

École Garden Grove School

Community Report

2020-21

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Our Purpose

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

Our Vision

Is for current and future people learning and working within Winnipeg School Division to be Engaged, Confident, Inspired, and Successful Learners.

COVID 19

As the world was hit with a global pandemic and in-school learning became remote learning, École Garden Grove School did not miss a beat.

Teachers seamlessly transitioned to the online platforms like SeeSaw and Google Classrooms.

Teachers not only posted daily lessons in all subject areas, they set up video conferencing, livestream lessons and small reading and math groups daily to ensure that learning was ongoing for our students.



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION



About our school

École Garden Grove School is a dual track school with English and French Immersion programs, located in the northwest corner of Winnipeg. We have approximately 300 students from Nursery to Grade 6, with 65% of our students being in the French immersion program. Our 40 staff members, parent community, parent council, and volunteers bring energy and support to our school.

Garden Grove is fortunate to have a strong volunteer program and active Parent Council and community engagement. Prior to Covid-19, all special events are well attended. Parent attendance is consistently over 90% at parent-teacher-student conferences throughout the school year, despite doing it virtually.

Our Parent Council runs a successful and thriving lunch program. The lunch program provides a critical service to all of our families and we appreciate the support they provide to our working families and those who participate in this program.

Garden Grove Childcare Program Inc. is currently housed within our school and provides childcare for children in our community and students attending our school. Their primary childcare facility is located right next to the school and the playground has recently been updated.

2021 marks our 40th Anniversary since opening our doors in 1981. In addition, we are celebrating WSD's 150th. To celebrate this milestone, we produced a music video featuring our talented students.

Highlights

Physical Education

- Outdoor Education (Skiing, Snowshoeing, Tobogganing, Spongy Polo)



Special Events

- Terry Fox Scavenger Hunt
- Halloween Scavenger Hunt
- School-Wide Kahoot!
- Spring into Reading
- Spirit Weeks
- Earth Day
- Day of Pink
- Orange Shirt Day
- Concours d'art oratoire
- Reconciliation Ceremony (Heart Garden)
- École Garden Grove Music Video



Music Activities

- Grade 1-6 Music Classes continued with a focus on rhythm, beats, musical and percussion instruments.
- École Garden Grove School Music Video



Field Trips (Virtual)

- Oak Hammock Marsh
 - Critter Dipping
 - Marsh Walk
- Fort Whyte Water Conservation Presentations
- Save on Foods Nutrition Presentation

Clubs : Due to the current protocols and restrictions from Covid-19, club activities have been temporarily been postponed. Here are some of the clubs we have for our students that we look forward to resuming when we are able to:

- **Destination Imagination Club**

Our participants learned patience, flexibility, persistence, ethics, respect for others and their ideas, and collaborative problem solving processes. Students had fun and gained confidence in their ability to solve any challenge.

- **MYRCA**

On a usual year, we would have more than 30 students from grades 4-6 join the MYRCA club. Students are tasked with reading the books on the MYRCA list and met weekly over the lunch hour where they engaged in author studies, activities, book talks and presentations. Students then wrote book reviews, which got posted to the MYRCA website.

- **Action Group**

On a usual year, students in grades 5 and 6 had the opportunity to be part of the school's action group, which attended important events throughout the year, such as Every One Has the Right, WE Day, and were the driving force behind our school hamper drive.

- **Grade 1/2 Clubs**

Our grade 1 and 2 students participated in multiple clubs held over lunch over to engage in crafting, origami, yoga, and cooking. During these clubs, participants learned patience, communication, creativity, and mindfulness.

Priorities for 2020 - 2021

Our school priorities from the past school year were:

- To use the RTI model to target literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students.
- To improve fictional and informational writing in both English and French.
- To improve flexible thinking in Mathematics.
- To develop 21st Century skills.
- Zones of Regulation was used with targeted student groups.
- All classrooms participated in social emotional programming to improve student wellbeing
- Mindfulness was implemented to assist students in managing their anxiety and stress levels.



Priorities for 2021 - 2022

Recovery learning in our core subject areas—Math, ELA, and Français will be our primary focus for the start of the school year. We have developed a plan of action with all staff to ensure the outcomes that were missed during remote learning are covered to ensure student success.

Response to Intervention (RTI) will continue to be used to target Literacy and Numeracy outcomes for all students. This is a team approach with all staff working together for all students.

Writing instruction and assessment will continue to be a focus across the grades in both the English and French programs.

Application of knowledge and communicating Mathematical thinking will continue to be a priority. This means students will use the math and number knowledge they have gained to solve problems in a variety of ways and will be able to communicate their understanding.

Teachers will continue to work in Professional Learning Communities, meeting on a regular basis to discuss student learning and next steps in programming and instruction. This will provide opportunities for teachers to engage in ongoing reflection and collaboration; which is essential to achieving collective efficacy.

Innovation and mental health are ongoing school priorities.

We will continue using the following strategies to support students' individual mental health needs:

- Incorporate best practices to promote mental health and Self-Regulation strategies both school wide and classroom based so that our students are calm, alert, engaged and learning
- Use of the Second Step program to develop personal safety and interpersonal relationships

We will be taking our knowledge Innovation to the next step, and will be integrating STEAM and 21st Century Skills into school-wide themes.

We will embark on increasing our focus on Education for Sustainable Development and will integrate an ESD model in our Grade 5-6 English classrooms as a starting point.



Parent and Community Involvement

Our Parent Community gives their time freely by volunteering in our school. On a regular year, our Meet the Teacher Evening is always a great success and we would see over 250 people come and meet our teachers.

Our Parent Council Executive is a group of hard-working volunteers from the École Garden Grove School community. They contribute time and effort for fundraising, managing programs such as the Lunch Program and Special Lunch Days; and serve as a liaison between parents and the school administration. Parent Council meetings are a great opportunity for you to connect with other parents/guardians. It is also a great way to learn about your child/ren's school and to voice your thoughts and ideas. Everyone is invited to join monthly parent council meetings. Invitations and reminders to parent council meetings are sent every month.

The Parent Council can always use more volunteers! If you are interested in participating, please contact the school.

As we gradually return to how school is prior to Covid-19, we are hoping to increase our volunteer base significantly. The support from our volunteers in a variety of areas around the school is essential in establishing a culture of community and learning atmosphere at Garden Grove.

Our Community Garden & Electronic Sign

Our students designed a beautiful front garden. Time was taken to learn about Residential Schools, Truth and Reconciliation and the role we all play in creating peace in our community. Phase 1 of the garden was implemented this year. We have the pillars and the rocks in place and are excited about phase 2 year, as the students will be creating tiles as a commitment to making our community a symbol of strength and peace.

École Garden Grove was the recent recipient of the Community Incentive Grant Program, and are now the proud owners of a new digital electronic sign! Be sure to check it out when you're driving by.

