

Montrose Community Report 2020-2021

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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

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

Montrose Mission

We create a safe, nurturing learning community where every child is engaged and inspired to reach her/his potential. Our goal is for each student to emerge as a socially capable, creative and literate citizen with a passion for learning.



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

About Our School

Montrose offers a multi-age learning environment to 255 children in the River Heights community of Winnipeg. Our inclusive classroom practices acknowledge, value, and support diversity and student engagement through inquiry and sustainable actions. We recognize that the Arts add value and vibrancy to our lives and contribute to a healthy well-being. Our teaching and learning on the land is an integral part of restoring a balance in our student's lives, instilling sustainable values with the next generation, and represents part of our response to Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Call to Action*.

We believe in a multi-age philosophy; that children learn best when given the opportunity to work and learn collaboratively with each other allowing for a wider breadth of experiences, abilities and perspectives to be brought into the classroom.



We believe in an inquiry approach to teaching and learning. Students' voices, ideas and questions are instrumental in the planning of instruction.

We believe that learning should be authentic and meaningful to our students' lives.

Highlights for 2020-2021

Friluftsliv

The Montrose School culture encourages students and families to live an active lifestyle at school and at home. Our Outdoor Education program is based upon Manitoba Education's pillars for sustainable development – **Economy, Environment, and Human Health and Well-being**. Montrose continues to lead by example as our students explore and discover our community resources and participate in **land-based teachings** with an Indigenous perspective. Students at Montrose school worked with their teachers and leaders from Fort Whyte Alive to uncover all of the amazing natural wonders in our school community!



Academics: Targeted Instruction

We planned for three **Learning Cycles** during the school year. Each cycle we gathered data from three sources, implemented targeted lessons, gathered exit (learning) data, and analyzed the results to inform our next steps.

Performing Arts:

Our Performing Arts program includes Dance, Drama, and Music. Despite all of the challenges this year presented students were still able to explore many types of dance, as well as drama mediums such as playwriting and improv. Many classes collaborated to create their own winter concert performances, which given this year's restrictions were presented through our Montrose Bitmoji School.



Priorities in Action- 2020-21

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

Our Inquiry approach to learning, Passion Projects, and Media/technology enhanced classroom programming and provided enrichment to all students in the areas of design, coding, and film making.

2. Improve academic and behavior support services for students with special needs.

Teachers also embedded mindfulness and anti-anxiety strategies into their practices to allow students to process stressful situations in healthier ways.

3. Strengthen and enhance Education for Sustainable Development initiatives that address environmental, social and economic issues world-wide.

Students participated in community outreach projects donating to The Winnipeg Harvest, Santa to a Senior, and the You Can't Spoil a Baby project.

All students took part in our Friluftsliv- outdoor learning program where they were immersed in outdoor learning throughout our community.



Priorities for 2021-2022

Our school plan includes activities on many fronts including Indigenous Education, Friluftsliv/Outdoor Education, and Education for Sustainable Development. We will also be adding an additional STEAM teacher to our staff. This program will enhance teaching and learning from an inquiry base and will require students to connect the big ideas of the curriculum to their natural curiosities. We will continue to develop our language arts and mathematics skill sets as we target specific literacy and numeracy objectives. We do expect our students to follow their passions and take action in response to their expanding knowledge.

The Department of Education and the Winnipeg School Division ask us target specific areas in Literacy and Numeracy. Upon a review of our school data, our next Literacy targets include strengthening reading strategies and critical thinking when researching and working with social media. In creative writing students will work on developing ideas, word choice, and writing traits. Our Numeracy targets include developing one to one correspondence, mental math strategies, place value, number concepts and arithmetic operations. We will develop specific targets for our Teaching & Learning Cycles in the fall once we validate our school data.

Parent and Community Involvement

Our parent community continued to stay active in the partnership of educating the children of Montrose in spite of the pandemic. Your support and confidence in the school is greatly appreciated. We look forward to a return to normalcy when we can have parents volunteer in various capacities, participate in Parent Council, or lunch program. In the past Montrose truly occupied centre stage in the community and we look forward to that again.

The teachers continue to use See Saw to communicate directly with families. This online forum gives families a peek into the classroom and access to students' digital portfolio. Our teachers are expanding their use of See Saw and parents are visiting the classroom blog frequently. Our weekly tracker indicates hundreds of visits every week! (During Covid-19 thousands!!!)



Montrose@Home

During the Covid-19 pandemic, academics and learning continued with Montrose@Home. Teachers and parents became partners to educate the community's children.

Much of the remote learning took place via Google Meet and SeeSaw with teachers meeting with their classes virtually students sharing responses in the form of photos and videos. Students and staff also regularly communicated through phone calls, and video chats.

Students continued to take part in Academics, Performing Arts and Frilufsliv classes, as well as mindfulness exercises.

We are so grateful to our families for their collaboration and support during our remote learning....We stayed safe, connected, and healthy because we took care of each other!

