



ELWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL
SEVEN OAKS SCHOOL DIVISION

Elwick Community School Report to the Community 2022-2023



Introduction

As we start a new school year together, you may be wondering why the Report to the Community is coming out in September, rather than its usual release time of June. Due to changes in the office in June, we had to delay its publication. However, the start of the school year is a good time to remind our Elwick school community of the teachings we strive to share with your children and families and the commitment to those values and beliefs in this upcoming school year. Hopefully, this Report to the Community allows us to both reflect on this past year and look ahead to the future!

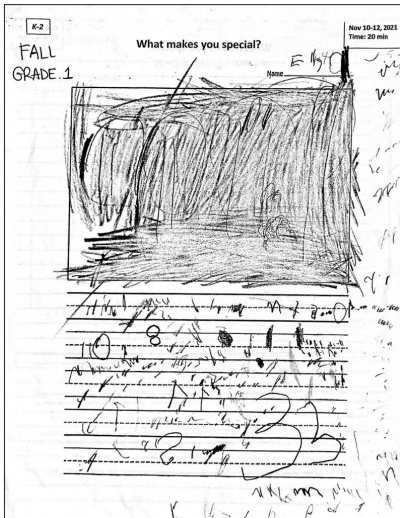


Mastery

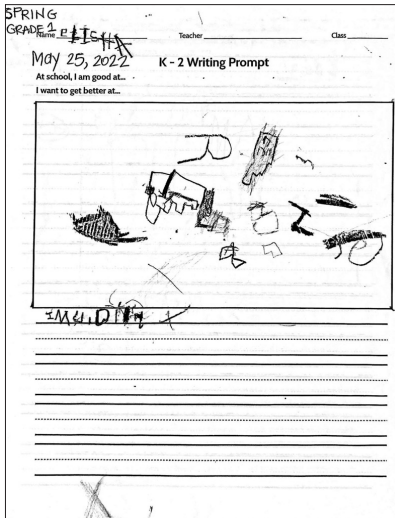
Improving as writers with Regie Routman and Sandy Figueroa

At Elwick, we proudly boast that our Elwick kids are writers and our walls have been described as “dripping with writing.” Over the last two years, Elwick has been focussed on improving the teaching of writing and has been in partnership with both Regie Routman and Sandy Figueroa. A whole school year of writing samples is proof of tremendous growth in the children as writers. Teachers have been engaging our children in more shared and interactive writing before expecting them to write independently. This is our final year in the residency. We know our children have so much to share, finding their writer’s voice and passion for writing!

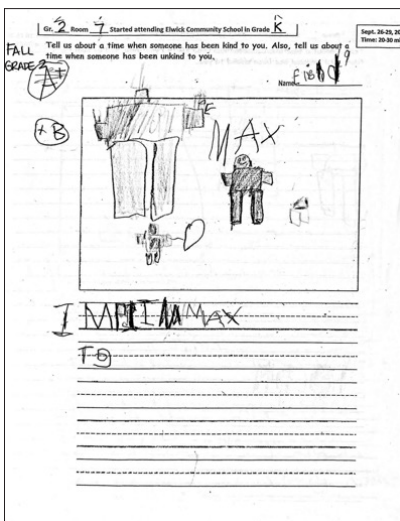
Student X writing samples over 2 years



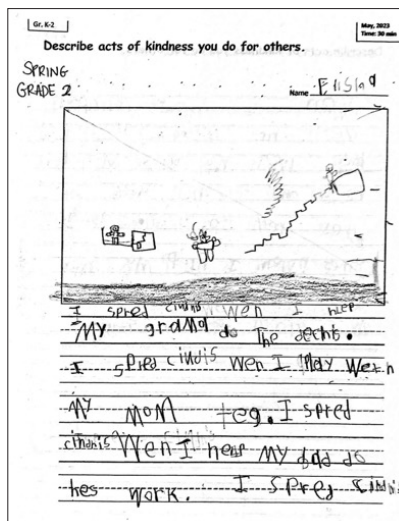
Gr. 1 Student X- Fall 2021



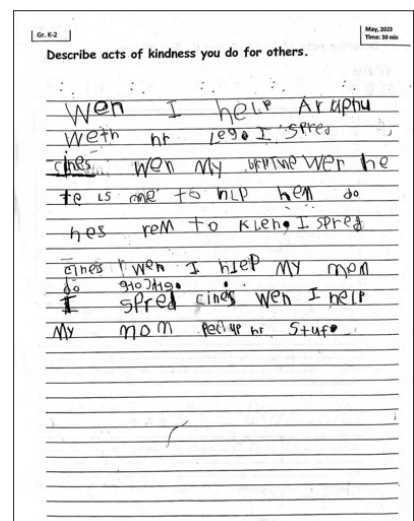
Spring 2022



Gr. 2 Student X- Fall 2022



Spring 2023



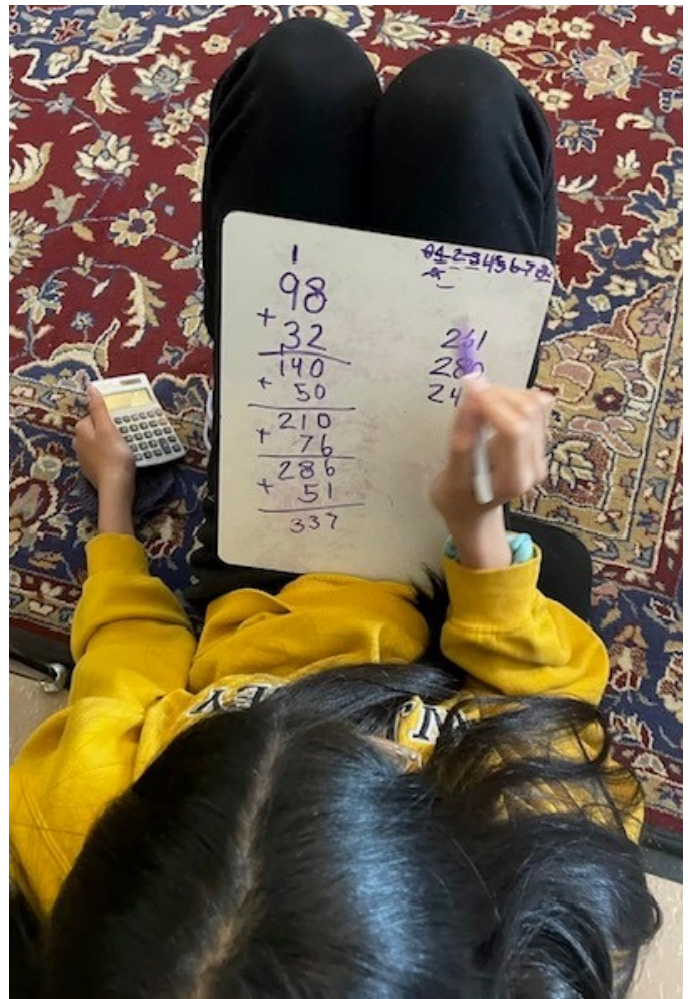
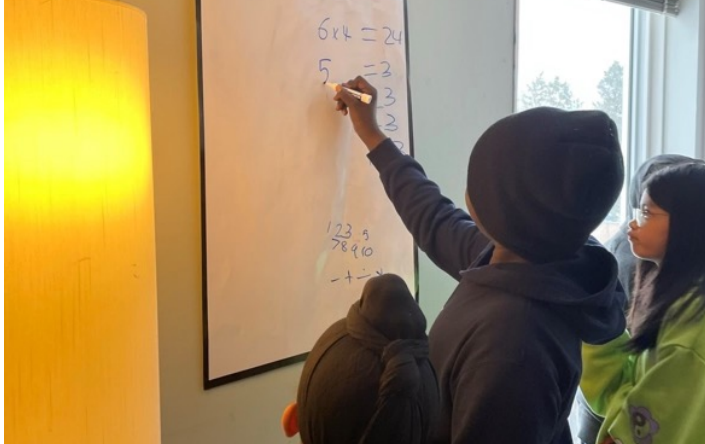
Jumping into Mathematics

This year at Elwick we have made a special focus on improving student number sense, computation skills and fact fluency. We have employed proven programs like Jump Mathematics and Mathletics to provide quality resources and programming, and many of our teachers have engaged in professional development seminars in order to give students the best possible chance at success in this area.

Our teachers also provide regular opportunities to practise “out of the box” problem solving skills through fun and engaging activities.

This multiphasic approach will help to ensure that we provide a strong skill base for our students to become expert mathematicians and problem solvers throughout their entire lives.

In early years classrooms, there has been a shift from relying on worksheets to teach math concepts to a more balanced approach that includes using more hands-on manipulatives and more engagement in small group work to help deepen children’s understanding and collaboration skills.



Full Day Kindergarten at Elwick!

Beginning full-day kindergarten is an exciting new step for your child and for you. A full day of learning early in life has many benefits. It can help improve your child's reading, writing and math skills and provide a strong foundation for future learning. It also makes the transition to Grade 1 easier for both you and your child. We are excited for our kindergarten students to get an early start to building relationships with classmates, adults and the community. When children feel a sense of belonging and engagement, they are motivated to learn and are eager to be part of the school experience.



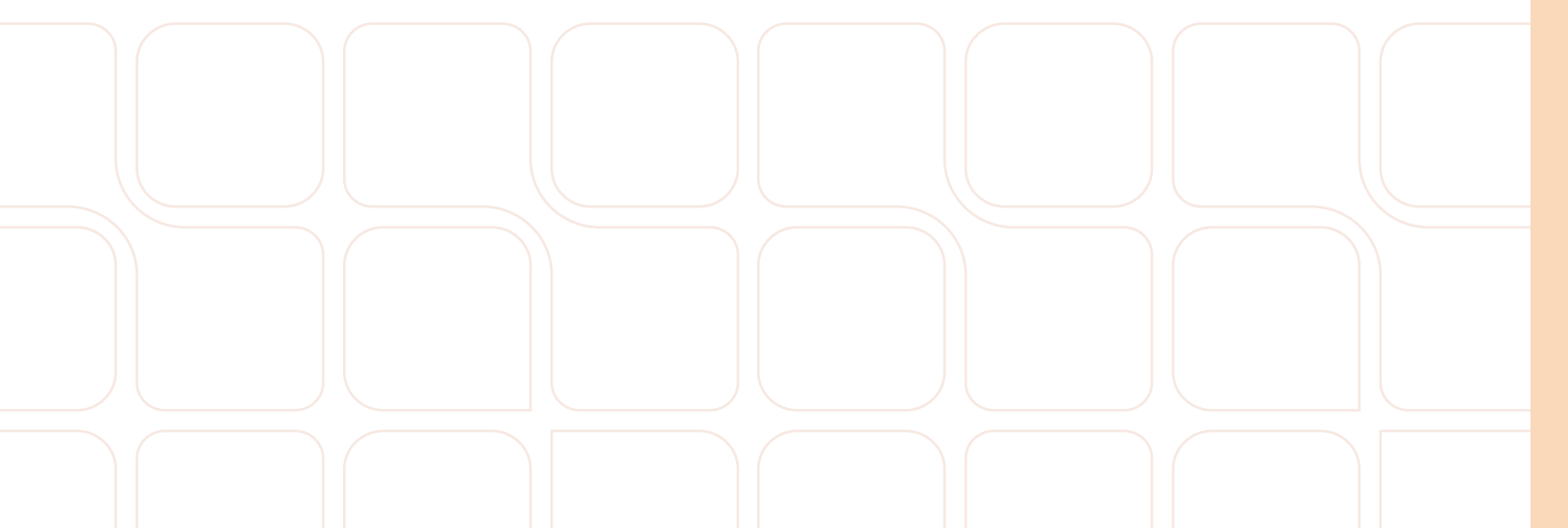
Elwick Flames Phys.ed: Sparking Lifelong Fitness

Students have been working towards developing a physically active lifestyle through various activities. They have taken part in fitness warm-ups, skill development and many types of games. Students in grades 3 to 8 also have the opportunity to participate in different sporting events throughout the year. Keeping an active lifestyle will enable students to experience a more enjoyable quality of life - today and tomorrow!



Elwick Community School's FIRST Musical Theatre Production at Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre!

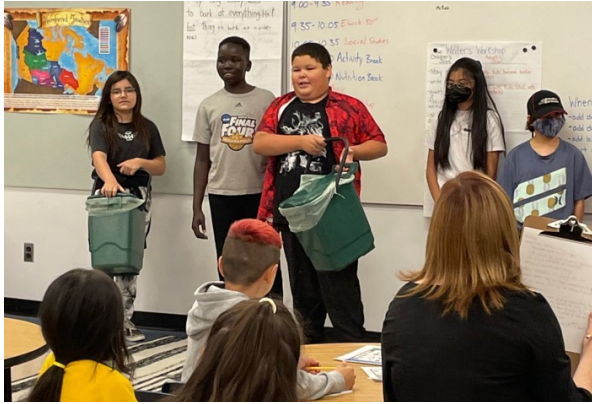
Grades 5 to 8 students who participated in our musical theatre production of Willy Wonka KIDS in May did an extraordinary job performing three shows to full audiences of SOSD students, teachers, administrators, family and friends at SOPAC. Our Willy Wonka cast exemplified mastery during the entire eight-month process, from learning and memorizing their lines, songs and dances to putting it all together on stage with costumes, mics, lighting, props and sets. Students were supported by an enthusiastic team of staff who shared their unique talents to contribute to the project. As the students in the Willy Wonka cast gained confidence in their skills on stage, it was a joy to witness their courage, teamwork, excitement and pride flourish. During our three performances, ALL students took complete ownership of their roles (on stage and off stage) and experienced the unforgettable joy of participating in a live musical theatre performance. We look forward to preparing our next musical theatre production in 2024/25.



Generosity

Green Team!

This year, Grade 5 and 6 students from rooms 12 and 16 took on the role of environmental leaders at Elwick. They worked hard to teach all of the classes about composting and how best to give back to our earth by turning our food scraps into soil to grow new food rather than sending it to the landfill. Each week, compost was picked up from every pod, combined and put out to be taken to the Divisional Aki Centre where it was turned into soil in the Novi-Comp. Grade 5 and 6 students were also in charge of recycling for the school. They educated classes about what should be recycled and emptied the hallway recycling bins into the parking lot every Friday, with the help of our dedicated custodian, Mr. Jerry! Recycling and compost used to be a job taken care of by adults in the school, but this year, Grade 5 and 6 leaders worked hard to take on this important responsibility and educate everyone about living more sustainably for future generations.



Student Leadership Thrives here!

This past school year, we were able to finally bring back our student-led leadership club in full force. The club is made up of students in grades five to eight who wish to make our school and community a better place. Our students were able to show generosity by giving their time leading our virtual school announcements each day, cleaning up breakfast dishes, picking up food for our 5 Days of Generosity Food Drive and helping in all school planned activities, like our annual Pow Wow and Grade Eight Farewell. Leadership students also planned and ran a grade 5 to 8 school dance and organized a school-wide bake sale with proceeds of \$327.35 going to the Manitoba Great Pyrenees Rescue. The Rescue even brought puppies for us to play with, to thank us for our hard work and generosity!

Leadership club allows students to have voice and even lead clubs. This year, a grade eight student ran an art club called "Watch Me Art Club" where he planned and taught the whole club for his peers once a month.

Our club, in partnership with our MPIY group (Mino Pimatisiwin Indigenous Youth) even hosted a Student Leadership group from Thompson, Manitoba, from Wapanohk Community School for the day, to share ideas and build a relationship between our schools moving forward.

Students were able to continually pay it forward this year and so much can be learned from giving of yourself to help others. Can't wait to see what the students come up with in the 2023/2024 school year!



Mino Pimatisiwin Mentorship Program (MPIY)

This year, in partnership with Maples Collegiate, our grade 7 and 8 students had the opportunity to be part of an MPIY (Mino Pimatisiwin Indigenous Youth) group once a month. We started in our school gym where Maples students came and ran games to build relationships and connections to students for when they go to high school. Our students were able to play Indigenous games led by Blair Robillard and had culture infused in our time together. Our group also went to the Maples for a tour and we even helped deliver water to our Elders during the Annual Seven Oaks Graduation Pow Wow. We can't wait to continue this partnership next year.



Sistema

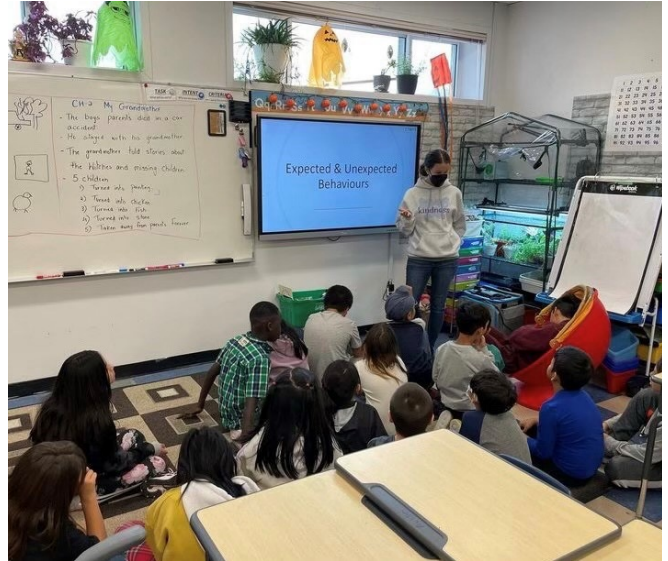
Sistema really rallied when it came to bringing the community back to where we were before COVID. It showed during our Family Nights and our concerts where families really came through and showed their love and support to our children. Sistema kids also felt empowered and empathetic towards their attitude for Sistema Winnipeg founder Lydia Heidrich's celebration of life where they performed musical pieces beautifully. Lastly, Sistema divisional staff were given the opportunity to learn about Sistema globally in Indianapolis, Indiana, where we learned and reinforced that Sistema's goal is to bring the attitude and mindset of equity and excellence through the gift of music education, which we instill in our kids to be holistic members of our society.



Independence

Emotional self-regulation classroom based focus

Students do their best learning when their brains are calm. Each day through our virtual “Mindful Minute” segment of the morning announcements, Elwick’s team of guidance teachers share strategies with staff and students to help them get into the green zone for learning. In addition, students are given the tools to learn about and practise self-regulation through collaborative co-teaching practices. These rich and lively lessons involve the Elwick support staff along with classroom teachers. Elwick students have also benefited from learning about the brain and its important role in making decisions every day.



zones of REGULATION

	BLUE	GREEN	YELLOW	RED
WHEN I AM:	tired bored sad	happy calm focused	excited frustrated anxious	out of control angry overwhelmed
I CAN:	drink water, have a snack, go for a walk, take a nap	keep up the good work! 😊	take a break, 3 deep breaths, play with a fidget, ask for help	go for a walk, drink cold water, relax my muscles, 10 deep breaths, grounding

Mental Health initiatives

Our guidance team has worked hard this year to address the wellness needs of our students at Elwick Community School. Some of our initiatives included: four school-wide themes focused on the Circle of Courage (Independence, Mastery, Belonging, Generosity); a week dedicated to mental health learning for students and staff; and a school-wide mental health survey to generate student voice and help us determine next steps in our learning. Guidance teachers co-taught lessons in grades 3 to 8 with a focus on balance, emotional regulation and living a good life.



Mobile Vision Clinic

For the first time at Elwick School, a classroom was transformed before our eyes into an optometry clinic. The Mobile Vision Clinic performed comprehensive eye exams on many of our students, checking their vision as well as eye health at no cost to families. It was a new and powerful experience for many students, especially those who could now see the world so clearly after picking out a beautiful new pair of cool glasses. We are excited for our upcoming eye clinic during the 2023/2024 school year where all Elwick students can participate, once families complete a short form available from classroom teachers or in the office. We hope to SEE you there!



Belonging

Indigenous teachings

Throughout the school year, Elwick School's curriculum centred around embracing Indigenous teachings that aimed to foster a deep sense of belonging and empowerment among its students. The school's annual Pow Wow stood as a vibrant embodiment of this commitment, inviting and celebrating all nations, thereby forging connections within the community. Elder Betty, our Elder in Residence, shared her profound gift of language, singing and drumming traditional Cree songs. The Beading Club provided a space for creative expression intertwined with cultural significance. Elwick Métis Days was a hands-on experience where students learned how to fillet fish, make and roast Bannock on a fire, alongside lessons about the Red River Cart and Métis music. The school commemorated National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People, cultivating awareness and respect. These are just some of the ways Elwick School weaves Indigenous teachings into nurturing a strong sense of belonging.





Improving attendance

At Elwick we continue to help all students improve their daily attendance. We believe that when students come to school every day, school truly becomes their second home. Attendance helps students to build positive relationships with staff and other students, it gives them the tools to improve academic performances and more importantly, daily attendance offers an opportunity for belonging, community togetherness and positive self-esteem.

To help families improve their attendance, our school offers the walking school bus, daily phone calls from the office, home room teachers check-in phone calls and home visits from teachers and administrators. As we prepare for an exciting all-day kindergarten, our hope is that families will have an easier time getting all of their children to school everyday. If you need any help getting the little ones to school, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of us!



Anti-racism and GSA teaching

Our school has made significant efforts to foster an inclusive school culture over the past year. We have established the GSA Club and Anti-Racism Club to actively promote inclusivity among our outstanding students. Adequate funding has been provided to ensure the smooth functioning of these groups. We have received support from Mr. Weekes, who has made special class visits to facilitate discussions on complex topics. Additionally, our Guidance team has been instrumental in promoting inclusivity throughout the school year. We have great faith in our students,

as they have the power to make the world a better place by embracing everyone and fostering a sense of togetherness. The students at Elwick have greatly benefited from these clubs, as they have learned to respect and appreciate everyone's identity and culture. Throughout the year, we have celebrated various cultures through music, art, food and unique cultural events such as Diwali and Eid. These efforts have ensured that every child feels connected and valued as part of the Elwick Family and our school community.





Connecting with our school community post-pandemic

At Elwick Community School, we realized that it was crucial to foster a supportive and inclusive community post-pandemic. As a team, we wanted to ensure that our families and their children had a sense of safety and belonging at school. Our school staff establishes consistent and open lines of communication with families by incorporating multiple ways to communicate with the school, such as in-person meetings, telephone communication, home visits, emails and monthly newsletters.

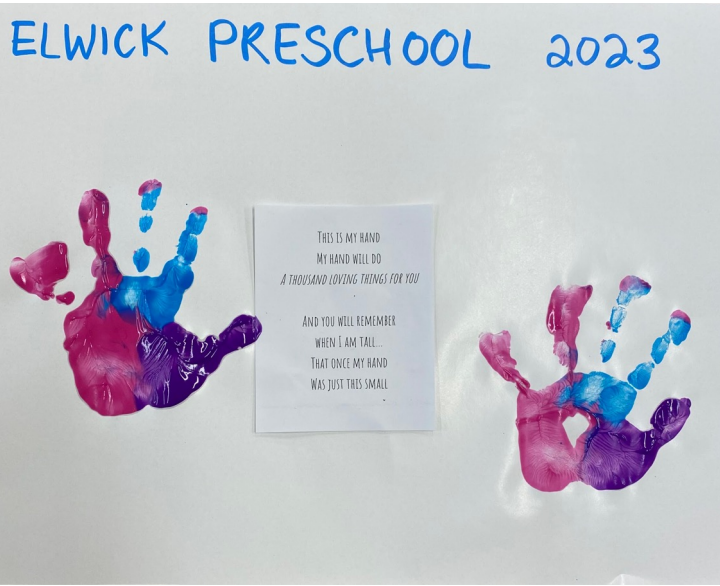
Our school team provides resources and tips to help parents support their children's educational journey. We arranged a welcome to Kindergarten event where families could meet their teacher, their school team and their peers. We welcome parents to get involved in the school community by volunteering in school events and providing opportunities for families to connect and build a sense of community.

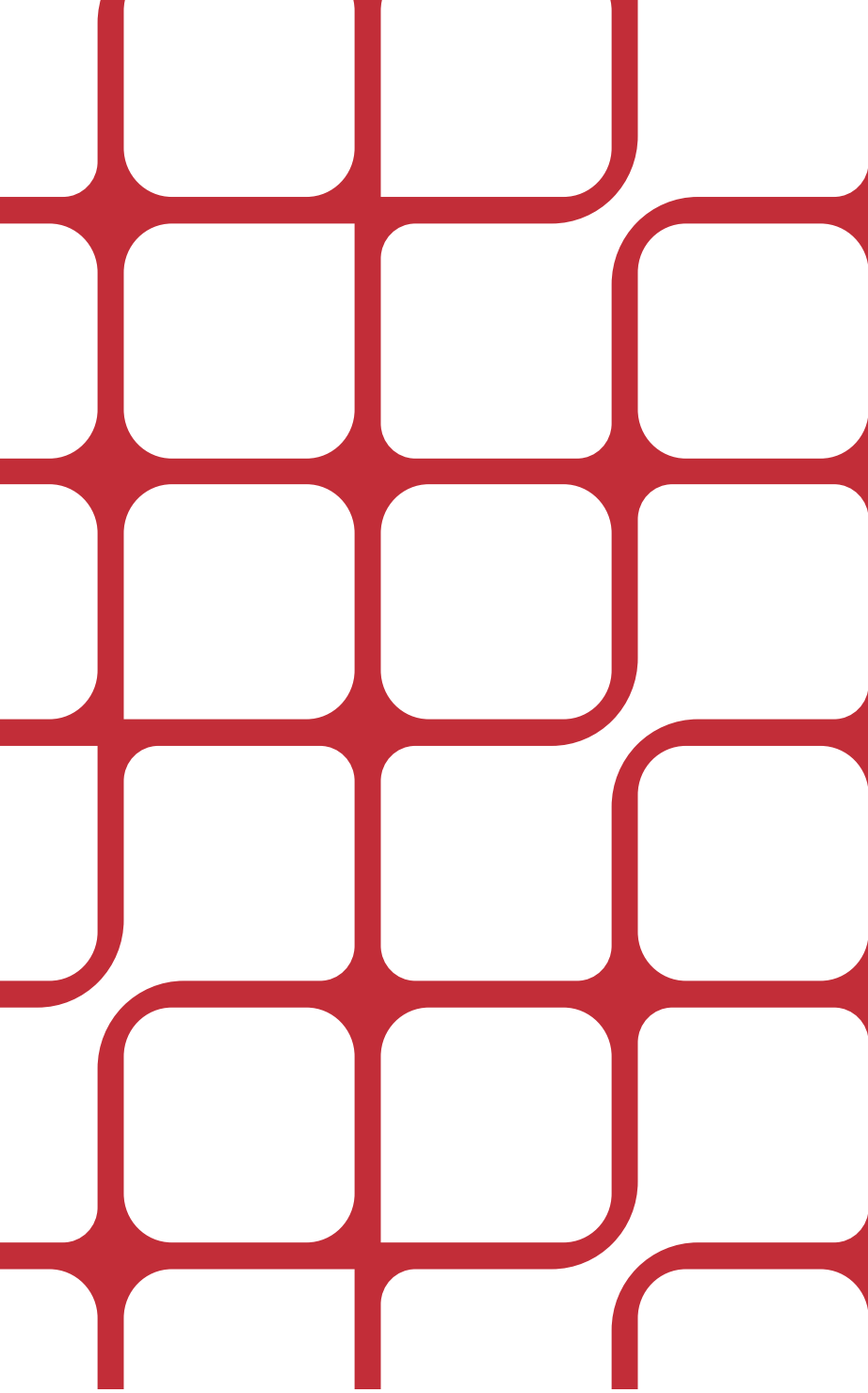
As a team, we provide resources and guidance on topics such as parenting and social-emotional development. We recognize that each family may have unique needs and circumstances. We offer individualized support and resources as needed, including referral to community services, counselling or academic interventions. Elwick also offers regular pre-school programs for families to participate in with their children. The First Teacher program also provides a high level of at-home support to families.

Throughout the school year, our children and families have the opportunity to celebrate and recognize the diverse backgrounds and cultures of families in our school community. We celebrated our Elwick Community Pow Wow and BBQ in person. We were also very fortunate to celebrate Dawili by learning about our families' culture and traditions. These events made our Elwick students and families feel very welcome and where they belong.

Creating a sense of belonging for our whole school community and families is an important part of who we are at Elwick!







ELWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL
SEVEN OAKS SCHOOL DIVISION

**Elwick Community School
Report to the Community
2022-2023**