



Victory School

Seven Oaks School Division

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Instagram: @victoryschoolmb

*"A little k-5 elementary school in Seven Oaks School Division doing big things"
Treaty One Territory*

Report to Our Community

We have a voice. We are a caring community. We celebrate the uniqueness and gifts of all, nurturing respectfulness and global citizenship. We are committed to life-long learning. We are working to be the best we can; constantly learning and growing.

We are Victory School.

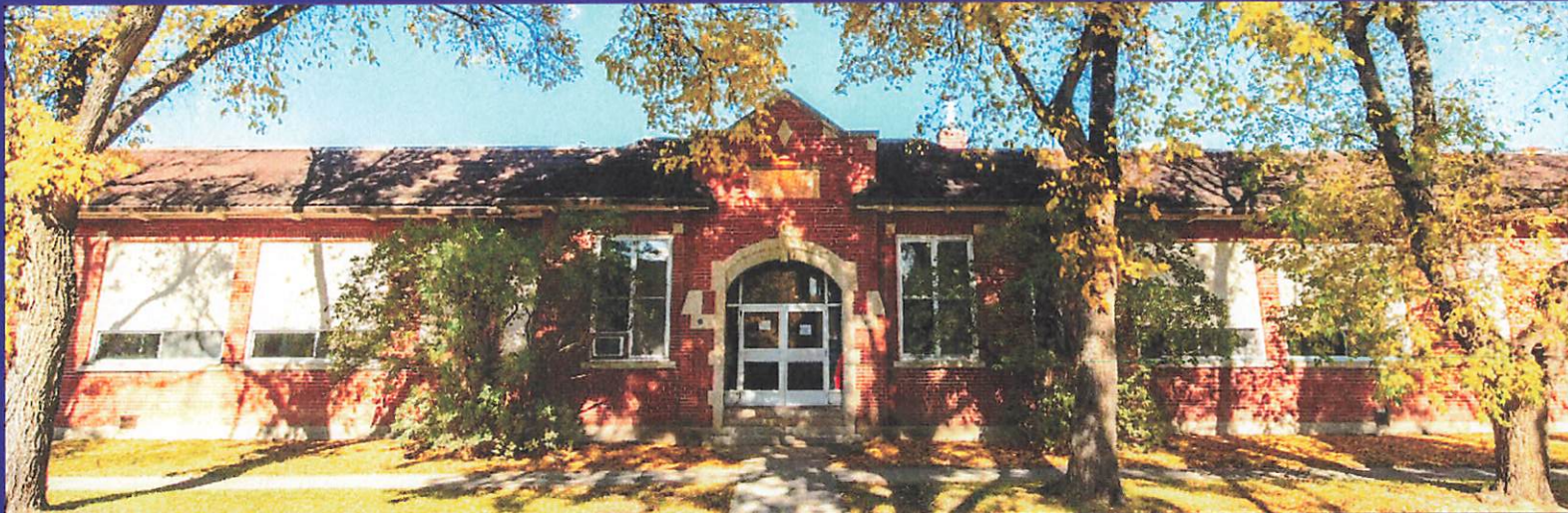
Victory School is a K-5 early years school in the Seven Oaks School Division.

We are located in Winnipeg, MB.

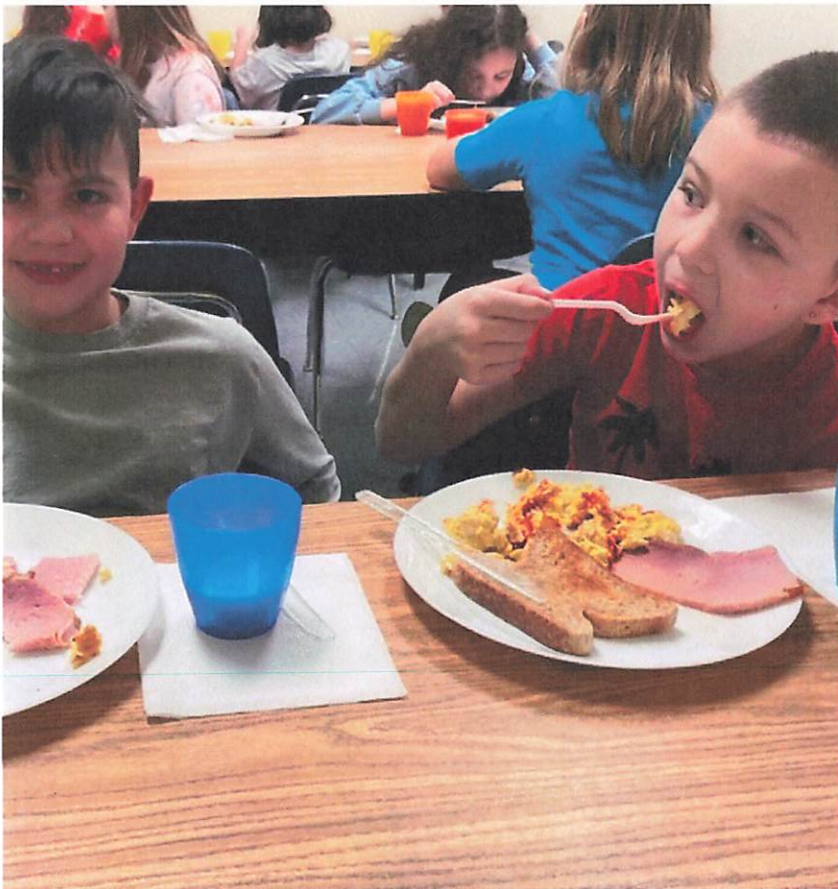
Victory is located on Treaty One Territory, the traditional homeland of the Anishinaabe, Inninew, Oji-Cree, Dene, and Dakota Nations, and the traditional homeland and birthplace of the Red River Métis.



The Seven Oaks School Division is a community of learners, every one of whom shares the responsibility to assist children in acquiring an education which will enable them to lead fulfilling lives within the world as moral people and contributing members of society.



Providing a daily healthy breakfast option for students ensures that all children can learn to their fullest potential each day. Providing enriching out-of-school experiences allows children access to activities to strengthen their foundation for literacy – and all – learning.



Left: Students enjoying a special breakfast at the Breakfast Program. Right: students getting ready for the annual whole school field trip. Both are free of charge for all families.



Literacy Learning at Victory



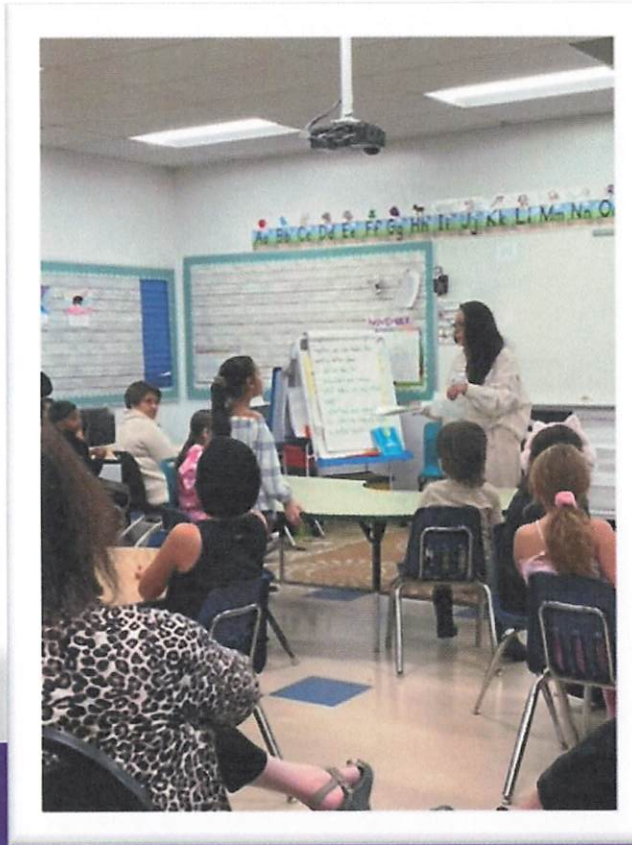
For the past 3 years, Victory has been involved in a residency based on the philosophy and work of Regie Routman.

During this time, staff have been engaged in an ongoing exploration of Routman's work through workshops, assessment training, and book studies.

Image: Guest educator Sandy Figueroa leading a literacy teaching demonstration with a group of students

“Being part of the residency has impacted the ways I think about teaching literacy and about the ‘I do, we do’ of the teaching and learning process”

- *Andriana, Victory learning support teacher*



“[The residency] challenged me to think of my own teaching practices in literacy. I love how we began each day with a sense of ‘purpose.’ I’m leaving with many strategies I can implement. I am already thinking of ways I can reorganize my day to model the Routman Optimal Learning Model to teach literacy.”

- *Amanda, Victory grade 3/4 teacher*

Image: Teachers taking part in observations during the Regie Routman residency, with guest educator, Sandy Figueroa, November 2023

Impacts of the Regie Routman Residency

Throughout the 3 year residency teachers have been involved in transformative professional development to enhance literacy practices and reading/writing proficiency with students



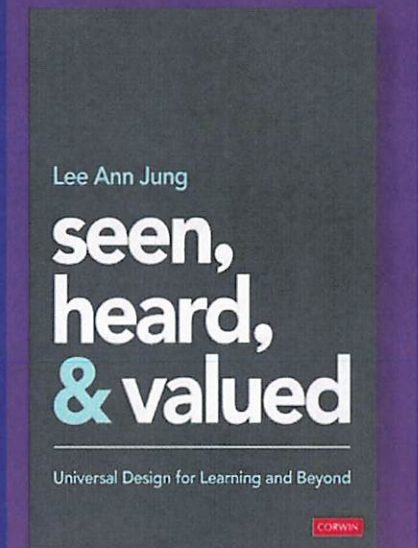
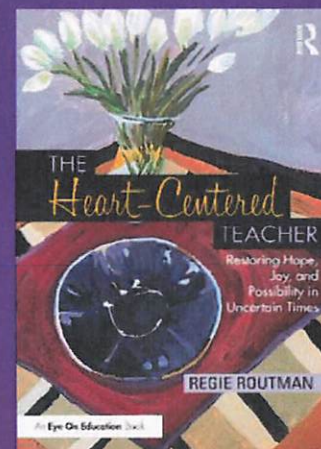
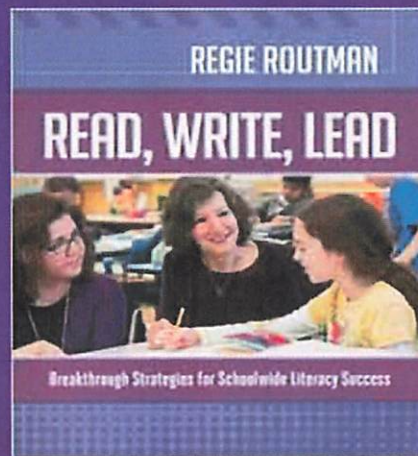
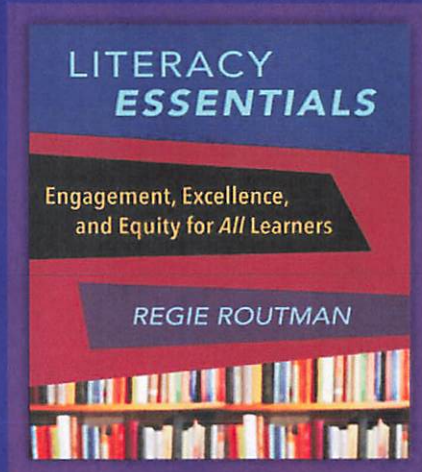
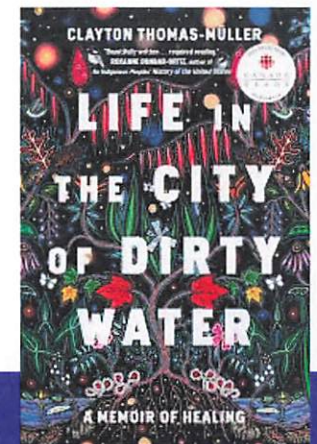
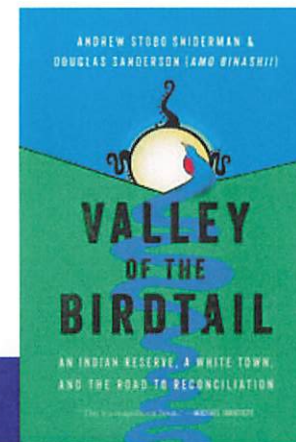
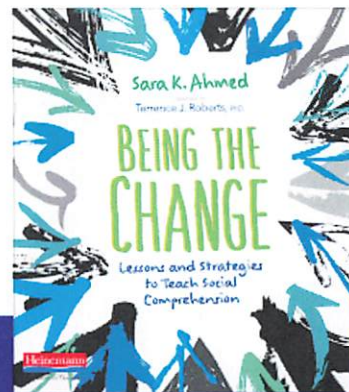
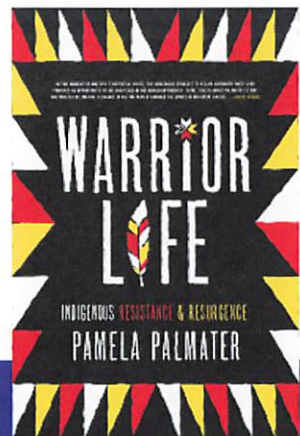
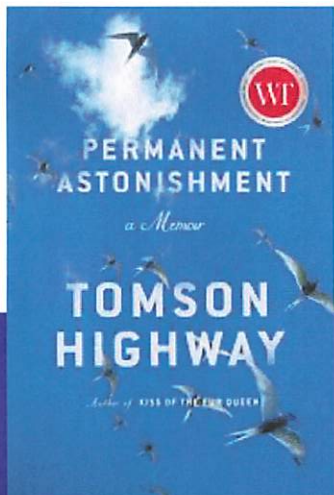
Image: Victory staff participating in a collaborative professional development day with staff of Elwick School

What has this looked like?

- Professional development days devoted to discussions/presentations about teaching reading and writing
- Sharing of student writing samples and assessment strategies with teachers from different schools in Seven Oaks School Division
- Time set aside at Victory to have small group discussions around literacy, called "Teacher Talk"
- Full-staff professional reading on cutting edge literacy research and strategies
- Opportunity to participate in two week-long intensive residencies with guest, Sandy Figueroa (colleague and co-author of Regie Routman)

Professional Reading

Victory School has prioritized literacy learning for staff professional reading and Teacher Talk discussions. Below are images of just a few of the books that staff have been engaged with over the last three years:

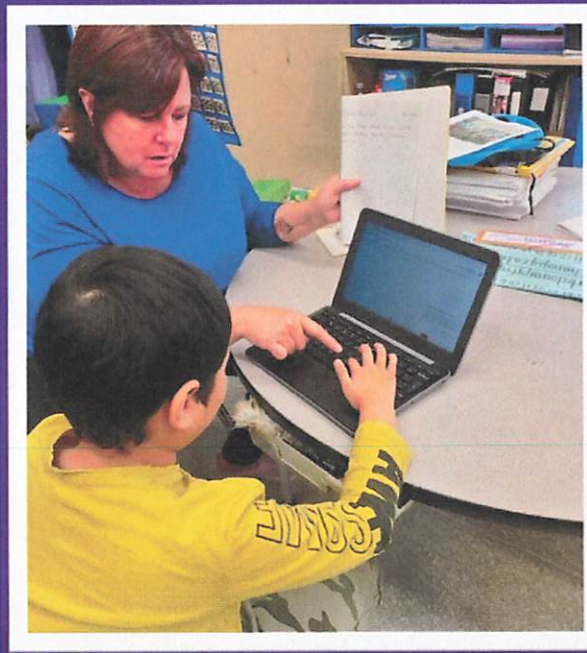
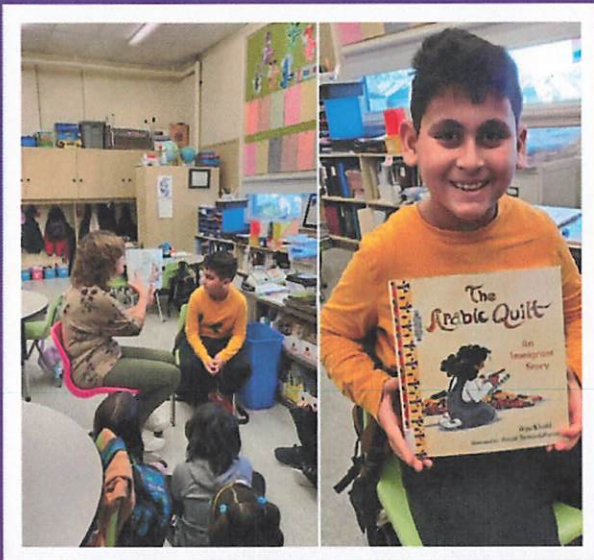


Victory has also prioritized family engagement and relationship building in our work towards Truth and Reconciliation as well as social justice learning.

Therefore, at Victory School we believe:

Equality of educational opportunity is a social justice issue. It's up to us to ensure equitable practices in instruction, assessment, resources, and learning outcomes for all students"

(Regie Routman, Literacy Essentials, p. 373)



“As someone who is celebrating 25 years as an early years educator, I can say from my experience as a teacher of reading and a researcher of reading the professional literature consistently notes that all children learn to read in different ways. When it comes to the practices to reach all readers, Strauss (2018) importantly notes “How literacy is taught has everything to do with race, class, culture and identity, and any reporting or reform that ignores this is missing or misrepresenting reality.” Knowing this, we need to ensure that our classroom libraries and school spaces are filled with rich literature, with books that represent and celebrate the diversity of our students and their families. Children must see themselves reflected back in the stories that they read and hear.”

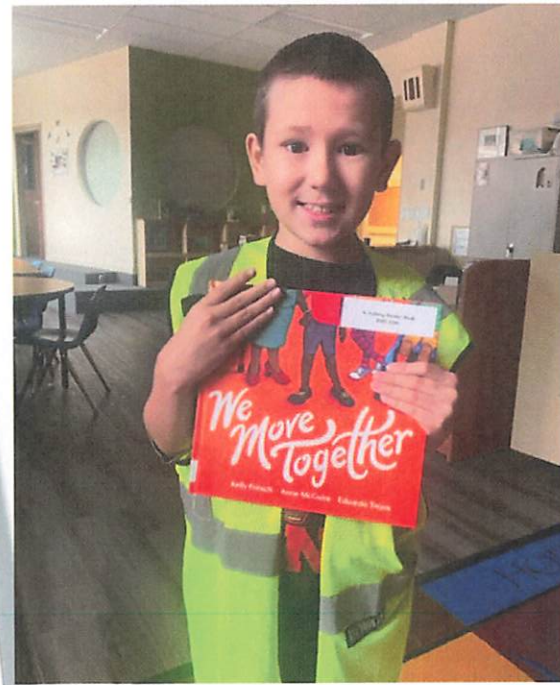
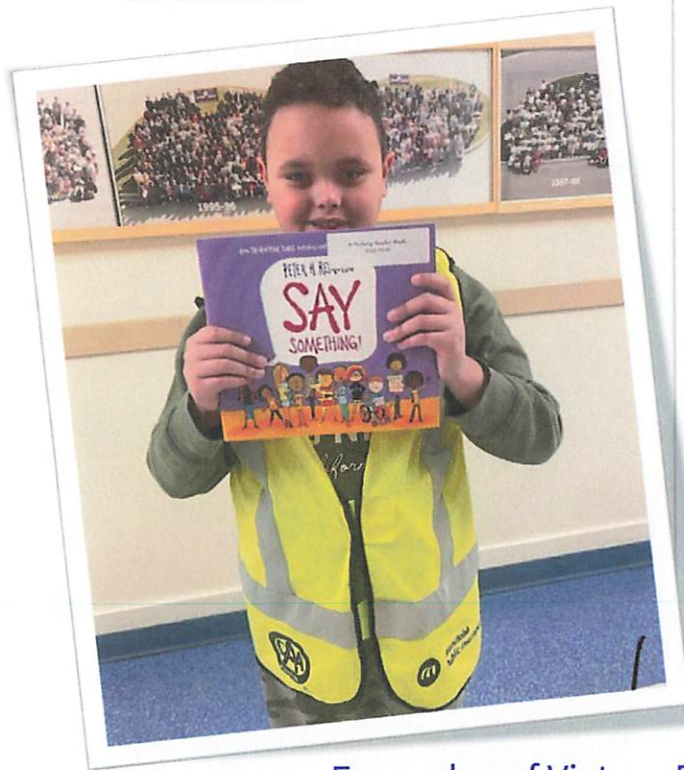
- Joey Robertson, Victory School
Principal



Image: Ms. Robertson (right) with staff and students during the first annual Victory School pride walk in June 2022

Initiatives that promote literacy at Victory School

“Victory Reads!” is a shared school-wide reading initiative. Every classroom receives a new book of the same title once per month. Teachers share it with their students and then add it to their classroom library. Therefore, classroom libraries grow and at the same time, opportunities for discussion topics and collaboration between classes are created.



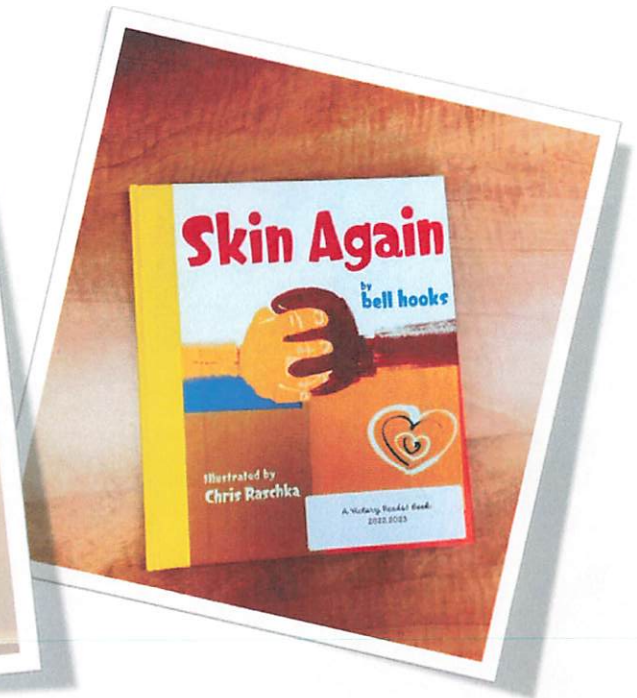
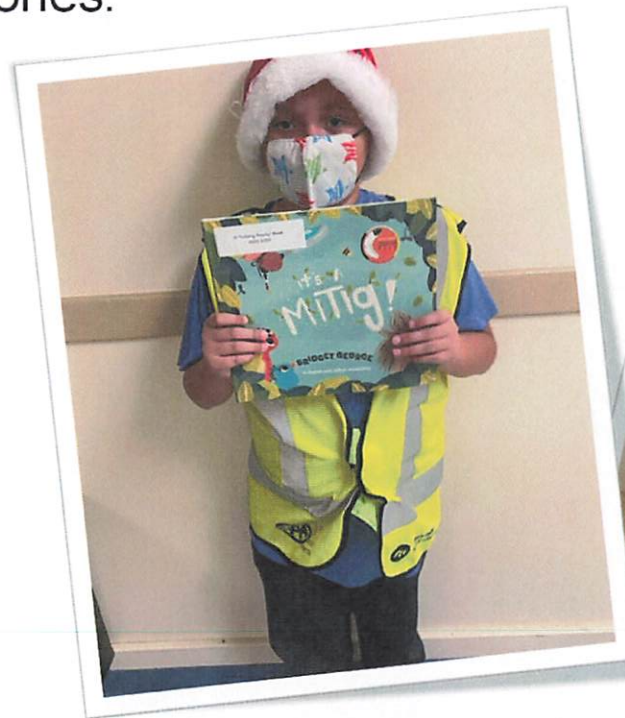
Examples of Victory Reads! books. Patrols deliver the books to classrooms each month.

Initiatives that promote literacy at Victory School

“Victory Reads!” is an initiative that Victory Principal Joey Robertson began two years ago to weave in goals from our school’s plan. These goals include an emphasis on diversity and understanding of differences, Truth and Reconciliation, and anti-racism. All titles chosen are engaging and beautiful stories.

“Building a love of story and engagement with books means children who are more likely to see reading as something they value and enjoy, while simultaneously acknowledging that if children do not know how letters and sounds work, they will not see reading as something they want, or feel capable, to do.”

- Joey Robertson, Victory School Principal



Two examples of Victory Reads! books

Initiatives that promote literacy at Victory School

“The Victory Book Swap”

is an initiative that started in November 2023 during student/parent/teacher conferences. Victory School librarian Jesse organized a Book Swap in lieu of the traditional book fair. This eliminated barriers for families to receive a new book to take home, free of charge. Jesse relied on donations from staff and students and encouraged families to bring a book to swap during the conference time. However, everyone received a book (as well as a fun token - a fancy pencil or eraser) regardless if they brought a book to swap. This initiative was well-attended by our families!

“Our goal is to build and maintain a diverse and inclusive collection of books in our library where students in our community feel represented and can identify with the characters and stories they read. This is vital step towards fostering the love of reading in children, and this undertaking requires us to think outside the box for the necessary funding and resources.” – Jesse, Victory School Librarian



Photos: Families choosing books at the Book Swap with librarian Jesse (far left)

Musical Literacy

In addition to their regular music classes, students at Victory are engaged in a wide range of music experiences and learning. These include instrumental clubs, Tap Club, Hip Hop Club, and the annual Talent Show – just to name a few.



Family & Community Engagement



At Victory School we are committed to engaging with families and the community, and prioritizing Truth and Reconciliation.

Victory School mission statement:

We have a voice. We celebrate the uniqueness and gifts of confident, respectful global citizens.

We are committed to lifelong learning. We are a caring community. We are the best we can be; constantly learning and growing. We are Victory School.

Image: Victory School invited the community to view and participate in "Folk Dance on the Field" in June 2023

What does Family & Community Engagement look like?

- Barrier free family events that take place in mornings or evenings.

Barrier free means that they are offered to families at low or no cost, often include a meal as well as child-minding, if necessary

- Ensured access to food for every student. The Breakfast Program is open to all, and we have food to supplement lunches on hand if needed
- Events that promote Truth and Reconciliation, literacy & numeracy learning, and fun! It is at these events that relationships with staff and families grow.



Photo: staff handing out hot dogs at the annual Victory School BBQ - an event that is free of charge for all families.



Photo: students preparing to take part in the divisional Graduation Pow Wow, an annual celebration.

Events that engage families:

“Read With Me” - an evening program that invites K-2 families with the goal of teaching them strategies to engage their child in learning to love reading. Workshops are facilitated by teachers as well as the school division’s speech and language pathologist



“Interacting with Victory educators has inspired me to read with my daughter. I had no idea how to strategize reading with kids before [the workshop].” - parent, from the Read With Me feedback form

“I liked learning new techniques and more options of books that work with it. Getting a list of books was great” - parent, from the Read With Me feedback form

Events that engage families:

“Books for Breakfast” – an early morning breakfast event that happens during I Love to Read Month (February) that invites families before school to have a meal together and listen to special guest readers.



Pictures: Ms. Kiersten (left, former Victory school teacher) and Mrs. McGowan (right, Seven Oaks School Division Assistant Superintendent) read to students and their families during Books for Breakfast.

Events that engage families:



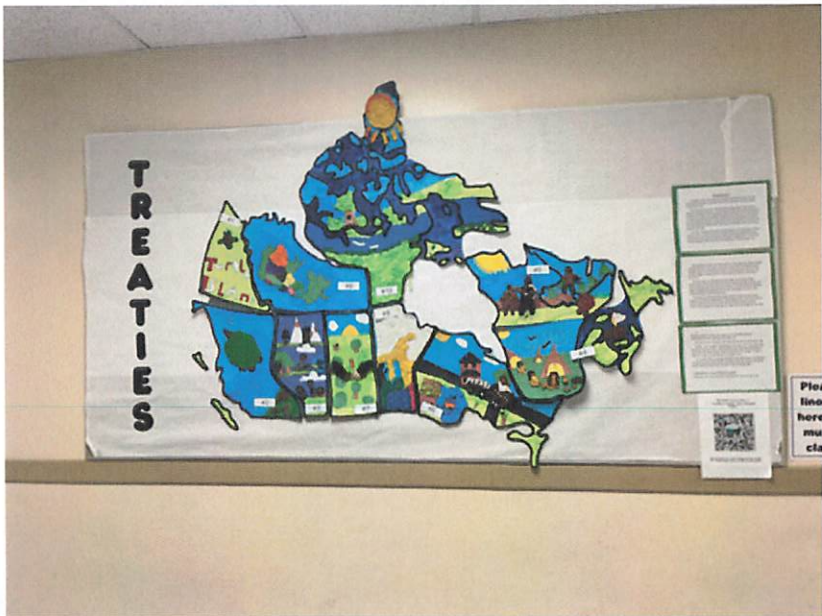
“Treaty Day” - is an annual event that takes place at our school in June. This day works towards fostering Truth and Reconciliation as well as understanding the impact that Treaties have on our lives. This event is a celebration of learning as Treaty education is a continuous school priority. This event brings in speakers and community members for a full day of workshops and presentations. This year, this event included all families with an evening component.



Photos:
Students sharing their learning at an assembly ahead of Treaty Day (left).
Students participating in a drum workshop with community member, Evander TwoHeart (right).

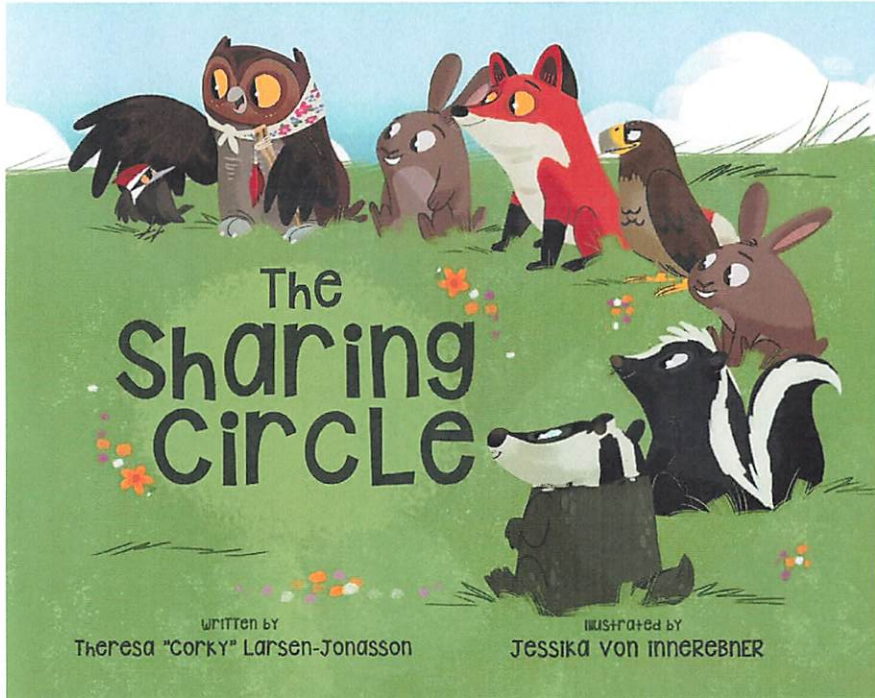






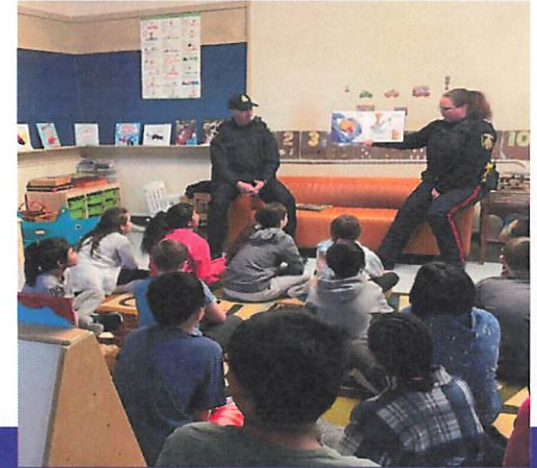


Grade 3 students from Room 1 shared "The Sharing Circle" with puppets as part of Treaty Day in June 2024



Engaging Community

Victory School prides itself on engaging community members through presentations and workshops throughout the year. I Love To Read month is always a wonderful time to invite the community into our building.



Left to right: Seven Oaks School Division Trustee and Board Chair, Maria Santos/ parent of Victory Student/Winnipeg Police Service representatives



Left: local author, Brenlee Coates and community members, Russ Jackson (also a Victory custodian) and Maureen (also a Seven Oaks School Division custodian) with their furry friends who all came to share stories with students



Engaging Community

Victory School welcomes community members in during I Love to Read month, as well as all year long!



Left: Local storyteller, Tipi Joe shares stories and teachings with students. Right: Guests from the Manitoba Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Council

Engaging Community

Victory School welcomes community members in during I Love to Read month, as well as all year long!



Left: Aboriginal School of Dance instructor teaching our Pow Wow club all the right moves! Right: Minister Nahanni Fontaine (our local St. Johns MLA) exploring the Treaty Map with students.



Engaging Community

Victory School welcomes community members in during I Love to Read month, as well as all year long!



Left: Sergeant Camungol visiting students in Kindergarten. Right: Former Seven Oaks School Division Artist-In-Residence Lita Fontaine teaching students about smudging.

We are proud of the continued collaborative work we engage in towards furthering understandings of Truth and Reconciliation, the relationships we build with our school families and community members, and the efforts our staff make towards deepening their teaching practices and as a result teaching literacy in inclusive and rigorous ways.

