



# Governor Semple School's Report to the Community

June 2024



Every year, schools in Manitoba prepare a Report to the Community celebrating highlights from the past school year. Staff at Governor Semple School are delighted to share examples of the many meaningful and supportive learning experiences, opportunities, and activities that our learning community engaged in during the 2023-24 school year.

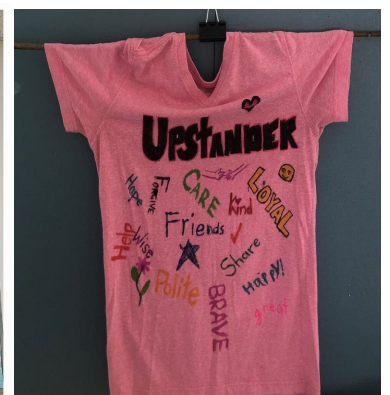
Our school plan continues to be inspired by the Circle of Courage (Brendtro, Brokenleg, and Van Bockern). The Circle of Courage is a holistic model based on the principles of belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. This report highlights examples of the creative and engaging ways we have addressed these priorities over the past school year.



## A Sense of Belonging for all Students, Families, and Staff:

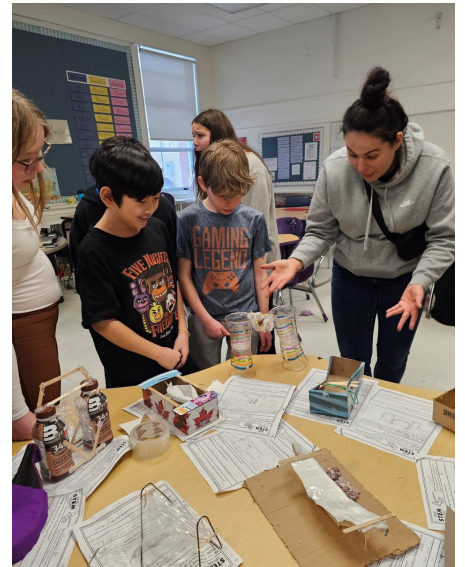


- Community “Welcome Back!” celebration in September with food, fun outdoor activities, a hoop dancer, and Ukrainian dancing
- Strong focus on relationships with and amongst students, families, and staff
- Intentional focus on *stories* and learning experiences that honour expressions of identity, diversity, and belonging
- Ongoing additions to classroom and school library resources that are reflective of the diversity of the school community
- Intentional weaving of important messages of belonging through music, art, drama, and storytelling
- Professional learning focuses of anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Spring Concert, “One Love”, honouring the diversity of the learning community
- Honouring of Orange Shirt Day and the victims of residential schools — orange shirts purchased by the school for all students and staff
- Honouring of Indigenous Peoples Day with an outdoor assembly and bannock pizza lunch
- Honouring of Fall Equinox, Winter Solstice, Spring Equinox, and Summer Solstice with meaningful learning and celebrations
- Student participation in Pow Wow Club and Beading Club
- Collaboration with a Knowledge Keeper — support with school assemblies, concert, celebrations, drumming program with Kindergarten, and drum making with Grade 5 students
- Mentorship Mondays – collaboration with students in Cultural Credit at West Kildonan Collegiate
- Consultation and collaboration with Assistant Superintendent of Indigenous Excellence in Education and teacher candidates through CATEP and Yellowquill College
- Honouring and celebrating of Black History Month through powerful books, student announcements, and classroom learning
- Multi-lingual morning greetings during daily announcements
- Welcome to Kindergarten evening
- Leadership by the school’s Kindness Club, supported by staff



## Mastery: Efforts to Nurture a Thirst for Lifelong Learning include:

- Professional development days for staff facilitated by Tomson Highway, divisional colleagues, and school staff
- Professional learning focus of literacy
- Teacher participation in divisional professional learning about JUMP Math
- Collaboration between classroom teachers, educational assistants, learning support teachers, and clinical support staff to meaningfully engage, include, and support all children
- Staff and student participation and engagement in personalized land acknowledgements
- Weaving of Indigenous perspectives into teaching practice and daily work
- School wide inquiry on trees; students learned about their classroom's tree and made connections to sustainability and climate action
- Student participation and engagement in land-based learning supported by Seven Oaks School Division's Aki Centre
- Student participation in divisional programs such as Learn to Skate, Learn to Swim, the Divisional Graduation Pow Wow, and Arts in the Park
- Student participation in a variety of physical activities (school and divisional)
- Student participation in a variety of musical opportunities, including a Spring Concert, Grade 5 Band, drum making, learning how to play the ukelele, guitar, and Tinikling
- Variety of programs offered for preschool children and families





## Independence:

- Variety of leadership and advocacy opportunities for students
- Student leadership with assemblies and morning announcements
- Grade 1/2 leadership with composting
- Grade 4/5 patrols and leadership opportunities
- Student-led conferences
- Autonomy in learning (investment and engagement) through inquiry-based learning
- Student participation in OurSchool Survey
- Nurturing of opportunities for students to engage in problem solving recess conflicts with increasing independence
- Introduction of a variety of clubs offered to students: Tinikling, beading, various sports and physical activities, Kindness Club, Board Games Club, and Grade 5 Band

## Generosity: Efforts to Cultivate Concern and Care for Others include:

- Collaboration between classrooms to meaningfully support, mentor, and care for younger students; buddy reading, literacy centre leaders, lunch buddies, etc.
- Professional learning opportunities for staff focused on improved skills, knowledge, and understanding in supporting students and families, particularly for circumstances involving issues of equity and social justice
- Student leadership through the Kindness Club
- Ongoing efforts to incorporate Indigenous Perspectives in teaching and learning
- Honouring of Terry Fox and fundraising for cancer research
- Support of United Way campaign
- Honouring of Remembrance Day through classroom learning focused on peace and a meaningful assembly
- Holiday hampers for families in need
- Breakfast Bowls and food availability throughout the day for students as needed
- Ongoing participation in *First Teacher* to support families' nutritional and early learning needs
- Intentional consideration of how to cultivate connection with and amongst students, families, and staff
- Ongoing efforts to honour and support the diversity of strengths, gifts, and needs in the school community





Dear Community,  
 Governor Semple School is collecting items for our community Holiday Hampers. We are reaching out to the community to build our hampers. We are hoping our neighbors will help with items for our hampers. We are in need of items such as can foods, mac and cheese, soup, and peanut butter, but any donation would be appreciated. We will have a drop-off box located in front of the office in the school, for any donations for the hampers. Thank you for your donations. This will help spread a little cheer during this holiday season.  
 yours truly  
 Students of Governor Semple School

I heart the Earth because

It gives us a place to live  
 and if we have no earth we  
 have no us. the earth keeps us grounded  
 so that we can stand straight. the earth  
 grows us trees to give us oxygen.  
 I heart the earth because it's my home