



École Sir William Osler February 2026 Newsletter

Principal: Dominique Ostermann



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1600 Grant Avenue

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

The month of January is now a memory for our school and community, and I am so excited to be back! The days may still be cold, but the learning indoors is really heating up. In the classroom, we continue to see growth in all areas of students' development. They have been learning so much and have been working diligently. We are looking forward to seeing some of their gains as we approach the next reporting period.

During the month of February, classes will be working on Black History Month, Festival du Voyageur, la St Valentin, and 100 day projects and activities.

The weather usually starts to warm up this month but continue to refer to the school's Cold Weather Guidelines. Students are expected to take part in outdoor recess when weather permits so, please make sure your child is appropriately dressed and their clothing is labelled. There is indoor recess when temperatures drop to -28°C (with the wind chill) and colder. We will continue to head outdoors with our Polar Bear Club when temperatures dip below the division guidelines. Merci to Mme Nicole and Mme Leianne who got this going during my absence!

Our Welcome to Nursery/Kindergarten Open House will be held Thursday, Feb 5 at 6:00-7:00 p.m. in our gym. If you have family, friends or neighbours who have children starting school next year, please let them know about our Open House. We will keep you informed about Grade 7 catchments as we receive more information. The current information for the 2026-2027 school year is that students will still have a choice to attend École Sir William Osler or École River Heights School.

The student registration process for all WSD schools for the upcoming 2026/27 academic year will all be online. If you require assistance in completing the forms or uploading documentation, please come to the school and Mme Sabrina will be happy to help. Key dates include February 17 - registration for students in the catchment area, April 6 - school of choice applications opens, May 15 - school of choice applications closes. Online registration opens at 9:00 a.m. on both dates. If you have family, friends or neighbours with children who will be 4 years old for nursery (born in 2022) or 5 years old for kindergarten (born in 2021) by December 31, 2026, please encourage them to check out the division website at school registration.

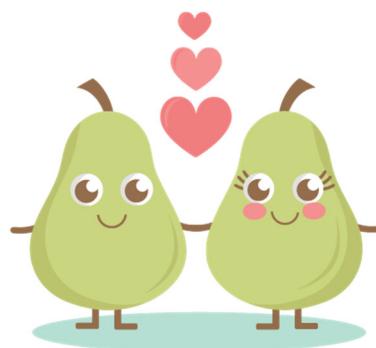
Our enrolment projections come up very soon as well. Student intention forms will go out February 6 through permission click and are due back February 13. Please make sure to complete your forms as soon as possible as these help to create what our classrooms will look like next year as well as our staffing.

Our spring fundraiser, Glenlea, opens up for online ordering February 1 and closes April 14.

Also, back by popular demand, our school clothing will again be available for purchase. Ordering will open February 9 and closes on February 20. More information will come soon in emails with ordering information for each event.

Thank you for all your support and assistance. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me or your classroom teacher if there is anything we can assist you with or if you have any questions.

Mme Ostermann



Parent Advisory Council



Our École Sir William Osler Parent Advisory Council is always looking for new members! Please consider joining us to help support school programs and initiatives. Meetings take place in person and virtually at 6:00 p.m. on Google Meet.

Upcoming Meetings:

- **Tuesday, February 17**
- **Wednesday, April 22**
- **Tuesday, May 19 – AGM and executive elections**

Wind Chill & Recess

We will be checking on the Winnipeg School Division website before each recess to check the wind chill factor. The wind chill reading used by the Winnipeg School Division will be that of **Environment Canada at The Forks**.

- -17°C to -27°C we will be going outside.
- -28°C and below we will have indoor recess. When this happens, students remain in their classrooms and play games, etc.

Please remember to have your child dress appropriately for all weather...boots, hats, mitts (insulated gloves), scarves, face masks, ski pants, etc. If they are attending school they will be expected to go outdoors for recess.



2026-2027 Intentions



Intention forms will be sent home Friday, February 6 to all parents through Permission Click regarding your intentions for the 2026-2027 school year. Please complete the form by Friday, February 13.

Please notify the school office if you are leaving our school for the 2026-2027 school year.

2026-2027 School Year

Starting February 17, 2026, online registrations for the 2026-2027 school year will open at 9:00 a.m. for students who live in the school's catchment area. On April 6, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. the WSD will start accepting registrations for those students who live outside of the school's catchment or outside of the school division boundaries.

Nursery students must be four years of age by December 31, 2026 (born in 2022).

Kindergarten students must be five years of age by December 31, 2026 (born in 2021).

Grade 1-7 students must be born between 2020 and 2014.

Q: Can my child attend a school outside our catchment area?

Yes, you can apply but acceptance is not guaranteed. It depends on the school's space and resources. The provincial guidelines prioritize:

- Students designated for that school.
- Students within the WSD boundaries.
- Students outside of the WSD boundaries.

Q: When can I apply for a School of Choice for my child?

First, all students must register with their catchment schools **BEFORE** applying for a School of Choice. Applications for School of Choice are accepted for the next school year between March 3 and May 15, 2025. WSD will inform families of application results by the last week of the current school year, at the latest.

Q: How can I apply for a School of Choice for my Child?

The School of Choice application process is different for students, depending on whether they live in WSD.

Please see the section about within-division and outside-division students on the WSD website under student registration FAQs. You can also access it through the following link: [student registration FAQ](#)



Room 5 Learns About Chinese/Lunar New Year

What Room 5 Learned:

- There are 12 zodiac animals: sheep, monkey, snake, dog, pig, rooster, dragon, rat, horse, ox, tiger & rabbit.
- There are 5 elements: wood, fire, water, metal, earth.
- We learned there was The Great Race for first spot and the rat came in first.
- Some of us are fire monkeys, wood goats, and wood horses, based on the years we were born (2015-2016).
- This year, it is February 17 - March 3, 2026, year of the Fire Horse.

Why it was Meaningful to Learn About Chinese/Lunar New Year:

- There are students at SWO who celebrate Chinese New Year.
- It was interesting to learn about the characteristics of the zodiac and compare our personality traits.

Gong Zi Fao Chai! Zin Niana Kuai Le!



Learning About Black History Month in Room 7

Room 7 is deeply engaged in thoughtful conversations about race, privilege, and the challenges some people face - often for reasons that can be difficult to understand. During our discussions for **Black History Month**, students demonstrated remarkable insight, empathy, and maturity. Their reflections left no doubt that this generation has the capacity to change the world for the better.

As part of their learning, students conducted research guided by four key questions:

- Who is this person, and why are they important in Black history?
- What challenges or obstacles did this person face?
- How did this person help others or make a difference?
- What is one lesson we can learn from this person's life today?

I am continually in awe of their sincerity, their willingness to be vulnerable, and their ability to step into someone else's shoes. These conversations bring such hope and joy. Please stop by to see their work - it is truly incredible.

Mme Leianne

Elbow Room

Elbow Room is a London-based theater collective that has been around since 1992. They have produced over 100 shows and 200 performances. They are known for their commitment to social justice and their focus on challenging and thought-provoking theater. Their work often addresses issues of race, gender, and social inequality. They have performed in numerous countries and have won several awards for their work.

Kasi Conrad

Kasi Conrad is a Black actress and dancer. She is known for her work in the TV show "Empire" and for her role in the movie "Selma". She has also appeared in several other TV shows and movies. She is a powerful and inspiring figure who uses her platform to advocate for social justice and equality.

Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks was a Black civil rights activist and icon. She is best known for her act of defiance on December 1, 1955, when she refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. This act of protest helped spark the Civil Rights Movement. She also worked as a seamstress and as a member of the NAACP. She died in 2005 at the age of 92.

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid革命家 and political leader. He was the first Black president of South Africa, serving from 1994 to 1999. He was a key figure in the struggle against apartheid and played a crucial role in the transition from white minority rule to a multi-racial democracy. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 for his efforts to end the conflict in South Africa and for his commitment to peace and reconciliation. He died in 2013 at the age of 95.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. was an American civil rights leader and activist. He is best known for his "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered during the March on Washington in 1963. He was a key figure in the Civil Rights Movement and played a crucial role in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He was assassinated in 1968, but his legacy continues to inspire people around the world.

Whitney Houston

Whitney Houston was an American singer and actress. She is considered one of the greatest vocalists of all time. She sold over 170 million records worldwide and won numerous awards, including eight Grammys. She was known for her powerful voice and her ability to connect with her audience. She died in 2012 at the age of 48.

Viola Desmond

Viola Desmond was a Black Canadian civil rights activist. She is best known for her act of defiance on December 8, 1946, when she refused to leave a whites-only section of a movie theater in Nova Scotia. This act of protest helped spark the Civil Rights Movement in Canada. She also worked as a seamstress and as a member of the NAACP. She died in 2004 at the age of 96.

Barrett Hargrave

Barrett Hargrave was a Black Canadian entrepreneur and activist. He is best known for his work in the food industry, particularly in the area of organic food. He founded the company "Organic Valley" in 1980, which became one of the largest organic dairy cooperatives in the world. He also worked as a member of the NAACP and as a member of the Black Caucus in the Canadian Parliament. He died in 2013 at the age of 82.

Byron Carter

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Willie O'Reilly

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

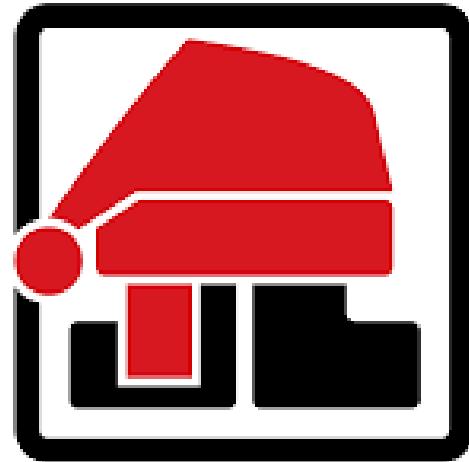
The red represents the blood spilled by the people. The green represents the growth of Black people.

Festival du Voyageur!

The Manitoban **Festival du Voyageur** will take place this year at Voyageur Park in St. Boniface, from **Friday, February 13 to Sunday, February 22, 2026**. The Festival du Voyageur is the largest winter festival in Western Canada, and a fun-filled family event with music, food, and activities for young and old, including viewing snow sculptures, horse-drawn sleigh rides and tobogganing! Snow sculptures will be on display in Voyageur Park, as well as in various locations around Winnipeg. For more information, please visit <https://heho.ca/>.

Theme days at our school for our Festival week are:

Date	Theme
Monday, February 16	No School: Louis Riel Day 
Tuesday, February 17	 <i>Journée de la tuque/</i> Toque Day
Wednesday, February 18	<i>Journée de la chemise à carreaux/</i> Checkered Shirt Day 
Thursday, February 19	 <i>Journée de la ceinture fléchée/</i> Sash Day
Friday, February 20	<i>Journée du voyageur/</i> Dress Like a Voyageur Day 



Festival du Voyageur

Students, staff and volunteers are encouraged to dress for our theme days! For “Sash Day,” while some students may have an actual “ceinture fléchée,” many students choose to tie a scarf around their waist, as a sash. On Friday, we hope everyone will dress as a voyageur, including toque, sash, checkered shirt, and jeans. Beards are optional!

The staff are working hard to prepare for this week! Many engaging French activities will take place in your child’s class.

We are looking forward to celebrating this Manitoban cultural festival!

He ho héros! Bon Festival!

ÉSwo Clubs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning Recess					
Lunch	French Game Club 	Concours Club 	Concours Club 	MYRCA Club 	
Afternoon Recess					
After School					



Monday or Tuesday Music Club



Days 2, 4, 6 Crochet Club



Tuesday & Thursday Beading Club



Quiet Recess
Green Club



Skating Club

After School
Recess



February 2025

I Love to Read Month

Theme: Sharing Our Stories



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Read <i>The Rabbit Listened</i> , <i>El Deafo</i> or <i>Other Words for Home</i> .	2 Complete 3 random acts of kindness.	3 Create a bookmark that depicts who you are.	4 Read <i>Chalk</i> by Bill Thomson.	5 If the book <i>Chalk</i> had words, what would they be?	6 Create a visual story using photographs.	7 Visit your local library.
8 Create a playlist of songs that represent who you are.	9 Read <i>On the Trapline</i> by David A. Robertson.	10 Ask someone to share their favourite memory with you.	11 Go on a nature walk and journal using your five senses.	12 Read aloud to a friend, pet or stuffed animal.	13 Read <i>I Like Myself</i> by Karen Beaumont and write down 5 things you love about yourself.	14 Express your appreciation for someone you care about.
15 Make your favourite recipe and share it with others.	16 Explore the <i>Kayak Magazine: How Furs Built Canada</i> .	17 Create a timeline of important events in your life.	18 Listen to an audiobook, podcast or digital read aloud.	19 Create a comic strip with a friend.	20 Read a book published in 2026.	21 Watch a Pixar short and share your favourite part.
22 Act out or create a puppet show of your favourite story.	23 Read <i>Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress</i> by Christine Baldaccino.	24 Create a piece of art showcasing a colour that best represents you.	25 Create a word search and have someone try to solve it.	26 Read <i>Hair Love</i> , <i>Starfish</i> or <i>Out of My Mind</i> .	27 Write about a moment when you felt proud of yourself.	28 Make a book recommendation to a friend.
						Prepared by: Reading Council of Greater Winnipeg. 

7 Ideas for Valentine's Day Fun

www.parenting.com

- Give love a thumbs-up.** Decorate valentines with thumbprint hearts. Have your child dip their thumb (finger works fine, too) in red poster paint, then show them how to press it onto paper twice to create a heart shape.
- Eat your hearts out.** Make a pan of Rice Krispies Treats, cool slightly, and then let your kids use a heart-shaped cookie cutter (coated with cooking spray) to punch out edible valentines. Decorate with frosting and/or candies.
- Look for love.** Play the “I love you to pieces” game: Cut out a big heart from construction paper, and tear it up. Hide the various pieces around the house for the kids to find and then reassemble with tape.
- Go cocoa.** Melt a bag of chocolate chips in the microwave then stir in raisins, marshmallows, candy hearts, etc. Drop spoonfuls of the mixture onto a baking sheet, and let set in the fridge until hard. Wrap the candies in pink cellophane and tie with ribbon to give to friends, sitters, and teachers.
- Name that passion.** At dinner, hand out three scraps of paper to each family member and ask them to write down something they love on each one (parents can write for little ones). You might write “cheese”, “tennis”, and “sleep” on yours, for example. Fold up the papers, put them in a bowl, and take turns picking one out and guessing who loves what.
- Get carded.** Make a pop-up Valentine’s card : Cut out three hearts of descending size from decorative paper. Fold all the hearts in half, and adhere the largest one to the inside of a blank card with a single line of glue down the fold line. Layer the smaller hearts on top the same way for a three-dimensional greeting.
- Cozy up.** Cuddle together on the couch and watch Be My Valentine, Charlie Brown.



French Activities

Does your child like to spend time on the computer, laptop or tablet? Why not integrate some of that playtime with French online games?



Here are some websites you can try:

- www.samamuse.ca. French thematic games that focus on numbers, letters, themes, math and verbs. Turn up the volume for this one!
- www.idello.org/en. A bilingual site with a tab for parents and students. There are tons of videos for kids of all ages. Scroll to the bottom.
- www.french-games.net. French games that focus on thematic vocabulary. The site is in English, but all the games are in French.

Boukili

Free Illustrated Children's Books!



Boukili is a free application that provides a variety of illustrated books for children. It aims to encourage children to read and helps them attain different levels of reading proficiency.

With Boukili you can practice reading in French with your child while keeping track of his or her reading progress.

Visit boukili.ca/en for more information.



**Important Dates for the
2025-2026 School Year**
All Dates Subject to Change

Mar. 5 - Rooms 9 AM & PM & 14 AM to the Children's Museum - ALL DAY FIELD TRIP

Mar. 6 - No Classes for Nursery & Kindergarten Only

Mar. 19 - Student-Led Conference 3:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Mar. 20 - No Classes: Student-Led Conferences

Mar. 23-27 - Spirit Week

Mar. 23 - Report Cards Sent Home

Mar. 27 - Last Day of Classes

Mar. 30 - Spring Break Begins

Apr. 6 - Classes Resume

Apr. 8 - International Day of Pink
Bus Ridership

Apr. 10 - No Classes: Admin Day

Apr. 22 - PAC Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Apr. 23 - Fun Lunch: Boston Pizza

May 8 - No Classes: Admin Day

May 14 - Mobile Vision Clinic

May 15 - Rooms 1 & 3 to Oak Hammock Marsh

May 18 - No School: Victoria Day

May 19 - PAC Meeting & AGM 6:00 p.m.

May 25 - Grade 6 Immunizations

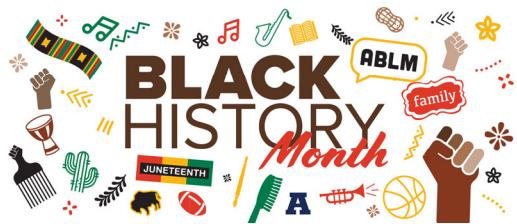
Jun. 18 - Fun Lunch: McDonald's

Jun. 26 - No Classes: Admin Day
Report Cards Sent Home

Jun. 30 - Last Day of School



**February is
Black History Month**



Groundhog Day
Monday, February 2

Will the groundhog see its shadow?



Valentine's Day

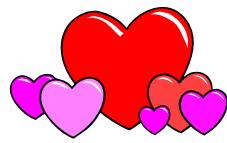
Don't forget Valentine's Day is
Saturday, February 14



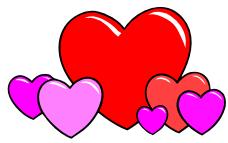
Chinese New Year

Tuesday, February 17 - Tuesday, March 3





École Sir William Osler



Visit our website: www.winnipegsd.ca/schools/sirwilliamosler

Dominique Ostermann
Principal

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February 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 No School Administration Day Grade 6 Babysitting Course	Day 1 No School Administration Day 	3 Day 2 Grades 4-6 Skating Club 	4 Day 3 Grades 2-3 Skating Club 	5 Day 4 Open House 6:00 p.m.
9 Grades 2-3 Skating Club 	Day 6 Grades 2-3 Skating Club 	10 Day 1	11 Day 2 Grades 4-6 Skating Club 	12 Day 3
16 No School Louis Riel Day 	17 Day 5 Festival Week Toque Day Parent Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. 	18 Day 6 Checkered Shirt Day WSD Speed Skating Races 4:00 p.m. 	19 Day 1 IHOP Fun Lunch 	20 Day 2 Sash Day Dress Like a Voyageur Winter Fun Day
23 Day 3	24 Day 4	25 Day 5	26 Day 6	27 Day 1