

Elwick Community School Report to the Community 2023-2024



At Elwick Community School, we take care of ourselves, each other, this place and our world through our knowledge of the Circle of Courage.



Belonging



Inaugural Full Day Kindergarten

The first full day of Kindergarten at Elwick was an incredible success, offering a host of benefits beyond what a half-day program could provide. With extended hours, the children had more time for focused learning and exploration, which significantly enriched their educational experience. The additional time not only led to increased attendance but also allowed for stronger connections to be formed among students and between students and teachers in a shorter period. These early bonds helped create a positive and welcoming learning environment, which in turn fostered a sense of belonging.

The academic gains were also notable, as the longer days provided more opportunities for the children to engage in deeper learning activities. With the extra time, students could build foundational skills in literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving at a pace that was more supportive of their individual learning needs.

Kindergarten is a critical stage in a child's academic, social, and emotional development, laying the groundwork for future success. The shift to a full day program at Elwick has been a true gift, offering young learners the opportunity to thrive in a nurturing environment that supports their holistic development. This change is not just about increasing learning time—it's about setting the stage for a lasting and meaningful impact on each child's educational journey.

At Elwick we are all a “Community of Learners”



Sistema

Sistema students made the Elwick community proud this year! Performances included Arts in the Park, the Farewell Celebration for Brian O'Leary, and a fundraiser alongside University of Manitoba School of Music students. One major highlight was singing the national anthem for a Manitoba Moose game in both English and Ojibwe! A new Chamber Music program was introduced which enabled students to practice leading their peers in a small ensemble setting. The Mentorship program also continued allowing more experienced students to teach and guide newer students. This created many fulfilling moments of musical learning and discovery for all.



Mastery

Regie Routman Residency

During the Regie Routman in Residency, Elwick staff was able to offer personalized support to Grade 5/6 students in the Room 12 hub class. This one-on-one interaction allowed the students to express their individual passions for advocacy, sharing their unique perspectives on issues that mattered most to them. As the students voiced their ideas, the teachers took an active role in documenting these powerful moments, capturing the depth of the students' thoughts and aspirations for change. Through this collaborative process, a strong sense of purpose and empowerment was nurtured among the young advocates.



Opportunities for Physical Activity

At Elwick school, there are many opportunities for students to participate in a wide array of physical activities. They have taken part in many active clubs, fitness warm-ups, skill development and many types of games. Students in grades 3 to 8 also had the opportunity to participate in different sporting events throughout the year. Physical activity is important and helps us keep a healthy body and a healthy mind.



Generosity

For the students, families, and staff at Elwick Community School, maintaining strong relationships within our community is essential. Whether we are coming together to celebrate at events like our divisional and community Pow Wow, participating in medicine pouch and ribbon skirt workshops, or working side by side to build a community garden, we continuously support one another. These shared experiences foster a deep sense of belonging, togetherness, and pride in who we are. This commitment to unity is how Elwick nurtures and sustains the strong connections that define our community.



At Elwick, we hold a deep commitment to fostering leadership and community care. This belief is at the heart of everything we do, from hosting our annual Elwick Pow Wow to forming leadership groups that encourage students to take an active role in shaping our shared environment. The Pow Wow, a significant cultural celebration, not only brings together students, families, and the wider community but also serves as a platform for honoring traditions and building connections across generations.

Our leadership groups are designed to empower students to become proactive leaders within both the school and the broader community. They take on responsibilities such as organizing events, initiating projects that improve the school environment, and advocating for important causes. Through these initiatives, students develop a strong sense of accountability, learning firsthand what it means to look after their space and care for the well-being of others.

At the core of our philosophy is the idea that leadership is not just about guiding others, but about uplifting the community. By nurturing a culture of mutual support, we ensure that everyone at Elwick understands the importance of taking care of one another, whether it's through mentorship, peer support, or simply being there when someone is in need. This commitment to community care reflects the values we strive to instill in our students, preparing them to be compassionate and responsible leaders in the future.



Independence

Numeracy

This year at Elwick, there was a collective commitment to make Math come alive by connecting it to real-life experiences. Our focus was to blend classroom learning with hands-on activities that sparked curiosity and engagement, and our school-wide tab collection project became a perfect example of this.

The initiative involved students gathering thousands of aluminum tabs from cans, with the goal of donating them back to their community. This effort not only promoted environmental awareness and community service but also provided a unique way to apply Math skills in a meaningful context. Students worked together to estimate, count, and measure the tabs, integrating lessons on place value, data collection, and graphing into the project.

The friendly competition between classes fueled enthusiasm, with each group striving to collect the most tabs. As the numbers grew, so did the students' excitement and sense of purpose, as they realized the impact their efforts could have on both their learning and the community.

Through this initiative, students learned how Math applies to everyday life and how teamwork can drive real change. It was more than just a classroom activity—it became a powerful experience in giving back and using education to make a difference.



Literacy at Elwick

Students and teachers alike gained invaluable insights during the Regie Routman residency, and one of the most impactful takeaways was the "I Do, We Do, You Do" instructional model. This approach, which emphasizes gradual release of responsibility, allowed both educators and students to grow in confidence and skill.

The "I Do" phase provided teachers the opportunity to model strategies and demonstrate clear examples, setting a strong foundation for learning. In the "We Do" stage, teachers and students worked together, engaging in collaborative practice where questions could be asked, and understanding was built collectively. Finally, the "You Do" phase empowered students to apply their learning independently, reinforcing their ownership of the material and cultivating a sense of autonomy.

This method not only strengthened teaching practices but also deepened students' learning experiences, helping them gain the skills they need to succeed. The principles of "I Do, We Do, You Do" will continue to serve us well, offering a powerful framework for fostering growth, independence, and a love of learning in our community.



At Elwick, we take immense pride in our community's ability to set goals, foster independence, and embrace shared responsibility in our learning journey. By encouraging students to take ownership of their education, we empower them to become self-directed learners who actively seek out challenges and opportunities for growth. Our collaborative environment allows everyone, students, teachers, and families to contribute to the learning process, ensuring that everyone plays a vital role in our collective success. This strong sense of independence and shared purpose not only strengthens our community but also prepares students to confidently navigate their future.



Chi Miigwech

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to the community for entrusting us with the responsibility of teaching, walking alongside, and caring for your children. It is an honor to play such an important role in their lives, and we take that responsibility to heart every day. Together, we nurture their growth, encourage their curiosity, and support their development into confident, compassionate individuals. Chi Miigwech for your trust and partnership—we are truly privileged to walk this journey with you and your children.