



O. V. JEWITT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

SEVEN OAKS SCHOOL DIVISION

REPORT TO COMMUNITY 2020—2021



O.V. Jewitt Community School is a culturally diverse and evolving Kindergarten to Grade 8 school of 450 students and 60 staff members. We believe in strong classroom communities that are supportive and connected, centered around a showing of respect for ourselves, each other, our school and community.

“Sense of Place involves a sense of community. Sense of Place is what can change how our students understand the world of which they are part -it can help them re-imagine their relationship with the natural and cultural communities that they live in.” (Jillian Judson, 2015)



O.V. Jewitt School is a Community School which offers pre-school programs throughout the week. We will be a host school to MYAC (Maples Youth Activity Centre) next year, which is a drop-in program that provides a safe and fun environment where youth can be together.



Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that O.V. Jewitt Community School is located on Treaty I land, the original lands of Anishinabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Some of our most important work in taking care of each other is our work towards reconciliation with our Indigenous people who have historically been devalued through colonialism and residential schools. Our children learn about the history of Canada, its good and its bad, and we teach children to understand and value the perspectives of our Indigenous people.



We planted marigolds in our front garden and wrote messages around the half-mast flag as one of the offerings that honour the many Indigenous children's lives that were lost. Our intention is to create a sacred space, with a hope that we can continue to acknowledge and commit to the life-long process that is reconciliation. The orange marigolds and 215 handprints are a symbol of honouring those in the past, but also a reminder and commitment towards the work we will do moving forward. We as a staff ask ourselves what we are doing in our everyday lives that will leave Canada's relationship with Indigenous people in a better situation, today, in a year from now, in five years from now. How can we acknowledge and reverse the impact of residential schools?

Jackie Traverse is an Indigenous artist and activist from Winnipeg, Manitoba. She created a symbolic mural near our front entrance, to celebrate Indigenous culture, particularly the role of Pow Wow dancing in our school. We hope to bring her back to our building to talk about this powerful piece of art and the story of how this mural came to be envisioned.



Despite restrictions, we were able to continue with Pow Wow Club offered to us by the Aboriginal School of Dance. We practiced once a week and there were teachings in the format of a sharing circle before the dancing started. Our students dressed in their regalia for the Divisional Virtual Graduation Pow Wow for which they proudly performed.



Offering an opportunity for cohorts of students and staff to smudge every morning.



ANTI-RACIST EDUCATION

We imagine a world that is more inclusive and where there is justice and opportunity for all of us, not just some of us. We are working towards developing culturally relevant and anti-racist teaching approaches that promote teaching, curriculum and assessments that are responsive to students' needs and lived experiences. As a Seven Oaks School Division, we believe it is everyone's responsibility to stand up against racism.



“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

~ James Baldwin

We believe that starting the conversation around race, presented in a “kid-friendly” and developmentally appropriate way is one way for children to have a voice around an incredibly important topic. We invite you, our valued community, to join us in looking at this work together.

A group of Middle Years teachers discussed the book, This Book is Anti-Racist, with the SOSD anti-racism team as well as used this insightful book to kick-start empowering conversations around race and racism with our students.



Students from Room 7 learning about skin colour and difference.



Mr. Shiv is reading the book, Let's Talk About Race to our classes. This is a great way to introduce the topic of race and skin colour to early years students.

It's important that students are able to see their identities and experiences reflected in the books and stories used in class. We have purchased books relating to the topics of diversity and anti-racism. Here are examples of the amazing books purchased by our library technician Ms. Page.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Race, religion, language, lifestyle and ethnicity is what makes our community diverse. Beneath the visible differences, there's our common humanity and our shared hopes.

Our vibrant, colourful and energetic Bhangra Club!

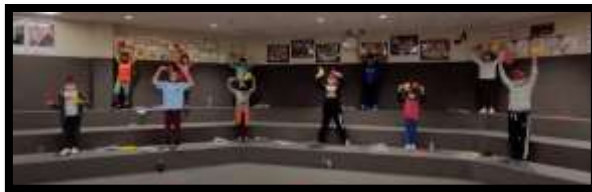


Celebrating Vaisakhi at O.V. Jewitt!



Our O.V. Jewitt community is always taking upon ourselves to learn, grow and educate one another, as we continue our journey to deepen our understanding and develop our willingness to stand in unity of one another. Sharing our perspectives and building strong relationships and partnerships with our community are important aspects of who we are.

Acknowledging Chinese Lunar New Year!



Continuing to advocate for our students, staff and community during Pride month. Looking forward to uniting our GSA leaders again when we can safely gather.

Black History Month



TAKING CARE OF OUR EARTH: A Culture of Sustainability

A sustainable future requires that we take care of each other and the planet. During Earth Month, we built awareness of environmental issues and started with some small steps to save our planet. We want to instill this in every action we take and think about the steps we can take to make a difference. We are working hard to increase our understanding of how we live on this planet sustainably.

Preventing good food products from going to the landfill (frozen French fries) – thanks to Second Harvest.



THE EARTH: A Haiku poem
It is home for us.
Holds cities, roads and nature.
Keeps us safe and sound.



Alexis and Alex, program coordinators at the Seven Oaks Aki Centre (AKI means "land"), led staff through a professional development day so that we could think about the ways in which we can help children experience learning through a relationship with the land on our own school yard.

We grew food.

The land here is sustaining life. We want to connect students to land stewardship and wellness. We started to notice and see things differently.

We planted Indigenous tall grass prairie plants gifted to us from the Aki Centre. Our students will be stewards of the land by putting back what was taken away.



We planted trees.



We watched our butterfly garden attract caterpillars, creating habitats that add biodiversity to our school yard.

We look forward to learning with and from the Aki Centre @7oaksgrows for many more teachings and relationships with the land!



SAFE AND CARING SCHOOL COMMUNITY: Taking Care of Ourselves and of One Another

We believe that we teach the whole child. Student health relates to social and emotional well being, nutrition, physical activity and the development of life-long healthy living habits. In addition, we work to build strong relationships and partnerships with our community in intentional ways.



Shovelling walks and driveways in our school community is an act of kindness. It put a smile on the faces of many of our community members.

Project 11 and Thrival Kits promote mental well being for children. The Thrival Kits project shows children how to develop positive coping strategies that help them understand what makes them special and unique and helps them develop tools to deal with life events and emotions.

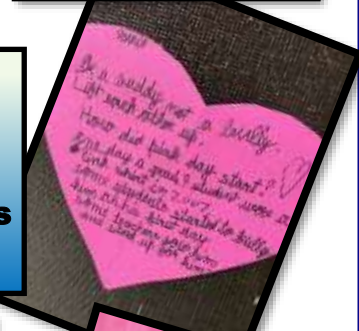


We picked up garbage in our neighbourhood.



***Respect yourself. Respect each other.
Respect your School & Community.***

Building strong relationships and partnerships with our community.



City Counsellor Devi Sharma and Winnipeg Police Association President Moe Sabourin presented our school with an award in The Cool 2Be Kind campaign. Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe is our unified school message in the fight against bullying. Pink Shirt day is intended to foster respect and kindness on a daily basis. As a caring school community, we know the importance of taking care of one another.



Physical activity that builds on movement, interests and talents.

We used fresh lettuce from our garden to build a healthy snack!



Communicating through Technology with our families.



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Building literate and numerate young people who work on issues and projects that have purpose and are meaningful to children and their families is what we strive for. We value children's learning through the arts and their creativity being expressed in numerous ways. This year has been no exception. Here is just a sampling of all the good work that your children have been engaged in throughout the year, both in-person and online.



We can't wait until we can "return to normal" and welcome our community to our fall BBQ, to sporting events and to our evening concerts.

Take care and stay safe.

Tell us how we did this year
Email us at: ovjewitt@7oaks.org

We highly encourage you to follow our **Instagram** handle as we expand what we communicate through that platform – don't miss out!

Stay in touch

[@ovjewitt](https://www.instagram.com/ovjewitt)