



Riverbend Community School

GIKINOO'AMAAGEGAMIG

2022-2023

Riverbend Community School continues to thrive from the strength of our community, the care that is shared amongst one and other and the commitment made by our teachers to engage our students with the curriculum through inquiry, hands on learning, fieldtrips, technology and more! We acknowledge the mistakes of the past and are committed to walking a path towards truth and reconciliation.



Report to the Community

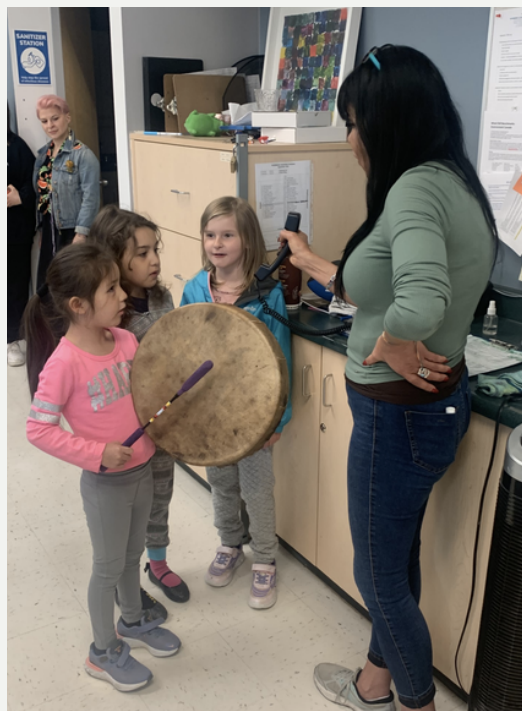


We open our school day with a land acknowledgement; some of our classrooms start the day with a smudge. All students hear the Anishinaabemowin language spoken over the announcements, at assemblies and through song.

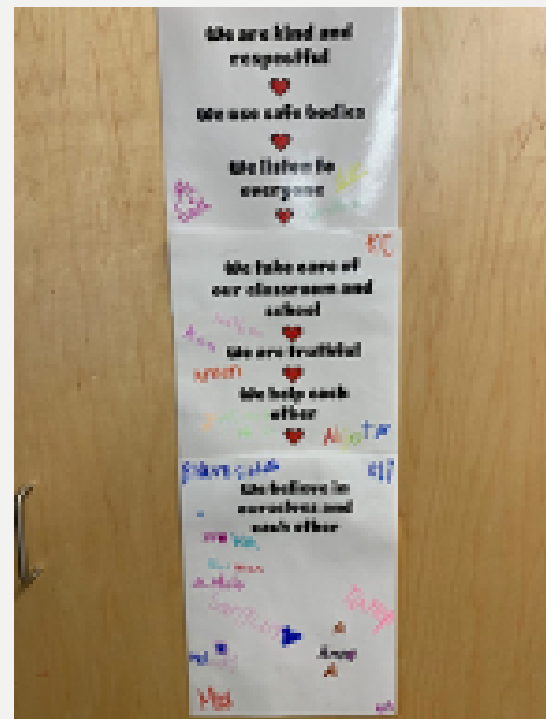
Many of our classrooms started their year by making classroom treaties or promises that help set their intentions for the school year as well as learning about the medicine wheel. Sharing circles are also used to honour the stories that children bring to school.



Created by Rooms 18&19



*Room 6 students
Singing The Bear Song*



*Room 25
Classroom Promise*

The first event that brought children together was the Fall Drum Feast to honour and bless the spirit of the drums. Elder Chickadee Richard explained how to care for and honour the drums.



Fall Drum Feast

Riverbend staff began the school year together at Brokenhead Wetland. This professional development day focused on land-based education. We walked the wetlands and learned about the vegetation, wildlife as well as the natural medicines found within the area. We continued this learning at the Forks learning from Elder Barbara Nepinak. We explored the land, the monuments, and the Treaty Resource Centre



Care



Terry Fox Walk

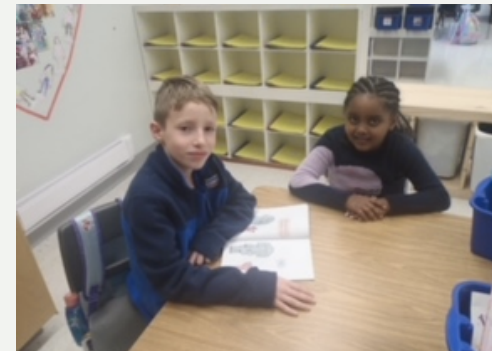
Children learn best when they know they have a sense of security and are surrounded by people who care. We start the school day by distributing snack baskets to each classroom with fresh fruit and granola bars. All children are welcome to these snacks. We ensure that children who need a lunch will receive one. Children know they can ask for what they need whether that be a snack, extra help, or someone to talk to.



International Day of Pink

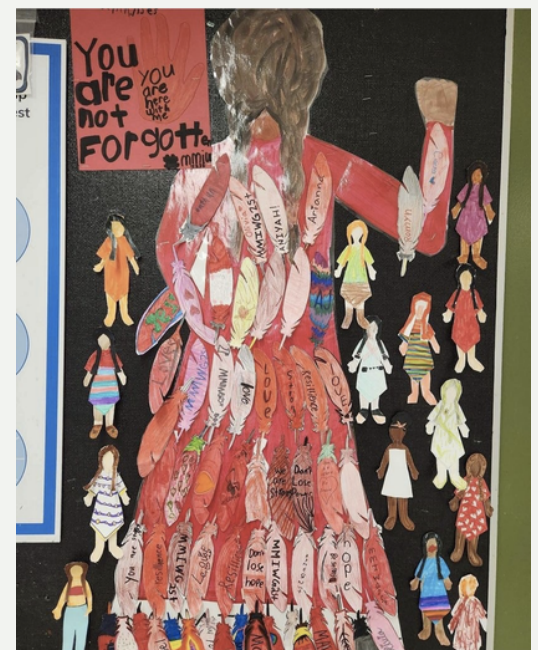


*Room 4 & 6
Teaching about Truth*



*Room 10 & 23
Reading Buddies*

Our students made kindness buttons to share with each other on International Day of Pink. We wore Orange Shirts to acknowledge and honor the survivors and those that didn't make it home from residential schools. On Red Dress Day the students hung red dresses on their classroom doors and painted red stones that they placed throughout our community to bring awareness to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Our students collected money for cancer research during our Terry Fox walk, our staff raised money for the United Way with soup fundraiser. Many older classes buddy up with younger to form learning partnerships.



Red Dress Day



Room 16 Earth Day Art

On Earth Day classes talked about the ways in which we can care for the earth. One of those ways is composting. Student leaders from Room 18 gather compost bins from all areas of the school each week. The compost is weighed and recorded each week. Students are learning how to sort their waste into garbage, recycling and compost.

Rain or shine our patrols have taken on leadership roles by helping students safely cross the street and learn about bus safety. Many patrols have helped to care for our youngest students during community walks, transitions to and from activities in the school (including hearing and vision screening and picture day) as well as helping them prepare for the bus. Our patrols had a blast bowling at Billy Mosienko Lanes! Thank you to our patrols for their dedication to caring for the safety of our students.

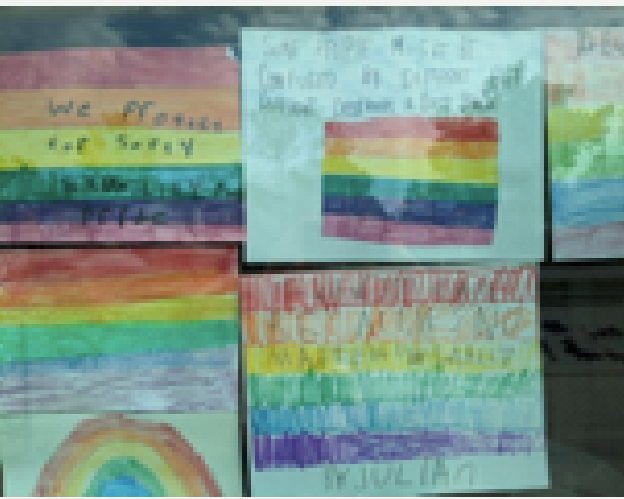


Members of our 2022-2023 Patrol Team

Thank you to Ms. Karpinsky's classroom for showing leadership and care through their community clean up and to Ms. Bernard's 4/5 class for planting sunflowers, sweet peas and morning gloires and heavenly blues to gift to each classroom to brighten everyone's spirits.



Room17



Posters made by Room 3

Sadly, in May our Riverbend's Pride flag as well many books about diversity and indigenous themes were stolen. This event sparked many emotions for our staff and students. Our message to students will always be that they have the right to be who they are without discrimination. Many conversations were had some bringing tears and frustration. Our school community came together creating messages of love and support and our school walls were covered with kind words, rainbows and our Pride flag hung proudly in a front school window.

"We are delighted to share with you the remarkable outpouring of support and generosity that our school has received in response to the incident of stolen books. The incredible showing of support from our community through book and monetary donations has left us overwhelmed with gratitude and filled with hope for the future.

Book Donations:

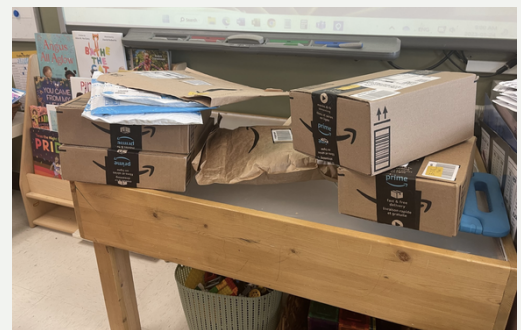
Individuals, families, local businesses, and organizations from all walks of life rallied behind our cause. Countless community members donated books from their personal collections, ensuring that our classrooms would be filled with a diverse and engaging selection of literature. From beloved classics to contemporary works, the range of donated books has expanded our students' opportunities for exploration, imagination, and learning.

Monetary Donations:

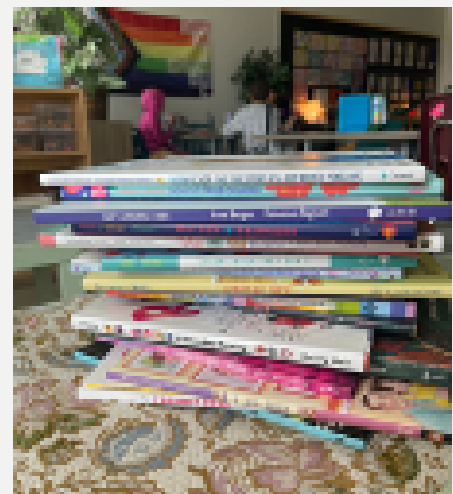
Additionally, the community responded with an overwhelming show of financial support. Numerous generous donors contributed monetary donations to help us purchase new books, ensuring that we can continue to provide our students books that reflect who they are and the opportunity to learn about different perspectives, experiences, and identities.

The impact of this outpouring of support cannot be overstated. The stolen books may have caused a temporary setback, but the community's incredible response has revitalized our school and reinforced our shared commitment to inclusive education."

*Sincerely,
Amanda Karpinsky
¼ Teacher*



Letters of support and book donations



Community

Assemblies are ways that we came together as a whole school to celebrate the great learning happening in our classrooms. At our assemblies we highlight one of the 7 teachings every month. We also come together to learn about important events and special days such as Orange Shirt Day, National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and International Day of Pink.

This year we offered a variety of opportunities for children to connect with peers with common interests. Our clubs included photography, art, chess, Riverbend Rainbow Alliance (GSA), comedy club, Powwow, Tinikling, Bhangra, Strong Warrior Girl Anishinaabe Singers, and Hoop Troop.



Orange Shirt Assembly



Tinikling



Chess Club

“Students in the Riverbend Bhangra group learn the Punjabi folk dance Bhangra. Students of all ethnicities participate and learn dancing skills. The team performed at school, divisional and community events like Divisional Diwali Mela, Divisional Dance Day, Family Night, and in-school assemblies. Through the club, they gain confidence in performing in front of large gatherings and learn team-building skills.”

*Tarangeet Toor
Educational Assistant*

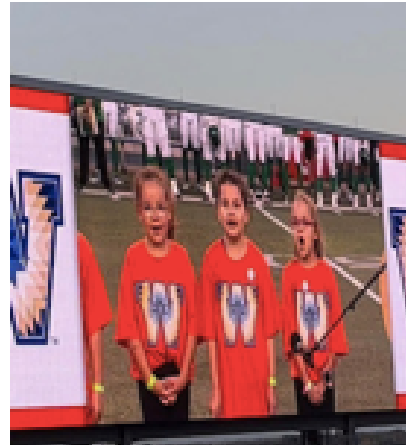


Riverbend Bhangra Group

Zoongi Ogichidaa Ikwezensag Anishinaabe Nagamoog (Strong Warrior Girl Singers) and the Hoop Troop had a busy year with multiple invitations to perform across the city. Some events and conferences they were invited to include the Winnipeg Blue Bomber game, Winnipeg Ice game, RBC Centre, Duck Worth Centre, Manitoba First Nations Resource Centre, Language Teachers Conference, Indigenous Tourism Canada, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Saugeen CFS Conference just to name a few! Recently the Hoop Troop was invited to dance on the big stage at the Forks as park of the Manito Ahbee Festival.



Manito Ahbee Festival



Blue Bomber Game



During "I Love to Read", we invited Kevin Chief and many local MLAs including Wab Kinew, Bernadette Smith and Nahanni Fontaine. The students were very excited to listen to Willie Jefferson and Brandon Alexander from The Winnipeg Blue Bombers read to them in the library.



Kevin Chief



Bernadette Smith



Nahanni Fontaine



Wab Kinew



Willie Jefferson and Brandon Alexander

"We were able to celebrate with our Riverbend family community over several events including the school BBQ, Family Night, Spring Concert, Pride Walk and the Community Feast.

At the feast we enjoyed delicious chili and bannock prepared by one of our Riverbend families, which was blessed by Elder Mary Courchene. Riverbend Hoop Troupe performed 2 dances at the lead of Ms. Chinchilla. The Zoongi Ogichidaa Ikwezensag Anishinaabe Nagamoog (Strong Warrior Girl Anishinaabe Singers) sang some beautiful songs lead by Ms. Barker. Throughout the evening a sacred fire burned outside in our Indigenous Teaching Garden. So many students and their families wanted to join us that we held 2 sittings to fit everyone into the gym! It was wonderful to see so many children and their families celebrating Anishinaabe language and culture. Miigwech to everyone for making our annual Feast such a success!"

*Cheryl Podolsky
Learning Support Teacher*



*Zoongi Ogichidaa Ikwezensag Anishinaabe Nagamoog
(Strong Warrior Girl Anishinaabe Singers)*



Pride Walk

"Riverbend Community School offers free preschool programs for parents/caregivers and their children from birth to age six. In our programs we learn through play, we create art and we share songs and stories together with other families in our community. This year, we were honoured to have Kookum Beverley visit our programs for "Bannock & Tea" where we had meaningful conversations about the similarities of language, food, celebrations and music (drumming) that we share in our different cultures and the importance of preserving them to be passed on to future generations."

*Colleen Zahedi
Community Coordinator*



Preschool Program



*Shery McKay Ducharme
Grade 3-4
Ojibwe Bilingual Teacher*



*Kelsey Halldorson
Grade 2-3
Ojibwe Bilingual
Teacher*

*“The Ojibwe program has been busy preparing for our annual Powwow this year. We are adjusting sizes and adding new material to the regalia for the powwow dancers. We’ve also made a couple of completely new outfits for grass (boys), jingle and fancy dancers. We couldn’t have done it without the many volunteers, staff and community members, that took their time to come help. Some are experts in sewing and mending and some are learning as we go. Most of all, it was fun to spend some time with everyone and laugh at times to our sewing bloopers.”
Melanie Beardy
Grade 4-5 Teacher
Ojibwe Bilingual*



*Melanie Beardy
Grade 4-5
Ojibwe Bilingual Teacher*



*14th Annual Traditional
Graduation Powwow*

The Ojibwe teachers will be busy making skirts for our grade 5 ikwezensag (girls) and shirts for gwiiwizensag (boys). It is a way of celebrating their successful learning here at Riverbend and moving on to grade 6.



*Ms. Chinchilla and her
Kindergarten Students*

Report From the Library

The library has ordered 670 books for the Riverbend Community School for 2022-2023. 325 books purchased via school budget and 345 books purchased via Scholastic Book Fair credits. Approximately 82 of these books were distributed to individual school classrooms and departments. Books that were purchased covered empathy, general fiction, and curriculum support.

The Scholastic Book Fair has been a valuable asset to Riverbend Community School. The sales credits effectively double the library book-buying budget and enables me to fill in any gaps or strengthen the existing collection.

Vicky Schulz Library Technician

Curriculum

Our teachers are committed to ongoing professional development. As a staff we are reading the book "One Without the Other: Stories of Unity Through Diversity and Inclusion" by Shelly Moore. We welcomed Liz Barrett (support specialist for JUMP math) into the school, she helped guide our teachers with their math instruction. Teachers participated in "professional learning communities".

Once a cycle teachers met in grade level groups to talk about their practice, share ideas and engage in professional readings. A focus of these groups has been further exploring reading instructional practices with many teachers collectively reading "Shifting the Balance" by Jan Burkins and Kari Yates.

Our teachers work hard at finding new ways to engage children in their daily learning across the subject areas. From Kindergarten to grade 5 our students have learned both inside and outside of the classroom.



Field Trips

Our students have had many opportunities to go on a variety of field trips including the Nature Playground, , The Zoo, MTYP, bowling, Sage picking at Bird's Hill, as well as attending sessions of "Learn to Skate" and "Learn to Swim". Room 16 went to Festival Du Voyageur. They learned about the fur trade and learned some new French songs. They got to touch different kinds of furs and learned about many Indigenous inventions such as the canoe and wicker baskets. Rooms 14, 18 & 19 attended STEAM Fest at the end of April. Students explored activities and displays with a focus on: science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Students also had a blast doing interactive programs on these topics. It was a huge learning opportunity that many students are looking forward to next year!



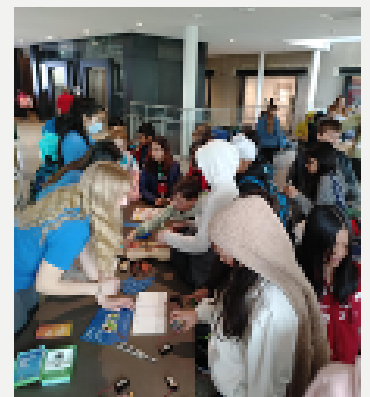
Festival Du Voyageur



Nature Playground



Seven Oaks Arena



STEAM Fest

Throughout the school year, our class visited the Aki centre 6 separate times. While visiting, we connected with the land throughout the seasons and experienced land-based learning through harvesting seeds, planting, composting, exploring furs and investigating tracks and skat. We had the opportunity to work together to prepare Bannock, moose stew, chicken soup, and rabbit stew, all while practicing anishinaabemowin and learning about the teachings of the animal and how to trap/hunt it.

Kelsey Halldorson

Grade 2/3

Ojibwe Bilingual Program



Aki Centre



Kindergarten Singing the honesty song

“The kindergarten students followed a theme of the Seven Teachings this year, learning about them through songs, videos, stuffed animals and books. They have enjoyed identifying the different teachings when they pop up in stories. The teaching they were in charge of creating a piece of learning about was honesty, and they were very proud when they shared their song with their book buddies and during the school assembly!”

Ashley Ennis

Kindergarten Teacher

“Did you know that Riverbend School has a kiln? Right here in our building, with just a little mud, we can fire our very own projects. This year, room 5 did a deep dive into clay and built flat slab pieces, little pots, and even clay self-portraits. We loved getting our hands goopy and covered, and the pieces that came out in the end were spectacular!”

Kira Crilly

Grade ½ Teacher



Room 5

“Room 25 travelled the world this year from the comfort of their classroom. Each day, for a month, we took a plane (or train) and travelled to different countries to find out about their culture and celebrations. We ate food from Italy and Germany and drank hot chocolate from Mexico. We made Rangoli's and Menorah's and dragons and even learned a few new songs. Through our travels we were reminded that even though each culture is different, we actually have many similarities. We all celebrate with family, food, light and love. It was definitely a five star trip!!”

*Rhian Smith
Grade ½ Teacher*



Room 25

“In Room 26, the students celebrated the 100th day of School. The day was full of hands-on activities where students enjoyed making structures with different materials. The students were excited for this day and loved making 100 in different ways. They had fun clicking their 100-year-old pictures and writing about their wishes.”

*Kulwinder Sidhu
Grade ½ Teacher*



Room 26

“Room 3 students spent the year learning about the writing process by becoming authors. Students planned, wrote, and illustrated stories about themselves, dragons, witches, bunnies, and more! They used their voices to teach and advocate for others, to spread love, and to make other people feel like they belong. Students love to share their writing with each other and can't wait to “publish” their writing pieces when they are done!”

*Michelle Korner
Grade 2/3 Teacher*



Room 3

Throughout the month of May room #10 celebrated Asian Heritage Month. The students learned about a diverse range of Asian cultures through stories, videos, and research projects. Some students also shared their knowledge about their own traditions, and cultural foods with the class. Each week, the students spent some time learning about the many achievements and contributions made by Asian individuals that have shaped history. “

*Ms. Quach
Grade 4-5*



Room 10

Physical Education Report

“We are so happy to be able to train and gather for tournaments again! We started the school year honouring our beloved Terry Fox with an interactive school wide assembly, followed by a community walk. Divisional events like cross country, flag football, volleyball, basketball, badminton, and handball have kept us very busy through the fall and winter months. Both the Canada Games Sport for Life Center, as well as the Winnipeg Soccer Federation North facilities have much to offer our students as they practice their skills and sportsmanship in new and exciting ways. We look forward to track & field events early June, and a school wide tabloid day to celebrate together before the end of the year.”

*Chelsea Tomchuk & Jessica Bautista
PE Teachers*



Football



Cross Country

Music Education Report

This year we had so much fun and made up for lost time after Covid closures. Emily Granger a multimedia musician and artist taught us how to use “Makey Makey” circuit boards to make musical instruments made from found and recycled items.

We had our first concert in a few years at Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre. We ended off the year with a song writing workshop and hip hop performance with local artist Mungala Londe and

*Osani Balkaran.
Alex Pustogorodsky
Music Teacher*



Spring Concert SOPAC