

Ralph Brown School

Community Report

2019-2020

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School mission statement

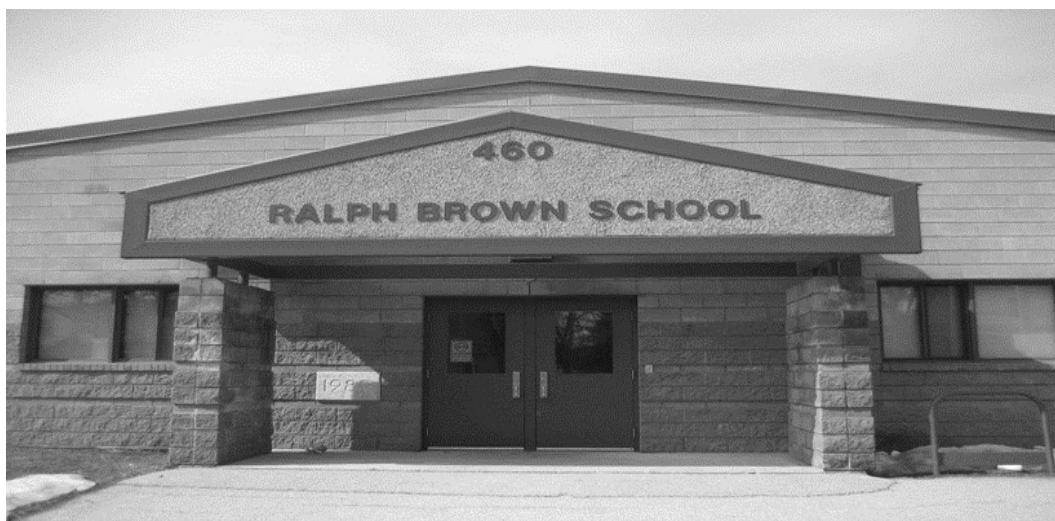
Ralph Brown School staff will work collaboratively, within a common growth mindset, to ensure every student is provided opportunities to reach their highest learning potential, taking into account their intellectual, physical, social, emotional and cultural needs to foster their development as global citizens.

At Ralph Brown School we believe that everyone can:

- ◆ Be Safe
- ◆ Be Respectful
- ◆ Be the Best you can be



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION



About our school

Ralph Brown School is an English Ukrainian Bilingual School with an enrolment of 230 students. We offer nursery to grade 6 in the English Program and kindergarten to grade 8 in the English Ukrainian Bilingual Program (EUBP). The EUBP program offers rich cultural experiences with a focus on language development. The kindergarten level is a beginner entry level and is available to all students who have an interest in learning a second language. We are the only school in the Winnipeg School Division to proudly offer the English Ukrainian Bilingual Program which offers language acquisition, exposure to Ukrainian culture & heritage, and celebration of religious events. Our school offers a Family Room where parents with younger children can drop in and spend some quality time with their pre-school children in an environment that is stimulating and equipped with educational resources. We are proud members of the community and work closely with the attached Ralph Brown Recreation Centre and the Machray Daycare that is located in our building.

The home of the 'Rockets' is committed to developing academic and social skills in a culturally diverse learning community that is warm, friendly, safe and inclusive. Our school wide expectations to *be safe, be respectful and be the best that you can be*, are reinforced every day. A wide range of programming is offered at Ralph Brown School and our staff is committed to developing further opportunities that meet the academic, social/emotional and physical domains of our students' development. Programs are supported and enhanced through an extensive resource program which includes literacy/EAL support, a resource teacher and a guidance counselor. Our PBIS programming teaches self-regulation and has an overall focus of health and well-being. We offer various clubs, intramurals and team sports as well as patrol and student council opportunities. We encourage students to take active roles in their school experience.

Our school is proud to have an active and dedicated Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and welcome the volunteers who dedicate their time to support our students and our learning community. We provide a free daily breakfast program, weekly snack program and PAC offers a supervised lunch program at a monthly cost or drop in fee. Our school's commitment to reconciliation this year includes strengthening community and reinforcing a sense of belonging for Ralph Brown students and their families. Everyone in our learning community plays a significant role in the success of our students and our goal is for each and everyone of our students to experience success this school year.

Highlights

Our mission to be Safe, Respectful and the Best You Can Be was achieved in 2019-2020. Some highlights of the year include:

- ◆ Successful school fundraisers
- ◆ Volunteers supported our classrooms throughout the year
- ◆ An active Parent Council supported the school with financial support and active involvement in school wide events
- ◆ Meet the Staff evening in September
- ◆ Terry Fox Run
- ◆ Dental Outreach Program, Hearing & Vision Screening
- ◆ Grade 4 Swimming Counts program
- ◆ Welcome to Kindergarten evening
- ◆ Daily breakfast program and Parent Council run lunch program
- ◆ School wide healthy snack and monthly Hot Lunch
- ◆ Everyone Has the Right Human Rights events
- ◆ I Love to Read, Spirit Week and Christmas/Halloween Gym
- ◆ Intramurals and Extra-Curricular sports programs - over 90% participation (Speed Skating, Running Club, Volleyball, Basketball including exhibition and division tournament, Triple-ball, Fit run, Soccer)
- ◆ Gr. 5 and 6 Volleyball tournament winners and North Division Championship
- ◆ Rocks & Rings Curling Program and Manitoba 10 Pin Bowling Assoc. were both invited to expose students to those sports
- ◆ Art Club, Knitting Club, Skipping Club
- ◆ Learning with Digital Technology (iPads, iMovies, green screen, Seesaw, Chromebooks, Raz Kids)
- ◆ Monthly Student-Led Assemblies (parents welcome to attend)
- ◆ Spring Open House
- ◆ Winter Concert
- ◆ Anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day & Orange Shirt Day to honour survivors of the residential school system
- ◆ Roots of Empathy program with special guest Baby Logan
- ◆ Mindfulness and Thrival Kits to promote mental health and wellness
- ◆ Our priority to improve literacy and numeracy remains an ongoing focus. We continued to implement our 'Response to Intervention' strategies in an attempt to increase the number of students who read at grade level in every grade.
- ◆ Primary Literacy Project in Nursery to grade 2
- ◆ Cross grade math classes and reading buddies
- ◆ Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics Framework
- ◆ Family Movie Night
- ◆ Destination Imagination Award Winners
- ◆ Rec & Read Mentorship program
- ◆ Patrols
- ◆ Field trips and experiential learning
- ◆ Indigenous literature for guided reading
- ◆ Positive Behaviour Interventions & Strategies (PBIS), Minds in Motion Program & Zones of Regulations to support self regulation
- ◆ Clinical Support Services (Social Work, Psychology, Speech, and Reading Clinicians)
- ◆ Partnership with in-school Machray Daycare and Ralph Brown Recreation Centre
- ◆ Staff joined the Bear Clan on a community patrol and invited them to present to our parents
- ◆ School Resource Officer (SRO)



Participants met at the school at 8:00 am on Run Club days



Grade 1/2 students were visited by Dr. Cormack, a neighbourhood dentist, who talked about dental health.



Kristine Deleon, from the Forum Art Centre, worked with students from P3 creating Anime art.



All students were exposed to the sport of curling through the Rocks & Rings Program.



School Priorities

To provide robust and comprehensive education, equitable access, diverse opportunity, and a supportive learning environment for all students to help them prepare for their journey with values of learning and social justice, and to be responsible community members both in the English & Ukrainian Bilingual programs.

Further improve school attendance, achievements and graduation rates through the exploration of additional programs and strategies.

To further develop initiatives and Innovative approaches addressing individual student needs and accessibility requirements, mental health issues, childcare needs, and nutritional needs.



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Destination Imagination:

Ralph Brown had 4 teams compete in the Provincial Destination Imagination Tournament held in March. Destination Imagination is the largest creativity program in the world; it is active in 30 countries including Canada and the US. The program focuses on inquiry and project-based learning and blends STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) with fine arts, and social entrepreneurship.

Our teams did very well. The *Frozen Rockets* brought home the 1st Place Banner in the Elementary Scientific Challenge “First Encounter”. The *Creative Creatures* also completed in the “First Encounter Challenge” making for some tough competition. They won the most fun team in the tournament!

The *Senapai Cats* won second place in in the Elementary Level Fine Arts Challenge, “Picture This”. Our last group, *Bridges United*, was the first team from our school to ever compete in the Engineering Challenge, taking home second place. The most impressive feat for our school in DI 2020 was that *Bridges United* also won first place for the Instant Challenge competition, competing against 31 other teams! This was the first time ever that our school has even placed in the top three in this category, and winning first place brings a new banner into our school. Way to go Rockets!!!

A Celebration of Passion and Learning:

We recognize our students, parents/guardians and staff for their perseverance, support and commitment to learning, safety and well-being. As we navigated through the suspension of classes, remote learning took the place of in-class learning. As some restrictions were lifted, remote learning continued and in-class visits with teachers were scheduled. School and home life looked very different. Together, we stood strong as a community and supported each other through the challenges. Let’s be proud and celebrate all we have accomplished.

Students took part in Phys. Ed. activities even while at home.



P2 students’ artwork on display.



Breakfast Club of Canada, Child Nutrition Council and Breakfast for Learning support our healthy snack and breakfast programs.



One of the vehicles taking part in our parade honoured our volunteers.



Staff loading food hampers for delivery.

Ukrainian Bilingual Program Highlights

We are very proud of our Ukrainian program and have worked hard to ensure that our students are receiving a strong and enriched learning environment where they can practice the Ukrainian language, discover Ukrainian heritage and learn about Ukrainian culture.

Thank you to our supporters who have provided our program with support throughout the year:

- ◆ Carpathia Credit Union for their ongoing financial support
- ◆ St. Boniface Ukrainian Foundation Inc. for their ongoing financial support
- ◆ Manitoba Parents for Ukrainian Education (MPUE) who work closely with staff, parents and students in planning activities and adding to the students' experiences in the program



Activities & Events:

- ◆ Pysanky (egg decorating) workshops were held school-wide, with all students (and staff) trying their hand at this ancient art form.
- ◆ Ukrainian Choir spread joy at Christmas by caroling (Kolyada) at local business and community residences
- ◆ Students in the English-Ukrainian Bilingual program sang songs and recited poems for St. Nicholas who came accompanied by his angels with a small gift for every student in the school.
- ◆ We hosted families, alumni and special guests at our Ukrainian Christmas Eve Dinner Celebration. Traditional carols were sung and guests were treated to a dinner which included kutya (wheat), borscht (beet soup), varenyky (perogies), holubtsi (cabbage rolls), sauerkraut, mushrooms and gravy, kolach (bread) and dessert.

Unfortunately, classes were suspended at the end of March due to the pandemic but we are looking forward to continuing with these activities in the coming year:

- ◆ Ukrainian Easter Breakfast is celebrated with a traditional breakfast and performances by our Ukrainian program students
- ◆ Cultural, language and heritage learning experiences which include field trips and camps:
Gr. 6 Ukrainian language camp at the U of M, Gr. 4 students visit to the Leo Mol Sculpture Garden, and Gr. 5 students visit to the Legislature.

Pictured on the right: Staff helped to recognize "Vyshyvanky Day" - when the traditional Ukrainian shirt/blouse is worn world-wide.



Parent and Community Involvement

Our parents, caregivers and community members play an integral role in our learning community. We believe the partnership between home and school is a vital component to your child's success. It is our goal to ensure that parents and caregivers always feel welcome at Ralph Brown School and are motivated to support the school community by volunteering, participating in school events and joining our parent council. Parents are always encouraged to contact the classroom teachers via email or by phone whenever necessary. There is a family room accessible anytime during the school day, monthly Parent Advisory Council meetings, and visible staff before and after school to support ongoing communication.

Some special acknowledgements include:

- ◆ Our Parent Council was very busy supporting the school throughout the year. They held fundraising events and monthly hot lunches to raise funds for student activities which included camp, patrols, snack program, and technology equipment to support student learning. Thank you to our Parent Council for their generous support towards our Grade 6 Farewell student gifts.
- ◆ Thank you to Nahanni Fontaine, MLA St. Johns, for her generous support toward our Grade 6 Awards.
- ◆ Thank you to Mr. Casey Hallard of No Frills on Main St. for his generous donations and contributions to support our school this year.
- ◆ Volunteer Appreciation was celebrated with a community parade this year. Thank you for your continuous support and involvement in our learning community; it is greatly appreciated
- ◆ Thank you to our parent council, Ukrainian Bilingual Program parents, alumni and community members who played a role in assisting with the Ukrainian Christmas Eve dinner.
- ◆ Thank you to Ms Raposo for keeping up our Family Room and making it a welcoming place. Parents and siblings used this space throughout the year to taking advantage of numerous resources available, including a computer and telephone; or spend time relaxing with a cup of coffee while waiting for student dismissal.