



# WEST KILDONAN COLLEGIATE

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## Report to the Community 2019-20

Dear West Kildonan Collegiate Families

This has been a year like no other. Our first semester unfolded relatively as usual with an amazing range of learning in all of our curricular and extra-curricular areas. Our classes built a sense of community, we celebrated academic excellence, worked through challenges and enjoyed a wide range of great performing arts events and team sports. Our second semester came along and students began all of their new courses, teachers again getting to know new students and assignments and initial assessments unfolded. Then the pandemic hit mid-March and everything changed. Classes were suspended as we went into spring break and instead of returning to in school courses, students and teachers began connecting online, platforms like google classroom, zoom and webex became the new norm and learning went on.

As a city we took strong precautions to avoid contact with the COVID19 virus and while some suffered and different parts of our nation and areas of the world met with huge pandemic health challenges, Manitoba kept cases to a minimum, students continued to learn from home and by the beginning of June began making appointments with teachers to connect individually or in small groups to continue and complete course work. Our extra-curricular and arts groups could not continue through this time and many staff and students agonized over missed opportunities to demonstrate amazing skills while looking forward to a time when we'll all be able to learn and perform together again.

Added to the challenges of the pandemic, there arose an awakening around racism through the Black Lives Matter movement after the killing of George Floyd. Staff and students explored media and real life stories that link us collectively to the realities of colonization, slavery, discrimination and prejudice in the areas of gender identity and sexual orientation. This was a year where the entire school and larger community had to navigate challenging waters through collective support and collaboration.

Throughout the year, staff continued to learn through professional development. Our school priorities continued to focus on the following areas:

- Strengthening engagement of diverse learners
- Deepening understandings and integration of Indigenous perspectives
- Fostering and integrating sustainable living education
- Increasing engagement with our community
- Fostering healthy students and staff

To these we added:

- Learning through the COVID19 pandemic
- Elevating consciousness around racism locally/in Canada/systemic and examining attitudes and actions that promote equity and cultural understanding

This year we would like to invite you to tune into our WK Blog and enter into this unprecedented journey of learning with us. You will see a wide range of descriptions and stories from various curriculum areas and arts and athletics programs beyond the classroom. Please visit <https://westkildonancollegiate.blog/>.

We wish all of our families a safe, fun and relaxing summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

Your WK Admin Team

Howard Kowalchuk, Yolanda Buchberger and Peter Krahn