



ШКОЛА R. F. MORRISON SCHOOL
SEVEN OAKS SCHOOL DIVISION

2022-2023

Report to the Community

Working, Learning and Growing Together

25 Morrison St.
Winnipeg, MB R2V 3B3

Principal: Andrew Volk
Vice-Principal: Dina Drabyk





SCHOOL PROFILE

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

Enrollment: 315

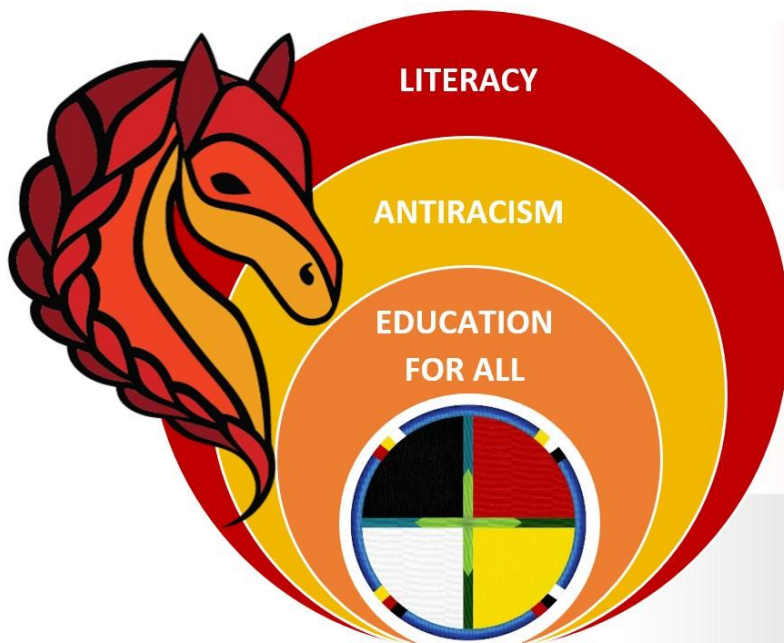
Vision

“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.

2022-2023 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.



2022-2023 SCHOOL PLAN

Школа R. F. Morrison School set the following priorities for the 2022-2023 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 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.



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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.
- Staff and students (with parental permission) are 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.



- Ms. Alex and Ms. Gray made Bannock with Room 15. We also served Bannock in our Nutrition Program and Grade 4-6 students made Bannock on a fire during our Outdoor Activity Days in June.





- In May, many classrooms observed Red Dress Day and created artwork to show support for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Ms. Oakley's and Ms. Sarissa's classes made red hearts that were displayed at the front of the school.
- Classrooms included the Anishinabemowin *13 Moons Calendar* with daily calendar activities and morning meetings.
- Classrooms learned about the Seven Sacred Teachings in class and with the Seven Teachings Carpet Game in the library.
- Pow Wow instruction continued this year with *Aboriginal School of Dance* and many of students danced at the 14th Annual Divisional Grad Pow Wow.



- This year, Professional Development for staff included learning about *10 Journeys of Decolonization* with Kevin Lamoureux and *Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With - An Indigenous Education Policy Framework* by Manitoba Education. We also learned about wellness and self-care from an Indigenous framework from Michael Redhead Champagne and practiced Indigenous beading with Anna Kovacs from École Constable Edward Finney.



Commitment:

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.

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



Highlights

- R. F. Morrison’s GSA – The Safer Spaces Club – worked with Mr. B and Ms. Grant to explore ways to make our school a safe and inclusive place for all. They joined the Collège Garden City Collegiate Pride March and then helped to plan our school-based Pride Week.
- Students from R. F. Morrison attended Special Olympics for the first time.
- Inclusive and accessible classrooms, clubs and extracurricular activities are an ongoing priority.





- Our Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) did classroom-based work on communication using symbols and adaptive technology.

- Our school Social Worker did classroom-based work on social-emotional learning and empathy with special guest, Watson the bulldog.

- Students participated in the *See Spot Read* program through the Winnipeg Humane Society.



- 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

- Panna Suchy's class, Ms. Oakley's class and morning English Kindergarten worked with Mr. Cliff Weekes, our Seven Oaks Antiracism lead.
- 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. Weekes.
- Our *I Love to Read Month* theme was "stories connect us" and we shared the story *Same, Same but Different* by Jenny Sue Kostecky-Shaw at our opening assembly.
- The theme of our spring concert was "Music Brings Us Together" and classrooms celebrated and learned about our global community.





Multiple Literacies

Commitment:

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.

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

Highlights

- We did a deep-dive into writing analysis, with two school-wide writes. In October, every student wrote about the theme of identity and in May, we wrote about the theme of kindness. Staff analyzed grade-level writing samples as part of our ongoing Professional Development.
- Students explored physical literacy through Phys. Ed., Dance, daily movement, community walks and outdoor activities, including our first ever “Polar Bear Recess Club”.
- Art programming in classrooms and extra-curricular clubs provided students with opportunities to express themselves creatively through a rich variety of mediums.



- Many classrooms explored the writing and editing process by authoring and publishing their own books in classroom libraries.

- During *I Love to Read Month* we were visited by exciting guest readers including community members, political figures, and 7 Oaks Trustees.



2022-2023

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.

This year at RF Morrison we started our first ever Special Olympics program. A few students practiced through the month of April and then participated in the Special Olympics Manitoba Early Years track meet in May. They did their best, had fun, and made new friends by cheering each other on.

Mr. Miller, Phys. Ed./Dance

Rooms 7 and 15 have partnered up to build community through land-based learning this year. The students have bonded over the caretaking of our two memorial gardens. Activities like rock painting, learning about different types of plants, and how to care for the gardens have been part of this special bond between classes. Empathy, cooperation, and nurturing have been fostered through this amazing partnership.

Ms. Dutka, Room 7

Grade 6 students became fully engaged in researching city of Winnipeg Mayoral candidates to become familiar with their personality profiles and platforms for the autumn, 2022 Civic Elections. We participated in the CIVIX Student Vote Program, giving the majority of R. F. Morrison students the opportunity to participate in a mock election, setting up a polling station, with election workers role playing actual functions. Other classes accessed Student Vote resources on themes of democracy and the voting process, in addition to being encouraged to discuss the vote with family and friends. Who could have predicted that prior to the actual vote, R. F. Morrison students narrowly predicted that Scott Gillingham would be mayor elect!

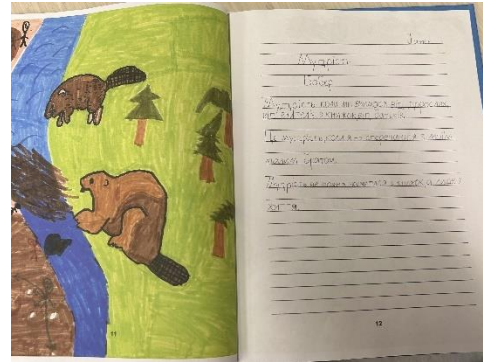
Pan Ilyniak, Room 3





EUBP Grade 3 students published a book of reflections in Ukrainian to help the newcomers learn about the 7 Sacred Teachings.

Pani Deneka, Room 11



This year room 8 learned our letters and sounds they make. Students figured out that they can look for the 26 English and 33 Ukrainian letters anywhere! Students from room 8 went around Birds Hill Park on a recent field trip and were able to find evidence of their literacy learning. Then students found their own sticks and we created journals with their chosen stick to illustrate or write in!

Pana Suchy, Room 8

To show our commitment to Reconciliation and Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being, we took a deep dive into exploring what it means to live on Treaty 1 Territory. Students engaged in self-directed learning, research, and building/design projects to show their learning and connection to the land we all live on. As a result, students deepened their understanding of how they are connected to the land, developed a meaningful connection to the land acknowledgement we say every morning, and fostered a positive relationship with Mother Earth.

Ms. Sarissa, Room 10

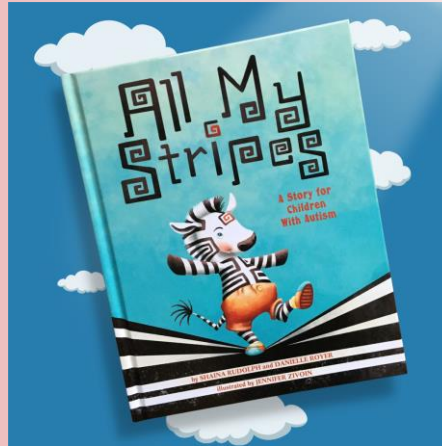


Room 15 enjoyed learning the Seven Sacred Teachings in Cree. The children wanted to help the rest of the school learn the words, so they made weekly announcements for each of the animals in Cree. They also made beautiful posters for the Seven Teachings in Cree with illustrations for our class and the rest of the school to enjoy. The kids also made posters for two more Indigenous words of the week. We were inspired to also learn how to say hello in the languages represented in our classroom, so we made a welcome poster for that, too!

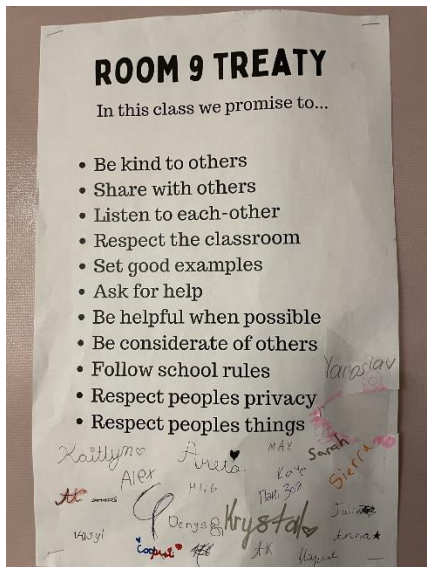
Ms. Gray, Room 15



This year, we loved celebrating who we are as individuals. We talked about identity and what makes us all unique. We started off the year reading books such as *Our Class is a Family* and *All My Stripes: A Book About Autism*. Reading these books created so many good conversations. We shared about who our families are and what activities and hobbies we like to do. We discovered that many of us had very similar connections as well as many differences! We shared our cultures and traditions, had conversations about kindness, respect and equality!

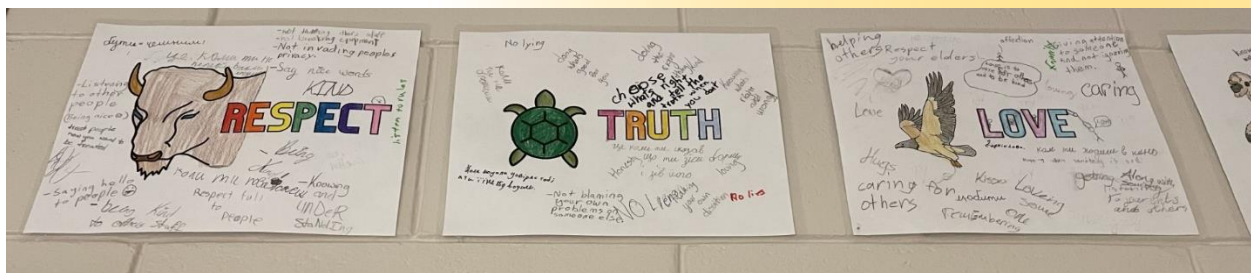


Ms. Riskin, Room 6



A highlight from room 9 was the exploration of Indigenous cultures and Ways of Being, especially for some of our newcomer students who are new to life in Canada. One of the ways we incorporated Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being in our classroom is through the holistic incorporation of the Seven Sacred Teachings and Treaty writing. Students worked together to create our classroom treaty at the beginning of the year to collectively come to a consensus of the things that they think are important for a healthy classroom community. The students also collectively came up with things that reflect the practices of the Seven Sacred Teachings, and we displayed these collaborative posters in our classroom. We look forward to diving into more holistic Indigenous learning next year.

Pana Zoya, Room 9





Room 13 infused Indigenous Education and perspectives into our classroom learning, as we practiced the act of, “living a good life” or mino-bimaadiziwin. An essential aspect of mino-bimaadiziwin is the Seven Grandfather Teachings, or Seven Sacred Teachings. As a class, we explored the teachings of love, honesty, respect, wisdom, humility, truth, and courage. These are a set of Anishinaabe guiding principles passed down from generation to generation to guide us in peace rather than conflict.

The Medicine Wheel guided our learning as a means of reflection on seasonal changes, cardinal directions, sacred medicines, elements of our earth, animals, and the importance of how we as people, and our environment are all interconnected. We said thank you in English, Michif (Maarsii), or Anishinaabe (Miigwech) to Mother Earth every day for each other and the land we live on, all in the spirit of reconciliation.

Room 13 was very proud to maintain the Circle Garden with room 10. We worked together to paint the planters the colours of the Medicine Wheel: black, red, white and yellow. We then planted sage that we will be able to use for Smudging in the upcoming school year.

Ms. Ingram & Ms. Fernandes, Room 13





In September, our English-Ukrainian Bilingual classes participated in the 9th Annual Rotary Elementary School Peace Walk at the Human Rights Museum. Our students represented R. F. Morrison School and brought attention to the war and Ukraine's call for peace. This year's theme, "Children's Voices for World Peace", was particularly relevant today given our current world situation. The Peace Walk was about educating our children about the power of using their voices for inclusivity, reconciliation, and equity. Upon returning to school, our students felt empowered to make change by taking action. Students organized bracelet sales and sunflower plant sales to support Ukrainian newcomers to Manitoba and to support Humanitarian aid missions in Ukraine.

Pani Matwichyna, Room 12



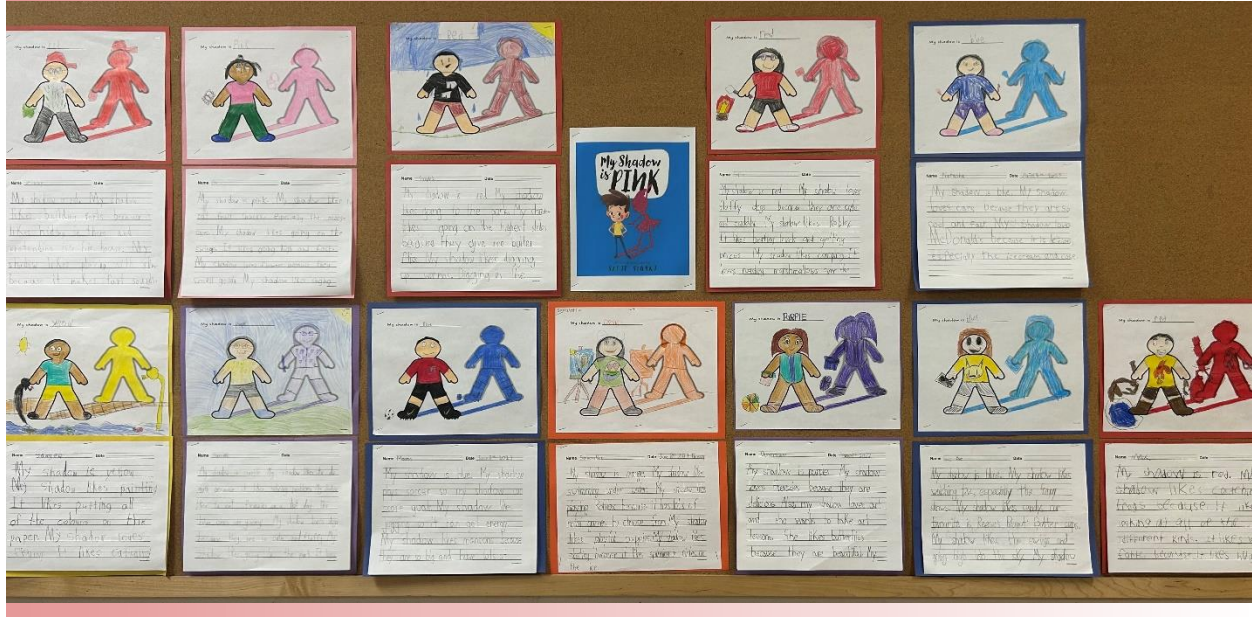
English Kindergarten students developed Identity poems over the school year alongside our school division's anti-racism lead, Mr. Weekes. We thoroughly enjoyed our time reading books and having conversations together about the different parts of one's identity. The result was beautiful, as the children confidently presented their poems to older grades within the school. The students were very excited to share common interests and parts of their identity with others outside our Kindergarten classroom walls. This inquiry-based identity project helped develop our students' relationships with the world around them and how they interact with new experiences and people. They learned about diversity through this experience and considered perspectives that were different from their own.

Ms. Constable, AM Kindergarten



Room 14 has been working on identity, acceptance of diversity, and kindness. After reading the book *My Shadow is Pink*, we discussed the importance of always being proud of who you are and of treating others with respect, despite their differences. Our differences make us unique and special. Inspired by the book, students completed a writing assignment identifying the colour of their shadow and the things it likes to do, explaining what makes them special and unique.

Ms. Nerbas, Room 14



Kindergarten classes worked on learning about the Seven Sacred Teachings all year, beginning with Orange shirt day in September, through to National Indigenous Peoples day in June. We made crafts to help us celebrate and remember the teachings including both commemorative days. We made beaded medallions to celebrate Indigenous People Day and to honour people of Indigenous heritage.

Pani Leskiw, Kindergarten

I would like to celebrate the success of our *Music Unites Us* concert. Our students truly embraced and celebrated each culture they experienced through music. In addition to being inclusive of many cultures, the performances were also inclusive of many abilities; all students were able to participate in some way, either through singing, movement, or playing any number of instruments. It was wonderful to hear and see how excited and engaged the students were to learn a song from a different country, in addition to hearing music from their own cultural background. It was a wonderful and meaningful experience for all.

Ms. Yakiwchuk, Music/Choir



In room 5 our theme throughout the year has been to learn how identity, diversity, and social justice support us in striving to be antiracist individuals. Students have learned about their personal and social identities with a focus on race, gender, ethnicity, and abilities. We analyzed personal biases and stereotypes through exploration of literature readings, expressive art, media, and class discussions. This learning has supported students in building self-compassion, confidence, and empathy.

“You must know who you are to know where you are going.” -Elder Harry Bone

Ms. Oakley, Room 5



Room 4 integrated Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being into ELA, Social Studies, Science and Art by learning about Turtle Island, Red Dress Day, the Seven Sacred Teachings, animals and Métis art. Ms. Alex, one of our EAs, taught us about Cree medicines. Such themes were very important for all students to understand Indigenous history, cultures, perspectives, and relationships with our land.

Pani Viktoriia, Room 4





2022-2023

Special Events

Школа R.F. Morrison School had many special events throughout the year, including assemblies, PAC events, spirit weeks, cultural events and our first Spring Concert in over 5 years! Enjoy some of this year's special moments!



Terry Fox Walk/Run



Winnipeg Jets Captain, Blake Wheeler visits Room 3



Ribbon Dancers and Pow Wow Dancers perform at the annual EUBP Conference



Community walk on Orange Shirt Day



Holodomor Assembly



Annual visits from St. Nicholas and Santa Claus



Grade 6 Band kicks off our I Love to Read Month assembly



Festival du Voyageur



Twin Day



STEAM Fest



EUBP Easter Assembly



Divisional Sharing Dance Day



WPS Patrol Awards – Most Improved City Wide



Spring Concert



14th Annual Divisional Graduation Pow Wow



R. F. Morrison Pride March



Grade 3-6 Outdoor Activity Days



2022-2023

Early Years Sports

R. F. Morrison students showed up with their A-game this year, participating in intramurals, divisional tournaments, and school-based sports clubs. Join us in celebrating all of our 2022-2023 Athletes!



Badminton



Cross Country



Flag Football



Handball



Track & Field



Volleyball



Special Olympics



Grade 1/2 Floor Hockey Club



RFM Soccer Club



2022-2023

Congratulations & Farewell Wishes

We wish to congratulate all of 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:

Pan Ilyniak – We wish you a happy retirement and thank you for 38 years of dedicated service. You leave behind an amazing legacy and will always be a part of Школа R. F. Morrison School!

Ms. Constable, Ms. Fernandes, Pani Puhach and Mr. Miller – You've made a difference for students at R. F. Morrison, and we wish you all the best in the next steps of your teaching careers!

Ms. Kotyk, Ms. Alex and Pani Olesia – We wish you well and we know that you'll continue to support students in meaningful ways in your future roles!

Ms. Dina – Thank you for all the contributions you have made to R. F. Morrison this year. We've been lucky to learn with and from you and we know you'll be an amazing Vice-Principal at O. V. Jewitt Community School!

Mr. Volk – Congratulations and all the best on your new role as Principal of Edmund Partridge Community School!



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!

Дякую!

Merci!

Miigwech!

