

Report to Community 2017 - 2018



An Unforgettable Year

What an extraordinary year this has been! So many incredible things have happened that it is almost hard to believe, particularly in the area of the Performing Arts. The Met School Vibe and our first musical production, both student-led projects, were absolutely phenomenal this year.

To highlight just a few noteworthy moments: the Minister of Education presented our advisor, David Zynoberg, with the Manitoba Teaching Excellence Award; we hosted ProjectCon (the first Big Picture Learning conference to be held outside of the US); and we had a record-breaking number of scholarships awarded to our largest graduating class so far. Of course we stayed true to our 'work hard- play hard' motto, starting off the year with Chicken-Poop Bingo to highlight our sustainability efforts and to introduce the students to one of our chickens... that eats our compost... and lays our eggs... for our free breakfast program.

With a focus on well-being, more Leaving to Learn opportunities, and improved projects & internships, we have had a year that everyone should be truly proud of. We have set the bar high and this is going to be our new benchmark moving forward. Congratulations everyone!



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Well-Being & Mental Health

With a focus on well-being and mental health (including safe schools, anti-racism, inclusion, & LGBTQ rights), we have taken some big strides forward. In addition to having two whole-school wellness days this year, we also had free weekly yoga classes, an anxiety support group, and a drop-in counseling service. We continued our focus on sustainability and nutrition by planting an edible garden, not only to develop our green space and outdoor classroom, but also to supplement our free breakfast program. Our GSA had its first gender-neutral pronoun week, we had 3on3 basketball tournaments and bubble soccer, we got a therapy dog (Watson) and two therapy rats (Remy and Dexter), and most notably, we hired a new Wellness Advisor, Kevin Rempel, who will be starting with us in the new year.



'Leaving to Learn'

Land-Based Education & Sustainability

Our 'Leaving to Learn' experiences were exemplary this year, not only focusing on land-based education and sustainability, but also on well-being, truth and reconciliation, and social justice. In addition to our seasonal park outings, they included the Model United Nations, Artic Science Day at Fort Whyte, an OxFam hunger banquet, plenty of land-based education (camping, hiking, skating, snowshoeing, skiing, cycling), a Canadian Blood Services blood drive, LARPing, playing bubble soccer, planting gardens, and building houses for Habitat for Humanity. Not to mention our grade level trips to Camp Arnes, the Experimental Lakes in Ontario, ecology and environment week in Ottawa, and to study western indigenous culture in Vancouver. In addition, during our May Sustainability Month run by our ESD group after attending the LSF conference, our students really started thinking about their single use plastic and styrofoam waste and more sustainable transportation options.



Truth & Reconciliation & Social Justice

While TRC and social justice play a part in our daily routines, there are a few initiatives worth mentioning. This year we were pleased to incorporate TRC into our regular schedule by having weekly smudges, sharing circles, and reading one of the 94 TRC recommendations in our morning announcements. The Met School Justice League, in addition to planning the two wellness days, had a multiple fundraisers to continue to pay for the school fees of our two sponsor children from Uganda, and they had yet another successful Christmas food and toy drive for Winnipeg Harvest and winter clothing collection for Koats for Kids. But the most heartwarming thing to see was when the grade 11s went to a senior's home to dance with the local residents.



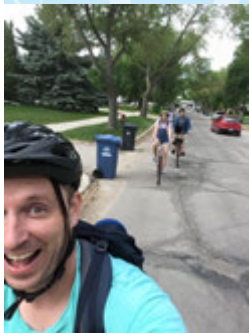
Projects & Internships

Our determination to have bigger and better projects and internships this year was clearly a success as we just wrapped up the most remarkable year in the Performing Arts – with the Met School Vibe, acapella co-directed by Allie and Rhianna – and our first musical production, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, directed by Shae-Lynn. A big thank you to our Family Ambassadors for helping out at our annual grad Coffeehouse fundraiser, which was a ton of fun especially with Aiden’s stand-up routine that had everyone in tears. And of course, who can forget Rhianna’s rhimatubes performance! Taking the advanced sciences in house this year proved to be the right thing to do all along and our grade 11 & 12s had many authentic biology, chemistry, and physics learning experiences. The addition of our new Internship Coordinator, Maribeth Tabanera, ensured we had a successful Mentor Appreciation Pancake Breakfast and Community Needs Fair, not to mention that she helped us secure some amazing internships where students explored black holes & quantum physics, medication for diabetes, Mystic Sufism, taught unicycling, rebuilt cars, and wrote top secret computer code for an industry-leading machine learning company, just to name a few.





Congratulations Class of 2018



Message from the Principal

Mino' Pimatisiwin is an Ojibwa term for living your best life by finding a balance of the physical, emotional, intellectual, and behavioral self. It is the ever-present goal of the growth and healing of an individual with the help of their family and community. When I became aware of this philosophy earlier in the year, I thought to myself, this is exactly what we are trying to accomplish here at the Met School.

Through our continued focus on **relationships, relevance, & rigor**, we want to help students recognize their own needs and the needs of others, to prepare them for a world that is constantly changing, and to foster community so everyone can benefit. With this in mind, our daily routines and 'Leaving to Learn' experiences had an additional emphasis placed on well-being, land-based education, sustainability, truth and reconciliation, and social justice.

To say it has been an extraordinary year is by no means an understatement. This was a year for the books and definitely one we will never forget. So a big thank you to all of our students and to their families, to our amazing staff, and to all of the official and unofficial mentors who have been there supporting and helping our students find their Mino' Pimatisiwin. Thanks for all your hard work in helping us build meaningful relationships, engage in authentic learning, and help our students find their place in the world.

Have a great summer ☺

Nancy Janelle
Principal

