

The Sister Mac Special



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

SEPTEMBER 2023

◆ Message from the Administrative Team

HAPPY NEW SCHOOL YEAR!!

Hello to everyone. My name is Mrs. Debbie Lenhardt Mair and I am the Principal of Sister MacNamara School. We are excited to welcome our new Vice-Principal, Mrs. Sonia Medaglia Dos Santos, to our school. We also welcome you and your child(ren) back to our school this year. We missed you very much. We look forward to working with you and your child(ren) at our school. Please say hello when you drop off or pick up your child(ren) from school. We also encourage you to check out our website for information. We would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have or to support you with your needs.

It was a beautiful hot Manitoba summer and we hope all of our families had fun together and stayed healthy and safe. For many students the familiar faces make them feel like they are coming back home and we know our new students, with the support of everyone, will soon be comfortable and feeling at home too!

Each new school year brings many opportunities for the excitement of a new beginning and developing routines. We encourage you to share your child's gifts, strengths, and worries with their teacher when you see them outside. Thank you for sending your amazing children to our school each day. Always know how very important each and every child and each and every family is to all our staff here. A full list of contact information for teachers is included in our newsletter.

We will be hosting our **Meet the Staff Evening on September 21, 2023 at 5:00 PM in the gym**. A school year overview and summary will be shared with you at the event. This will outline themes your child will be learning about in class this year. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher

WE WELCOME and WELCOME BACK the following staff members to our school for this year: Hannah Muns Gr. 4/5 and Samantha Castor, Resource. New to our school is Marjorie White, Nursery and James Korba, Arts teacher. We also welcome Nora Galvez, Head Custodian, Mande Smith, school social worker and Taylor Friesen, speech and language pathologist. Please say hello to them. **Ms. Alicia Nues-EA, has been working at our school for 25 years. She will be retiring at the end of this month. We thank her for her long service and wish her well in her retirement!** Please read the section inside the newsletter for more staffing information.

We are excited that our new outdoor classroom is complete and it is a beautiful place for students to learn and play at school. We will be learning about the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th. This will be a day of observance to remember, honour, learn, encourage, reflect and participate in meaningful discussion about the impacts of residential school and to look for ways to move towards reconciliation. This will be an ongoing theme during the school year.

The new year is an exciting beginning for all of us. We look forward to working together with you and your family.

Debbie Lenhardt Mair
Principal



Sonia Medaglia Dos Santos
Acting Vice Principal



SISTER MACNAMARA SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023-24



OCTOBER

- 3 Professional Development Day—School Closed – Provincial Election Day
- 5 Welcome to Kindergarten—5:00 PM
- 9 Thanksgiving Day—HOLIDAY School Closed
- 11 Family Gathering 5:00
- 20 MTS Professional Development Day – School Closed
- 31 Halloween

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

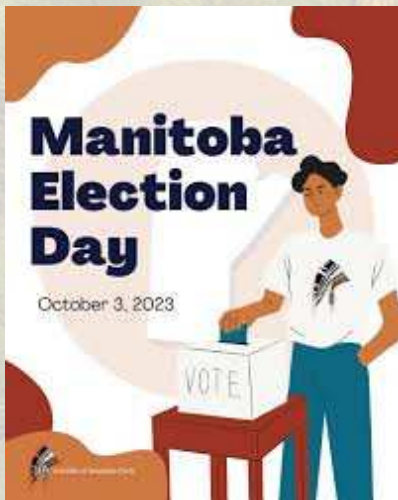
JUNE

- 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



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)



**SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION!
VOTE OCTOBER 3, 2023
Voting is open from
8:00 AM—8:00 PM**

SISTER MACNAMARA SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Sister MacNamara School is to create a safe, respectful environment, where adults help students achieve academic and social success, appreciating and honouring each other's differences and cultural backgrounds.

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

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!

**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.

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.




Thank you to Ms. Cindy, Mr. Benevides, our safety patrols and our patrols in training.

Please remember to follow safety rules when crossing the streets. Please listen to the patrols as they are there to help keep us safe when crossing the street.



SEPTEMBER 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4	5 DAY 1 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NO CLASSES 	6 DAY 2 	7 DAY 3	8 DAY 4 <i>Assembly 9:00</i>
11 DAY 5 FIRST DAY OF CLASSES FOR KINDERGARTEN AND NURSERY	12 DAY 6	13 DAY 1	14 DAY 2	15 DAY 3
18 DAY 4	19 DAY 5	20 DAY 6 <i>School wide evacuation drill—AM</i>	21 DAY 1 <i>Meet the STAFF 5:00 PM</i>	22 DAY 2 <i>TERRY FOX RUN</i> 
25 DAY 3	26 DAY 4	27 DAY 5	28 DAY 6	29 DAY 1 <i>ORANGE SHIRT DAY</i> 
<p><i>Looking ahead.....</i></p> <p>Tuesday, October 3, 2023 Election Day, Professional Development—NO CLASSES Monday October 9, 2023 Thanksgiving Holiday—NO CLASSES Friday, October 20, 2023 Non Instructional Day—NO CLASSES</p>				