



Building Our Future

2023 Report to the Community



Front Row (left to right): Tiffany Winchar, Maria Santos (Board Chair), Diane Cameron (Vice-Chair), Teresa Jaworski.
Back Row (left to right): Greg McFarlane, Evan Krosney, Richard Sawka, Edward Ploszay, Derek Dabee.

Chairperson's Message

Do we cut teachers and increase class size or do we bite the bullet, defy the Minister of Education and raise taxes? That's the question our Board of Trustees faced with this year's budget. Our enrollment is going up and we're still recovering from the experience of the pandemic.

Seven Oaks received the lowest funding increase of any Winnipeg school division. The increase of \$3.3 million has been touted as a 3.8% increase by the province but when coupled with a tax freeze it translated to only a 2.1% increase. 2.1% doesn't cover increased enrollment let alone inflation and wage pressures. Our choice was to either raise taxes or cut staff and programs. We raised taxes.

Thanks to a substantial number of new homes, apartments and businesses coming on to our tax roll, the impact on individual taxpayers is slight. The impact of reducing staffing and programming now would be dramatic, especially for those students who most need extra attention.

The division budget for the 2023-2024 school year will be \$170,993,475. It will support very modest increases in teaching and other staff to address increased enrollment now estimated to be over 400 students. The mill rate will actually decrease from 15.5 to 14.8. Homeowners will see a tax increase of \$118 on the average home valued at

\$341,000, but that increase will be reduced by the 50% education property tax rebate and follows several years of tax decreases.

The tax increase allows Seven Oaks to maintain its parent-friendly approach with no fees for lunch supervision, musical instruments, and field trips. School supplies will cost a modest \$40. Transportation policy will not be significantly affected.

Programs like Learn to Swim, Learn to Skate and Learn to Bike will remain in place. Class sizes will remain reasonable, and students will still get the help they need when they need it.

We've moved out of the pandemic. Our schools are fully open. Students enjoy coming every day, being with friends and learning in person. Sports and arts programs are back. There are field trips and band trips and in-person grad ceremonies. We're building again. Schools. Community. Opportunity. Success.

We're proud of our schools and we're optimistic for our future.

Maria Santos
Chair

Building Schools - Seven Oaks is Growing

New Spaces at West Kildonan Collegiate

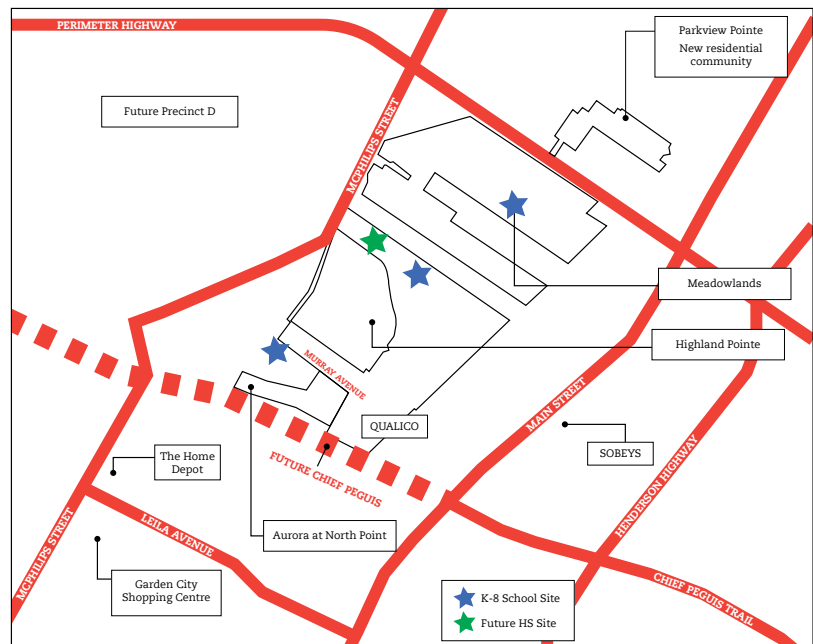
This year has been exciting at West Kildonan Collegiate as we await the opening of our new addition! This new wing of our school includes: 10 classrooms including two science labs, a 2000+ square foot fitness room, dance studio, gender-neutral bathrooms on each floor, and an additional second floor teacher prep room/ office space. Changes to the outdoor area include increased parking spaces, relocation of the outdoor basketball court, and the addition of an outdoor courtyard and community gathering space.

While the classroom spaces are not quite ready as this report goes to print, we are thrilled that our new state-of-art fitness room has just opened! This space will provide expanded opportunities for weight training classes as well as a venue for school teams to train and our physical education students to earn activity hours. According to Physical Education Department Head, Russell Wallace; “The new fitness room is not just a space, but a beautiful inclusive environment designed to empower our students and enhance their learning experience.” We could not have said it better!



Building the Future

Seven Oaks is growing. We’re planning for that growth and building for the future. This fall, we’ll open a substantial addition to West Kildonan Collegiate that includes classrooms, science labs, a dance studio and a well-equipped fitness facility. We’re now beginning construction of our next school École Mino Pimatisiwin School, a dual track kindergarten to grade eight school located in the Aurora development slated to open in 2025. We’re also planning two more new K-8 schools in the Highland Point and Meadowlands developments to open in September 2027 in addition to securing a site for a future high school in Highland Point. All of our new schools will house child care centres.



Building Success - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math

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STEAM Fest

Prior to the interruption caused by COVID-19, teachers at Maples Collegiate had approached the School Division to pitch an idea. The idea was to organize a massive division-wide celebration of all the incredible things our learners do in science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics. STEAM Fest was born!

The first-annual STEAM Fest took place in March 2022 at Garden City Shopping Centre. 800 learners from across the division brought their projects to the mall to showcase their learning to industry experts, scientists and community members. Learners were also able to participate in a variety of workshops that got them thinking about the universe in deep ways.

As 2022 was such a hit, Seven Oaks decided to go even bigger in 2023. Partnering with RRC Polytech, the 2023 STEAM Festival took place on April 26th and 27th at the Manitou a bi Bii Daziigae building in the Exchange District – a brand new state-of-the-art building fully devoted to technology, innovation and inclusion.



The 2023 edition of the STEAM Festival took place over two days and hosted 2000 learners from all of our schools. Learners brought incredible projects, participated in a 3-minute thesis competition and took part in fantastic workshops that had learners operating drones, dropping eggs, designing and launching rockets, building canoe paddles, building flying machines and video games, designing catapults and so much more.



Many of our schools also participated in the *Engineers of Tomorrow* program, where they were partnered with an engineer in residence. Patrick Ames and Rachel Hunter at École Belmont teamed up with Engineer Don to help introduce their Grade 5 learners to Newtonian physics. The learners created crash barriers for a wooden car on a ramp to crash into. The learners then calculated the impact of the car as it crashed into a variety of materials. What a powerful experience and beautiful connection to community, significant ideas and authentic ways of expressing their learning!

Next year, over 20 teachers will engage with *Engineers for Tomorrow* to develop even more inspiring projects. This partnership is also coupled with our long-standing partnership with the Winnipeg Art Gallery, where artists work with classroom teachers in the Middle Years on projects related to STEAM.

STEAM Fest returns next year on April 25th and 26th at RRC Polytech. We are anticipating more participation from our learners and can't wait to bear witness to their amazing projects!



Building Talent - Sistema at Elwick

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The tingling nerves and buzzing excitement of performance day. Students scanning the audience to find their caregivers, loved ones and teachers as they take the stage. The delicious smells of a potluck being laid out. A hush falling over the audience as the welcome and land acknowledgement begin...and that magical, silent pause just after a piece of music finishes and before the applause begins, where performers and audience are suspended together in a moment of shared beauty and pride.



While Sistema was fortunate to continue operating throughout the pandemic, at times online and at times in-person, what we missed perhaps more than anything was performing live for our community. Our October 2023 Family Night showcased the value of these gatherings perfectly. Beginner students (“Vivaldi Orchestra”) performed with their silent “Paper Orchestra” instruments, on which they had mastered a variety of fundamentals, then graduated to their real instruments in front of their loved ones. Real instruments were presented by advanced Sistema students (“Beethoven Orchestra”), who were as honoured to present the instruments as the beginners were to receive them. Ever since, these advanced students have been musical mentors to the beginners, helping them to progress in ways that often leave their teachers speechless.



It is fair to say that there would be no Sistema Winnipeg without Lydia Hedrich. Lydia Hedrich was an assistant superintendent in Seven Oaks School Division from 2001- 2020. Lydia was such a strong supporter of the arts but especially music. Lydia Hedrich had a dream to begin Sistema in Winnipeg in partnership with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra as early as 2009 but Sistema was established in 2011. Lydia knew that a program like Sistema would provide extraordinary opportunities for children who most deserve and need it and would enhance their lives. Lydia championed Elwick Community School as the first school to participate in Sistema and we could not be more grateful for the 12 years of exquisite music education that has been shared with hundreds of children. Lydia Hedrich passed away this spring. Sistema Winnipeg, Seven Oaks School Division and the WSO are forever grateful to her for bringing Sistema to our children and city.

The return of live performing has seen renewed connections with our partners at King Edward School and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra as we collaborate and perform together. Students are once again able to express themselves through singing and they have taken the lead in preparing small group performances and asking for extra harmony parts to add more richness to their favourite songs. The excitement around performances has boosted enrolment and retention as students share their enthusiasm with friends and welcome them into our community.

Seven Oaks embraces the arts in so many ways. Beyond Sistema thousands of students sing, play an instrument, dance and perform in productions. The many cultures in Seven Oaks are celebrated by embracing their dances, songs and stories.



Building Opportunity - Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre

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Building Opportunity to Perform

All schools can book events, shows, lectures and productions at no cost to the schools. The main function of the theatre is to hold large scale musical productions that so many of our schools put on. Groups typically come to the theatre for a week with rehearsals taking place over the weekend. School-based matinees take place for everyone in the division to attend and there also evening performances for families during the week. These performances are life-changing experiences for the students with new bonds, skills and confidence. Students run all aspects of the productions, including props, costume, hair and makeup. Those who do not want to perform work alongside the theatre staff running the lighting, sound and video effects gaining skills they can use in the real world production industry.

This year in SOPAC:

- 275 days in use!
- 10 musical productions each involving over 100 students.
- Six high school dance recitals, and a divisional dance day.
- Choir concerts, band concerts, a jazz concert and early years music including Orffs, fiddles, drums, and recorders.
- Our own 7 Oaks Jazz Festival, TEDx talk and a fiddle jamboree!
- 34 days of community events including Punjabi concerts, Ukrainian, Highland, and Bhangra dance performances, Arabic orchestra, Manitoba Talent Show, and Filipino music nights!



Building Understanding and Connection

The Indigenous Cultural Education Course

To help reconnect students to the teachings of their families and communities, the Indigenous Cultural Education Course has been established. Students join Elders and teachers outside of the classroom to learn about ceremony, identity, belonging, responsibility and purpose. Activities include sweat lodge ceremonies, medicine teachings, youth gatherings, ice fishing, post-secondary education tours, employment presentations and pow wows. Students complete 110 credit hours outside of the classroom and are granted one high school credit that can be used towards their high school diploma. Through participation in the Indigenous Cultural Education Course, students not only move closer towards their goal of high school completion but are also provided with opportunities to positively impact their own lives as well as the lives of their families and communities.

As students continue to learn about their identities, their connection to their community is strengthened and they appreciate the diversity around them. They build knowledge about social justice and learn to act and advocate. Community is a core value in Seven Oaks School Division. We are committed to fostering students' belief in themselves as learners, so that they find success in their learning journey, and strive to be generous.

This all leads to success in school and in life.

“Generations knowing who they are and being proud of who they are.”

- Elder Mary Courchene



While the COVID Pandemic is behind us and our schools are back to normal operation, the effects linger. Check out this report on our website to better understand what our staff and students experienced.

www.7oaks.org

Building Careers

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We are excited to debut our new name and logo for what was known as the Cooperative Vocational Education (CVE) program as it will now be known as the Career Ready program.

Career Ready

Education. Experience. Employment.

In SOSD, the Career Ready program is an excellent way to explore a career, not just a job. The program offers 14 career paths, including: aviation trades and technology; automotive trades and technology; electrical trades;



plumbing and pipe trades; heavy construction; refrigeration and air conditioning; hospitality services; health care aide; early childhood educator; sustainability horticulture; culinary hospitality; performing arts production, and building trades. Most of these programs are linked to an accreditation that are recognized by post-secondary institutions as well as industry.



The 2022/23 school year began with 225 Career Ready students over the 14 programs. The Career Ready program is designed to accept students who have completed their grade 11 core subject areas as well as recent grads from Seven Oaks catchment areas. Students out of the division are also accepted for a nominal fee. Each program boasts a lengthy internship component of up to six months where students are engaged in learning four days a week and return to the classroom for one day of additional theoretical instruction. The electrical program is the only exception where students develop their skills in-house at the Manitoba Building Trades building in conjunction with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The Career Ready department has partnered with over 300 businesses over the years from in and around the Seven Oaks community. Some of this year's partnerships include Jim Gauthier; Canad Inns; Keewatin Air; Peterbilt; Health Sciences Centre; Black and McDonald; Howell Mechanical; Kidi-Garden; Weather Tech, and Star Building. Along with these business partnerships, some of the educational partners from the past year include Red River Polytechnic; Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 254 and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.



The Career Ready program is expected to have an employment rate of about 80% spread over the 14 programs at the end of this school year. Most students enter employment directly through their internships. Students who did not receive employment are able to update their resumes with relevant work experience to help them find employment and continue their education.

One of the major highlights of the past year has been participation in the Manitoba Skills competition. This competition is a large event with an estimated 20,000 people attending. Career Ready Culinary student, Azrael (AJ) Cacho, received a gold medal and went on to compete at the Canadian National Skills competition. Career Ready Automotive student, Daniel Darchuk received a silver medal for his efforts.

Another highlight from the year included the Career Ready Open House held on March 8th where people in the community had an opportunity to learn more about our programs.

Career Ready Programs:

- Automotive Trades & Technology
- Aviation Trades & Technology
- Building Trades
- Culinary Arts
- Early Childhood Educator
- Electrical Trades & Technology
- Health Care Aide
- Heavy Construction
- Hospitality Services
- Performing Arts Production & Industry
- Plumbing & Pipe Trades
- Refrigeration Air Conditioning Technician

For more information on CVE, find us here:

<https://www.7oaks.org/Programs/CooperativeVocationalEducation/Pages/default.aspx#/>



Community Begins Here



EARLY YEARS: K-5

École Belmont
French K-5
525 Belmont Avenue
204-338-7893

Collicutt School
English K-5
75 Cottingham Street
204-338-7937

École Constable
Edward Finney School
Dual Track K-5
25 Anglia Avenue
204-694-8688

Forest Park School
English K-5
130 Forest Park Drive
204-338-9341

Governor Semple School
English K-5
150 Hartford Avenue
204-339-7112

James Nisbet
Community School
English K-6
70 Doubleday Drive
204-633-8870

Margaret Park School
English K-5
385 Cork Avenue
204-338-9384

R.F. Morrison School
English K-5
Ukrainian Bilingual K-6
25 Morrison Street
204-338-7804

Riverbend Community School
English K-5
Ojibwe Bilingual K-5
123 Red River Boulevard W
204-334-8417

École Rivière-Rouge
French K-5
55 Swinford Way
204-697-5962

École Templeton
French K-5
1310 Templeton Avenue
204-589-9853

Victory School
English K-5
395 Jefferson Avenue
204-586-9716

EARLY YEARS/ MIDDLE YEARS: K-8

A.E. Wright Community School
English K-8
Filipino Bilingual K-6
1520 Jefferson Avenue
204-632-6314

Amber Trails
Community School
English K-8
1575 Templeton Avenue
204-697-5965

Elwick Community School
English K-8
30 Maberley Road
204-633-5641

O.V. Jewitt Community School
English K-8
66 Neville Street
204-633-1714

West St. Paul School
English K-8
3740 Main Street
204-339-1964

MIDDLE YEARS: GRADES 6-8

Edmund Partridge
Community School
English 6-8
1874 Main Street
204-339-9889

H.C. Avery Middle School
English 6-8
10 Marigold Bay
204-334-4391

École Leila North
Community School
Dual Track 6-8
20 Allan Blye Drive
204-694-8071

École Seven Oaks
Middle School
Dual Track 6-8
800 Salter Street
204-586-0327

SENIOR YEARS: GRADES 9-12

Collège Garden
City Collegiate
Dual Track 9-12
711 Jefferson Avenue
204-339-2058

Maples Collegiate
English 9-12
1330 Jefferson Avenue
204-632-6641

Maples Met School
English 9-12
1300 Jefferson Avenue
204-632-6641

**Met Centre for Arts &
Technology**
English 9-12
321 McDermot Avenue
204-589-9854

Seven Oaks Met School
English 9-12
640 Jefferson Avenue
204-336-5050

West Kildonan Collegiate
English 9-12
101 Ridgecrest Avenue
204-339-6959

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Seven Oaks Adult
Learning Centre
950 Jefferson Avenue
204-632-1716

Adult Education Centre
1747 Main Street
204-589-9852

Wayfinders
950 Jefferson Avenue
204-631-5849

**ALL SCHOOL OFFICES
OPEN AUGUST 28**