

# NIJI MAHKWA TIMES

"MY FRIEND THE BEAR"

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December

## Administrator's Message

Dear Niji Mahkwa Families,

On November 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, we honored our veterans with a Remembrance Day Ceremony. We were able to invite aboriginal veterans into the school on both days and have them present. We continue to be thankful for the ultimate sacrifices that these Canadians past and present have made for this country.

November, also saw Niji Mahkwa students, families and staff celebrate student learning through an evening of Student-Led Conferences. Teachers shared the students accomplishments in English, Language Arts, Mathematics, as well as the Language and Culture.

December is a very busy month for staff and students to gather and celebrate the holiday season. Our winter concert is happening on December 14<sup>th</sup> and we have an afternoon & evening showtime. We will host the student winter dinner & breakfast with Moshoom for students the third week of December and on the last week we will hold our Mahkwa Feast before we break for Winter break. Winter break takes place from Thursday, Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> to Wednesday, Jan 4<sup>th</sup>. The school will be closed at this time.

**Classes resume January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

Please make sure you have an updated email address on file with the school. We have been sending out many letter and notifications electronically to ensure you received the information. Automated phone calls will still call when appropriate.

Thank you, Miigwech, Ekosani

Ms. Missyabit,  
Principal  
&  
Mr. Boulette  
Vice Principal

Theme:	Love
Teaching:	Circle Unit & Moon Teaching
Moon:	Frost Exploding
Medicine:	Cedar
Song:	Bear Song
Animal Spirit:	Bear
Colour:	White
Doorway:	Northern Doorway

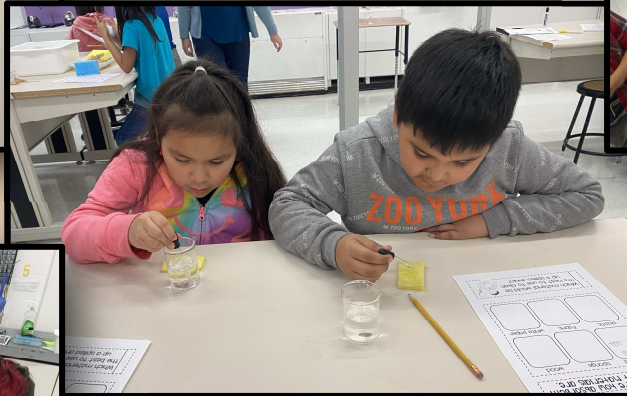
Niji Mahkwa School



## Room 115

### TESTS THE MAGIC OF SOLIDS AND LIQUIDS

In the month of November, students in room 115 took part in multiple science experiments to test the properties of solids and liquids. First, students used their science inquiry skills to test which solid materials would dissolve in water (nibi). They tested different solids such as salt, sugar, sand, and even cotton candy! The next experiment tested if materials would float or sink. The students were surprised to see a paper clip sink and an apple float! Finally, the students tested the absorbency of different solids such as wood, paper, and cloth. They used their math skills to tally up how many drops of water each solid could hold. They are definitely little scientists in the making! Way to go Room 115!



### NIJI MAHKWA TEACHER RECEIVES NATIONAL INDIGENOUS EDUCATOR AWARD

Congratulations to Ms. Marika Schalla on receiving the Innovative Practice award from Indspire's Guiding the Journey award show. Ms. Schalla received the award for her work in Indigenous education nationally, provincially, for the Winnipeg School Division, and for the work she does in our school. Ms. Schalla has created Indigenous education learning resources such as Your Voice is Power and her first book was published this year, Fireside Chats. Ms. Schalla teaches grade one and two in room 115.

**Congratulations Ms. Schalla!**





In honour of our Grandmothers and Grandfathers

Niji Mahkwa School

Cordially invites you to

**Giiyahbe Dah ya min**  
**WE'RE STILL HERE**  
**Kiyapic ota Nitayanan**

Winter Concert

On Wednesday, December 14th, 2022

At 1:30 pm

Doors open at 1:00 pm

This performance is exclusively for the  
*Grandmothers and Grandfathers*  
of Niji Mahkwa students



Invitations will be sent home early  
December for our day rehearsal viewing  
of the **winter concert** for grandparents &  
the evening showing.

Niji Mahkwa School

Cordially invites you to

**Giiyahbe Dah ya min**  
**WE'RE STILL HERE**  
**Kiyapic ota Nitayanan**

Winter Concert

On Wednesday, December 14th, 2022

At 6:00 pm

Doors open at 5:30 pm

Please bring your children to their classrooms  
no later than 5:45 pm

*Students will remain in their classrooms until the  
end of the concert*



Don't forget to support *Niji Mahkwa School*  
fundraiser by purchasing from our  
Bake sale BEFORE and AFTER the concert



Hamper give away will take place after  
the final performance

## FOOD HAMPERS

As the holiday season approaches, let us be thankful for everything we have  
by sharing with those less fortunate.

The staff at Niji Mahkwa School are organizing food for hampers to be made  
for families in need. If you would like to donate, please bring non-  
perishable food items to the school by Friday, December 10th. The donation  
of one non-perishable food item will make a difference to families in need.

Thank you for your contributions! Together we can make everyone's holiday  
season special.





## PETS IN THE WINTER

Winter is a season of bitter cold and numbing wetness. Extra precautions during winter months will make sure your four-footed family members stay safe and warm. Help your pets remain happy and healthy during the colder months by following these simple guidelines.

### Keep pets indoors and warm

Don't leave dogs or cats outdoors when the temperature drops. During walks, short-haired dogs may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater. Cats should always be brought in the house or into heated garages or enclosures at night. If animals cannot be brought inside create a wind proof, waterproof snug shelter with plenty of clean, dry bedding.

No matter what the temperature is, windchill can threaten a pet's life. Pets are sensitive to severe cold and are at risk for frostbite and hypothermia when they are outdoors during extreme cold snaps. Exposed skin on noses, ears and paw pads can quickly freeze and suffer permanent damage.

### Give your pets plenty of water

Pets who spend a lot of time outdoors need more food in the winter because keeping warm depletes energy. Routinely check your pet's water dish to make certain the water is fresh and unfrozen. Use plastic food and water bowls rather than metal; when the temperature is low, your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to metal. Snow is not a substitute and neither is "wet" food. Dehydration becomes a real risk for outdoor animals in very cold weather.

### Take precautions if your dog spends a lot of time outside

A warm kennel or doghouse, preferably in a south-facing or sunny area, is vital for an outdoor dog. Face the entrance away from prevailing winds or drafts. Old rugs or blankets should not be used for bedding as a dog will track in moisture on its feet that can turn to ice. Heavy fabric or pieces of carpet attached to the top of the kennel's entrance will cut down on drafts. Throwing an old blanket over the top will increase the insulation factor. The kennel should be well insulated and the floor should be elevated several inches off the ground.

Be careful with cats, wildlife and cars

Warm car engines can be hazardous to cats and small wildlife. Outdoor or stray cats seeking warmth and shelter often make the fatal mistake of climbing up near a car's engine to sleep. Prior to starting your car, be sure to bang on the hood of your car or beep the horn to roust any cat that may be inside.



### The best tip of all: keep your pets with you

Probably the best prescription for winter's woes is to keep your dog or cat inside with you and your family. The happiest dogs are those who are taken out frequently for walks and exercise but kept inside the rest of the time. Dogs and cats are social animals who crave human companionship. Your animal companions deserve to live indoors with you and your family.



Watch for paw prints in the snow.





## PETS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

During the holiday season the excitement of gift-giving, family get-togethers, party preparations can sometimes make it all too easy to temporarily forget the needs of animals.

### Animals can be sensitive during parties

As most care givers of dogs and cats know animals don't like change. Unfamiliar people, strange decorations, rich food, drinks, smoke, odors, noise, and gaiety can turn an animal's environment upside-down. Add a few small children running around in the seasonal excitement and a dog may well react with barking, biting, digestive upsets, or worse. Cats will likely hide under the bed, but may streak outside while the front door is open, so keep an eye on them.

### Christmas trees can be dangerous!

Puppies and kittens (as well as adult animals) often see the baubles and branches of a Christmas tree as an invitation to climb the tree, or pull at the branches or ornaments. When decorating the tree, use only garland on the lower branches and keep fragile ornaments, lights, and tinsel up on higher branches. When swallowed, tinsel can cause digestive upsets and intestinal blockage, it may be best to avoid it altogether.

### Do animals make good gifts?

Some people think it's a wonderful idea to surprise a friend or relative with an adorable puppy or kitten as a gift. In reality, an animal is probably the most thoughtless present they can give. Modern veterinary care and suburban lifestyles mean the average companion animal will live 12-15 years or more, which means 12-15 years of not just licenses and veterinary care but also supplies such as food, collars, leashes, litterboxes, etc. A friend or relative may not be ready to accept that kind of commitment. A "gift" animal should always be discussed with the prospective human first.




**NEED HELP,  
BUT DON'T  
KNOW  
WHERE  
TO TURN?**

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or visit **mb.211.ca**

**24/7**

211 connects you to community resources and services anywhere in Manitoba:

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- Home Health Care for an Aging Parent
- Domestic Violence Shelters
- Addictions Treatment
- Parenting Resources
- Food and Clothing
- Income Tax Clinics
- and so much more!

**FREE | CONFIDENTIAL | 150+ LANGUAGES**









## DECEMBER LIVE ADVENT CALENDAR

**Niji Mahkwa is running a live advent calendar for the month of December!**

**We have something going on every day when students come in.**

Please see the attached calendar for our larger events and below for the other events happening.



*Mmmmm!* 😊



**December 1<sup>st</sup>** Assembly to kick off the month. There will be some prizes handed out for students who are doing their job listening and being Safe Respectful and Proud.

**PBIS training** Students receive Niji paws all month and cash them in at the bake sale.

**Bake Sale** Staff selling treats for students & families at the Winter concert & lunch on the last day of classes where students can cash in their Niji paws.

**Daily Surprises:** Students have to be at their desk for Morning announcements to collect your special prizes. Prizes will be removed once announcements have ended. Fun Open Gym time also rewarded. All students in attendance for both AM and PM attendance will be entered into a draw to win a small box of candy canes. Each class will do it's own draw for a single winner.

**Weekly draws for gifts:** Students have to be present to win. Each week the draw will be held on a different day. Colouring & puzzles, toys & mitts and gift cards!

**Classroom Christmas parties:** Teachers are planning parties! Movie and snack included.

**Student vs Staff volleyball Game:** All students will come to the gym to watch the students take on the staff in a volleyball game

**Winter Concert** Dec 14<sup>th</sup>: Day Rehearsal (Grandparents Concert) at 1:30 p.m. Evening Viewing at 6:00 p.m. in the Gym.

**Student Dinner** (at lunch) **December 16<sup>th</sup>:** **All students will be staying over the lunch hour** to eat a "Christmas dinner".

**Breakfast with Moshoom** Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>: Moshoom will be visiting Niji Mahkwa and providing a pancake breakfast and gifts for students

**Mahkwa Feast** Dec 21<sup>st</sup>: whole school pipe ceremony to celebrate the winter solstice.







# DECEMBER

Sun	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Sat
				1	2	3
						
4	5 DAY 3	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 DAY 2	13	14	15	16	17
			WINTER CONCERT GRANDPARENTS 1:30 EVENING 6:00 GYM  POPCORN DAY		STUDENT WINTER DINNER (ALL STUDENT STAY OVER THE LUNCH HOUR)	
18	19 DAY 1	20	21	22	23	24
		BREAKFAST WITH MOSHOOM	MAHKWA FEAST  BAKE SALE @ LUNCH  LAST DAY OF CALSESSES	WINTER BREAK STARTS SCHOOL CLOSED		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
					NEW YEARS EVE  	