

CHAMPLAIN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

**A safe and
caring learning
Community,
Where Every-
one Counts!**

Champlain School is a nursery to Grade 6 elementary school nestled in Winnipeg's North End.

We are home to approximately 230 students, 40 staff (teachers, educational assistants, clerks, custodians, and clinicians), and parent/ community volunteers.

We have eight grades 1-6 and three Nursery/ Kindergarten classrooms.

We are also home to Champlain Community Child care Centre.

Dear Champlain families,

Welcome to December! We are so excited to continue the joy of creativity and learning at Champlain School. Our Winter concert is on December 4th at 6pm. We will be hosting at Champlain School in the gym. Thank-you all the staff and students for their hard-work in preparing for this exciting evening. A special thank-you to Ms. Esther!

With the colder weather warm clothing is essential! We are reminding all families to ensure children are coming to school with warm clothes like jackets, boots, hats, gloves and sweaters for class. If you need support with access to warm clothing, Please reach out to Ms. Elizabeth, our community support worker.

December also brings a few special events in the last week of December:. Our **Winter Solstice Celebration** on Wednesday, December 17 will be coordinated by our grade 5/6 class and parents to share Indigenous seasonal teachings and food. Our **Santa breakfast** will be on the morning of Thursday, December 18 for our students. Thanks to the staff for making the pancakes and thanks to the parent council for coordinating the event. We are also excited to bring for our Spirit Week on the last week of school.

At Champlain we continue to build community with our learning about **Wahkotowin**, a Cree word meaning "kinship" or "the state of being related. On Friday, December 12 students will grouped across grades to engage in various activities throughout the school. As part of Champlain's Road to Reconciliation, we continue our work with Niigaan Sinclair learning series.

Staff at Champlain have been engaging in Professional Learning regarding Math Teaching and Learning. Our work with the Big Four and focus on difference continues to engage students with robust learning.

Our parent council is working on developing our Constitution. We hope to share a DRAFT in January, 2026.

Our last Day of school before the Winter break is Friday, December 19, 2025 and our First Day back is Monday, January 5, 2026.

Have a safe and HAPPY HOLIDAY!

Sincerely,
Mr. Paulo Teixeira
Principal



Follow us on Instagram
@champlain_school_wsd

Champlain is a PBIS school and we follow our 3 Beliefs:

We are Safe

We are Respectful,

We are Ready to Learn!

These beliefs help us to be a caring learning community by learning from our mistakes and reinforcing positive choices.

School Hours/Supervision of Students

8:50	1st Bell - Students line up on hard top
8:55	Students enter school
9:00	2nd Bell - School day begins
9:00 - 9:10	Morning Meetings
9:10 - 10:40	First Learning Block
10:40 - 10:55	Morning Nutrition Break
10:55 - 11:25	Morning Recess
11:25 - 12:55	Second Learning Block
1:00 - 1:55	Lunch hour
1:55	1st Bell - Students enter school
2:00 - 3:30	Third Learning Block
3:30	Dismissal

Playground supervision

The playground supervision in the morning only begins at 8:50am. Students may arrive at 8:30am for breakfast.



Playground supervision over the lunch hour is limited to lunch program students. If your child does not stay for lunch at school, please do not send them to play on the playground as there is no supervision. Please do not send your children before 1:55 PM.

After school, we clear the playground and ask that all children to “check in” with home before staying to play. Our desire is for all students to be safe.



WHY ARE PATROLS IMPORTANT?

Champlain Patrols...

- Help students get home safely
- Signal the cars to stop so students can cross the street safely
- Protect the students
- Are a visual signal to drivers that students are around
- Are role models who represent our school

Patrols can save lives!

Champlain patrols are safe, respectful and responsible

Students being street smart

Does your child know how to be **street smart**? It's something we talk about in our classrooms because the safety of our students is very important. It's also a good thing to talk about at home as a regular reminder for your child.

Being street smart means knowing how to keep safe from strangers when we're alone or with other kids. Walking to school, the bus, the playground or riding your bike in your neighborhood, being street smart helps you stay **safe**.

Our school takes it very seriously when a student reports a suspicious person. In most cases, a police report is made and, sometimes, police are able to quickly interview the "suspicious" person and determine that it was a misunderstanding. At other times, however, police are required to conduct a bigger investigation of a more serious threat. We will let you know if we make a report of a suspicious person to police on behalf of one of our students because we believe that an informed community is a safer community.

Parents are encouraged to go to the ***winnipeg.ca website and click on Parents – Safe Schools*** to find a link called [**"Be Street Smart"**](#). Here you will find a list of topics to share with your child to help them be street smart and safe, including knowing:

Who are strangers?

Who needs to know where I am and why?

Why should I stick with a friend?

What are my safe spots?

What are the places that aren't safe for me?

What should I do if a stranger asks me for help?

Champlain School Code of Conduct

Input provided by:
Champlain staff, students and families



Who Am I ?

Peace

I will:

- accept others as they are and welcome everyone
- seek help and support for myself and others when needed
- work to resolve conflicts peacefully and contribute to a positive school environment

Land and Environmental Care

I will:

- recognize our school is on traditional Indigenous territories
- care for the land
- care for the land and environment and am aware of environmental issues

Equity

I recognize that:

- each of us have different identities, strengths, abilities, and needs
- this school provides me with opportunities to enhance my strengths and abilities to meet my needs
- support and assistance is available to all

Where do I come from?

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be Ready to learn

Champlain School Code of Conduct

Online Safety

I will:

- adhere to the Winnipeg School Division online safety policy and am aware of digital and online safety strategies
- demonstrate responsibility, respect, and care in all my online and social media activities

Rights and Responsibilities

I have the right to:

- ask for help and the responsibility to get help
- have the opportunities and desire to succeed
- make my own decisions and accept the consequences to those actions

Sharing and Respect

I understand that:

- I share this school with students, staff, parents and community members from diverse backgrounds and social identities
- I am to respect students, staff, and all community members and I am worthy of their respects

Courage

I know:

- when and how to respectfully stand up for myself and others
- I must report wrongful acts such as: bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, assault, and words or actions motivated by hate, bias or discrimination

Truth

I know:

- how to be true to myself and others and to tell the truth
- that my actions can either have a positive or negative impact
- how to take responsibility for my own words, thoughts, and actions

Why am I here?



Champlain school follows the Winnipeg School Division's Code of Conduct for safe and caring schools.

Where am I going?



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

STRATEGIC PLAN

2025-2030

MORAL PURPOSE

Winnipeg School Division provides a learning environment that fosters the growth of every learner's potential and provides equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, and ways of being necessary for nurturing a just, sustainable, and democratic society where everyone belongs, thrives, and is included.

GUIDING QUESTION

What are the most powerful actions WSD can take to ignite and cultivate paths to the good life, Mino-Pimatisiwin, for all learners, particularly those most underserved?

JOY

Creating a sense of community

Provide opportunities for learners to feel confident in the future, inspired, fulfilled, engaged, and full of hope.

LOVE

Supporting a sense of belonging

Where every learner is known by multiple adults and they feel safe, respected and free to express their true selves.

RIGOUR

Preparing learners for excellence

Where every learner feels supported and challenged to excel every day through meaningful activities and lessons to achieve their goals.

HIGH-LEVEL STRATEGIES



Seek Truth & Reconciliation

- Answer Calls to Action related to the cultivation of culture, community, language, and land in our schools.
- Remove barriers for Indigenous Peoples to lead WSD and contribute to the WSD community.



Build Community Schools that are Barrier Free

- Eliminate barriers to education, including all exclusionary practices.
- Create sticky schools that extend the day and keep learners close.
- Nurture neighbourhood schools that support all learners.



Develop a Culture of Thinking & Shared Sense of Responsibility for all Children

- Develop the capacity in school leaders to unleash the power of the classroom teacher.
- Cultivate the conditions for the highest quality teaching and deepest learning.



Equitable Distribution of Resources

- Distribute resources to have maximum impact for the learners who need them most.
- Empower and support schools to shift resources for maximum impact.

STUDENT SUPPORT PROCESS

Restorative practices can help strengthen relationships among students, families, and staff when concerns arise at school.

Let's work together to resolve matters and make sure everyone has a safe learning environment.



1

Speak with your child about the situation to gain their perspective.



2

Contact the classroom teacher. Teachers are directly involved with students and offer the best insight.

3

If concerns are not addressed, reach out to the school principal for support.



4

For ongoing issues, call the Superintendent's Department at 204-775-0231. Indicate the school you are calling about. WSD leadership will respond.

5

If challenges persist, contact the Board and Community Liaison Officer at 204-789-0469. They work with families and the Board of Trustees to reach a solution.

More information: [Restorative Practice Policy](#)



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

Please ensure to send warm clothing with your child to school. If you need support accessing warm clothing, please connect with Ms. Elizabeth in the parent room.



Winnipeg School Division Cold Weather Guidelines

Here are some guidelines in order to help you during the winter season when your child is getting ready for school. Check the wind chill before going outdoors in the winter, and individuals are to make sure they are well prepared for the weather. Even moderate wind chill values can be dangerous if individuals are outside for long periods.



<u>Wind Chill</u>	<u>Risk of Frostbite</u>	<u>Other Health concerns</u>	<u>What to Do</u>
0-9	LOW	Slight increase in discomfort	Dress warmly, with the outside temperature in mind Stay dry.
-10 to -2	LOW	Uncomfortable Risk of hypothermia if outside for long periods without adequate protection.	Dress in layers of warm clothing with an outer layer that is wind resistant. Wear a hat, mittens or insulated gloves, a scarf or neck warmer and waterproof footwear
-28-39 INDOOR RECESS	RISK: Exposed skin can freeze in 10-30 minutes.	Risk of frostbite Risk of hypothermia	Dress in layers of warm clothing with an outer layer that is wind resistant. Wear a hat, mittens or insulated gloves, a scarf or neck warmer and waterproof footwear Stay active.
-40-47 INDOOR RECESS	HIGH RISK: exposed skin can freeze in 5-10 minutes	High risk of frostbite. Risk of hypothermia is outside for long periods of time without adequate clothing or shelter.	Dress in layers of warm clothing with an outer layer that is wind resistant. Wear a hat, mittens or insulated gloves, a scarf or neck warmer and waterproof footwear Stay active. Cover all exposed skin.

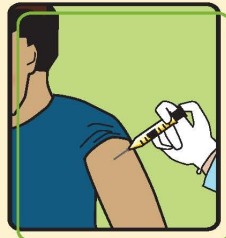
What You Can Do to Fight the Flu



1. Cover your coughs and sneezes.



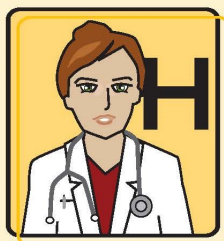
2. Wash your hands a lot.



3. Get a flu shot.



4. Stay home and call your doctor if you are sick.



5. Go to the doctor or hospital right away if you get worse or have trouble breathing.

For more information about the flu, call Health Links-Info Santé at 788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257.

Healthy Child Manitoba
Putting children and families first
Manitoba



Cover Your Cough and Sneeze



- Cover your mouth and nose using your upper sleeve or elbow.

OR



- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue.
- Throw used tissue in the garbage.
- Wash your hands with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer can be used.



Healthy Child Manitoba
Putting children and families first
Manitoba

Land-Based Learning



During the month of November, land-based learning took place outside at every opportunity with the gorgeous fall weather we've been having.

Learners have been gathering around the medicine wheel outside on the hard top as a routine to start our learning and connecting with one another through a talking circle.

Learning concepts this month included

- Observing seasonal changes in the trees and how animals are preparing for the winter months.
- Learning how to count tree rings to learn how old a tree is from cut pieces of tree trunk
- Learned about the Balsam tree and how the sap from the tree can help with sore throats
- Learned some traditional Indigenous Games in relation to hunting skills
- Continue awareness of being outside for our mental well-being to get fresh air, for mindfulness, and grounding techniques

Its exciting to see the snow starting to arrive!

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately with many layers of clothing for Land-Based learning ☐

Weekly classroom Day Cycle rotation:

1:55 - 12:25

12:25 - 12:55

Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
207	215	213	214
211	209	212	216

ROOM 215 — Ms. Sigvaldason

Sage Inquiry Project

Earlier in September, our class and room 212 visited Little Mountain Park in Winnipeg to begin an inquiry project about sage. Since our field trip, we have been continuing our learning, exploring questions about where sage grows, how it is traditionally used, and why it is considered an important plant in many Indigenous cultures.

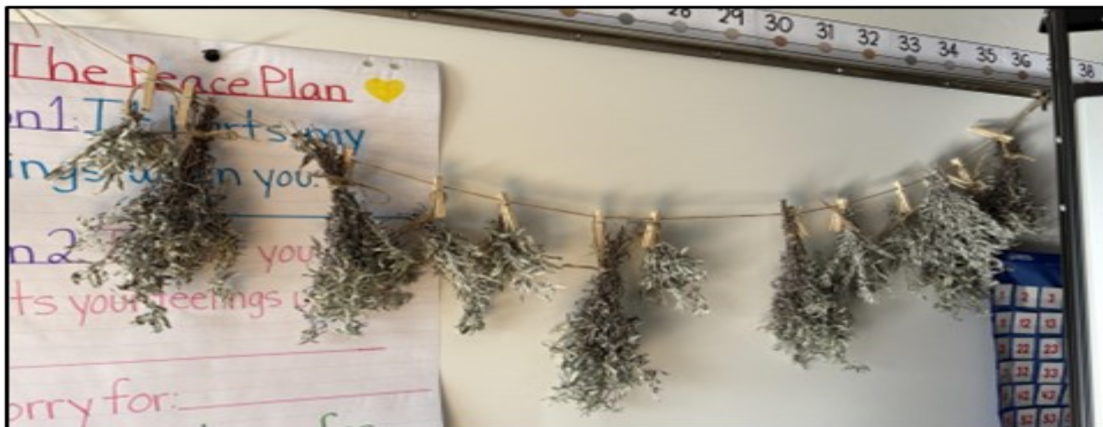


During our visit, students had the opportunity to observe sage in its natural environment and take part in a respectful harvesting activity. With guidance from Ms. Stephanie, we learned about the traditional uses of sage, including its role in ceremony, cleansing, and wellness. She shared teachings that helped students understand the cultural importance of sage and the responsibility we have to harvest it with care, gratitude, and respect.



Back at school, students continued their inquiry through discussions, research, and creative activities. Most recently, they worked in groups to create informational posters that highlight what they have learned—how sage is used, where it grows, and why connecting with the land matters. These posters have been shared with our school community so others could learn from our experience as well.

This ongoing project has helped students build a deeper connection to nature, develop inquiry skills, and learn from Indigenous knowledge in a meaningful and respectful way.



Champlain Library



Christmas is coming and all students are excited – and so are we! Our students kindly helped the librarian decorate the library for the New Year. Although the decorations are still ongoing, the library already looks wonderful.

Students enjoy participating in library activities and exploring books in the school library.

Here are some of the items they made to decorate the library.



PARENT ROOM

December 2025

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1 Parent Talking Circle 9:30 - 10:30	2	3 Parent Talking Circle 9:30 - 10:30	4	5 NO SCHOOL	6	7
8	9 parent drop -ins 9-11:30	10	11 Holiday ornament making together... 10 - 12 in the MDD	12	13	14
15 Volunteers for Breakfast with Santa meet @ 9:30am.	16	17 Winter Solstice celebration during the day for students.	18 Breakfast With Santa Day !!	19 Last Day before break !!	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

December Parent Activities @ Champlain School.

Parent Talking Circle

Join us for a relaxing time of connection for parents and caregivers.

Dec.1st and Dec. 3rd. at 9:30am. – 10:30am.

Holiday ornament making

Join us and make a holiday ornament or gift for a friend.

Dec. 11th 10am – 12.

All materials will be supplied.

Breakfast with Santa is coming on December 18th !

We are so excited and want to make it extra special for our students. If you would be interested in helping us make some magic on this day, please reach out and attend our Volunteer planning day on December 15th @ 9:30 am.

Winter Solstice Celebrations for students will take place on December 17th. If you are a caregiver/parent that would like to volunteer and participate in this day of learning and fun. Please reach out to Elizabeth or Ms. Stephanie for more information on how you can support us.

GRANDMOTHER'S BREAKFAST



On November 27 we welcomed our grandmothers for a morning of fellowship, and delicious food.






Grandmothers are important caregivers in our community and we appreciate all you do to support our students and families.

A huge-thank-you to Ms. Elizabeth for coordinating



Champlain Winter Spirit Week 2025



Monday Dec. 15th	Tuesday Dec. 16th	Wed. Dec. 17th	Thurs. Dec. 18th	Friday Dec. 19th
Wacky sock day  Wear mismatched or the craziest socks you can find!	Hat day  Rock your favourite hat, maybe even a holiday hat or a toque!	Wear a word or backwards day  Wear a shirt that can be read or turn your shirt around!	Colour day  116 & 117 wear white 214 & 216 wear blue 213, 215, 212 wear green 211, 209, 207 wear red Also be ready for a visit from Santa!	PJ / Comfy clothes day  Cozy up for the last day of school before winter break!

Day	Date	Item
1	Tuesday, Sept 2	ADMIN day – No School
2	Wednesday, Sept 3	First day of school for grades 1 to 6
3	Wednesday, Sept 3 - 5	Nursery-Kindergarten – Staggered Start
5	Monday, Sept 8	First day of Nursery/Kindergarten
6	Tuesday, Sept 9	Common Area Training
6	Thursday, Sept 25	Community Fall Gathering – 5 to 7 pm
2	Monday, Sept 29	Orange Shirt Day
	Tuesday, Sept 30	National Day of Truth & Reconciliation – No School
5	Friday, October 3	Bus Ridership
6	Monday, October 6	Staff Meeting – 3:40pm
2	Wednesday, October 8	WSD PD non-instructional day
	Monday, October 13	Thanksgiving - No school
4	Tuesday, October 21	Picture Day
5	Wednesday, October 22	Gr 6 Immunizations in am
1	Friday, October 24	MTS PD Day non-instructional day
1	Monday, November 3	Staff Meeting – 3:40pm
2-4	November 4-6	Hearing Screening
6	Monday, November 10	Remembrance Day - Service
	Tuesday, November 11	Remembrance Day – No School
1	Thursday, November 20	Parent-Teacher Conferences – 4:00 to 7:30pm
2	Friday, November 21	Parent-Teacher Conferences non-instructional day
4	Tuesday, November 25	Mobile-Vision Clinic
5	Wednesday, November 26	Smile + Dental Screening
6	Thursday, November 27	Photo Retakes
2	Monday, December 1	Report Cards go home
2	Monday, December 1	Staff meeting – 3:40pm
5	Thursday, December 4	Winter Concert
6	Friday, December 5	PD day non-instructional day
2	Wednesday, December 17	Winter Solstice Celebration
3	Thursday, December 18	Santa Breakfast
4	Friday, December 19	Last day before winter break

Day	Date	Item
5	Monday, January 5	First day back from winter break
6	Tuesday, January 6	Common Area Training
4	Monday, January 12	Staff Meeting – 3:40pm
1	Monday, February 2	PD day non-instructional day
6	Monday, February 9	Staff Meeting – 3:40pm
	Monday, February 16	Louis-Riel Day – No School
1	Thursday, February 19	Celebration of Learning – 5 to 7pm
2	Monday, March 2	Staff Meeting – 3:40pm
6	Monday, March 16	Report cards go home
3	Thursday, March 19	Student-led conferences evening – 4:00 to 7:30 pm
4	Friday, March 20	Student-led conferences non-instructional day
3	Friday, March 27	Last day before spring break
4	Monday, April 6	First day back from spring break
5	Tuesday, April 7	Common Area Training
4	Tuesday, April 14	Bus Ridership
2	Friday, April 10	PD Day non-instructional day
3	Monday, April 13	Staff Meeting – 3:40pm
5	Thursday, April 23	Family Night – 5 to 7pm
4	Thursday, April 30	Spring Photos
6	Monday, May 4	Staff Meeting – 3:40pm
4	Friday, May 8	PD Day non-instructional day
	Monday, May 18	Victoria Day – No School
6	Thursday, May 21	Celebration of Learning – 5 to 7pm
1	Monday, June 1	Staff Meeting – 3:40pm
3	Thursday, June 11	Community Year End Gathering – 5 to 7pm
5	Monday June, 15	Admin Day non-instructional day
5	Tuesday, June 23	Grade 6 Farewell 11:00am
4	Tuesday, June 30	Last day of school – 11:30am dismissal

December 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Day 2 Report Cards go home 	2 Day 3	3 Day 4	4 Day 5 Winter Concert at 6:00pm 	5 Day 6 Non-Instructional Day No Classes 
8 Day 1	9 Day 2	10 Day 3	11 Day 4	12 Day 5 Wahkotowin Learning Cree word meaning "kinship" or "the state of being related"
15 Day 6 Champlain Winter Spirit Week 2025	16 Day 1	17 Day 2 Winter Solstice Celebration 5:30-7:30 pm 	18 Day 3 Santa Breakfast 	19 Day 4 Last day before winter break 
22	23	24	25	26
29	30 	31	<div> Looking ahead..... Monday, January 5 First Day of Classes after Winter Break Tuesday, January 7 Common Area Training </div>	