



Daniella Greco, Grade 4/5 Teacher:

*The students in Room 8 always know the intent and purpose behind each writing piece, as the learning intentions and success criteria are always available and shared with them or they help create as a community of learners. We strive to make our students see themselves as part of the learning. By hearing and celebrating their ideas, having their collective voices be heard, like through collaboration in whole-group conferencing, and giving them opportunities to have power and agency in developing learning intentions and the creation of the journey to get where we need to go, all support our overarching goal to see them reflected in the work that we continue to do and the purpose behind it.*



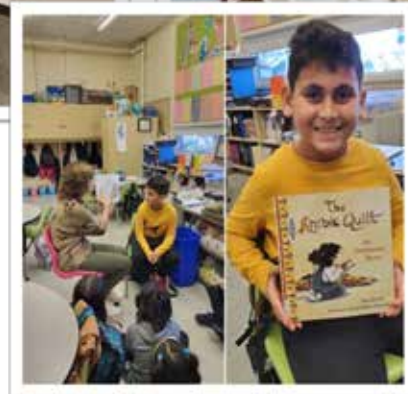
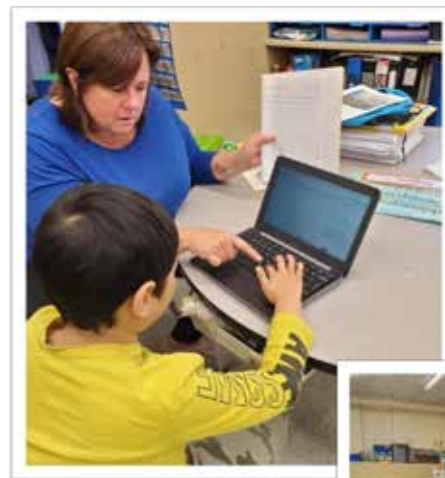
## LEARNING THRIVES HERE

Literacy is traditionally thought of as reading and writing. Although those remain the critical core components of literacy, today our understanding of literacy has evolved to encompass so much more – literacy is involved in every aspect of life. Literacy learning includes teaching students so that they have the ability, willingness and confidence to engage with language. Students must have learning opportunities that engage them in different forms of text and allow them to develop the ability to be critical consumers of information.

*“All children have the right to an education that includes exploration of topics of interest and relevance, that results in personal fulfillment, and that leads to becoming an inquisitive and informed citizen, prepared to fully participate in democracy.”*

Regie Routman, Literacy Essentials

A grade 3 student shares a story with his teacher and his classmates, a student engages in creating text with the support of an educational assistant, an older student engages in shared reading with a younger student.



Families participate in “Books for Breakfast” – a school event that includes inviting students and their families before the school day begins to hear stories read aloud by guest readers while enjoying a light breakfast.



# Community Begins Here

## Early Years: K-5

### École Belmont

French K-5  
525 Belmont 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-6  
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-5  
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 Avenue  
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  
Filipino Bilingual K-6  
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  
204-589-9852

### Wayfinders

950 Jefferson Avenue  
204-631-5849



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

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