

# Ralph Brown School

## Community Report

### 2021-2022

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### School mission statement

Ralph Brown staff aim to provide a supportive climate where diversity is valued as being necessary for learning, creativity and innovation. School staff work collaboratively, within a common growth mindset, to ensure each student is provided opportunities to reach their highest learning potential, taking into account their intellectual, physical, social, emotional and cultural needs fostering their development as global citizens.

At Ralph Brown School we believe that everyone can:

- ♦ Be Safe
- ♦ Be Respectful
- ♦ Be the Best you can be



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION



### About our school

Ralph Brown School is an English Ukrainian Bilingual School with an enrolment of 200 students. We offer nursery to grade six in the English program and Kindergarten to grade 8 in the English Ukrainian Bilingual Program (EUBP). The EUBP program offers rich cultural experiences with a focus on language development. The kindergarten level is entry level and is available to all students in the division who have an interest in learning a second language. We are the only school in the Winnipeg School Division to proudly offer the EUBP, which offers language acquisition, exposure to Ukrainian culture and heritage, and celebration of religious events. Our school is unique in that it shares space with the Ralph Brown Recreation Centre and Machray Daycare. The home of the 'Rockets' is committed to developing academic and social skills in a culturally diverse learning community that is warm, friendly, safe and inclusive. Our school wide expectations to *be safe, be respectful and be the best that you can be*, are reinforced every day. A wide range of programming is offered at Ralph Brown School and our staff is committed to developing further opportunities that meet the academic, social/emotional and physical domains of our students' development. Delivery of instruction is supported and enhanced through an extensive resource program which includes an Inclusive Education Resource Teacher, Support Teacher, and Clinical Support Services. Our PBIS programming teaches self-regulation and has an overall focus of health and wellbeing. Our school's commitment to reconciliation includes strengthening community and reinforcing a sense of belonging for Ralph Brown students and their families.

This year we began our journey as a Downie-Wenjok Legacy School, which empowers and engages students to take action towards reconciliation and it strengthens our knowledge of Indigenous culture, history and diversity. We offer various clubs, intramurals and team sports and encourage students to take active roles in patrols, student council and leadership. Our school is proud to have an active and dedicated Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and welcome the many volunteers who dedicate their time to support our students and our learning community. We provide a daily breakfast/snack and PAC offers a supervised lunch program at a monthly cost or drop in fee. Everyone in our learning community plays a significant role in the success of our students and our goal is for each and every one of our students to experience success this school year.

# Highlights

**Our mission to be Safe, Respectful and Best You Can Be was achieved in 2021-2022. Highlights of the year include:**

- ♦ Parent Council provided the school with financial support and active involvement in school wide events
- ♦ Terry Fox Run
- ♦ Dental Outreach Program, Hearing & Vision Screening
- ♦ Daily Breakfast/Healthy Snack Program
- ♦ Parent Council Lunch Program and monthly Hot Lunches
- ♦ I Love to Read Week, Spirit Week, Indigenous Week, and Christmas & Halloween Gym
- ♦ Hosted a Pow Wow Zumba fitness instructor for students and staff
- ♦ Whole school attended the WSD Pow Wow
- ♦ Participated in Lion's Club Poster Contest on Peace - 2 students won 1st and 2nd prize
- ♦ Holodomor Commemoration Week
- ♦ Provided our families with food (break, potatoes, eggs) during the year (provided by Wpg. Harvest) and delivered hampers during the summer months
- ♦ ESD Three Sisters Garden Project
- ♦ Learning with Digital Technology (iPads, iMovies, green screen, Seesaw, Chromebooks, Raz Kids, Google Classrooms)
- ♦ Anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day & Orange Shirt Day to honour residential school system students
- ♦ Treaty Education
- ♦ Mindfulness to promote mental health and wellness
- ♦ Our priority to improve literacy and numeracy remains an on-going focus. We continued to implement our 'Response to Intervention' strategies to increase the number of students who read at grade level.
- ♦ Primary Literacy Project in Nursery to grade 2
- ♦ Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics Framework; Numbers Talk
- ♦ "Reconciliation Rocks" Family Night
- ♦ Summer Solstice Family BBQ Night and performance by the Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers
- ♦ Patrols
- ♦ Destination Imagination
- ♦ Farewell and Awards Assemblies
- ♦ Indigenous literature for guided reading
- ♦ Positive Behaviour Interventions & Strategies (PBIS), Minds in Motion Program & Zones of Regulations to support self-regulation
- ♦ Clinical Support Services (Social Work, Psychology, Speech, and Reading Clinicians)
- ♦ Partnership with Ralph Brown Recreation Centre and Machray Daycare
- ♦ Repainting of entire school interior, with new flooring installed in some classrooms.

## Parent & Community Involvement

Our parents, caregivers and community members play an integral role in our learning community. We believe the partnership between home and school is a vital component to your child's success. Our goal is to ensure that parents and caregivers always feel welcome at Ralph Brown School and are motivated to support the school community by volunteering, participating in school events and joining our parent council. Parents are encouraged to contact the classroom teachers via email or phone whenever necessary. Monthly parent council meetings and visible staff before and after school support ongoing communication.

We were thrilled that our "Reconciliation Rocks" family event was so popular, where families were invited to paint rocks in the traditional Metis dot technique.



Ralph Brown hosted a "Summer Solstice BBQ" complete with food and entertainment in June: the Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers treated those in attendance to a spectacular show!

### Some special acknowledgements include:

Our *Parent Council* was busy throughout the year with fundraising efforts and monthly hot lunches to raise funds for the school. This year funds were put towards the Grade 5/6 camp experience as well as supporting the school in purchasing technology equipment and playground repairs.

Thank you to *Nahanni Fontaine*, MLA St. Johns, for her generous support toward our Grade 6 Awards.

We would like to acknowledge our partnership with *Breakfast Club of Canada* and the *Child Nutrition Council of MB* who made it possible for us to provide our healthy snack/ breakfast programs.





## School Priorities

To provide robust and comprehensive education, equitable access, diverse opportunity, and a supportive learning environment for all students to help them prepare for their journey with values of learning and social justice, and to be responsible community members both in the English & Ukrainian Bilingual programs.

Further improve school attendance, achievements and graduation rates through the exploration of additional programs and strategies.

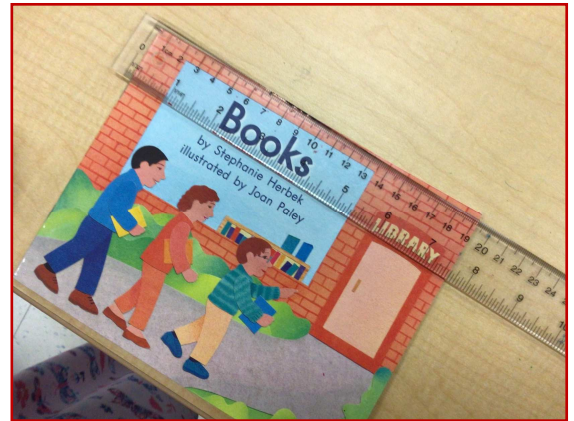
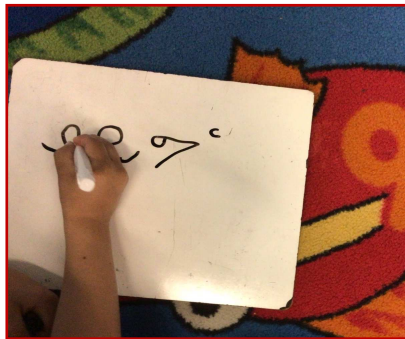
To further develop initiatives and Innovative approaches addressing individual student needs and accessibility requirements, mental health issues, childcare needs, and nutritional needs.



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The Grade 1 and 2 students were learning how to measure things using nonstandard measurement units (e.g. blocks) and standard units such as a ruler and a tape measure. Students were provided with their equipment, as well as hard hats and safety glasses, and made their rounds measuring things.

We also learned from a guest speaker about Inuit culture and practiced how to write our names using Inuktitut syllabics.



In October, our school read "The Secret Path" book and did a school wide Walk for Chanie Wenjack as a part of our Legacy Schools Program.

*Inspired by Chanie's story and Gord's call to build a better Canada, the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund aims to build cultural understanding and create a path toward reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Our goal is to improve the lives of Indigenous people by building awareness, education, and connections between all peoples in Canada. Know more about [our work and programs](https://downiewenjack.ca/our-story/) at <https://downiewenjack.ca/our-story/>*





## Ukrainian Bilingual Program Highlights

We are honoured to welcome several new Ukrainian families to Ralph Brown. We are excited to see our program grow. We are very proud of our Ukrainian program and have worked hard to ensure that our students are receiving a strong and enriched learning environment where they can practice the Ukrainian language, discover Ukrainian heritage and learn about Ukrainian culture. They also develop an understanding and appreciation of the Ukrainian cultural heritage in the Canadian context. This helps them build positive attitudes towards learning other languages and understanding other cultures.

Thank you to the following who have provided our program with support:

- ♦ Carpathia Credit Union for their ongoing financial support
- ♦ St. Boniface Ukrainian Foundation for their ongoing financial support
- ♦ Manitoba Parents for Ukrainian Education (MPUE) who work closely with staff, parents and students in planning activities and adding to the students' experiences in the program



### Activities & Events:

- ♦ Pysanky (egg decorating) workshops were held with students and staff trying their hand at this ancient art form.
- ♦ All staff helped to recognize "Vyshyvanky Day" - when the traditional Ukrainian shirt/blouse is worn world-wide
- ♦ "Ukrainian Week" heard a brief description of a tradition over the morning announcements, and featured a Ukrainian flavour to our Healthy Snack program.
- ♦ Students in the English-Ukrainian Bilingual program recited poems for St. Nicholas, who came to visit in December with a small treat for every student in the school.
- ♦ Gr. 4 students visited the Leo Mol Sculpture Gardens

*Unfortunately, due to pandemic restrictions, we were not able to carry out many of our usual activities; we are looking forward to continuing with these traditions in the coming year:*

- ♦ Ukrainian Choir spreads joy at Christmas by caroling (Kolyada) at local business and community residences
- ♦ Traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve Dinner Celebration where guests are entertained by carollers and treated to a traditional feast.
- ♦ Ukrainian Easter Breakfast is celebrated with a traditional breakfast & performances by our Ukrainian program students
- ♦ Cultural, language and heritage learning experiences which include field trips and camps: Gr. 6 Ukrainian language camp at the U of M, and Gr. 5 students visit to the Legislature.



*Staff and students celebrating Vyshyvanky day in style!*

Below: Handicraft sale to raise funds for Ukraine relief.  
Right MPUE representatives came out to congratulate our departing Grade 8 students.

