

Niji Mahkwa School

Community Report

2023-2024

450 Flora Ave, Winnipeg, MB R2W 2R8
Ph: 204-589-6742 | Fax: 204-582-7049 | Email: nijimahkwa@wsd1.org



Mission Statement

Niji Mahkwa School and Community upholds the belief that all children have an inherent right to the highest quality of holistic education. The integration of traditional, cultural teachings in a supportive learning environment will provide students with strengths and skills to meet the challenges of life.

School Profile

The school ranges from grades N to 8 on site and grades 8 –12 in the Songide’ewin program.

The staff is structured in the following teams: Cultural/Linguistic, Academic, Support, Songide’ewin, and our Shops program.

We facilitate the Four Directions Program, which consists of blended and integrated programming in the areas Academic, Cultural, Linguistic and Technology. The importance of each area is considered equally significant to a child’s learning process. Math and Science will be the focus for teacher and classroom work in professional development and program enhancement

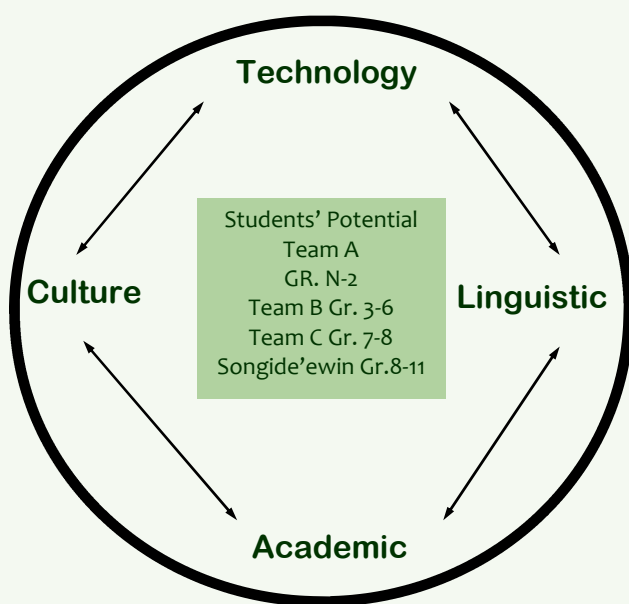
The Cultural/Linguistic team supports the classroom experience by providing children with the linguistic knowledge of a cultural way of life. The students are exposed to both Ininimowin and Anishinabemowin classes. The linguistic program implemented at Niji Mahkwa School was designed by the Ininew and Anishinabe teachers of our school in consultation with staff and parents.

Goals & Objectives

To collectively develop and maintain a safe environment that will nurture a student's self-worth, self-discipline, increased awareness of inner resources and stronger identity.

- ◆ To promote, develop and empower Family, Extended Family, Elders and Community members as equal partners with Rights and Responsibilities who will become Pro-active participants in the education of our children.
- ◆ To nurture respect for spiritual guides and teachers.
- ◆ To promote the seven teachings as adopted by Niji Mahkwa Parents, Community, Staff and Students: Knowledge, Honour, Courage, Honesty, Humility and Truth.
- ◆ To ensure the preservation, appreciation, and utilization of traditional languages by offering Cree and Ojibwe language instruction as compulsory subjects. Other languages may be offered.
- ◆ To promote a balanced lifestyle by incorporating cultural teachings to meet the students spiritual, emotional, physical and mental needs.

Niji Mahkwa School Structure



Working The Circle into the 21st Century

Niji Mahkwa School is guided by the Four Directions curriculum document that has been created in consultation with spiritual guides and teachers, staff, and parents. The diagram below illustrates that the programming is centered around the child's abilities and strengths. The four directions of programming at Niji Mahkwa identified on the circle have been developed into an educational framework based on objectives determined for each of these strands. In this way it is the intention of all involved in the educational process at Niji Mahkwa to maximize the learning opportunities and potential of each of the students.

The Seven Teachings

- ◆ To Cherish knowledge is to know wisdom
- ◆ To know love is to find peace
- ◆ To honor all creation is to have respect
- ◆ Courage is to face life with integrity
- ◆ Honesty in facing a situation is to be brave
- ◆ Humility is to know yourself as a sacred part of creation
- ◆ Truth is to know all of these things



Building Student Success

- Priority 1:** Increase student capacity within the Circle of Courage, specifically in the areas of Generosity and Belonging.
Actions: Increased student attendance.
 Increased student time on task in the classrooms.
 Increased numbers of WISE Choice slips being given out.
- Priority 2:** Increase student capacity in the area of reading comprehension using the Fountas and Pinnell Systems of Strategic Actions as a guide.
Actions: Ensure each teacher has prompting Guide 1 and 2.
 Explore specific strategies and resources to target reading comprehension skills
 Familiarize teachers with each strategy on the F&P System of Strategic Actions Wheel - 1/2 day PD to support Strategies to support Home Reading (incentives)
 Use high impact literary strategies through the *Read to Me* model to improve literacy levels
- Priority 3:** Students will use and develop a variety of mathematical strategies for daily problem solving.
Actions: Develop and define problem solving strategies that are age/grade appropriate
 Every classroom will develop a master list of problem solving strategies that students can refer to
 Teach problem solving strategies using optimum learning model.
 Students select and apply a variety of strategies independently.
 PLC every second school day 6
 Daily classroom problem solving experiences.
 Implementing and using *Thinking Classroom* math strategies to improve student numeracy levels and engagement
- Priority 4:** Increase student involvement in sports teams and athletics, extracurricular activities and volunteerism.
Actions: Students volunteering at locations inside and outside of the community
 Students trained and taught to work at various jobs within the school – job applications to be created and filled out.
 Increased student attendance at extracurricular activities – sports teams, Elders Circles, dance/music clubs, after school groups i.e. Homework Club, Math Mania, Aboriginal School of Dance, Drum Group

Parent Council Functions 2023/ 2024 School Year

The following schedule was created by participating Parents, Cultural Team, and Community Support Worker during Year-End Planning Day.

Biindigen Feast	September 14,2023	5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Parent Council Meeting	October 02, 2023	12:30 p.m.
Parent Council Meeting	November 01, 2023	12:30 p.m.
Parent Room Open House	November 16, 2023	4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m
Parent Council Meeting	December 6, 2023	12:30 p.m.
Parent Council Dinner	December 20,2023	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m
Parent Council Meeting	January 10 2024	12:30 p.m.
Parent Council Meeting	February 07, 2024	12:30 p.m.
Parent Council Meeting	March 06, 2024	12:30 p.m.
Parent Council Meeting	April 10, 2024	12:30 p.m.
Parent Council Meeting	May 01, 2024	12:30 p.m.
Parent Council Year End Mtg.	June 05, 2024	12:30 p.m.

Niji Mahkwa School Educational Framework

Month	September	October	November	December	January
Cultural Theme	What is the work?	Preparing to work	To cherish knowledge is to know wisdom	To know love is to know peace	To honor all of creation is to have respect
Medicine	Sage Sweetgrass Tobacco	Cedar Tobacco Rocks Wood	Protection Justice Medicine Healing Ways	Caring & Sharing Reciprocity Generosity Peaceful Relations	Mother Earth Relationships Harmony We are all Related
Whole School Goals	To establish a positive learning environment and secure climate by clarifying expectations and the Code of Behavior to achieve the goals of Niji Mahkwa.	To orient and focus the development of active participation in creating positive relationships of all participants aimed at fulfilling the mandates of the Niji Mahkwa vision.	To recognize through learning opportunities made available, that the knowledge gained will provide the strength and wisdom required to meet life's challenges.	To recognize that love is unconditional by promoting family unity through the practice of the Seven Teachings & sharing in the celebration of relationships.	To help all involved in Niji Mahkwa develop the understanding of respect by honoring the individual uniqueness and gifts and how to relate them with other's gifts.
Academic GOALS	ACADEMIC VISION When we consider the child as a "SACRED BEING", it is important for each of us who impacts a child's learning path, to remember that the mental capacity is only one of four areas of a child's development. The academic vision of Niji Mahkwa School must always be inclusive of the spiritual, emotional, physical along with the mental development of each and every child who enters our school. The emotions, body and spirit, will impact the mental or academic achievement and development. Therefore, the Assessment Strategies and Profiling System utilized in the school will play a major role in determining the best learning paths for each of Niji Mahkwa's students. The staff are committed to implementing the strongest academic programming possible at Niji Mahkwa School. We incorporate and utilize the Manitoba Education and Training Renewal standards and outcomes documents to plan, organize and integrate the academic direction along with the cultural, linguistic and computer technology directions to the classroom programs.				
Linguistic Goals	To teach the Smudge teaching as part of the Code of Behavior. To introduce the Seven Teachings in Cree and Ojibwe	To provide the appropriate language for colors sweat lodge, drum, medicines. To teach vocabulary and concepts of the school covenant and winter concepts	To teach and review the vocabulary for the stages of life, month, feasting, honoring, Bear medicine.	To teach and review the vocabulary for the animals of the Hoof Clan, month, and kinship terms.	To teach vocabulary of four medicines, winter activities, clothing, four elements, and constellations. To teach language of the pipe, sweat lodge, four directions.
Computer Technology Goals	Lab expectations, basic skills, course outline, Terminology, Internet, CD Rom, word processing, key boarding, graphics programs.	Logo, paintbrush, baseline of comp. skills and knowledge. Journal, develop patterns, shapes, venn diagrams graphs.	Enhancing projects with Internet, CD Rom, graphics, word processor, keyboarding programs. Utilize Internet for class topics.	Publish writing projects, Utilize internet for projects, design and make give away projects and display using graphics programs.	Utilize Internet and CD Rom for research projects. develop writing projects on class topics, create projects on logo and paintbrush on class projects.

Niji Mahkwa School Educational Framework

February	March	April	May	June
Courage is to face life with integrity	Honesty in facing a situation is to be brave	Humility is to see yourself as a sacred part of creation	Truth is to know all of these things	We'll see you again! All my relations Megwetch
Cedar Protection Strength = Personal Power Eagle and Vision	Individual gifts Tobacco Medicine bags Personal power	Water/fire Women's Teachings Mother Earth medicine	Circle of life Stages of Relationships Stages of life	Accomplishment Respecting Creator's wish Personal Fulfillment
To develop the respect and understanding that the Seven Teachings will give courage and integrity in developing one's personal strength and power.	To help all involved at Niji Mahkwa understand personal/communal responsibilities and gain self-confidence in practicing the Smudge Prayer and speaking the truth with respect.	To develop the understanding of the value in all living things by promoting strong self identity, equality and purpose.	To foster an understanding of the relationship we have to the Circle of Life, that cycles create change and change is constant. Change is the only "for sure thing in life."	To honor accomplishments of people throughout the year.
<p>The teaching and support staff are accountable and obligated to deliver Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science programming that uses differentiate instructional methods to achieve all learning outcomes. Each teacher plans the themes and units for each month considering how best the end will result in the celebration of childrens' accomplishments. Each child deserves the opportunity to grow and develop in a mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually balanced way. In order to remain committed to helping the children and youth of Niji Mahkwa, the cultural program has been designed to transfer the understanding that the teachings, ceremonies and experiences possible at the school have academic value in our mainstream setting.</p> <p>The four core subjects taught at this school will each include Aboriginal perspectives, histories, and lifestyles while meeting the required expectations for high academic achievement. The intention is to maximize the learning opportunities and potential of each student. We believe that each and every child is a "SACRED BEING".</p>				
To teach vocabulary for different Eagles, all my relations, personal gifts (bundle), fasting, dreams, visions. To introduce the concepts of Eagle.	To teach vocabulary for personal gifts, clans, specific words for sacred items, colours.	To teach vocabulary for Spring terms, nature, planting, migration, the life cycle.	To teach the vocabulary of the stages of life, pow-wow terms, bears, fish, rebirth, the moon.	To review the Seven teachings, kinship terms, we'll see you again. To sing. To honor. To reflect. To celebrate accomplishments.
Enhance classroom research projects with Internet, CD Rom, word processor and keyboarding programs. Develop graphic images.	Develop and Enhance projects using internet, CD Rom, graphics, word processors and keyboarding programs, create personal medicine wheel.	Enhance projects, research projects, utilize programs to complete projects. Graph the moon phases.	Enhance projects, research projects on given topics using programs, utilize graphics programs to design outfits and symbols.	Enhance and complete projects, learn process of downloading and cleaning files, create time capsule, complete book making projects.

School Covenant

- ◆ I have a right to be happy, to be treated with kindness at Niji Mahkwa.
This means that we will agree to live by the Smudge Prayer.
- ◆ I have a right to be myself at Niji Mahkwa.
This means that individual differences must be respected.
- ◆ I have a right to be safe at Niji Mahkwa.
This means that our minds, bodies, spirits and emotions will be protected.
- ◆ I have a right to hear and be heard at Niji Mahkwa.
This means the my opinions and wishes will be considered.
- ◆ I have a right to learn about myself at Niji Mahkwa.
This means that I will be free to express my feelings, thoughts and gifts respectfully.



*The Staff, Students and Parents
of Niji Mahkwa have
committed to honor the
SEVEN TEACHINGS
in their relationship
with each other*



"My Friend the Bear"



Niji Mahkwa School

EACH CHILD IS A SACRED BEING

Principal: Ms. M. Missyabit

Vice Principal: Mr. R. Boulette