

Ralph Brown School

Community Report

2025-2026

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ROCKET VALUES

RESPECT

OWN YOUR ACTIONS

CARE FOR OTHERS

KEEP GROWING

ENGAGE YOUR BRAIN

TRY YOUR BEST



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

About our school

Ralph Brown School is a dynamic and inclusive learning community serving approximately 315 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 Kindergarten 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 from the Year

Student Learning:

- Our priority to improve literacy and numeracy remains an on-going focus
- New Social-Emotional Learning Program developed by a team of Ralph Brown Teachers
- New ROCKET Values to promote citizenship and positive school engagement
- Learning with Digital Technology (iPads, iMovies, Seesaw, Chromebooks, RazKids, Google Classroom)
- Orange Shirt Day to honour those who attended residential schools
- Nature Based Learning: for students to learn in and from nature
- Grade 4 students participated in Swimming Counts Program
- Indigenous literature for guided reading
- Holodomor Commemoration Week
- Participation in Red River Heritage Fair

Student Athletics & Sports:

- Cross Country
- Badminton
- Inner City Soccer League
- Basketball, Tripleball, Baseball, Volleyball

Student Clubs & Events:

- Terry Fox Run
- Daily Smudging
- Water Day
- Coding, Beading, Chess, Spanish, Run, FrankenStuffy Clubs
- I Love to Read Week, Spirit Week, Indigenous Week and Christmas & Halloween Gym
- Grades 8 students in the EUBP went to Vegreville, AB, for 4 days/3 nights
- Grades 5 & 6 2 night camp experience at Camp Manitou
- Winnipeg Goldeyes baseball game for Patrols
- Grades 6 & 8 Farewell Ceremony, Rocket Award and Athletic Awards Assemblies

Staff Professional Learning:

- Supporting Math Instruction (MathUp)
- Igniting and Cultivating Paths to Mino-Pimatisiwin
- Writing and Oral Story Telling

Building & Supporting Community:

- Daily Breakfast/Healthy Snack Program
- Summer Solstice celebrations featuring guest drummers and a Family BBQ complete with games/activities and dancers
- Parent Council provided the school with financial support and active involvement in school wide events
- Partnership with Ralph Brown Recreation Centre and Machray Daycare
- Clinical Support Services (Social Work, Psychology, Speech, and Reading Clinicians)
- Dental Outreach Program, Hearing & Vision Screening
- Supplied families with food (miscellaneous groceries) during the year (provided by Harvest Manitoba)
- Bread delivery and distribution every Friday for families

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 *Dan Trnka* for donating hot dog supplies and BBQ for our Summer Solstice event.

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*, the *Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba* and the *WSD Nutrition Grant* 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 three key goals that supported both staff development and student success:

Indigenous-Inclusive Education

To deepen staff and students' understanding and respect for the histories, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous Peoples of Canada, both past and present, through authentic learning experiences.

Social-Emotional Learning

To support the emotional well-being and personal growth of all students by implementing a consistent, school-wide social-emotional learning program that will help students build a growth mindset, understand how their brains work, manage emotions, and strengthen relationships through kindness, mindfulness and reflection.

Writing

To improve students' writing skills and use of the full writing process - planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing, aiming to ensure consistent, explicit writing.



We are very proud of Sviatoslav, who competed and won in the local Heritage Fair. His project outlined the reasons Ukrainian settlers first came to the prairies, how land distribution was managed at the time and the effect it had on the indigenous peoples. *“My project illustrates the connection between the stories of Ukrainian and Indigenous Peoples, highlighting the role of Indigenous Peoples in helping newcomers adapt. It promotes a better understanding of colonization and encourages respect and reconciliation in Canada.”* His many, many hours spent researching his project has paid off as he is headed to the Heritage Fair National Showcase. Congratulations!



Congratulations to Mrs. Sim as well, who received her bell, in recognition of 25 years of service in the Winnipeg School Division.



Congratulations to all of our Grade 6 and 8 students who were celebrated during our “farewell”. It was a bittersweet event for some, reflecting on their past years here at Ralph Brown and anticipating where their next steps will lead them. But remember . . . once a Rocket - always a Rocket!



Ukrainian Bilingual Program

We are excited to see continued enthusiasm in our English-Ukrainian Bilingual Program, which now includes 112 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 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 businesses and organizations
- ◆ 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 whole-school perogy lunch
- ◆ Ukrainian Christmas Eve Dinner Celebration where guests are entertained by carollers and treated to light refreshments
- ◆ Ukrainian Easter Breakfast was 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 included field trips to the Legislature, Leo Mol Sculpture Gardens and a trip to Vegreville, Alberta along with other EUBP students throughout the province
- ◆ Vyshyvanka Day was celebrated in May, where students took part in a school art project painting and stencilling repurposed wood with Ukrainian motifs



Summer Solstice Celebration

Thursday, June 18, 2026, we gathered as a school community in the spirit of the June 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day to celebrate Indigenous culture. A family BBQ was served to all in attendance. Families could take part in Indigenous games on the school field, Indigenous Beading workshops and dance demonstrations led by guest presenters, and take in the songs of the drummers.



Grade 5/6 Camp Experience

Our Grade 5 and 6 students attended a 2 night/3 day camp experience at Camp Manitou in June. For many, it was their first time to experience "the great outdoors" and take part in swimming, kayaking, fishing, archery and cooking over a bonfire to name a few of the many activities they had a chance to participate in.