

# Ralph Brown School

## Community Report

### 2022-2023

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### School mission statement

Ralph Brown staff aim to provide a supportive climate where diversity is valued as being necessary for learning, creativity and innovation. School staff work collaboratively, within a common growth mindset, to ensure each student is provided opportunities to reach their highest learning potential, taking into account their intellectual, physical, social, emotional and cultural needs fostering their development as global citizens.

At Ralph Brown School we believe that everyone can:

- ♦ Be Safe
- ♦ Be Respectful
- ♦ Be the Best you can be



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION



### About our school

Ralph Brown School is an English Ukrainian Bilingual School with an enrolment of 330 students. We offer nursery to grade six in the English program and Kindergarten to grade 8 in the English Ukrainian Bilingual Program (EUBP). The EUBP program offers rich cultural experiences with a focus on language development. The kindergarten level is entry level and is available to all students in the division who have an interest in learning a second language. We are the only school in the Winnipeg School Division to proudly offer the EUBP, which offers language acquisition, exposure to Ukrainian culture and heritage, and celebration of religious events. Our school is unique in that it shares space with the Ralph Brown Recreation Centre and Machray Daycare. The home of the 'Rockets' is committed to developing academic and social skills in a culturally diverse learning community that is warm, friendly, safe and inclusive. Our school wide expectations to *be safe, be respectful and be the best that you can be*, are reinforced every day. A wide range of programming is offered at Ralph Brown School and our staff is committed to developing further opportunities that meet the academic, social/emotional and physical domains of our students' development. Our PBIS programming teaches self-regulation and has an overall focus of health and wellbeing. Our school's commitment to reconciliation includes strengthening community and reinforcing a sense of belonging for Ralph Brown students and their families.

Our school became a member of the Legacy Schools Program which empowers and engages students to take action towards reconciliation and it strengthens our knowledge of Indigenous culture, history and diversity. We offer various clubs, intramurals and team sports and encourage students to take active roles in patrols, student council and leadership. Our school is proud to have an active and dedicated Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and welcome the many volunteers who dedicate their time to support our students and our learning community. We provide a free daily snack and PAC offers a supervised lunch program at a monthly cost or drop in fee. Everyone in our learning community plays a significant role in the success of our students and our goal is for each and every one of our students to experience success this school year.

# Highlights

**Our mission to be Safe, Respectful and Best You Can Be was achieved in 2022-2023. Highlights of the year include:**

- ◆ Parent Council provided the school with financial support and active involvement in school wide events
- ◆ Terry Fox Run
- ◆ Dental Outreach Program, Hearing & Vision Screening
- ◆ Daily Breakfast/Healthy Snack Program
- ◆ Parent Council Lunch Program and monthly Hot Lunches
- ◆ I Love to Read Week, Spirit Week, Indigenous Week, Secret Path Week and Christmas & Halloween Gym
- ◆ Some classrooms attended the WSD Pow Wow
- ◆ Holodomor Commemoration Week
- ◆ Supplied families with food (bread, potatoes, onions and miscellaneous groceries) during the year (provided by Harvest Manitoba)
- ◆ Learning with Digital Technology (iPads, iMovies, green screen, Seesaw, Chromebooks, RazKids, Google Classroom)
- ◆ UDL (Universal Design for Learning)
- ◆ Anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day and Orange Shirt Day to honour those who attended residential schools
- ◆ Treaty Education
- ◆ Teacher PD day on 13 Moons, Tipi Teachings
- ◆ Choir performance for MMF, a televised Christmas special
- ◆ Nature Based Learning: for students to learn in and from nature
- ◆ Mindfulness to promote mental health and wellness
- ◆ Our priority to improve literacy and numeracy remains an on-going focus. We continued to implement our 'Response to Intervention' strategies to increase the number of students who read at grade level.
- ◆ Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics Framework; Numbers Talk
- ◆ Family Fun "Math Night" ; Summer Solstice Family BBQ
- ◆ Destination Imagination
- ◆ Coding, Frankenstuffy and Lego Clubs
- ◆ Farewell and Awards Assemblies
- ◆ Indigenous literature for guided reading
- ◆ Positive Behaviour Interventions & Strategies (PBIS), Minds in Motion Program & Zones of Regulations to support self-regulation
- ◆ Clinical Support Services (Social Work, Psychology, Speech, and Reading Clinicians)
- ◆ Partnership with Ralph Brown Recreation Centre and Machray Daycare
- ◆ Created a Community Cultural Room
- ◆ Created a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) Lab

## Parent & Community Involvement

Our parents, caregivers and community members play an integral role in our learning community. We believe the partnership between home and school is a vital component to your child's success. Our goal is to ensure that parents and caregivers always feel welcome at Ralph Brown School and are motivated to support the school community by volunteering, participating in school events and joining our parent council. We are fortunate to have a number of parents working in the Lunch Program. Parents are encouraged to contact the classroom teachers via email or phone whenever necessary

This year Ralph Brown hosted a "Family Fun Math Night" complete with snacks and games; and a "Summer Solstice BBQ" with food and entertainment for all!

### Special acknowledgements include:

Our *Parent Council* was busy throughout the year with fundraising efforts to raise funds for the school. This year funds were put towards the upgrading of our technology equipment.

Thank you to *Nahanni Fontaine*, MLA St. Johns, for her generous support toward our Grade 6 Awards.

We would like to acknowledge our partnership with *Breakfast Club of Canada* and the *Child Nutrition Council of MB* who made it possible for us to provide our daily healthy snack and breakfast programs.

We would like to acknowledge the *Thomas Sill Foundation* who made it possible for us to develop our STEAM lab.

Shout out to *Casey Hellard of No Frills* for his generosity over the years.

Thank you to *Bob & George* - volunteers who delivered bread to us each week





## School Priorities

To provide robust and comprehensive education, equitable access, diverse opportunity, and a supportive learning environment for all students to help them prepare for their journey with values of learning and social justice, and to be responsible community members both in the English & Ukrainian Bilingual programs.

Further improve school attendance, achievements and graduation rates through the exploration of additional programs and strategies.

To further develop initiatives and Innovative approaches addressing individual student needs and accessibility requirements, mental health issues, childcare needs, and nutritional needs.



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Baby Karpenko was a special guest in Room P2 throughout the year as part of the “Roots of Empathy” program. This program fosters the development of empathy through observation, discussion and activities. Students are invited to identify and reflect on their own feelings and the feelings of others; laying the foundation for “Emotional Literacy” and ultimately, for more caring global citizens.



We have a strong Physical Education program, which exposes students to a wide variety of experiences. Additionally, we offer many before, lunchtime and after school activities that are well attended: Run Club, Fitness Club, Skate Club, Ski Club, Soccer and Football teams to name a few. This year we hosted (and won!) the Divisional Junior Boys’ Soccer Semi-Final game.



*A Circus Camp performer showing some moves.*

*Congrats to newest members of the Turkey Club - students who bowled 3 strikes in a row.*



*“Water Day” is always a big hit with the kids!*



## Ukrainian Bilingual Program Highlights

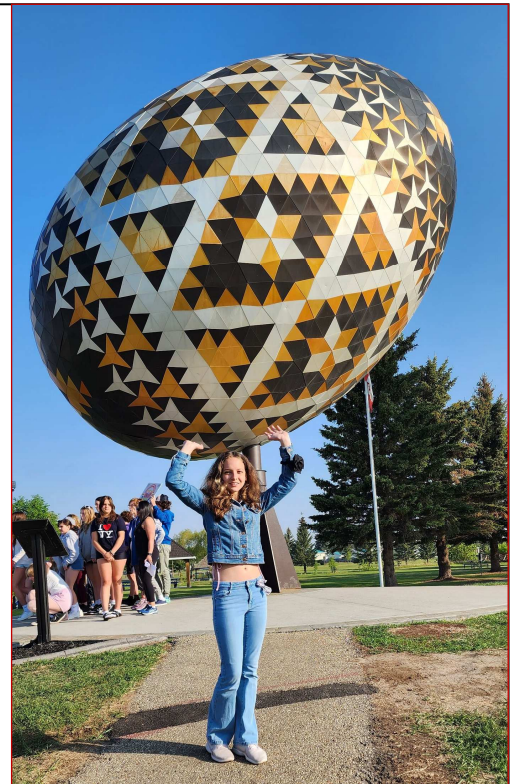
We are excited to see our program grow. This year we welcomed over 100 newcomers into the program. We are very proud of our Ukrainian program and have worked hard to ensure that our students are receiving a strong and enriched learning environment where they can practice the Ukrainian language, discover Ukrainian heritage and learn about Ukrainian culture. They also develop an understanding and appreciation of the Ukrainian cultural heritage in the Canadian context. This helps them build positive attitudes towards learning other languages and understanding other cultures.

Thank you to the following who have provided our program with support:

- ♦ Carpathia Credit Union for their ongoing financial support
- ♦ St. Boniface Ukrainian Foundation for their ongoing financial support
- ♦ Osvita Foundation for their ongoing financial support
- ♦ Manitoba Parents for Ukrainian Education (MPUE) who work closely with staff, parents and students in planning activities and adding to the students' experiences in the program

### Activities & Events:

- ♦ Pysanky (egg decorating) workshops were held with students and staff trying their hand at this ancient art form.
- ♦ All staff helped to recognize "Vyshyvanky Day" - when the traditional Ukrainian shirt/blouse is worn world-wide
- ♦ "Ukrainian Week" heard a brief description of a tradition over the morning announcements, and featured a Ukrainian flavour to our Healthy Snack program.
- ♦ Students in the English-Ukrainian Bilingual program recited poems for St. Nicholas, who came to visit in December with a small treat for every student in the school.
- ♦ Ukrainian Choir spread joy at Christmas by caroling (Kolyada) at local business and community residences
- ♦ Ukrainian Christmas Eve Dinner Celebration where guests are entertained by carollers and treated to a traditional feast.
- ♦ Ukrainian Easter Breakfast is celebrated with a traditional breakfast & performances by our Ukrainian program students
- ♦ Cultural, language and heritage learning experiences which include field trips and camps: Gr. 7 & 8 students Venture to Vegerville, Gr. 6 Ukrainian language camp at the U of M, Gr. 5 students visit to the Legislature, Gr. 4 students visit to the Leo Mol Sculpture Gardens



Pictured above: *Students posed for pictures beside the giant pysanka in Vegreville, Alberta.*

Below: *The choir performed for St. Nicholas and guests during our annual Ukrainian Christmas Eve dinner.*

