



# MARGARET PARK SCHOOL

## SEVEN OAKS SCHOOL DIVISION

385 Cork Avenue | Winnipeg, MB | R2V 1R6  
204.338.9384 (p) | 204.334.6876 (f)

Principal: Mr. Fortunato Lim      Admin Assistant: Ms. Marnie Jonatschick

*We are a community of learners committed to the work of healing, truth and reconciliation with Indigenous people and the land we live on. We acknowledge and celebrate the stories of all students and the school community along with their gifts.*

*We are committed to providing a holistic education that focuses on learning experiences that provide opportunities for generosity, belonging, mastery, and independence.*

*At Margaret Park School, You Belong Here!*

## REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY JUNE 2024

Welcome to our annual report, where we celebrate the vibrant tapestry of stories that define our school community. As Richard Wagamese eloquently stated, "All that we are is story," encapsulating the essence of our journey together at Margaret Park School. From the moment our students arrive to the time they embark on their next journey beyond these walls, each individual contributes to the collective narrative that shapes our shared experience. Our report reflects not just academic achievements and milestones, but the profound impact of stories woven through learning, relationships, and community engagement. Together, we strive to create the best possible stories, embracing diversity, fostering kinship, and collectively changing the world—one story at a time. Join us as we reflect on the past year's successes, celebrations, and the stories that continue to define our journey at Margaret Park School.



**The Circle of Courage** is based on the universal principle that to be emotionally healthy all children need a sense of belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. At Margaret Park School, we have been inspired by the work of Larry Brendtro, Martin Brokenleg, and Steve Van Bockern. We believe the model supports the diversity of our community of learners and provides a template for a balanced approach towards addressing students', families', and staff's physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual growth and development.





## Belonging: Creating a Culture of Equity and Inclusion



“The universal longing for human bonds is cultivated by relationships of trusts so that the child can say, ‘I am loved.’”

Every morning at our school, the delightful aromas of Ms. Parmjit, Ms. Mary, and our dedicated student and parent volunteers cooking fill the air. Beyond fostering a sense of belonging, we strive to create a welcoming environment that stimulates the senses, evoking the warmth and familiarity of home and community.

Providing breakfast for our students is crucial for their overall development and academic success. Breakfast fuels young minds and bodies, ensuring they have the energy and focus needed for learning and engaging in classroom activities. It also sets a positive tone for the day, promoting better behavior, concentration, and memory retention. Beyond the immediate cognitive benefits, regular breakfast consumption establishes healthy eating habits that can last a lifetime, supporting children's growth and well-being. By ensuring that our students have access to nutritious breakfast options, we not only support their academic performance but also contribute to their overall health and development. We are excited about the new funding provided by our current government to ensure that children are fed and nourished in schools.





Our Pre-School program with Ms. Sonia is forming new connections to our school population and maintaining contact within our school community.



Regalia making is a heartfelt expression of love and dedication by Ms. Pompana, aimed at nurturing and preserving Indigenous culture within our school community, encouraging everyone to participate in its teachings.



Celebrating our diverse community as Margaret Park School is vital for fostering a sense of belonging among all individuals. By recognizing and honoring the different cultural backgrounds, traditions, and perspectives, we create an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and respected. This celebration not only enriches our collective experience but also promotes understanding and empathy among our families and community members. We provide opportunities for individuals to share their unique identities and stories, fostering connections that bridge cultural divides and strengthen social cohesion. We work intentionally so that our students feel empowered to contribute and thrive.





## Mastery: Creating a Culture of Learning and Well-Becoming

“The inborn thirst for learning is cultivated by learning to cope with the world, so the child can say, ‘I can succeed.’”



The spirit of mastery thrives at Margaret Park, where children passionately share their love for numeracy, literacy, science, sustainability, history, music, physical education and engage in meaningful learning experiences. This year we focused on our sustainable goals as a classroom and shared our learning as a school with each other.

Collaboration with our Math friends like Liz Barrett and Math Minds continues our effort to improve our teaching and learn about the science of math. Partnering with other schools we continue our journey towards literacy through the lens of Regie Routman’s work.

Beyond academics, we provide opportunities for bonding and new skill acquisition, like our divisional skating and swimming program.

At Margaret Park, mastery isn't just about academic achievement; it's about nurturing curiosity, respect for diverse cultures, and a lifelong love of learning.



## Independence: Creating a Culture of Inquiry and Responsibility

“Free will is cultivated by responsibility so that the child can say, ‘I have the power to make decisions.’”

Teachers and Educational Assistants at Margaret Park School promote independence daily. This means staff notice and encourage students' strengths and progress, letting them demonstrate what they've learned in their own ways. This includes letting students choose topics they're interested in, celebrating different cultures and languages, and inviting guests who represent diverse experiences. Students become more independent when they can explore things they're curious about and capable of. Teachers get to know each student better to support their learning journey by helping them learn new skills and explore ideas that really interest them. As students take on these opportunities, they become more independent and confident in their abilities.



At Margaret Park School students develop independence by making choices throughout their day and with the assistance of the caring adults at times.

**Choice Making:** Selecting activities, materials, or learning centers.

**Self-Help Skills:** We encourage children to independently manage tasks like dressing themselves, cleaning up, and organizing their belongings.

**Problem-Solving:** We provide opportunities for children to solve simple problems or conflicts with peers, fostering decision-making skills.

**Self-Initiated Learning:** Teachers and educational assistant support children in pursuing their own interests and inquiries through activities like exploration, play, and projects.

**Responsibility:** Each teacher assigns small responsibilities within the classroom, such as being line leaders, helpers, or taking care of class pets or plants.

**Reflection and Goal Setting:** After each term or repotting, teachers help children reflect on their learning and set goals for themselves, encouraging them to track their progress.

**Encouraging Communication:** We help students use verbal and non-verbal expression and advocacy for their own needs and interests with adults and peers.

**Collaboration:** We facilitate opportunities for children to work together on tasks or projects, encouraging teamwork and shared decision-making.

**Routine and Time Management:** Teachers plan ahead and intentionally to support children in following daily routines and managing their time effectively, gradually reducing teacher prompts and reminders.

**Feedback and Reflection:** School staff provide constructive feedback and encourages children to reflect on their actions and learning experiences.



## Generosity: Creating a Culture of Caring and Collaboration

“Character is cultivated by concern for others so that the child can say, ‘I have purpose for my life.’”



It's important for everyone to feel they can contribute something valuable to our school and community. As students grow more skilled, confident, and develop strong personal values, we aim to give them chances to share their knowledge generously.



Older students often help younger ones through leadership roles like patrolling, recess leaders, and buddy reading.

Margaret Park's action-oriented students, composters, recyclers, and gardeners maintain our school in sustainable ways. We're grateful for the generosity of everyone—staff, students, and families alike—at Margaret Park.

Below are ways we demonstrate generosity:

- We model kindness and empathy by how we interact with each other.
- Community Service Projects: We engage students in age-appropriate community service activities such as food drives, coin collections for charity like the Terry Fox Walk, or visits to local senior homes to spread cheer.
- Every teacher assigns classroom jobs and responsibilities where students help each other and contribute to the upkeep of the classroom environment.
- We implement opportunities, where older students mentor younger ones, helping with tasks like reading, writing, or even social skills development.
- We embrace and celebrate cultural diversity through activities, stories, and events that highlight different backgrounds and traditions within our school community.
- Our classrooms design, collaborative learning activities where children work together on projects, share ideas, and solve problems as a team like our sustainability goals.



- We tend to the land care for the environment. All of our students engage in activities like gardening, recycling, or nature walks to instill a sense of responsibility for the environment and each other.
- We recognize and celebrate acts of kindness and generosity among students, teachers, and staff through praise, certificates, or special mentions in assemblies, newsletter, and social media.
- We encourage family involvement in school activities and events, creating a supportive community where everyone feels valued and connected.

