

FEBRUARY 2026

<https://www.winnipegsd.ca/inkster>

Newsletter

INKSTER SCHOOL

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Top News of the Month

Aside from the cold temperatures, I always enjoy the month of January as students settle back into familiar routines and are eager for the new year ahead.

Room 5 led our assembly on the teaching of Wisdom and the beaver. They performed skits, shared art and power-points and most importantly, reminded us that even small actions are wise choices and to use our gifts with kindness and wisdom. Inter-school volleyball, Room 5's trip to the Project 11 Wellness Summit, Family Night and the highly anticipated Grade 5/6 Winter Camp were all highlights of January!

On Monday, Feb. 2 Inkster staff attended various professional learning sessions hosted at R.B. Russell and Children of the Earth. Three of our talented teachers were presenters! The day was well attended with over 400 staff from different schools participating in learning around Indigenous knowledge, pedagogy and education. Wally Chartrand and Niigaan Sinclair were keynote speakers.

As we enter into February, there is a lot to look forward to with I Love to Read, Black History Month and the excitement of the Olympics! Also exciting this month is the Swimming Counts program where Grade 4 students have three in-pool sessions to enhance their water safety skills. The Mobile Vision Clinic returns to Inkster on Feb. 17 and several classrooms are going on field trips this month. We hope Room 2, 6 and 36 enjoy their time at Fort Whyte, Room 1 appreciates the Festival du Voyageur experience and Room 10 delights at the wonder of winter animals at the zoo!

Sincerely,
N. De Luca

February Events

Feb. 2 - Non-Instructional Day - NO SCHOOL

Feb. 3 - Parent Council Meeting (ISPAC) 6pm, library

Feb. 5, 12, 19 - Gr 4 Swimming Counts

Feb. 16 - Louis Riel Day - NO SCHOOL

Looking ahead to March:

Report Cards emailed
March 17

Student-Led Conferences
March 19 & 20

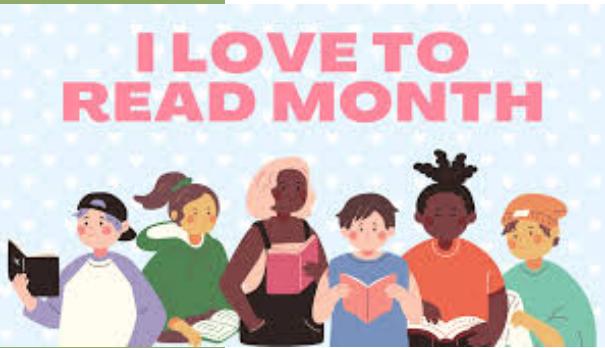
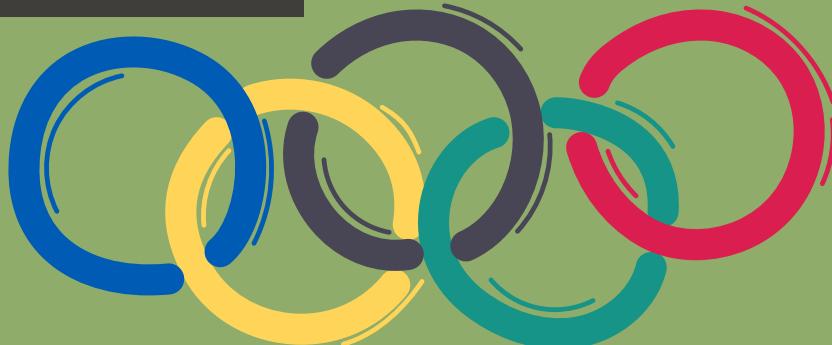
No School - March 20

Spring Break
March 28 - April 5

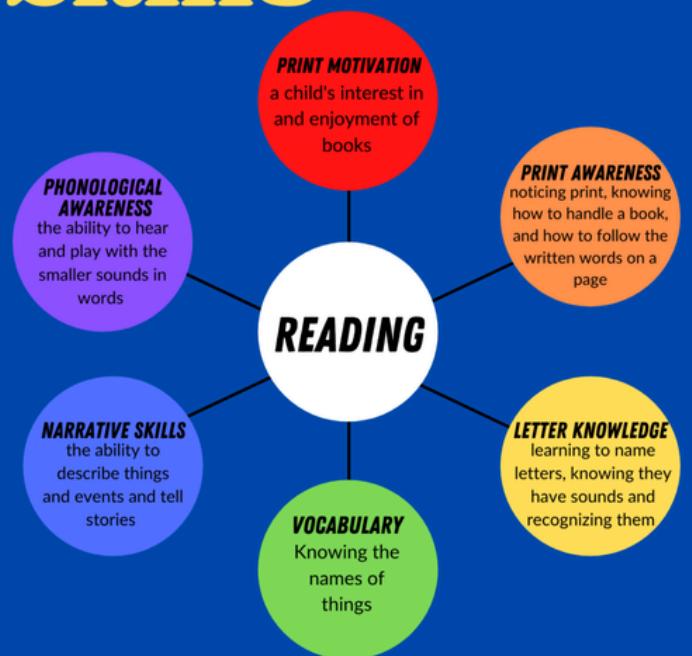
I Love to Read Month

February is I Love to Read month to promote and celebrate literacy skills through special school-wide activities. This year's theme is "**Reading Champions: Going for the Gold!**" combining literacy and the winter Olympics. The I Love to Read Committee has created the following schedule of events:

- Opening Ceremonies - Friday, Feb. 6 - 9:30am - Parade of nations
 - Each classroom will:
 - Select a country to represent in the opening ceremonies and create a flag
 - Parade around the gym when their nation is called
- Passport of Reading - Feb. 6-23
 - Each student will:
 - Receive a passport of reading activities
 - Collect a stamp for every activity completed at school or at home
 - Hand in their completed passport by Feb. 20 to be entered for a book prize draw
- Reading Biathlon (Read & Move) - Feb. 10 & 17
 - Students read for a determined amount of time then complete a movement challenge
- Reading Olympics Scoreboard (Class and Individual Medals) - Feb. 6-23
 - Classrooms will set the number of reading minutes for their class to reach a bronze medal, silver medal and gold medal in reading
 - Each class will track their reading minutes as a team goal to reach the medals and earn the big prize: movie day!
 - Goal medal sheet may also be used for individual student reading goals to earn individual medals
- Door Decoration - Feb. 6-20
 - Classrooms will decorate their classroom door by Feb. 20 with Olympic imagery featuring a sport, an athlete or a country
- Olympic jokes - Feb. 9-20 (odd days)
 - Olympic jokes during the morning announcements
- Canadian Olympic athlete of the day - Feb. 9-20 (even days)
 - Profile of a Black Canadian athlete during the morning announcements
- Guest readers - Feb. 6-26
- Olympic torch reading - Feb. 6-23
 - Students read with flashlights that look like mini Olympic torches
- Closing Ceremonies - Feb. 23
 - Students will parade around the gym displaying their flag, team and individual medals earned from the reading challenge



Literacy Skills



These skills set the foundation for your child's future in literacy. In the following pages, teachers give a snapshot and describe what literacy looks like in their classroom

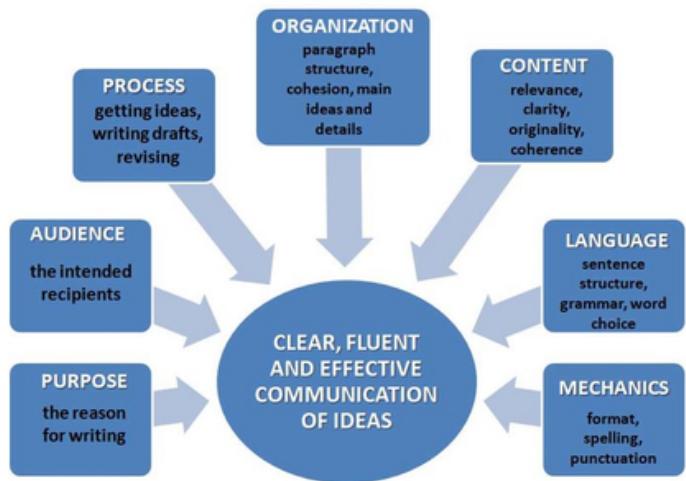
LITERACY SNAPSHOT ROOM 10

The students of room 10 have learned that winter is the season for sharing stories. We read books about animals, nature and people from around the world. We tell each other stories about the important and funny things that happen in our lives. The students have been learning the letters and sounds of the alphabet, and have been practicing drawing and printing, expressing our ideas on paper as another way of sharing stories with others.



You learn to *write* better by *reading*.
You learn to *read* better by *writing*.
Reading and writing *work* *together* to improve your ability to *think*!

WRITING as a **productive** skill



LITERACY SNAPSHOT

ROOM 9

Literacy in Room 9 starts from the moment the students walk through the door! It is thoughtfully integrated throughout all areas of classroom learning and grounded in rich, purposeful experiences that support children's language, reading, writing, and thinking. Parts of literacy learning happen naturally through play and exploration including dramatic play, blocks, art, science, and outdoor learning. Creating a classroom where language is abundant and meaningful is essential. Talking, listening, and conversation are in our everyday routines – during play, transitions, shared activities, and interactions with peers and adults. This builds vocabulary, oral language fluency, and comprehension.

Foundational phonics skills are taught through meaningful activities that connect sound and symbol. Explicit literacy instruction is embedded into our daily classroom routines as well, including table tasks, the daily message, story time, and more. Daily word work, read-alouds, songs, chants, and poems further support language development and foster a love of literacy. In kindergarten, students are continuously expanding their vocabulary and learning to listen closely to the sounds in words as they connect letters to their corresponding sounds. Young learners build critical early literacy skills by exploring and manipulating sounds in language. Through games, songs, rhymes, and routines, students strengthen their ability to notice and work with sounds – an important foundation for later reading and spelling. These skills are reinforced through a variety of meaningful writing experiences.

Writing is taught as a powerful tool for communication. Kindergarten writers engage in a range of writing experiences, from drawing and dictating to letter formation and composing simple sentences. Students are supported through modelled writing, shared writing, guided writing experiences, oral storytelling, explicit printing practice, alphabet awareness activities, phonics instruction, and daily independent writing opportunities. In room 9, all students are encouraged to see themselves as capable and confident writers.

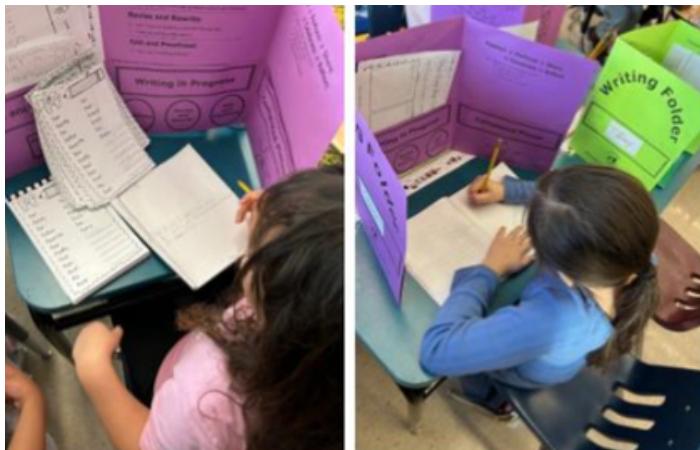


LITERACY SNAPSHOT

In Room 6, we focus on building strong readers and confident writers. Students participate in small literacy groups that support phonics, word work, reading comprehension, and fluency. In writing, students explore different genres, including fiction, informational, and persuasive texts. They learn to generate ideas, organize their thoughts, and write for a purpose and an audience. Students learn common words and practice using correct spelling, punctuation, and sentences. Students are encouraged to revise and edit their work before publishing and presenting their writing to classmates.



ROOM 6



ROOM 2



Students of Room 2 attend daily Reading Group lessons. During groups, students read a book and learn about how words work. They may also practice letter formation or write a sentence. Groups are small and led by teachers. Students use iPads daily to read using a program called Tumblebooks.

Outside of reading groups, students have many opportunities for reading and writing during the day. Journal writing and book making are some writing activities students enjoy. Earlier in the school year, the class participated in an Illustration Techniques workshop instructed by Mrs. Forrest. Students use this knowledge to illustrate and write their own story books. Writing takes place across many subject areas (Science, Social Studies etc.).

There are many books available in Room 2 and we go to the Library once a cycle to choose a book. Students have several opportunities to read for pleasure throughout the day. They can choose to read books about any themes we are studying, holidays or special events that are happening or any other topic that may interest them.

Literacy is alive and well in Room 2. Ask your child about it!

LITERACY SNAPSHOT

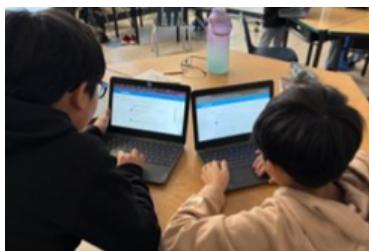
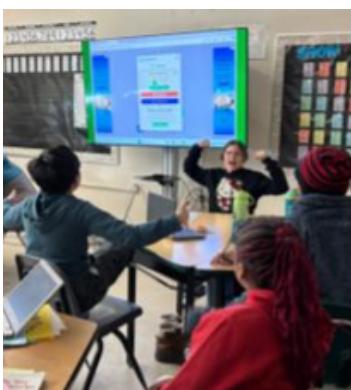
Literacy is a key part of our day in Room 36. We use UFLI Foundations, an explicit and systematic phonics program, to build strong reading skills.

Students enjoy daily read-alouds to support comprehension and a love of books, along with regular writing time to express their ideas. We also take part in Book Buddies with the Kindergarten students, helping build confidence and fluency, and read to self time, where students practice reading independently with books they enjoy.

ROOM 36



ROOM 4



In room 4, literacy is lively, meaningful, and something we celebrate every day. Students take part in book clubs where they share ideas, ask questions, and deepen their understanding of what they read.

We build vocabulary and word skills through fun, interactive games that challenge students to think critically using clues and letters.

As a class, we enjoy a shared novel, engaging with the text through retelling, making predictions, and making thoughtful connections.

Alongside our structured writing lessons, students also enjoy creative writing time, where they can write independently or collaborate with peers to bring their ideas to life.



LITERACY SNAPSHOT

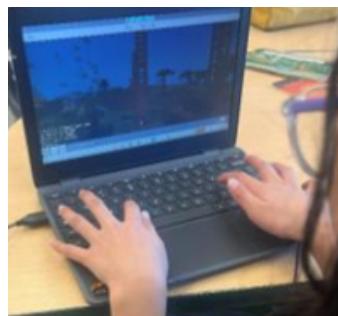
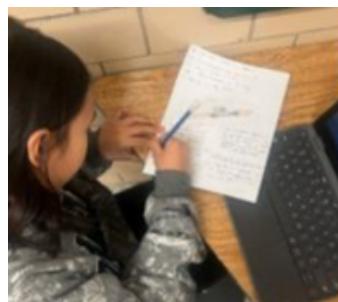
ROOM 5

In our Grade 5/6 classroom, literacy is at the heart of everything we do. Students read, write, speak, and think across all subject areas, not just during reading time. Whether we're exploring novels, writing reflections, or collaborating in small groups, literacy helps us make meaning and communicate our ideas clearly.

We also use literacy through technology, coding, and digital creation. With Minecraft Education, students read instructions, write code, follow multi-step challenges, and document their learning. Using Micro:bits, students apply literacy skills to interpret tutorials, write and debug code, and communicate their design choices and problem-solving steps. Technology becomes another space where precise language, clear communication, and creative thinking matter.

In science, literacy shows up as students read informational texts, record observations, write hypotheses, and communicate results. In social studies, students analyze maps, interpret primary sources, read about diverse cultures, and write to express their perspectives and learning.

Across all subjects, literacy helps students ask questions, solve problems, and share their ideas with confidence. Our classroom is a place where reading, writing, speaking, and digital communication come together to support deep learning.



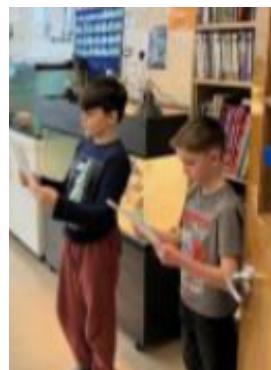
LITERACY SNAPSHOT

Literacy in Room 1 looks like.....

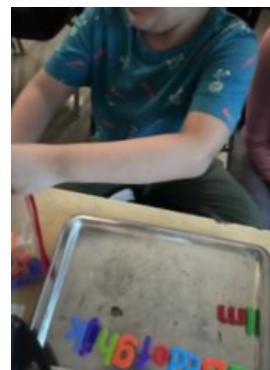
ROOM 1



Buddy reading



Writing and reading announcements to other classes



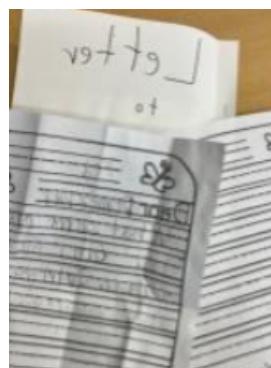
Learning letter sounds



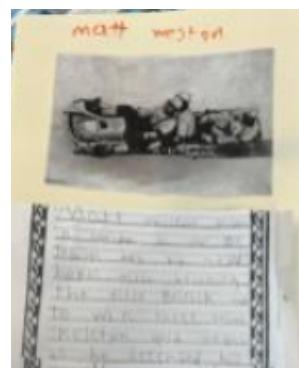
Reading poetry



Reading maps



Writing letters



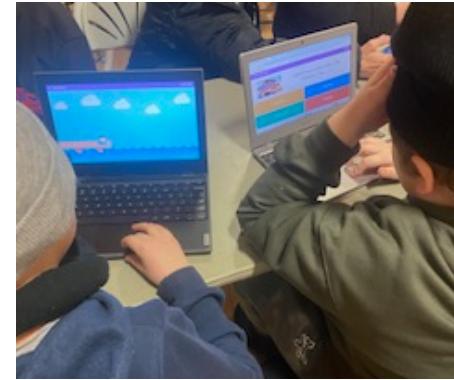
Research



Recording science experiment observations

Almost 100 people came to our Family Trivia Night for fun and prizes! Thank you to Parent Council who raised additional money for Grade 5/6 Camp and to the staff who helped make the event a success!

Family Trivia Night



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



February is recognized as Black History Month in Canada and other countries. People in Canada celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black Canadians who have had a role in making Canada culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous.

The 2026 theme for Black History Month is: "30 Years of Black History Month: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations – From Nation Builders to Tomorrow's Visionaries." This theme celebrates three decades of Black History Month in Canada by highlighting the enduring contributions of Black Canadians across time. Black history is not only about the past but also about shaping Canada's future. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>

BLACK ATHLETES WHO MADE OLYMPIC SPORT HISTORY FOR CANADA



[Black Canadian Athletes | The Canadian Encyclopedia](#)

[Black athletes who made Olympic sport history in Canada – Official Olympic Team](#)

[Black History Month: These trailblazing Black athletes transformed Canadian sports](#)



Sarah Nurse



Cynthia Appiah and Dawn Richardson-Wilson

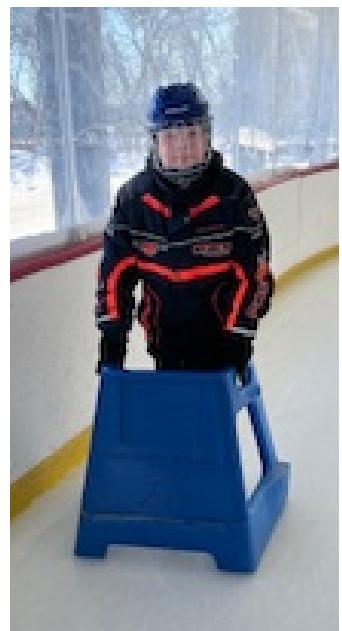
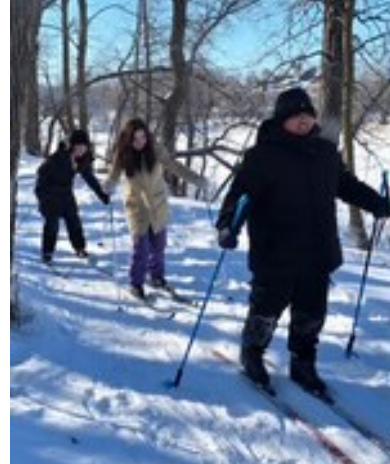
GOLD CANADA GOLD!

Visit <https://olympics.ca/games/milano-cortina-2026/> for more information on our amazing athletes, schedules and medal count!

Grade 5/6 Winter Camp



Over 50 Grade 5 and 6 students attended winter camp at Camp Manitou. Thanks to Parent Council's fundraising efforts and your support, the camp experience was free for all students!





LUNAR NEW YEAR

- The Lunar New Year, or Spring Festival, celebrated this year on February 17, 2026 is based on the Chinese Lunar calendar. Most people know this day as Chinese New Year but it is not only the people of China that celebrate this day. Other countries such as Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Indonesia, Tibet also honor this day. Celebrations include family reunions, lion/dragon dances, fireworks, and the exchange of red envelopes.



Each year in a 12-year cycle is assigned an animal in the Chinese zodiac classification system. Each animal is associated with a personality that represents the year and those born during that year. 2026 is the Year of the Horse.

Book Swap

Attention all families:

Please check your home libraries for books that you are no longer reading. Room 1 will be organizing a book swap in February for I Love To Read month. As books are brought to Room 1, students will receive a ticket for each book donated. Each ticket will allow the student to choose a book from the donated books in February.



Thank you!
Room 1

SAVE THE DATE

Student-Led Conferences Thursday, March 19 and Friday, March 20.

Booking information will be sent home to select your conference time through School Interviews beginning March 9.



News from Room 4

During this colder month, room 4 has continued to enjoy outdoor time during recess. A highlight was a brief inquiry into sundogs (parhelia) after students excitedly spotted what they described as a “rainbow” in the sky. We have also begun our new science unit on electricity, where students have been exploring hands-on experiments and are learning how to build simple circuits.



- **Mobile Vision Clinic is Coming!**



The Mobile Vision Care Clinic (MVCC) will be coming to Inkster once again on **February 17**. All students with completed forms will receive a comprehensive eye exam at school by a certified optometrist at no cost to families.

Lost and Found

Please label your child's clothing and winter gear as mix-ups with other students happen. Our Lost and Found area fills up quickly with hats, mitts, scarves, hoodies and all other kinds of items. Your child is responsible for their personal items while at school.



● **I Love to Skate Month**

Speed Skating Manitoba and WSD will host I Love to Skate month for January 2026. Students are encouraged to participate in community-based skating events:

1. Skating bingo cards will be available for interested students at the start of January. Students who complete the bingo card will be entered into a draw for skating prizes.
2. The Winnipeg Speed Skating Club will be offering a FREE skating program for students in Gr 4-6. The First and Fast Strides Program runs on Mondays starting January 5th to February 23rd from 6-6:45pm at Sargent Park Arena (1111 Wall St.) For more information and to register, please visit [Winnipeg Speed Skating](#) website



Inkster School Parent Advisory Council (ISPAC)

ISPAC works on behalf of all parents and guardians to discuss educational matters, assist in fundraisers and be involved in our children's education to support a high-quality education and school experience.

The Inkster School Parent Advisory Council is a group of parents selected by vote each year to represent parent views. Parent Councils have an important role to play in school improvement by ensuring that the parental perspective is represented.

We meet once a month for approximately one hour.

Executive Members

ISPAC Chair

Meagan Berry

ISPAC Co-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary

Kaylee Childs
Kelsey Petkau

Contact us

inksterpac@yahoo.com



Meeting Dates

**March 3
April 7
May 5
June 2**

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 6PM IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

The North District Advisory Committee is an Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees, which includes Parent Council representatives from all schools in the North District. In accordance with the Board's guidelines, the Advisory Committee is to include one parent representative selected by the Parent Council of each school. The Committee meeting schedule for the 2025/2026 school year is as follows:

Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. – Isaac Newton School (730 Aberdeen Ave)

If you wish to be the official parent representative on the North District Advisory Committee for Inkster School, please ensure you are at the next ISPAC meeting to be voted/selected.

Important Dates to Remember

NO SCHOOL ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

September 2	Non-Instructional Day	February 2	Non-Instructional Day
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	February 16	Louis Riel Day
October 8	Non-Instructional Day	March 20	Student Led Conferences
October 13	Thanksgiving Day	April 10	Non-Instructional Day
October 24	Non-Instructional Day	May 8	Non-Instructional Day
November 11	Remembrance Day	May 18	Victoria Day
November 21	Non-Instructional Day	June 26	Non-Instructional Day
December 5	Parent -Teacher Conferences		

SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Tuesday, September 2	Meet The Teacher - 4:30pm to 6:00pm
Wednesday, September 3	First Day of Classes
Thursday, September 11	Common Area Training
Friday, September 12	Picture Day
Mon-Fri, September 15-19	PBIS Reinforcement Week
Tues-Thurs, September 23-25	Kindergarten/ New to Division Hearing Screening
Monday, September 29	Orange Shirt Day
Wednesday, October 15	Bus Ridership AM & PM
Thursday, October 23	Family Night
Tuesday, October 28	Picture Retakes (AM only)
Monday, November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly -AM
Tuesday, December 2	Report Cards Emailed Home
Thursday, December 4	Parent -Teacher Conferences - Evening
Friday, December 5	Parent-Teacher Conferences - Morning
Mon-Fri, Dec. 15-19	Spirit Week
Wednesday, December 17	Winter Concert
Friday, December 19	Last Day Classes before Winter Break
Monday, January 5	School re-opens
Thursday, January 8	Common Area Training
Mon-Fri, Jan. 12-16	PBIS Reinforcement Week
Wednesday, January 28	Family Night (date change)
Friday, January 30	Gr 5/6 Winter Camp
February	I Love to Read and Write/ Literacy/ Black History/ Metis Heritage Month
Tuesday, February 17	Mobile Vision Clinic
Friday, March 6	Winter Fun Day
Tuesday, March 17	Report Cards Emailed Home
Thursday, March 19	Student Led Conferences - Evening
Friday, March 20	Student Led Conferences - Morning
Mon-Fri, Mar. 23-27	Spirit Week
Friday, March 27	Last Day of Classes before Spring Break
Monday, April 6	School Resumes
Wednesday, April 8	Day of Pink Pancake Breakfast & Assembly
Thursday, April 9	Common Area Training
Mon-Thurs, April 13-17	PBIS Reinforcement Week
Wednesday, April 20	Bus Ridership
Tuesday, May 5	Red Shirt Day
Thursday, June 4	WSD Pow Wow
Friday, June 12	Field Day
Wednesday, June 24	Grade 6 Farewell - PM
Thursday, June 25	Report Cards Emailed Home (date change)
Tuesday, June 30	Last day of school - 11:30am dismissal

FEBRUARY 2026

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

	2	NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY NO SCHOOL	3	DAY 2	4	DAY 3	5	DAY 4	6
						FIDDLE CLUB		GR 4 SWIMMING COUNTS RM 2, 6, 36 @ FORT WHYTE	
		GR 5/6 FLOOR HOCKEY 12:30-1						GR 5/6 FLOOR HOCKEY 12:30-1	
						VOLLEYBALL 3:30-4:30		INDIGENOUS DANCE	
								VOLLEYBALL 3:30-4:30	
	9	DAY 6	10	DAY 1	11	DAY 2	12	DAY 3	13
		GR 5/6 SOCCER 12-1 PM				FIDDLE CLUB		GR 4 SWIMMING COUNTS	
		VOLLEYBALL 3:30-4:30				GR 5/6 SOCCER 12-1 PM		VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT AT TYNDALL PARK -AM	
		GR 5/6 FLOOR HOCKEY 12:30-1				VOLLEYBALL 3:30-4:30		GR 5/6 FLOOR HOCKEY 12:30-1	
								INDIGENOUS DANCE	
								GR 1/2 OPEN GYM 12:30-1	
	16	LOUIS RIEL DAY NO SCHOOL	17	DAY 5	18	DAY 6	19	DAY 1	20
		LUNAR NEW YEAR MOBILE VISION CLINIC 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION OPEN FOR NEW WSD STUDENTS				FIDDLE CLUB		GR 4 SWIMMING COUNTS	
		GR 5/6 FLOOR HOCKEY 12:30-1				GR 5/6 SOCCER 12-1 PM		GR 5/6 FLOOR HOCKEY 12:30-1	
		RM 1 @ FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR						INDIGENOUS DANCE	
								GR 1/2 OPEN GYM 12:30-1	
	23	DAY 3	24	DAY 4	25	DAY 5	26	DAY 6	27
		OLYMPIC RINGS I LOVE TO READ CLOSING CEREMONY GR 5/6 SOCCER 12-1 PM				FIDDLE CLUB		GR 5/6 FLOOR HOCKEY 12:30-1	
		GR 5/6 FLOOR HOCKEY 12:30-1				GR 5/6 SOCCER 12-1 PM		INDIGENOUS DANCE	
								GR 1/2 OPEN GYM 12:30-1	