

# NIJI MAHKWA TIMES

"MY FRIEND THE BEAR"      EMAIL: [nijimahkwa@wsd1.org](mailto:nijimahkwa@wsd1.org)  
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January 2026

## Administrator's Message

Dear Niji Mahkwa Families,

December began with a fantastic Winter Concert that showcased the talents of our students. Santa came for a visit on the 16th and gave each student a gift! Staff again showed their good cheer by coming in early to prepare a pancake breakfast for all the students. December truly was an amazing month filled with learning, laughter and kindness.

Unlike the January 1 New Year of the Gregorian calendar, many Indigenous New Year observances align with the natural cycles of Mother Earth. For some Indigenous peoples, the New Year begins around the winter solstice on December 21, the shortest day of the year, symbolizing the return of the sun, longer days, and the promise of renewed life and sustenance. This time of renewal is both celebratory and reflective. As Indigenous knowledge is passed down through oral tradition, it is the responsibility of Elders, educators, and younger generations to preserve and carry forward traditions such as smudging, sharing circles, feasts, and pipe ceremonies. The New Year offers a moment to honor progress made while recognizing the work still ahead.

Once again the frigid temperatures of January and snow are upon us but rest assured that we will be keeping warm and busy inside Niji Mahkwa.

Thank you, Miigwech, Ekosani, Maarsii,

Mr. Reuben Boulette

Principal

&

Ms. Leigh Ann Dysart  
Vice Principal

**Theme:** Feasting  
**Moon:** Elder  
**Teaching:** Wisdom  
**Medicine:** Cedar  
**Song:** Bear Song  
**Animal Spirit:** Bear  
**Colour:** White  
**Doorway:** Northern  
Doorway



# J A N U A R Y

# N E W S



## TRANSPORTATION

**Inquiries, Questions & Bus Information, Caregivers can call transportation at 204-586-8800**

WOODLANDS DANCING WILL CONTINUE IN THE NEW  
YEAR!!

CALL THE SCHOOL FOR MORE INFORMATION OR  
STAY TUNED TO SCHOOL MESSENGER UPDATES.



CONNECT WITH US

Stay in touch with  
upcoming school  
events and reminders.



Niji Mahkwa



niji.mahkwa

With daily cold temperatures  
and wind-chill that can reach -  
30 in Winnipeg, chills and frost-  
bite can set in quickly.

**REMINDER TO DRESS YOURSELF  
AND CHILDREN APPROPRIATELY  
FOR THE WEATHER.**

## A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Santa has come and gone at Niji Mahkwa! Christmas time is always a fun and exciting season at Niji.

Santa arrived early with his reindeer and brought gifts for all of our students. As a school community, we also shared a delicious pancake breakfast together.

It was truly heartwarming to see such happy students. A big thank you goes out to all of the staff and volunteers who helped make this possible, and an even bigger thank you to everyone who donated. Without your generous support, this celebration would not have been possible.

We hope everyone has an amazing holiday season!





## Parent Council News

Hello and good day. Any families needing winter wear for their children can contact F. Boulanger, Community Support Worker, Niji Mahkwa School during school hours. Please join us for our weekly sewing program in Family Room 108, or in the sewing lab room 304, every Wednesday afternoon.

Thank you.

Fred Boulanger

Community Support Worker

Niji Mahkwa School



# SEWING WORKSHOP

Parents/Guardians/Caregivers  
Welcome

**WHAT:** Making ribbon shirts & skirts,  
Indigenous prints, baby blankets, star  
blankets (optional)

**WHERE:** Family Room 108 & Sewing Lab Room  
304

**WHEN:** Every Wednesday afternoon, plus  
weekly free Sewing Lab times TBA



**Sewing materials and instruction provided**

**Coffee and a light snack will be provided**

## WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU HAVE A PROBLEM

### AT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

Problems can arise but can be solved by open discussion. Our schools are a community and everyone is part of making it a safe and welcoming environment.

If you have a problem:

1. Talk to the teacher.
2. If you can't resolve the issue, then talk to the Vice-Principal or Principal of the school.
3. If the issue is still unresolved talk to the director of your child's school. The directors are part of the superintendents office and can help with serious issues.

**We all have the same goal in the Winnipeg School Division, to see your child succeed.**

**Lets work together!**

## SAFE ARRIVAL

### TO REPORT YOUR STUDENT'S ABSENCE.

Before the bell time of the day,

Call 1-855-278-4513

Visit: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>

Absences can be put in ahead of time!

If attendance is becoming a concern please contact the school at 204-589-6742 to speak with your child's teacher.

## Visiting our school

To help ensure the safety of our school, we have made a few changes to our visitor procedures.

- Please sign in at the office upon arrival.
- If you are picking up your child, kindly come to the office, and we will call your child down for you.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.



**NIJI MAHKWA SCHOOL**  
**JANUARY 2026**



Niji Mahkwa School

Sun	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Sat
	<b>DAY</b>			1	2	3
				WINTER BREAK	WINTER BREAK	
4	5	<b>DAY 5</b>	6	7	8	9
		SCHOOL RE-OPENS			<i>FAMILY FUN NIGHT 4:30-6 PM</i>	
11	<b>12</b>	<b>DAY 4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
			ROOM 306 FEAST @ 1PM			17
18	<b>19</b>	<b>DAY 3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
		IN-SERVICE DAY NO SCHOOL		ROOM 313 FEAST @ 1PM		
25	<b>26</b>	<b>DAY 2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
					ROOM 119 FEAST @ 1 PM	
31						