

Ralph Brown School

Community Report

2021-2022

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School mission statement

Ralph Brown School staff will work collaboratively, within a common growth mindset, to ensure every student is provided opportunities to reach their highest learning potential, taking into account their intellectual, physical, social, emotional and cultural needs to foster 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 a beginner 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 & 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 & 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 a literacy/EAL support teacher, a resource teacher & 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 our school became a member of the Legacy Schools Program 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 free daily breakfast program 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 everyone of our students to experience success this school year.

Highlights

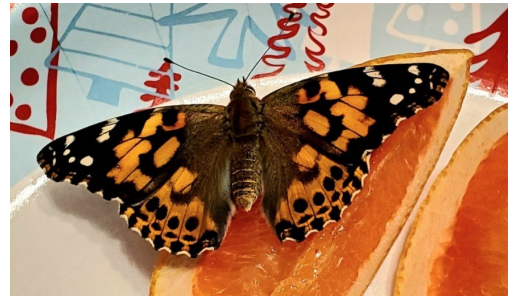
Our mission to be Safe, Respectful and Best You Can Be was achieved in 2020-2021. Some highlights of the year include:

- ◆ 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 run Lunch Program and monthly Hot Lunches
- ◆ I Love to Read Week, Spirit Week and Christmas Gym
- ◆ ESD Three Sisters Garden Project
- ◆ Student Initiated Plant Club
- ◆ Butterflies in the Classroom
- ◆ Stop Motion Animated Video Workshop with an “Artist in the School”
- ◆ Learning with Digital Technology (iPads, iMovies, green screen, Seesaw, Chromebooks, Raz Kids, Google Classrooms)
- ◆ Virtual Monthly Student-Led Assemblies
- ◆ Anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day & Orange Shirt Day to honour residential school system students
- ◆ Treaty Education
- ◆ Taking Care of Mother Earth Project
- ◆ 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 in an attempt to increase the number of students who read at grade level in every grade.
- ◆ Primary Literacy Project in Nursery to grade 2
- ◆ Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics Framework; Numbers Talk
- ◆ Family Story Time (virtual event)
- ◆ Family Cooking Night (virtual event)
- ◆ Patrols
- ◆ Farewell Parade
- ◆ 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
- ◆ School Resource Officer (SRO)

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

Butterflies

To combine our learning about symmetry, life cycles and animal habitats we raised butterflies in the class-



room. Once we learned about what butterflies need in their habitat we began setting up the perfect home. One chrysalis fell. Research stated if it was not picked up and glued upright to a branch or web it would never be able to fly. Miss Maria took action. She tried, tried and tried again. She followed the scientific process, made a hypothesis, made a design, tested her design, evaluated it and adjusted it until she was able to do what she wanted. Miss Maria was successful and the chrysalis was returned with its friends. The butterflies were released into the school yard in early June.

ASL

We incorporated American Sign Language into our everyday learning in P1. Students know how to have simple conversations, ask for help, and describe nouns in their environment. Many students use ASL to share their thoughts during life and in class lessons; this allows everyone to have a voice.

Project 215

Ralph Brown School displayed a banner made of hearts with messages for the lost, the families and the survivors of residential schools. Staff and students wrote messages on the hearts; some hearts were left blank for the community to use. Students also coloured two 6 foot tall totems to show the families of 215 that their culture (Pacific West Indigenous) is celebrated and respected miles away from home.



Glow Party

Every second Friday students would participate in a Sight Word Glow Party. Students would build words with neon magnets, wiki sticks, play dough, glow sticks, and UV lights. A hands-on way to enhance our daily practice with sight words.

Gecko/Habitats

After much research, planning and preparation, we welcomed Gex, a supergiant, patternless, leopard gecko. We spent time observing and recording Gex's movement, eating habits, and hunting style. Students built a trusting relationship with Gex who would come to them and sit still for pets.





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.

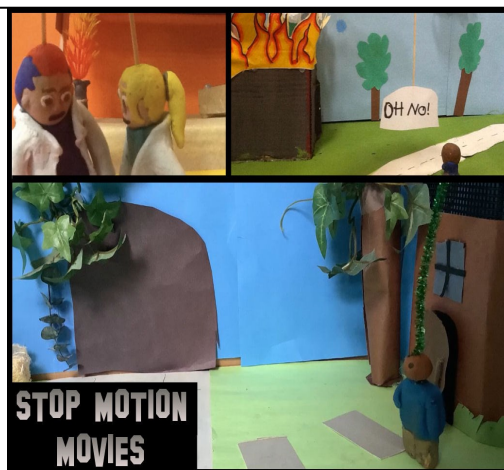
Further improve school attendance, achievements and graduation rates through the exploration of additional programs and strategies.

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



Fairytale Claymation Project

Intermediate classes were part of a Claymation Fairytales Artist-in-the-School Project with artist Lasha Mowchun. Students explored classic fairytales, wrote their own and then animated them. Firstly, they built their sets out of recyclable materials. Next, they used plastercine to create their characters in 3D. Finally, they used the iPad Stopmotion App, learning how to take a series of still shots while manipulating the characters and set. Then they recorded voice-overs of their story. A screening was held as a wrap-up celebration so staff and students could enjoy the benefits of their hard work.



Staff members planting the first phase of the Three Sisters Garden Project.



A diorama depicting the Ralph Brown Community created by Gr. 1/2 students.

This year, students in P4 focused on the Ralph Brown Community and the Environment. After going on a community walk, students created a diorama to show the existing buildings/landmarks in our community. First, students brainstorm "problems" we are having, then we ask questions, plan, design, create and build innovative tools that help solve the problems. Inspired by a story "If I Built a House" by Chris Van Dusen, the students designed, created and added more buildings to represent their imaginary neighbourhood. There are many terrific future designers and creators at Ralph Brown School! It was very interesting to hear students' voices. There were so many unique ideas! Our children dream about colourful buildings, water parks, a zoo, dance and ninja schools, bike paths, skate parks, more trees and even more people walking on the streets. All of these things were created out of recyclable materials; we produce too much trash and this problem can be easily solved by recycling, reusing and reducing. Next year, we will continue to integrate design and innovation into our classroom learning.



Family Cooking Night was a hit; with staff and families making bread together "virtually" over the course of three evenings.



Ukrainian Bilingual Program Highlights

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 throughout the year:

- ♦ 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:

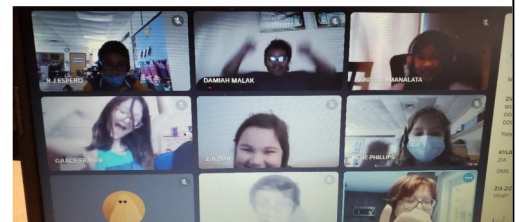
- ♦ Pysanky (egg decorating) workshops were held with students and staff trying their hand at this ancient art form.
- ♦ All staff helped to recognize "Vyshyvanky Day" - when the traditional Ukrainian shirt/blouse is worn world-wide
- ♦ "Ukrainian Week" heard a brief description of a tradition over the 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.

Unfortunately, due to pandemic restrictions and then suspension of in-school classes, 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 and 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, Gr. 4 students visit to the Leo Mol Sculpture Garden, and Gr. 5 students visit to the Legislature.



Despite the challenges of Covid 19 pandemic we were still able to take part in many new and traditional activities during this past school year. We began the school year on a positive note and as long as the weather was cooperative we maximized the use of learning outside the classroom - Science and Social Studies lessons were carried out in Peanut Park. Fall of 2020 was a busy time of learning and hands on experiences for Room P2.



Thanks to a variety of platforms our students have been able to continue their education during the school closure and maintain their social connections.

Parent and 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. It is our goal to ensure that parents and caregivers always feel welcome at Ralph Brown School (post covid) and are motivated to support the school community by volunteering, participating in school events and joining our parent council. Parents are always encouraged to contact the classroom teachers via email or by phone whenever necessary. Monthly Parent Advisory Council meetings and visible staff before and after school support ongoing communication.

Some special acknowledgements include:

- ♦ Our Parent Council was very busy supporting the school throughout the year. They held fundraising events and monthly hot lunches to raise funds for the school. This year funds were put towards our healthy snack program as well as enabling the school to purchase technology equipment to support student learning.
- ♦ Thank you to Nahanni Fontaine, MLA St. Johns, for her generous support toward our Grade 6 Awards.