

Ralph Brown School

Community Report

2024-2025

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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 a Learner
- ◆ Be the Best you can be



About our school

Ralph Brown School is a dynamic and inclusive learning community serving approximately 350 students and a dedicated team of 50 staff members. We proudly offer programming in both the English and English-Ukrainian Bilingual Program (EUBP), making us the only school in the Winnipeg School Division to offer this unique bilingual opportunity. The English Program runs from Nursery to Grade 6, while the EUBP welcomes students from Kindergarten through Grade 8, providing rich language immersion and meaningful cultural experiences rooted in Ukrainian heritage, customs, and celebrations. Entry into the EUBP begins in Kindergarten or grade 1 and is open to all students across the division interested in acquiring a second language and deepening cultural awareness.

Ralph Brown School is home to the Rockets and we are proud to be a culturally diverse, warm, and inclusive environment where academic excellence, social development, and student well-being are at the heart of everything we do. Guided by our school-wide expectations—to be safe, be a learner, and be the best you can be—we strive each day to foster positive relationships, a love of learning, and a strong sense of belonging. Aligned with the Winnipeg School Division's new strategic plan, we focus on Joy by building a welcoming and engaged school community, Love by nurturing supportive and inclusive spaces where every student feels valued, and Rigour by preparing all learners for academic and personal excellence.

Our ongoing commitment to truth and reconciliation is deeply embedded in our school culture. We actively engage students in learning about Indigenous histories, cultures, and contemporary issues. Through this work, we aim to strengthen relationships, promote understanding, and take meaningful action toward reconciliation. We honour Indigenous ways of knowing and are committed to building a school community where all voices are heard and respected.

Students at Ralph Brown School enjoy a wide variety extra-curricular activity such as sport teams, clubs, choir and band to enhance their school experience and build stronger connections with their peers. We are also fortunate to have an active and committed Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and a strong base of volunteers who enrich the lives of our students daily.

To ensure every child is well-nourished and ready to learn, we offer a daily breakfast program, a whole-school morning snack, and a supervised lunch program - all at no cost to families. These supports reflect our deep belief that meeting students' basic needs is essential for their academic and personal success.

At Ralph Brown School, we recognize that education is a shared journey. Together with our families and community partners, we are committed to ensuring that every student feels safe, supported, and inspired to achieve their best.



Painted by Veronika Deren—student from Room P5

Highlights

Our mission to be Safe, a Learner and Best You Can Be was achieved in 2024-2025. 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
- ◆ Monthly Hot Lunches
- ◆ I Love to Read Week, Spirit Week, Indigenous Week and Christmas & Halloween Gym
- ◆ Holodomor Commemoration Week
- ◆ Supplied families with food (bread, potatoes, onions and miscellaneous groceries) during the year (provided by Harvest Manitoba)
- ◆ Bread delivery and distribution every Friday for families at the end of the day
- ◆ Learning with Digital Technology (iPads, iMovies, Seesaw, Chromebooks, RazKids, Google Classroom)
- ◆ Orange Shirt Day to honour those who attended residential schools
- ◆ Treaty Education
- ◆ Smudging
- ◆ Nature Based Learning: for students to learn in and from nature
- ◆ Toronto Blue Jays baseball school community program
- ◆ FC Valour soccer game for Ralph Brown Soccer Teams
- ◆ Winnipeg Goldeyes baseball game for Patrols
- ◆ STEAM fair for grade 4-6 students
- ◆ All grade 4 students participated in Swimming Counts
- ◆ Playground upgrades which included planting trees, adding berms and a large log which students can climb and explore.
- ◆ Our priority to improve literacy and numeracy remains an on-going focus.
- ◆ Summer Solstice week long celebrations featuring guest drummers and a Family BBQ complete with games/activities and dancers.
- ◆ Destination Imagination
- ◆ Coding Club
- ◆ Farewell, Awards and Athletic Awards Assemblies
- ◆ Indigenous literature for guided reading
- ◆ Positive Behaviour Interventions & Strategies (PBIS), Minds in Motion Program & Zones of Regulation to support self-regulation
- ◆ Clinical Support Services (Social Work, Psychology, Speech, and Reading Clinicians)
- ◆ Partnership with Ralph Brown Recreation Centre and Machray Daycare
- ◆ Grades 8 students in the EUBP went to Vegreville, AB, for 4 days/3 nights

Parent & Community Involvement

At Ralph Brown School, we recognize that strong partnerships between home, school, and the wider community are essential to student success. We strive to ensure that families always feel welcome, informed, and involved in school life. Whether through volunteering, participating in school events, or joining our active Parent Advisory Council (PAC), there are many meaningful ways for caregivers to engage in our school community. We encourage open communication between families and staff, and welcome parents to connect with classroom teachers by phone or email whenever questions or concerns arise.

This year Ralph Brown hosted a “Welcome/Meet the Teacher BBQ” in the fall and a “Summer Solstice BBQ” in June with food and entertainment for all!

Special acknowledgements include:

Our *Parent Council* for their fundraising efforts to support our field enhancements.

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

Shout out to *Casey Hellard of No Frills* for his generosity over the years.

Thank you to Save On Foods as well for their donations.

Thank you to *Bob & George* - volunteers who delivered bread to us each week

Thank you to our Parent Volunteers who stepped up to help with our special events and driving students to sporting events..

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



School Goals & Priorities

This year at Ralph Brown School, our focus was centered on two key goals that supported both staff development and student success:

Enhancing Teaching Practices and Knowledge – We worked collaboratively with our instructional and support staff to strengthen teaching strategies, deepen professional knowledge, and ensure consistency in instructional approaches across classrooms. This ongoing professional growth supports our goal of providing high-quality education for all learners.

Increasing Student Engagement – We prioritized creating meaningful, inclusive, and interactive learning experiences to keep students actively involved in their education. Through hands-on activities, student voice initiatives, and cross-curricular projects, we aimed to inspire curiosity and strengthen student connections to their learning.



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION



Pictured above is the culminating celebration of I Love to Read month with the theme “What’s Cooking at Ralph Brown School?” Classrooms that read the most books had the opportunity to “pie” a teacher in the face at a school wide assembly.



Our youngest students on the school walk in honour of Orange Shirt Day.



Pictured above are Skate Club members and one of our Junior High Soccer Teams. We have a strong Physical Education program, which exposes students to a wide variety of experiences. Additionally, we offer many before, lunchtime and after school activities: Skate Club, Ski Club, Run Club, Fitness Club, Badminton, Soccer and Football teams to name a few. Water Day is always popular for young and old alike! Pictured below Mr. MacVicar sliding down the inflatable water slide. In addition, we are a nature based school and teachers are encouraged to take students outside - during all seasons!



Ukrainian Bilingual Program

We are excited to see continued enthusiasm in our English-Ukrainian Bilingual Program, which now includes 140 students. This vibrant and enriching program provides students with the opportunity to learn the Ukrainian language, explore Ukrainian culture, and understand the historical and contemporary significance of Ukrainian heritage within a Canadian context.

At Ralph Brown School, we are proud of the strong learning environment we've created - one where students not only develop their language skills, but also foster open-mindedness and respect for cultural diversity. Through their bilingual education, students gain a greater appreciation for both Ukrainian traditions and multicultural values. The presence of newcomer students who speak Ukrainian as their first language also creates a unique and authentic learning experience for English-speaking students, enhancing peer learning and cultural exchange.



We are sincerely grateful for the ongoing support of key community partners who help make our program exceptional. Thank you to the following who have provided our program with support:

- ◆ St. Boniface Ukrainian Foundation for their ongoing financial support
- ◆ Osvita 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:

- ◆ Carolling in the community—visiting local Ukrainian businesses and organizations, including Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Joan Lewandosky, president (pictured about)
- ◆ 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, and a perogy lunch
- ◆ Ukrainian Christmas Eve Dinner Celebration where guests are entertained by carollers and treated to light refreshments
- ◆ Ukrainian Easter Breakfast is celebrated with a traditional breakfast and performances by our students, including hahilky—Spring dances by the grades 4-8 girls in the program
- ◆ Cultural, language and heritage learning experiences which include field trips to the Legislature, Leo Mol Sculpture Gardens, & Vegreville

Summer Solstice Celebration at Ralph Brown School

On Thursday, June 12, 2025, we gathered as a school community in the spirit of the June 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day to gather and celebrate Indigenous culture. A family BBQ was served to all in attendance. Families could take part in Indigenous games on the school field, Anishinaabemowin dubbed cartoons in the MPR, Indigenous dance demonstrations in the gym, and take in the songs of the guest drummers. Our students also took part in drumming and songs. Student work around inquiry and nature-based learning was displayed for families to view in the gym as well.

