



ШКОЛА R. F. MORRISON SCHOOL
SEVEN OAKS SCHOOL DIVISION

2023-2024

Report to the Community

Working, Learning and Growing Together

25 Morrison St.

Winnipeg, MB R2V 3B3

Principal: Amber Anderson

Vice-Principal: Oksana Kosteckyj/Ryan Smithson



SCHOOL PROFILE

Grade Levels: K-5 English/K-6 English-Ukrainian Bilingual

Enrollment: 316

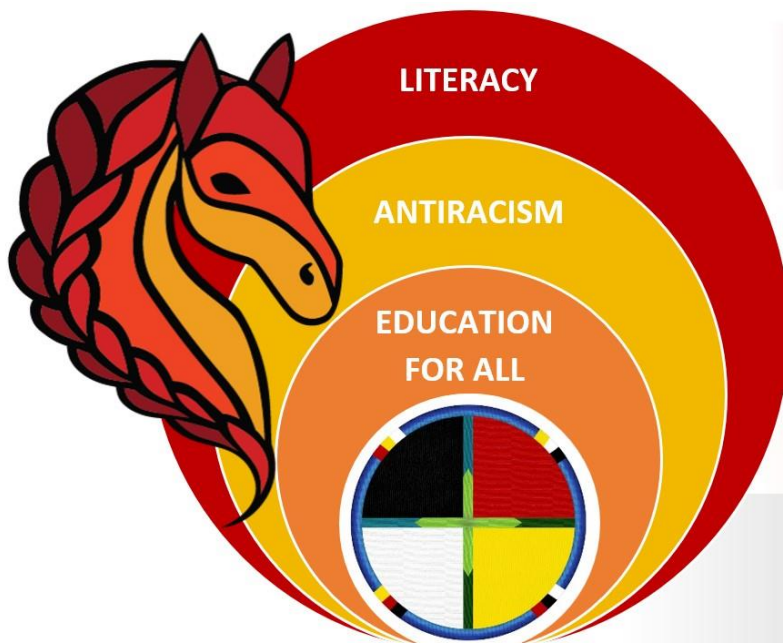
Vision

“Working, Learning and Growing Together”

Mission Statement

Школа R. F. Morrison School is an inclusive community that values relationships, embraces diversity, and is committed to supporting all learners. We acknowledge and honour that we are on the traditional homeland of the Anishinaabe, Inninew (Cree), Dakota, and Red River Metis people as well as Treaty One Territory.

2023-2024 SCHOOL PLAN AT A GLANCE



Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being

Школа R. F. Morrison School will teach multiple literacies that celebrate student agency, encourage community engagement, foster a love of learning, and support the development of the whole child.

Школа R. F. Morrison School will teach and practice antiracism so that every child can feel a sense of pride in who they are and value the diversity within our community.

Школа R. F. Morrison School will create equitable access in all programs and learning environments, enabling all students to thrive in physical, emotional, social, and academic opportunities.

Школа R. F. Morrison School will make *Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being* central to all parts of school life and adopt the *Circle of Courage* as a school-wide model to guide our work with children. We are all treaty people, and we are committed to Truth & Reconciliation.

2023-2024 SCHOOL PLAN

Школа R. F. Morrison School set the following priorities for the 2023-2024 school year:

1. *Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being*
2. *Education for All*
3. *Antiracist Education*
4. *Multiple Literacies*

These priorities are not separate from one another. Rather, we view them as deeply interconnected and interdependent. Our “school plan at a glance” illustrates how these layers are connected.

- Indigenous perspectives are at the heart of our work as a school on Treaty 1 Territory, and we remain committed to the process of reconciliation. This year, we will continue to explore Dr. Martin Brokenleg’s Circle of Courage (belonging, mastery, independence & generosity) as a lens through which to view our work with all children.
- We will continue our commitment to being an inclusive place for all. We practice a strength-based approach and believe in continuous improvement for all students, based on developmentally appropriate programming that supports the whole child.
- We are a diverse community. Antiracist education means actively teaching students to take pride in who they are and where they are from, while appreciating and respecting others for the gifts they bring to our community.
- All learning is literacy learning. Literacy is the ability to interpret, understand, communicate, and create meaning in an increasingly complex world. *Multiple Literacies* can include reading, writing, listening, viewing, speaking, critical thinking, inquiry, numeracy, physical literacy, musical literacy, financial literacy, civic literacy, digital literacy, social literacy, media literacy and more.

This report will share some of the work we’ve done in these areas and highlight other events from throughout the school year.

Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being

Commitment:

Школа R. F. Morrison School will make Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being central to all parts of school life and adopt the Circle of Courage as a school-wide model to guide our work with children. We are all treaty people, and we are committed to Truth & Reconciliation.

Read our School Plan to learn more about the actions we are taking.



Highlights

- On Sept. 29th, classrooms walked through our community to show support for Residential School Survivors and observe the *National Day for Truth & Reconciliation*.
- We continue to start each day with a Treaty 1 Land Acknowledgement and classrooms share a new *Indigenous Word of the Week* in the morning announcements.
- Learning from the land, Bannock making, and indigenous perspectives lessons at the AKI centre.

- Staff and students (with parental permission) were invited to participate in a smudge on the first and last school day of each week. We smudge with sage in our Circle Garden. Students are also able to request a smudge from a teacher when needed.



- In May, many classrooms observed Red Dress Day and created artwork to show support for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- Classrooms included the Anishinabemowin *13 Moons Calendar* with daily calendar activities and morning meetings. Each classroom created a stone representation of the 13 Moons which are displayed at our Circle Garden.



- Pow Wow instruction continued this year with *Aboriginal School of Dance* and many of students danced at the 15th Annual Divisional Graduation Pow Wow.



Commitment:

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Highlights

- R. F. Morrison’s Rainbow Club worked with Mr. B, Ms. Grant, Ms. Sarissa, Ms. Riskin and Ms. Gray to explore ways to make our school a safe and inclusive place for all. They organized events for our Pride Week that promoted acceptance for all.
- Inclusive and accessible classrooms, clubs and extracurricular activities are an ongoing priority.
- Students from R. F. Morrison attended Special Olympics for the second time.





- EUBP Classrooms continued the tradition of sharing Ukrainian Language and Culture with the whole school community through assemblies and activities like Pysanky.



Antiracist Education

Commitment:

Школа R. F. Morrison School will teach and practice antiracism so that every child can feel a sense of pride in who they are and value the diversity within our community.

Read our School Plan to learn more about the actions we are taking.

Highlights

- Many of our classes worked with Ms. Grant focusing on anti-racist literature throughout the school year.
- School-wide celebration of Black History Month, including classrooms reading announcements and adding to a collective bulletin board.
- Development of school and classroom library resources with materials that celebrate diversity and identity.
- Staff PD on anti-racism and identity with Mr. Houle from Dauphin, MB.
- At RFM we recognized Holodomor through a school-wide assembly.



Multiple Literacies

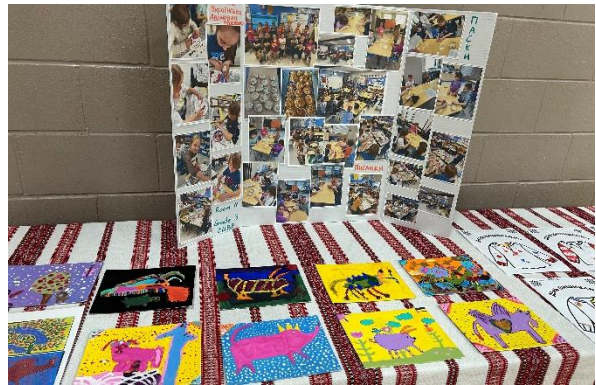
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Highlights

- We did a deep-dive into writing analysis, with two school-wide writes. In October, every student wrote about the theme of 'things we're looking forward to' and in May, we wrote about the theme of seasons. Staff analyzed grade-level writing samples as part of our ongoing Professional Development.



- Art programming in classrooms and extra-curricular clubs provided students with opportunities to express themselves creatively through a rich variety of mediums. The artwork above was inspired by Maria Prymachenko.



- Our band had several opportunities to perform throughout the school year.
- During *I Love to Read Month* we were visited by exciting guest readers including community members, political figures, and Seven Oaks Trustees.

2023-2024

Classroom Highlights

Школа R. F. Morrison School Teachers and students are excited to share some of their highlights and celebrations of learning from this school year.

ROOM 10 – Ms. Sarissa

Room 10 engaged in a lot of special work in collaboration with our buddies in room 5 and the other grades 3 and 4 class in room 6.

With room 5, we focused on the theme of antiracism and deep dove into the story “All Because You Matter” by Tami Charles. Throughout January and February, we worked closely with our buddies and talked about our connections and differences from each other. Big themes that came up in these discussions were our talents, interests, hobbies, identity, the languages we spoke, and skin, hair, and eye colour. We all celebrated our connections and differences by creating a write-up to share at an assembly.

With room 6, we did a 13 Moon study and art project. Working in groups, we were assigned a different moon to learn and research. We learned about when the moon was, the season and time of year it correlated with, how this time of year connects to the meaning of the moon, and its deeper significance. We represented this knowledge by creating clay moons that highlighted our connection and understanding of the moon as well as its important elements. These were put up for display at Seven Oaks’ Board Office for others to view!



ROOM 5 – Mrs. Oakley/Ms. O’Neill

In room 5 we have been exploring and learning using our school wide picture books selected by our learning support teacher Mrs. Grant. We have learned strategies to support us in becoming anti-racist inclusive individuals. The story “A Day with No Words”, written by Tiffany Hammond, impacted us as we are connected with Hannah Yang, a Manitoba Possible Ambassador. She

communicates using a device and advocates for students with disabilities. Hannah read her newly published book, "The Magical Runner" to our school community in April. Her message is one of overcoming adversities. She inspired room 5 students to continue to explore their strengths and to write personal narratives about their lives. These stories, and Hannah Yang, have inspired us!



Kindergarten – Pani Leskiw

This year the kindergarten students have been engaged in outdoor lessons about the four seasons of the medicine wheel. We have been reading grandfather stories about the seasons and the medicine wheel to grasp a better understanding of Indigenous traditions. In doing so we have found some overlapping traditions that are similar in the Ukrainian culture. This has been exciting for some newcomer students as they have been able to feel like they have a true belonging in Canada. They have been interested and excited to learn about the Canadian Indigenous people.



Room 14 – Ms. Nerbas

This year in room 14, we have been using a variety of hands-on learning activities to further extend our learning and understanding of the concepts being taught in class. In ELA, we have been working on different styles of writing, including but not limited to: persuasive writing, opinion writing, autobiographies, 'How to' writing and informational writing. Topics selected to write about were student driven, and after using graphic organizers to plan out their writing, students created a rough copy, edited it with the teacher and then created a finished product that got laminated and bound together. Students enjoyed reading their finished pieces to the class and then placed them in our classroom library for everyone to enjoy.

Room 14 also LOVES math! We have discovered that we all learn best the more senses that we use, but that we also have different strengths, so we participated in daily math centre rotations that meet a variety of different needs and learning styles. We rotated between a teacher directed centre, a math facts centre (where we practice addition and subtraction math facts), a technology station and a hands-on activity/math game station.

Room 13 – Mrs. Ingram/Ms. Chubenko

The students in room 13 have explored the meaning of the word “Arts” in preparation for this year’s Arts in the Park celebration. We focused our learning on the aspects of visual arts, performing arts, and the art of writing. Our inquiry led us to research and experiment with all types of “arts”. We painted watercolour flowers inspired by the works of Monet. We practiced singing in preparation for our musical number as part of our understanding of the performing arts. Finally, room 13 explored the “art of writing” creating many different types of writing from poetry to opinion writing to book making. We had fun expressing our talents and creativity in celebration of Arts in the Park 2024!



Celebrating the Arts: Arts in the Park 2024

Room 8 – Pana Suchy

This year, room 8 has focused in many areas of Ukrainian learning that we are proud of including learning encompassing reading, writing and speaking integration. We highlighted and learned meanings behind different Ukrainian holidays and honouring special days such as Christmas, New Years celebrations, Taras Shevchenko day, Easter, Embroidery Day, and many more! We got to appreciate and share our understanding of these special occasions and perform poems, songs and dances at assemblies and celebrations.



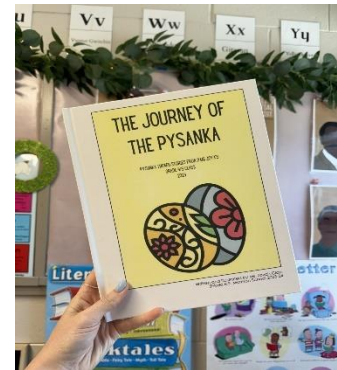
Room 7 – Ms. Dutka

This year in room 7 we had a blast discovering new ideas and trying different ways of learning. Our class did an interactive “Day in the Life of a Voyageur”, where we got to spend the day as if we were voyageurs during the Fur Trade. We also studied Greek Mythology, which led to the students writing and performing their own play. In March we were able to go on an exciting adventure to Oak Hammock Marsh, which allowed students to learn about local wildlife and their behaviours, while also having fun trying to snowshoe around the marsh. Room 7 had a fun-filled, exciting year, with an abundance of learning opportunities and a chance to create lasting memories.



Room 9 – Pana Zoya

Room 9 is a class filled with so many talents, interests, and abilities. Throughout the year we have engaged in various project-based learning activities that allowed students to use their many skills and interests in ways that benefited their learning. One of the projects we are very excited to share about is the publishing of our classroom book "The Journey of the Pysanka." Each student wrote their own short story and created an illustration for their story. This project allowed us to explore literacy, culture, tradition, and art in a meaningful way.



Room 3 – Pana Fosty



This year, room 3 had the honour of organizing and hosting both a Holodomor Commemoration Assembly and an Assembly honouring the great Ukrainian Poet Taras Shevchenko. The Grade 6 students shared the Indigenous word of the week on our weekly announcements, as well on the board at the front of our school. In addition to completing three terms of TAS (drama, soccer and sewing), the Grade 6 class was able to attend a 3-day camp at Camp Manitou with other

EUBP classes and immerse themselves in Ukrainian cultural activities!

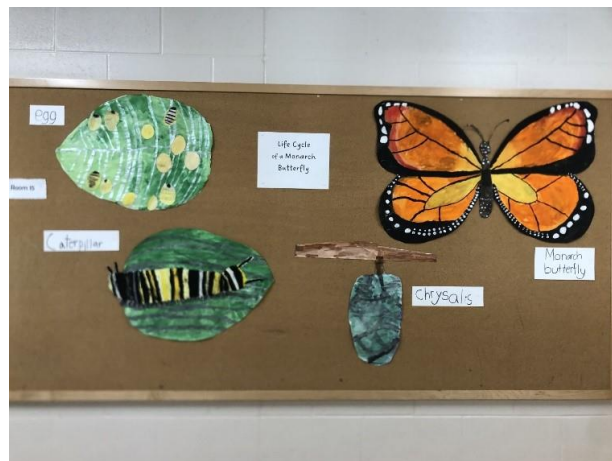
Room 4 – Pani Bondarchuk

Practicing Ukrainian traditions is an engaging and fun opportunity for cross curricular activities. As we made paskas (traditional Ukrainian easter bread) in room 4 this year, we practiced weight measuring skills that we have learned in math and applied our knowledge of solids, liquids, and gases from science. Traditions are science!



Room 15 – Ms. Gray

Room 15 engaged in a year-long study about the Thirteen Moon calendar. We learned about each of the moons and how to use the calendar. The Thirteen Moon calendar enhanced our learning about the four seasons, and we made and illustrated our own classroom calendar. The children supplemented their learning with their representation of Thimbleberry Moon, where we incorporated our learning about two precious natural resources in Manitoba: the boreal forest and water. The children also wanted to include an eagle, who teaches love, because we are thankful for the beautiful land we live on. Inspired by their science learning about living things, room 15 created a visual arts representation of the life cycle of a butterfly, using paint and oil and chalk pastels.



Room 11 – Pani Deneka

Grade 3 students engaged in a cultural activity where they crafted paskas and pysanky, traditional Ukrainian Easter eggs. Through this hands-on experience, they learned about Ukrainian customs, including the intricate art of egg decorating and the significance of Easter bread. The activity provided a valuable insight into Ukrainian heritage, fostering appreciation and understanding of diverse cultural traditions.



Room 12 – Pani Matwichyna

This school year room 12 has been filled with exciting learning experiences centered around food and community impact. Our grade 4/5 students from the English-Ukrainian bilingual program immersed themselves in exploring various culinary themes starting in November. They began with an in-depth study of the Holodomor Genocide of Ukrainians in 1932-33, which sparked discussions about hunger, starvation and resilience.

A highlight of their learning was the "Room 12 Soup Cook Off," where students put their knowledge of recipes, ingredients, and cooking techniques to the test by creating their own soups. This event not only celebrated their creativity and individual styles but also fostered qualities like resilience, confidence, empathy, compassion, and teamwork among them.



Room 6 – Ms. Riskin

This year in room 6 our motto was "Good Vibes Only"! We filled our days with laughter, kindness, and building friendships. room 6 has loved lending a helping hand to friends in the classroom, strengthening our school community and helping our environment.



Kindergarten – Ms. Chubenko



Ms. Chubenko's morning Kindergarten class focused on literacy development, math centers, exploring community development and outreach initiatives and studying environmental sustainability and colours in science.

We worked on social emotional learning through the Kimochis program, built relationships with Grade 5 buddy readers, and explored through outdoor learning, music, and phys. ed.



PE/Dance – Ms. Lasko, Mr. Rasmussen & Mrs. Brigole

This year our Grades 4-6 students in the Ukrainian program took part in a weekly Ukrainian dance class. Students were put into two groups each focusing on learning basic and more advanced dance steps and tricks and working towards applying their learning to dances learned for Arts in the Park. Each group learned a regional Poltava dance, one being a Pryvit dance and the other the well-known Hopak. Although both Ukrainian dance groups did not have the opportunity to perform at Arts in the Park due to weather, they put on an amazing performance for our school community which had the audience clapping and wanting to dance along with them!



Our Grade 4 and 5 students had the chance to participate in various inter-school tournaments increasing their fitness abilities in handball, volleyball, basketball, and badminton. This was the first year R. F. Morrison Grade 6 students had the opportunity to participate in middle years sport programming. This was a beneficial move to allow our Grade 6 students to prepare themselves for physical education in a middle year setting.



We introduced an intramural program to allow for more organized sport programming. With our high interest in soccer being played at recess, implementing soccer intramurals allowed students to participate in a more realistic game setting. Being put on teams, following actual soccer boundaries and rules, and the introduction of volunteer refs from Garden City Collegiate, was met with enthusiastic participation and promoted school spirit and healthy competition.

The end of the year included our annual Jump Rope for Heart afternoon in support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation. All students had the opportunity to participate in 7 stations all promoting fitness and having fun. Students enjoyed practicing and trying new Jump Rope tricks, parachute games, soccer, and Just Dance.

RFM Talent Show

Below are some photos from our school Talent Show. This was an amazing opportunity for students to highlight their skills and for our school community to recognize some of the amazing and talented students that we have in our midst.



2022-2023

Congratulations & Farewell Wishes

We wish to congratulate all our Grade 5 and 6 students who are moving on to Middle School. We are so proud of your accomplishments, and we hope you will always carry happy memories of R. F. Morrison along with you, wherever you go in life. We know you are going to do amazing things!



We also wish a fond farewell to the R. F. Morrison staff who are moving on to new adventures!

**THANK
YOU!**

We are grateful to our school community and families for your support, including our many volunteers. We value our partnerships with organizations who support our school and English-Ukrainian Bilingual Program, including Manitoba Parents for Ukrainian Education (MPUE), Osvita, and St. Boniface Ukrainian Foundation, Inc. A special thank you to the Canadian Nutrition Council of Manitoba for supporting our Nutrition Program! We greatly appreciate Seven Oaks School Division and the Board of Trustees for their amazing support of our school.

Thank you!

Merci!

Дякую!

Miigwech!