

The Sister Mac Special



Sister MacNamara School
460 Sargent Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1V5
sisternac@wsd1.org
204-942-6965

OCTOBER 2023

◆ Message from the Administrative Team

Dear Sister MacNamara Families,

Happy October! Please check our school's website and notes that come home from your child's teacher regarding school/classroom information.

These are a few highlights from last month:

- We were so excited to see several families at our Meet the Staff evening-286 people were in attendance. Classroom overviews with information about learning and programming was available that night and those not in attendance had the package sent home.
- Our Phys. Ed. teacher, Ms. Macdonald, conducted our annual Terry Fox Run in the gym with all students in September.
- Our dedicated staff worked hard to provide the very best learning opportunities for our students to kick off the school year-making all students feel welcome!
- Two of our classrooms visited the Government House and met with the Lt. Governor. A wonderful time was had by all.
- All students and staff participated in a day of listening, learning, remembrance and action to honour our commitment to reconciliation with the First Peoples of this land on Orange Shirt Day.

Events coming up are:

- The Welcome to Kindergarten evening will be held on Thursday, October 19th at 5:00 PM.
 - Rooms 119 and 121 will be hosting October's assembly.
 - Family Gathering will take place on October 11th at 5:00 PM-please join us.
 - Grade 6 Immunization Clinic will take place on October 19th.
 - Bus ridership—October 24th during the day.
 - Halloween celebrations are up to each classroom teacher and information will follow.
- Teachers are focused on building relationships with students and creating a caring classroom community. They are collecting information and getting to know each of their students as individuals. This will help to plan for your child(ren)'s learning success all year long. We are honoured that you trust us every day to take good care of your child and provide quality daily learning.

Reminders

- October 9th-School closed for Thanksgiving—Happy Thanksgiving everyone!
- October 11th-5:00 PM Family Gathering
- October 19th-5:00 PM Welcome to Kindergarten
- October 20th-School closed for professional development





SISTER MACNAMARA SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023-24



NOVEMBER

- 7-8-9 Hearing Screening
- 10 Remembrance Day Assembly—10:45 AM
- 17 Professional Development Day—School Closed
- 23 Student-Led Conferences—Evening
- 24 Student-Led Conferences—School Closed

DECEMBER

- 19 Winter Concert—6:00 PM for Grades 1-6
- 20 N-K Winter Concert—10:00 AM & 1:30 PM
- 22 Movie Day
- Dec 25 – Jan 8 WINTER BREAK

JANUARY

- 5 School re-opens after Winter Break

FEBRUARY

- 2 Professional Development Day – School Closed
- 5-9 Mobile Vision Clinic
- 14 Valentine’s Day
- 19 Louis Riel Day—HOLIDAY School Closed
- 29 Jump Rope for Heart assembly 2:30 PM

MARCH

- 11-12-13 IEP Meetings
- 14 Student-Led Conferences - all day and evening
- 15 Professional Development – School Closed
- 18-22 Spirit Week
- 22 Movie Day
- 25-29 SPRING BREAK

APRIL

- 1 School re-opens after Spring Break
- 2-3-4 Class Data Review Meetings
- 12 Day of Pink – Assembly 1:15 PM
- 19 Professional Development Day—School Closed
- 26 Volunteer Celebration—10:30 AM

MAY

- 6 School Planning Day—School Closed
- 20 Victoria Day—HOLIDAY School Closed

JUNE

- 14 Summer Fun Day
- 17 Year End Celebration—9:00 AM
- 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day
- 25 Grade 6 Farewell—1:15 PM
- 25 Report Cards go home
- 28 Talent Show – 9:15 AM
- 28 Last Day of School—Student Dismissal at 11:30 AM

The 10 closure dates for the 2023/2024 school year have been determined for the Winnipeg School Division and Sister MacNamara are as follows:

- Tuesday, September 5, 2023 (division wide)
- Tuesday, October 3, 2023 - Election Day (division wide)
- Friday, October 20, 2023 - MTS PD Day (division wide)
- Friday, November 17, 2023 (division wide)
- Friday, November 24, 2023 (Sister MacNamara)
- Friday, February 2, 2024 (division wide)
- Thursday, March 14, 2024 (Sister MacNamara)
- Friday, March 15, 2024 (division wide)
- Friday, April 19, 2024 (division wide)
- Monday, May 6, 2024 (division wide)

SCHOOLMESSENGER®
SAFE ARRIVAL

At Winnipeg School Division, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each and every day.

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure, we are introducing *a more efficient* student absence reporting system called SafeArrival. This system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, make it easy for you to report your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

With SafeArrival, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.

Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.

Call the toll-free number 1-855-278-4513 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time. You must call the system before 9:00 AM if your child is going to be away that day. Otherwise the system will call you.

Starting **Wednesday, September 6, 2023**, please report absences in advance using **SafeArrival** instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school.

If you do not call the system to report your child's absence, the system will be calling you!

Voluntary Student Accident Information

Information regarding Voluntary Student Accident Insurance from Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada is now available. Those parents/guardians with an active email address will receive the information via School Messenger. Printed copies of the brochure are available through the school office.

SISTER MACNAMARA'S LUNCH PROGRAM

Lunch Program is getting underway!

Lunch Program is a service provided for parents who are either working or attending school. In order to qualify for the Lunch Program you must be able to provide proof of either when filling out an application. Please note that when you sign up for lunch program, you are responsible to pay for each month regardless of your child's attendance. There is often a waiting list and if you do not pay your fees, your child will lose the spot and it will be passed on to someone on the waiting list. Fees are 30.00 per month for the first child and 20.00 per month for each additional child. Fees are cash only and due at the first of each month. Please send exact amounts as we cannot make change.

Parents are expected to provide a healthy lunch, including a healthy beverage. (no junk food or pop please!)

We expect all students attending the lunch program to demonstrate proper behavior following the school and Lunch Program expectations: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe. If your child has any behavioral problems during the lunch program, you will be notified by either a phone call or a letter.

We understand that occasionally families that are not in the lunch program might need to have their child stay for lunch. If that occasion arises, please call Ning, the lunch program coordinator, at least 24 hours in advance to make arrangements. Drop in fees will apply.

Also, a big thank you to all the lunch program staff for doing a wonderful job of ensuring your children are well taken care of during the lunch hour.



If you have any questions please contact the school at 204-942-6965.

Sister MacNamara's Lunch Program Coordinator,
Ning Tapawan



Our school held its annual Terry Fox Run on September 22. Due to weather and field conditions, we held the event indoors. Students came to the gym and did a Terry Fox inspired workout in which they learned a fact about Terry Fox and then did an exercise connected to that fact. In the morning we had a whole school assembly celebrating Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope. Rooms 206, 226, and 228 shared their Terry Fox learning with the school, which took great courage and strength to do. A big thank you to those rooms for highlighting the learning that goes on in your classrooms!

The month of September we also talked about what physical education looked like in Residential Schools. Students looked at photographs and discussed what role physical education played during Residential Schools and what kinds of games and activities Indigenous students were allowed to play. We then discussed the role of physical education in our school and the kinds of games, sports, and activities we play and what those activities teach us.



**STARTING
SCHOOL**

If your child was born in 2019, they are eligible to start Nursery this September! If they were born in 2018, they are eligible to start Kindergarten. Nursery and Kindergarten are half day classes either in the morning or afternoon.

A B C

The registration form is on the Sister MacNamara website. You are welcome to fill it in and send it in electronically. If you fill it in, please phone the school to make an appointment to bring your child's ID in to the office. You are also welcome to call the school or come to the school to register.

In order to register your child you will need 3 things:

- **Your child's birth certificate**
- **Manitoba Health card**
- **A lease or tenant agreement OR a tax assessment letter to validate your address.**

We are accepting applications at this time.

For more information, please call the school at 204-942-6965 or email sisternac@wsd1.org.

**A B C
NURSERY**

**KINDER
GARTEN**



School Start Times

Sister MacNamara offers a Breakfast program for grades 1-6 starting at 8:30 each morning. Please do not send your child before then as there is no supervision before 8:30.



Children not participating in breakfast program are encouraged to come to school right before the bell, at 8:45 in the morning and in the afternoon, at 12:50 PM.

Parents if you are here before 9:50 AM or 12:50 PM please wait with your child by the picnic tables for the bell.

If your child is a patrol, please do not send them before 8:30 as doors are locked and students have to wait outside or in the vestibule until 8:30.



Working together as a Community!

Pick up and dismissal will continue to be on the hard top for all grades.

If you are picking up or dropping off your child in your vehicle, please remember that area is an Idle-Free Zone. Please turn your vehicle off when dropping off or waiting to pick up your child.

Please do not block the Bus Loading Zone. When classrooms have field trips, that is where the bus picks up and drops off the students.

Also, please do not block the entrance, but leave lots of space as many of our families use the same entrance to the schoolyard and walk to and from school.

We would like to remind all of our students and families about the school's safety rules on our playground.



Please leave the following items at home:

- Roller blades
- Skateboards
- Scooters
- Bicycles
- Valuables such as cell phones, money, jewellery etc.

We want to remind families that these items need to stay at home and to be enjoyed off of the school's playground area. The school is not responsible for these valuable items and their storage at school. It is also not safe for students to use them when there are others on the hard top area.

We really appreciate your support in reminding your child (ren) to leave these items at home. If you have any questions about this safety rule, please contact the school at 204-942-6965.



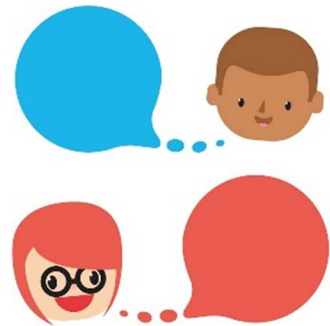
Koats for Kids

Registration is open!
Please let Nicole or Nasra know the size of jackets and/or boots your child will need this winter and we will place a request!



safeTALK
suicide alertness for everyone

October 12th, 2023
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Lunch break 12:00-1:00
Sister MacNamara School
Family Room




Please RSVP to:
Nicole or Nasra
204- 942-6965

safeTALK is a half-day suicide alertness training that prepares anyone to become a suicide alert helper.

FAMILY ROOM OCTOBER 2023

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 2 Family Room closed | 3 Non-Instructional Election Day | 4 Nutrition Bingo 2:30 pm | 5 Volunteer Info Session 1-3:30 | 6 Cooking Class 2:30 |
| 9 No School | 10 Walk to YMCA -Newcomer Programing 1:00 | 11 Nutrition Bingo 2:30 pm Family Gathering 5:00 pm | 12 safeTALK 9-2:00 | 13 |
| 16 | 17 Arts for Little Ones 2:00 pm | 18 Nutrition Bingo 2:30 pm | 19 Cooking Class 2:30 | 20 Non-Instructional |
| 23 | 24 Wellness Art 2:00 pm | 25 Cooking Class 2:30 pm | 26 Games with Kids 2:30 | 27 |
| 30 Family Room closed | 31 Bead Craft 2:00 pm | | Contact us for more info! We are happy to answer any questions you have. | Nasra – nhassan@wsd1.org Nicole – nichristmas@wsd1.org Call: 204-942-6965 |



Family Room - October 2023

Events:

Family Gathering: October 11 @ 5 pm

Come out to hear school news and have a light dinner. There will be an opportunity for feedback and planning for the upcoming year.

We hope to see you there!

Volunteer Info Session: October 5 @ 1:00-3:30

Are you interested in volunteering at Sister Mac?

Volunteer Coordinator Carmen Court will be in attendance to answer any questions you may have and provide the required training to become a WSD volunteer.

Walk to YMCA – Newcomer Recreation Opportunities: Oct 10 @ 1:00

We will walk to the YMCA, take a tour of the facility, and learn about free programs offered to newcomers.

safeTALK: October 12 @ 9 – 2:00

WSD Healthy Minds Specialist Fiona England will provide suicide alertness training. Learn how to recognize the signs, engage in conversation, and connect people to resources. Please let us know if you will attend.

Games with Kids: October 26@2:30

We'll discuss activities you can do at home with kids for learning and fun! There will be a take-home package for participants.

Nutrition Bingo

Food prizes for all participants!

Cooking Class

Come out and try a new recipe! Take home your creation.

Art For Little Ones: October 17 @ 2:00

Bring your child and create together!



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Potatoes, onions, and bread are available for distribution on Tuesdays. Please register if you would like to receive food.

Check out our white board for details on all programs!

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.







Contact us:

Nicole – nichristmas@wsd1.org
Nasra (speaks Somali and Swahili) –
nhassan@wsd1.org
204-942-6965



OCTOBER 2023



| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| 2 DAY 2 | 3 DAY 3 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NO CLASSES  MANITOBA ELECTIONS VOTING 8:00—8:00 PM | 4 DAY 4 | 5 DAY 5 | 6 DAY 6 |
| 9 THANKSGIVING NO CLASSES  | 10 DAY 1 GRADE 6 SOCCER TOURNAMNENT AT TECH VOC | 11 DAY 2 | 12 DAY 3 GRADE 5 SOCCER TOURNAMNENT AT TECH VOC | 13 DAY 4 |
| 16 DAY 5 | 17 DAY 6 | 18 DAY 1 Assembly 9: 00 ROOMS 119 & 121 | 19 DAY 2 AM GRADE 6 IMMUNIZATION CLINIC *** NEW DATE!! WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN 5:00 | 20 DAY 3 MTS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NO CLASSES  |
| 23 DAY 4 | 24 DAY 5 BUS RIDERSHIP | 25 DAY 6 | 26 DAY 1 | 27 DAY 2 |
| 30 DAY 3 | 31 DAY 4 HALLOWEEN  | <div data-bbox="727 1726 1583 1948" data-label="Text" style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 10px;"> <p><i>Looking ahead.....</i></p> <p>Friday, November 17, 2023 Professional Development—NO CLASSES</p> <p>Thursday, November 23, 2023Student Led Conference 4:00 PM—8:00 PM</p> <p>Friday, November 24, 2023 Student Led Conferences—NO CLASSES</p> </div> | | |