

# École Robert H. Smith School

## Community Report 2019-2020

315 Oak Street, Winnipeg, MB, R3M 3P8  
Phone: 204.488.1137 | Fax: 204.487.1463 | Email: [rsmith@wsd1.org](mailto:rsmith@wsd1.org)

### Our Purpose

Winnipeg School Division provides a learning environment that fosters the growth of each student's potential and provides equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for meaningful participation in a global and diverse society.

### Our Vision

For current and future people learning and working within Winnipeg School Division to be **engaged, confident, inspired, and successful learners.**

### École Robert H. Smith School's Mission

To promote a safe, caring, nurturing and stimulating learning environment in which all students can strive towards excellence to the best of their ability in all areas: intellectually, socially, creatively and physically. Our goal is to develop a community of lifelong learners who can successfully function in our diverse society and contribute as responsible caring individuals.



## About our school

Built in 1919, École Robert H. Smith School is a Nursery to Grade 6 School located in the Winnipeg School Division with both English and French Immersion programming. We are a community of learners, characterized by strong academic programming, environmental stewardship, and integrated performing arts and athletics programs.

École Robert H. Smith School has a student population of 376 students, with 17 classrooms, 24 teachers, 5 educational assistants, 2 office staff and 3 custodians. Our school is home to one of the largest volunteer bases in the division with over 300 volunteers who support our school and students in a variety of ways. We are fortunate to have a privately-run Lunch Program, a Before and After School Program and a Parent Advisory Group (PAG) that works collaboratively with staff and students to support school-based initiatives.

We continue to deepen understanding and implement initiatives that address environmental, social and economic issues both locally and world-wide. Our school was one of the first Manitoban schools to become a "Roots and Shoots" school, affiliated with the Jane Goodall Foundation. In addition, we find authentic ways to embed Indigenous perspectives through community involvement, guest speakers, artists, and partnerships with other schools. We actively teach our students about the harms of the past and ways to move forward in reconciliation.

Happy 100th Anniversary, École Robert H. Smith School!



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

# Highlights

## Academic/Curricular:

- Assiniboine Park Zoo Residency grant from the Goodman Foundation for two classrooms (one full week each) for learning and observation
- Grade 5/6 walk to former residential school on Academy (reflections and learning while there)
- MYRCA Book Club
- Grade 4-6 Science Fair
- Festival du Voyageur Celebrations
- I Love to Read Month Activities, including: Reading Takes Flight with three Winnipeg Jets players
- Concours d'art oratoire (French Speaking Competition for immersion students)

## Athletic:

- Running Club (2X/week, participating in events such as an outdoor cross-country run and track meet at the U of M)
- Grade 6 Volleyball Tournament (hosted for neighbouring schools in October)
- Intramurals (grades 1-3 and 4-6)
- Physical Education Leadership Students (assisting with early-years intramurals)
- Speed Skating Races @ BellMTS Centre
- "Virtual Olympics" (taking the place of our annual Summer Fun Day)
- Swimming Counts Program - Grade 4

## Education for Sustainable Development:

- Weekly composting
- Roots and Shoots learning & initiatives (part of the *Jane Goodall Institute of Canada* group of schools)
- Smudge Leadership learning for students
- Embedding of Indigenous perspectives and week-long exploration of the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada (IPAC) map

## Performing Arts:

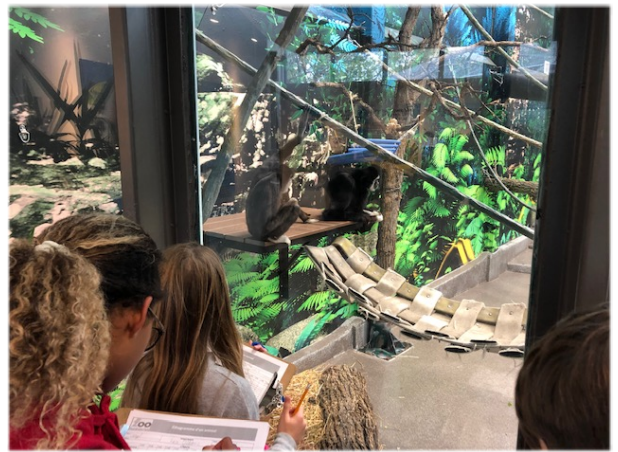
- CBC Music Class Challenge (Grades 5/6)
- Musical Theatre Club
- Winter Concert for Nursery and Kindergarten along with Musical Theatre group
- Performing Arts Band Concert (grades 5/6)
- "Jamming": percussion & guitar practices @ recess times

## Maker Space Movement:

- Coding Club, Introduction to Robotics
- Comic Book Creation Club
- Crochet Club, Knitting Club, Cross-stitch Club

## And...

- Introduction to PBIS @ RHS (Positive Behavioural Interventions & Supports)
- Babysitting Course (Grade 6 - taught virtually this year)
- Social/Emotional Skills Club including Dog Therapy
- Volunteer Appreciation Recognition (plant delivery to volunteers during the school closure)
- Fundraising/Donations to: *Terry Fox Run*, *Winnipeg Harvest*, "Sock-tober" collection for *Siloam Mission*, *Winter Clothing Drive* for *Garden Hill First Nation*
- Celebrations for RHS's 100th Anniversary





## WSD Priorities for 2019-2020

Divisional Strategic Priority Areas for Schools (used for Reporting and Planning for Continuous Improvement):

1. Student: Providing a Robust and Comprehensive Education
2. Learning Outcomes
3. Addressing Barriers to Learning
4. Communications and Partnerships with Community
5. Sustainability and ESD initiatives
6. Employee Leadership Capacity

## RHS Priorities for 2019-2020

- **Numeracy:** Students have been given opportunities to talk about their learning and strategy use in numeracy. They have been expected to demonstrate an understanding of their next steps while working towards independence.
- **Literacy:** Students worked toward greater proficiency in writing this year through targeted focus on writing traits, primarily the organization of their ideas, sentence fluency, word choice and writing conventions.
- **Strengthening Instructional Practice:** Teachers have broadened how they prepare for student learning, including providing feedback, enhancing classroom dialogue and using thinking strategies.



## Priorities for 2020-2021

Strengthen instructional and assessment strategies for all students using all available resources including the integration of technology.

Examples:

1. By June 2021 all students in grades 1-6 will be able to articulate and demonstrate writing strategies in all stages of the writing process.
2. By June 2021 teachers will strengthen our mathematicians' core competencies through targeted instruction and mathematical dialogue.
3. By June 2021 all teachers will have engaged in professional learning and planning with student growth in mind. Through professional learning communities (PLCs), scheduled grade-group time and coaching, all teachers will incorporate school-wide shared beliefs for literacy and numeracy development.

Additional school priorities include continued efforts to:

- Ensure that a balance of perspectives is presented to our children (with a continued focus on embedding ongoing and authentic Indigenous perspectives)
- Build STEAM programming (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) including active opportunities for designing, building, creating, performing, and coding
- Continue building strategies for self-regulation, including the use of mindfulness practice, school-wide pro-social programs, our sensory pathway and Movement Room
- Enhance oral production in French Immersion, giving students frequent opportunities to speak and share their learning in French

# Parent and community

A strength that characterizes our École Robert H. Smith School Community is the commitment and engagement of our parents. The RHS Parent Advisory Group (PAG) plays a vital role in the daily life of our school. From planning events to spearheading fundraising efforts, our parents are avid supporters of our learning and programming.

Here is a glimpse into the tremendous efforts of our PAG and a few memorable moments:

- Meetings every second month with a warm and welcoming atmosphere
- Support with our new Sensory Path (graphic artist and occupational therapist: parents on hand to help with development and installation of our sensory path)
- Farm2School Fundraiser through Peak of the Market
- Organizing and running the annual Halloween Dance
- Financial support: purchasing band equipment for our Performing Arts program
- Parent-run morning fitness club: BOKS
- Helping with Festival du Voyageur celebrations
- Running Fun Lunches through the year
- Providing a "Pay it Forward" Fun Lunch to a school in the inner city
- Celebrating the hard work at RHS with a Staff Appreciation lunch in February
- School Grounds Transformation work, along with planting and weeding: Phase 3 of the playground development which includes a shade grove
- Butterfly Garden Installation

Parents contribute their unique talents and expertise to the development of the school grounds and the programming at RHS. PAG meetings are professional and provide connections for many parents looking to become more involved in the school community. There are many opportunities to join in and make a difference in school life.

Our strong partnerships allow us to support our children in many ways – thank you to our parents and our community.

