



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

## Our Purpose

Winnipeg School Division provides a learning environment that fosters the growth of each student's potential and provides equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for meaningful participation in a global and diverse society.

## Our Vision

Is for current and future people learning and working within Winnipeg School Division to be: **Engaged, Confident, Inspired, and Successful Learners.**

At École Robert H. Smith School we are safe, we are respectful, and we are learners.

Principal: Adam Dyck  
Vice Principal: Sarah Arnold  
Staff: 28

Classroom Teachers: 14  
Resource Teachers: 2  
Specialist Teachers: 2  
Educational Assistants: 5

# École Robert H. Smith School Community Report 2023 – 2024

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## About our school

Nestled in the heart of the North River Heights community, École Robert H. Smith School is a Nursery to Grade 6 school located in the Winnipeg School Division. RHS is home to both French Immersion and English programs with approximately 75% of our students registered in the French Immersion track. We are a community of learners, characterized by strong academic programming, environmental stewardship, a unique performing arts philosophy and “fitness for life” physical education.

École Robert H. Smith School has a student population of 358 students, with 14 classrooms, 18 teachers, five educational assistants, one office staff and three custodians. During a typical year we engage one of the largest volunteer bases in the WSD with over 250 registered volunteers who support our school and students in a variety of ways. We are fortunate to have a comprehensive Lunch Program, a Before and After School Program and parents who work collaboratively with staff and students to support school-based initiatives.

We continue to deepen understanding and implement initiatives that address environmental, social and economic issues both locally and worldwide. We are seeking to find authentic ways to include Indigenous pedagogies in our practices through ongoing teacher learning, community involvement, and external partnerships. We want our students to better understand the truths of the past as we move forward toward reconciliation.

## What a Year it Has Been!

Learning moved forward quite significantly for students, teachers, administration, and the community at RHS this year. Highlights in 2023/24 at RHS include our Modern Band music program with our winter concert (N-3) and Street Fest (4-6), Physical Education programming including intramurals, a soccer tournament, a volleyball tournament, Fit Runs, and participation as a school in the Manitoba Marathon. We continued forward with a significant focus on building a sense of belonging and community. Students made significant academic gains in French oral language communication and had several major academic highlights for our students in successful participation in WSD Destination Imagination, Heritage Fair as well as participating in the Red River Community College Heritage Fair. French Immersion students also participated in Concours d'art oratoire and shared their French speech writing and oral language skills in competition. Our students were highly successful in learning across multiple curricula and students significantly increasing their oral French language skills for those in French Immersion.

Teacher learning also moved forward this year, with support from central support teachers in literacy, scientific and historical thinking. Teachers learned and practiced high impact planning and teaching practices as well as developed greater clarity with the curricular outcomes.

Developing inclusion and belonging was another major focus at RHS this year and we again intentionally timetabled "IDEAS" once-per-cycle, over three six cycle blocks where students had the choice to work with other students and staff on the global competencies through highly engaging clubs. We saw significant growth in the feeling of belonging and community through IDEAS.

Our school community remains strong at RHS, with a sense of collaboration between the staff and families of students and supported by our parent council. This partnership has supported the focus being on students and student learning and we had a significant increase in student leadership opportunities such as with our communications crew, patrols, library helpers, handwashing helpers, intramural sports helpers, music helpers and Team Rainbow along with many more student opportunities to lead within the school. Our parent council supported students by hosting an impressive Halloween Dance, monthly fun lunches from a variety of local restaurants and collaborating with school administration on planning and programming throughout the year.

Our primary academic goal this year was to engage in differentiated teaching practices that would support all students to achieve a 3 or 4 on their report card, meaning that they would be able to meet curricular outcomes with minimal teacher support. We saw a great deal of growth in this area in analyzing report card data spanning all three terms. Overall, this was a highly successful year at RHS, and we are immensely proud of the student learning and accomplishments this year.

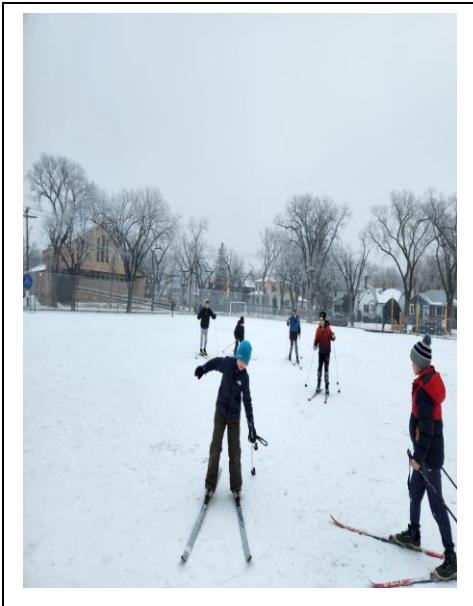
## Academic/Curricular Highlights:

- Innovation, Design, Exploration, Activity, and Stations (IDEAS) initiative
- Divisional Teacher literacy support in Gr 1, Historical Thinking support in Gr 4
- Historical Thinking/Heritage Fair in Gr 4
- Destination Imagination in Gr 5/6
- WSD Steam Fair
- Gr 2/3 classes learning about life cycles by raising and releasing butterflies
- Concours d'art oratoire
- Festival du Voyageur celebrations
- I Love to Read Month activities with several guest readers



## Physical & Mental Health Highlights:

- Lunchtime intramurals in grade groups
- Fall and Spring Running Club and WSD Fit Run
- Volleyball & Soccer Tournaments
- Speed Skating Club
- Jump Rope Club
- Swimming Counts for all Gr 4 students
- Classroom programming on self-regulation and mindfulness strategies



## Performing Arts Highlights:

- Modern Band Approach
- Gr 4 – 6 “bands” performed at outdoor stages during our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual RHS StreetFest/Family Picnic
- Gr 1 – 3 introduction to instruments, song structures which was highlighted in a February music concert
- Participation in the *CBC Music Challenge* - Room P4 was selected in the Top 10 across Canada!



## Parent and Community Involvement

The continued support of our parent community is always appreciated, and we look forward to working with the school community again next year. Below are the various ways the community supported the school this year.

- Monthly Parent Council meetings
- Attending the French Language Advisory, South District Advisory and Inclusion Advisory meetings throughout the year
- Organizing a fun-filled Halloween Dance in October
- Family support of supplying food and preparing 32 holiday hampers for the Christmas Cheer Board
- Volunteer support for Fun Lunches
- Volunteer support for our StreetFest/Family Picnic
- Grade 6 Farewell Parent committee support of a couple of Pizza lunches to fund a special dinner and DJ glow party organized by parents
- Parent volunteers on many field trips
- Parent support of the Lemonade for Hope stand in support of Cancer Care Manitoba

