

Fort Rouge School

Community Report

2020-2021

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Our Mission

At Fort Rouge School, we are committed to providing a calm, inspiring, learning environment where we will all be caring citizens, creative problem solvers and empowered leaders.

Our Vision

- We believe that all children can learn.
- We believe that all children deserve to learn in beautiful, calm and respectful spaces.
- We believe that we are partners with our families and the community, working together to ensure the academic and social success of our students.
- We believe that together with families and the community, we can inspire, identify and nurture the strengths of each student.
- We believe that we must honour all individuals, learning from the experience and talents each brings to our school. We believe that we must help to prepare our students to be problem solvers, critical thinkers and leaders in our community.



About Our School

Located near the city's historic Forks area, Fort Rouge School is a beautiful Nursery to Grade 6 elementary school with a student body of about 135 students. Given our small size, we are truly a family. In keeping with the family philosophy, many of our classrooms are multi-age learning studios, where students learn together with other students who may be younger or older.

All our classrooms take full advantage of our surrounding community as an extension of our school. Students visit different sites, such as the Forks, or Upper Fort Garry, frequently and take regular community walks to enhance the learning that takes place in the classroom.

At Fort Rouge School, students engage in Physical Education classes, Music, Dance, Drama, and Art classes, and have access to a beautiful library and portable technology. We believe that students need to learn how to use technology and social media ethically and responsibly and we therefore focus on this throughout the year.

"Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow!" Is our motto and students regularly hear the message "We are learners, we are leaders, and we are kind, everyday and everywhere."



Highlights

- Nursery classes – Half Day
- Kindergarten classes – Half Day and Full Day
- Talk To Me Program (to support Speech & Language of N&K students)
- Grades 1 – 6 Multi-Aged Classrooms
- Inquiry Based Learning
- Outdoor Learning
- Reading Recovery Teacher
- Integrated Arts Teacher – Music, Dance, Drama and Visual Arts
- Adult Crossing Guards and Student Patrols
- Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
- PAC Lunch Program
- Breakfast and Snack Program
- Cool 2 Be Kind
- Maybrook Daycare (before, lunch, and after school care)
- Family Room with Community Support Worker
 - Handle With Care
 - Portfolio Building
 - Little Learners Library
 - Family Wellness
 - Cooking Classes
 - Baby Shower
 - Adult Painting Classes
 - Video Story Time
 - I Love to Read Book Draw
 - Rhyme Time



Priorities for 2020-2021

Social Emotional Learning

The staff and students at Fort Rouge have participated in different learning experiences with mindfulness and what it feels like to be calm and alert, ready to learn. This year, all members of the school community – families, students, and staff – will learn how to handle different levels of stress and how to regulate their bodies.

Literacy

We will continue to have reading and writing for our teaching and learning priorities. We will focus on Vocabulary and Comprehension – predicting, making connections, inferring, and synthesizing. Many teachers observed that, during the COVID-19 isolation, students found meaningful writing difficult. Therefore, teachers will specifically target how to engage and inspire students in writing about themselves and the world around them.

Numeracy

Learning where math occurs in our everyday lives is important in all grade levels. Problem solving, or trying to solve a math question in a story or situation, will be a focus area in math. Students will also set goals to make sure they know the basic facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Nutrition

We will continue to enhance our Breakfast and Snack program in all grade levels. Students will learn about healthy nutrition and how preparing healthy foods is easy and fun. The Family Room will also continue to support families in their planning and preparing nutritious foods.



Priorities for 2021-2022

We will continue to focus on the same four goals:

Social Emotional Learning

We practice mindfulness every day and we know what it feels like to be calm. As we continue to attend school with COVID-19 protocols, students and staff support one another when we are feeling worried or sad. We teach students how to manage their own stress and practice self-regulation. Most of all, we teach students how to be kind to each other.

Literacy

Learning how to read and write in a fun, engaging way continues to be our priority. We participate in activities and events and make connections through what we are reading. We then are learning to get all our creative ideas on paper and write interesting stories.

Numeracy

Through stories and situations, we are learning how to communicate and use math vocabulary. In math, sometimes knowing how to get answers in different ways is important and sometimes, knowing the answers by heart makes thinking easy. We are learning the differences for this and why.

Nutrition

One of our biggest priorities is making sure we have fuel in our bodies so that we can learn. We have a robust nutrition program with healthy breakfasts and snacks offered to students every day. We also support families with food security. Throughout the month, we gather food from various agencies and offer it to families for free.

Parent and Community Involvement

We are very fortunate to have a full time Community Support Worker who has created a welcoming Family Room. Ms. Tammy Shone works to strengthen the home-school connection through programs, adult learning and school supports.

We promoted healthy living and support for families with virtual Cooking Classes, Portfolio Building, and Family Wellness sessions.

In response to the limited access to grocery stores and high prices of food goods, we supported families with weekly potatoes, onions, and bread handouts. Every little bit goes a long way!

We have a Parent Advisory Council who are responsible for the running of our Lunch Program. Our PAC meets monthly and supports the initiatives and priorities of the school.

We continue to have many of our parents graduate from different programs such as Job Works and take on positions as Educational Assistants and Adult Crossing Guards.

We are fortunate to be a part of a vibrant, diverse community. We know that there is much to learn from our community: its past, its present and its future. We try to discover the gifts and talents of our families as much as we can.

We also know that our students need to be prepared to be active, contributing leaders in their community. Our teachers regularly take their students outside, focusing on important curricular and citizenship skills. Whether it is a nature or history study through the trails at the Forks or a Geometry lesson outside on the play structure, learning outside in our community is an important part of our day.

