

NIJI MAHKWA TIMES

"MY FRIEND THE BEAR" EMAIL: 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



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

JANUARY NEWS




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.





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 cant 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 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



Sun	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Sat
	DAY			1	2	3
				WINTER BREAK	WINTER BREAK 	
4	5 DAY 5	6	7	8	9	10
	SCHOOL RE-OPENS			FAMILY FUN NIGHT 4:30-6 PM		
11	12 DAY 4	13 DAY 1	14	15	16	17
		ROOM 306 FEAST @ 1PM				
18	19 DAY 3	20	21	22	23	24
	IN-SERVICE DAY No SCHOOL		ROOM 313 FEAST @ 1PM			
25	26 DAY 2	27	28	29	30	31
				ROOM 119 FEAST @ 1 PM		