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Report to Community 2019-2020



Our Mission


At Donwood School, it is our goal to foster a safe and caring environment that maximizes the intellectual, social-emotional and physical development of our students.


Donwood School strives to provide a positive, respectful and inclusive environment that challenges students to reach their full potential.


Cooperative, safe and respectful behavior is taught, encouraged and reinforced. Communication between parents, staff and students is considered essential to student success.

It is our goal to foster community and a love for learning that will allow students to become independent, confident and successful learners!

About Donwood School

 We are a K – 5 dual track school with both English and German Bilingual programming. Our enrollment fluctuates between 320 - 330 students divided amongst 16 classrooms.

 We have an instructional staff of 23 full-time equivalent teachers, along with 10 educational assistants and 5 educational interns. We have specialists for Phys. Ed., Music, Library, Student Services, Literacy Support and Reading Recovery as well as an Early Numeracy Intervention Program.

 Our Community Connector supports our students, parents and caregivers. She offers pre-school programs as well as evening community events. She also runs a clothing closet, a Bag Meal Program and Walking School Bus.

2019-2020 Priorities

Expected Outcomes: Enhance student performance through authentic literacy and math instruction including the use of technology as tools.

- ✓ Throughout the year, our staff took part in professional learning in literacy and numeracy with our Divisional Early Years Consultant, our Reading Recovery/Teacher Librarian, our Reading Recovery Teacher Leader and our IAA/LST Teacher. This work has focused on a school wide approach to increasing literacy and numeracy achievement for all learners.
- ✓ Students and staff participated in PD on teaching math through problem solving with multiple entry points to solving math problems.
- ✓ Our staff also participated in professional development in numeracy, play based / loose parts learning and TELP (Technology Enabled Professional Learning) with four other elementary schools in our division.
- ✓ Our students have published authentic pieces of writing. We celebrated by holding our fourth book launch in our school library during the month of February.
- ✓ Two teachers participated in Minecraft Education Training. They collaborated with all Grade 4 and 5 teachers to provide Minecraft education to students.
- ✓ We have created a “Maker Space” learning center in our library to support scientific writing and the design process.
- ✓ Many of our students had an opportunity to learn coding skills, participate in virtual field trips and work with coding projects using robotics.

Expected outcomes: Enhance the climate and culture of our school by further developing a safe and inclusive environment.

- ✓ Numerous programs were available to students such as Walking School Bus, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Breakfast Club, Roots of Empathy, WJHA, Extra-curricular sports, Girls Club, Baking Club, open library, Chat Club, Language while we Lunch, Sign Language Club, Cross-Country Skiing, Recorder Club, etc.
- ✓ We enjoyed several opportunities for our community to come together with our staff during evening events, such as our Community BBQ, Pumpkin Carving Night, Gingerbread House Making, Lantern Festival, Family Paint Night, Family Movie Night, Book Launch, and the Moose Game where our Donwood Choir sang Oh Canada.
- ✓ We have an active Parent Advisory Council and many community volunteers that support our school and school programs.
- ✓ Each month our students attended assemblies focusing on our Donwood C.A.R.E.S. motto. This learning is reinforced daily by classroom/school staff.
- ✓ All students took part in our “Caught You Caring” program to recognize students putting the school behaviour matrix into action.
- ✓ Our student house groups met monthly to have students of all levels interact and work together on projects/assignments surrounding the school matrix.
- ✓ Staff, including lunch supervisors, have been trained in Zones of Regulation. Zones provide language and strategies to help children to solve daily conflicts.



We utilize divisional clinicians (psychology, social work and speech and language) as well as behaviour and reading specialists to support our students.



Donwood School is a socially responsible community that focuses on creating a positive, respectful and inclusive environment. Our school motto is:

Donwood C.A.R.E.S.

C = Cooperate
A = Aim to do your best
R = Respect
E = Empathy
S = Stay Safe.



Donwood School works in partnership with an active and supportive Parent Council. They continue to support greening initiatives, hot lunch, fundraising and numerous other activities that support all students. Our PAC constitution can be found on our school website.



Donwood School supports many students with a breakfast program offered three mornings a week and a snack shack program the other two days. We receive volunteer and financial support from three local churches as well as financial support from a nutrition grant.



Donwood School houses a user pay lunch program and Laugh 'N' Learn Before and After School-Aged Centre Inc. as well as a pre-school and infant daycare.



Please visit our school website to keep up to date with school information. Go to www.retsd.mb.ca and follow the link to Donwood School.



- ✓ Our Grades 4 and 5 students were invited and participated in planning the activities for our house groups to provide student voice and to build our student leadership capacity.
- ✓ Matrix and professional wall mounts are visible in the hallways and stairways in our school. Additional Matrices have been created to support our evening events and additional programs.
- ✓ A parent evening with our PAC was held to teach our parents about the Zones of Regulation and Small, Medium, Large Problems to support pro-social behaviour with students.
- ✓ CSPI grant funds have been used to support community programs such as Community Cupboard, Clothing Closet and additional parenting programs. It also supports additional literacy and numeracy learning and school wide initiatives.
- ✓ Donwood School supported by our German Bilingual classes celebrated many cultural events (Lantern Festival and St. Nikolastag).
- ✓ We celebrated Diwali in November and at our Peace Around the World winter concert which celebrated the cultural diversity within our school and our community.
- ✓ Donwood Students participated in the RETSD/WSO performance at the Concert Hall. We also had a school wide String Family performance from the WSO.
- ✓ 6 Staff members attended the Shelley Moore presentation on Inclusive Education which will be provided to all staff in a book study next year.
- ✓ Our school hosted a school wide performance by MTYP Spelling 255 on inclusion which included workshops for Grade 4 and 5 students.
- ✓ Paul Loewen from Siloam Mission presented to K to 5 students during Socktober and Michael Champagne presented to our leadership students.
- ✓ Special guest readers visited Donwood School during "I love to Read Month"
- ✓ Peace Maker Training for our student leadership was initiated.
- ✓ Each hallway received new outdoor recess equipment including snow bins.

Expected outcomes: Enhance student achievement through thoughtful and authentic work with our Indigenous Academic Achievement and Educational Sustainable Development work.



- ✓ Our staff members took part in professional learning around the book, Truth and Reconciliation in Canadian Schools to enhance curricular development.
- ✓ iQmetrix coding session provided for the Nakoda Girls to engage in STEAM.
- ✓ 3 community smudges took place at Donwood with students from Chief Peguis School led by our Donwood student leaders who have received training.
- ✓ Our Indigenous Boys group participated in drumming with an elder.
- ✓ Our Nakoda Girls have shared their gift of drumming at many celebrations throughout the year.
- ✓ All classrooms took part in our Orange T-Shirt Day Assembly and our Global Outdoor classroom day with Indigenous curricular connections.
- ✓ Our divisional instructor from Germany worked on literacy and design projects with our German bilingual students.
- ✓ Loose Part Play Bins were created and incorporated into classroom learning and recess activities.