



A.E. Wright Community School

# Report to the Community

## June 2025

### **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*We take time to acknowledge that we are here on Treaty 1 Territory, and to honour the Peoples and lands of Turtle Island. Treaty 1 land is on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, Inninewak, and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Red River Metis. Our water comes from Anishinaabe Treaty 3 territory from the waters of Shoal Lake First Nation #39 and #40.*

*The electricity powering our community comes from generating stations on river in Treaty territories 1, 3, and 5. The Northern Flood Agreement with five Indigenous communities in northern Manitoba remains unfulfilled.*

*We are committed to our Treaty relationship. As a school community, we continually reflect on how we are contributing towards reconciliation today and everyday.*

# FOCUS FOR 2024-2025

Our focus is on empowering individual students, staff, and our broader community to become engaged and contributing members of society, both locally and globally. As a school, we are committed to fostering an inclusive environment, embracing each individual's unique identity and experiences, breaking down barriers, and enhancing supports for our students, families, and staff. Central to our mission is cultivating global competencies in both learners and staff, such as creativity, citizenship, connection to self, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication. We approach this work with an anti-racist and equity-centered lens, guided by both the Global Competencies Framework and Mamāhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With—an Indigenous Education Policy Framework from the Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning.



## **SUSTAINING REFLECTIVE LITERACY PRACTICE**

Sustaining and building on the insights from our three-year Regie Routman Residency and the emergent literacy supports, ensuring that the staff continues to strengthen their practices.



## **TRANSFORMING NUMERACY PRACTICE**

Ongoing PD and application for impactful practice through Jump Math, Building Thinking Classrooms, and other emergent divisional initiatives.



## **PROMOTING PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, MENTAL, AND SPIRITUAL WELLBEING**

Comprehensive health education, clubs, extra-curricular opportunities, and healthy meal programs.



## **COMMITTING TO CLIMATE EDUCATION, AWARENESS & ACTION**

Empowering the future generations through Science Education, Student Leadership, and Community Partnerships. As a candidate school in the UNESCO Schools Network (ASPnet) in Canada, we are committed to upholding UNESCO's values and principles.



## **DECOLONIZING EDUCATION IN PARTNERSHIPS**

Continue partnering with the Indigenous Knowledge Keepers to center their perspectives in our work focusing on belonging, independence, mastery, and generosity as we progress towards decolonizing education.

# Sustaining Reflective Literacy Practice



Sustaining and building on the insights from our three-year Regie Routman Residency and the emergent literacy supports, ensuring that the staff continues to strengthen their practices.

## *The Craft of Writing*

This year, several of our classes have been exploring the craft of writing with a focus on the power of storytelling. Rather than emphasizing only the mechanics, teachers and students have been asking rich questions such as, “What makes a story engaging?” and “How do writers hook the reader?” Through the use of mentor texts and focused mini-lessons, students have been learning specific techniques that authors use to capture a reader’s attention and bring their stories to life. As a celebration of their learning, several classes published their own classroom books, featuring a written piece from every student. These collections highlight the creativity, voice, and growth of each young author and mark a proud moment in their writing journey.

## *Fostering & Nurturing A Love for Reading - I Love to Read Month*

This year, our teachers were intentional in nurturing a love for reading across all grade levels. By using mentor texts, they helped students explore the joy of stories while noticing how authors use language to capture attention, build emotion, and bring ideas to life. We celebrated “I Love to Read” month with school-wide activities that encouraged students to engage with books in joyful and meaningful ways. From interactive read-alouds to classroom celebrations of favourite books, our goal has been to inspire a lifelong appreciation for reading and help students see themselves as readers.



*Leadership students sharing their love of reading with younger students*



*Guest reader divisional principal Fortunato Lim*



*Guest reader Dr. Jasjit Delow author of The Fruit Surprise written in both Punjabi & English*

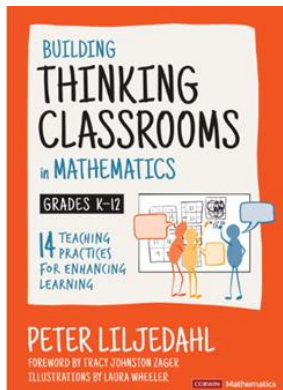


*Leadership students sharing their love of reading with younger students*



# Transforming Numeracy Practice

## *Teacher Professional Development-Problem Solving...*



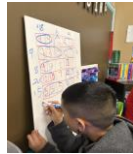
This year, we continued learning how to use problem-solving to go beyond rote memorization and calculations. Using *Building Thinking Classrooms* by Peter Liljedahl as a mentor text, we learned how to implement rich mathematics tasks to engage students in deep thinking.



# Transforming Numeracy Practice

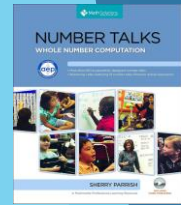


Ongoing PD and application for impactful practice through Number Talks, Building Thinking Classrooms, Problem Solving and other emergent divisional initiatives.

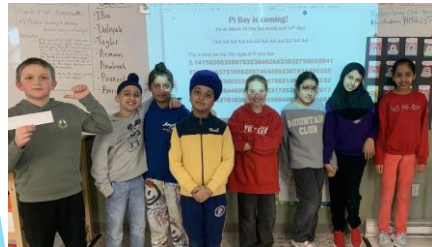


## Number Talks

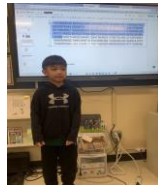
This year, teachers engaged students in Number Talks to help make their mathematical thinking visible. Number Talks are short, purposeful math discussions that focus on mental computation and number sense. They encourage students to share strategies, justify their thinking, and explore patterns, building fluency, flexibility, and a deeper understanding of math concepts.



## Pi Day & Einstein's Birthday Celebration



Thanks to Ms. Jill, Ms. Dombek, Mr. Talay, Mr. Santiago, Mr. Sancier, and Mr. Holmes for agreeing to be Pi'ed by the winning students!



Congratulations to Rhyt from Room 17 who memorized 208 digits of pi !!

Did you know March 14th is Pi Day and Albert Einstein's birthday? To celebrate Pi Day we read books about Einstein, explored circles, and encouraged our students to memorize as many digits of Pi as possible. The student that memorized the most digits got to Pi their teacher in the face.

$\pi$

## Problem Solving Clubs

We learned that students think deeply when they are...

- Standing instead of sitting
- Working in groups of 3
- Working on vertical, non-permanent surfaces instead of paper
- Sharing the pen
- sharing their ideas, thinking, and strategies with their peers

Don't give up... Let's try something different.

I think I see a pattern.

I think I know a strategy I can use to solve this..

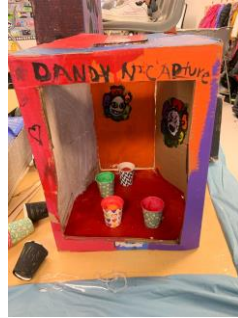
I can draw a picture of thinking!



# STEAM

## *Cardboard Arcade*

Students at AEW showcased creativity and innovation during STEAM Fest! Classes applied their learning to design and build prototypes, including a cardboard arcade created by Grade 4/5 students in P5. From engineering simple machines to crafting persuasive ads, our students blended science, design, and imagination in inspiring ways!





# Promoting Physical, Emotional, Mental, and Spiritual Wellbeing



Comprehensive health education, clubs, extra-curricular opportunities, and healthy meal programs.



## Special Olympics

This year, students in our Special O program built confidence, teamwork, and social skills while staying active. They trained and competed in official Special Olympics Manitoba sports, including basketball, bocce, athletics, and soccer. What a great year of growth and fun!



### Student Testimonials

*"Special O is the reason I make new friends. Everybody is different. No matter who you are, you always belong at A.E.W."*  
- Grade 5 student

*"Special O sees you. You don't have to be worried. You will be light."*  
- Grade 6 student

# Child Nutrition Program



Thank you to our wonderful volunteers, Mrs. Vanita Sehajpal and Mrs. Manpreet Kaur who help our vice-principal, Dr. Pedrina prepare food each day.



Students waiting for lunch.



Healthy snacks

This year, aside from the grant we received from Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba, we received funding from the provincial government to expand our meal programs. We offered healthy meals to more students. We served breakfast to a number of students, lunch to approximately 50-60 students a day, and delivered 16 snack bowls to various classrooms.

## *Filipino Cuisine*



Room 3 prepared and tasted food that were originally from the Philippines. They made "suman" (steamed sticky rice) and "bilo-bilo" (sticky rice balls in coconut milk). Preparing "bilo-bilo" and "suman" is a sensory journey that taps into the sights, sounds, smells, and tactile experiences of Filipino cuisine, while also connecting deeply to Filipino culture and traditions.



# Promoting Physical, Emotional, Mental & Spiritual Wellbeing

## *Learn to Swim*



## *Learn to Skate*



This year, our early years students took part in the Learn to Skate and Learn to Swim programs, valuable experiences that supported their physical, emotional, and mental well-being. These programs helped students build confidence, coordination, and resilience while having fun and learning new skills in a supportive environment. We are proud of how they embraced each challenge with enthusiasm and joy!



# Committing to Climate Education, Awareness & Action



Empowering future generations through Science Education, Student Leadership, and Community Partnerships. As a candidate school in the UNESCO Schools Network (ASPnet) in Canada and as a Learning for Sustainable Futures School (LSF), we are committed to upholding UNESCO's values and principles.

## Composting and Vermicomposting



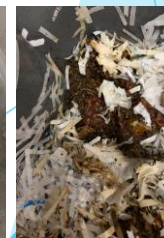
This year we have been learning how to vermicompost.

What is it?

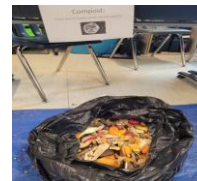
How do you do it?

Why do people vermicompost instead of regular composting?

What have we learned?



## Waste Audit



Grade 7/8 students from Room 18 explored how a waste management campaign could reduce our school's impact on climate change. As part of this work, students led a school-wide garbage audit to better understand our current waste habits. We discovered that over half (53.3%) of what was in the trash could have been composted or recycled. 33.5% of it was compostable, much of it being whole fruits like apples and oranges, which produce harmful greenhouse gases when sent to landfills. After the audit, students revised their waste management campaign projects to make their messages clearer and more motivating. Then the students shared their findings with the school community.



# Committing to Climate Education, Awareness, & Action



Green New World is a climate change simulation developed by AE Wright teacher, Josh Bergmann and his students (with incredible art by former students, Mara Buhain and Jo Serrano). It was professionally published with the help from a Seven Oaks Teachers' Association grant. Room 13 students are taking it on the road to teach to their peers! We've presented it to the board of trustees, and two UNESCO Youth Forums at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. We look forward to visiting more schools in the future!





## Beading & Sewing Club



Ms. Harmony, Ms. Rachel, Ms. Melissa and Jerzey leading our Orange Shirt Day walk through the community.



*Elder Winston and the A. E. Wright community gathered on September 27th for a sacred fire to honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*

# FILIPINO BILINGUAL PROGRAM (K-8)



Celebrating 127<sup>th</sup> Philippine Heritage and Independence Day



Mural by Mr. Amado Salac, after-school visual arts teacher.

## 127<sup>th</sup> Philippine Independence Day Celebration

Room 3 with Mrs. J. Icaro proudly represented their school together with other FBP classrooms by performing in three schools aside from A.E.Wright, such as Amber Trails, O.V. Jewitt, and Maples Collegiate. Their passion for Filipino culture and history radiated through a variety of performances that showcased their diverse talents and deep patriotism.

Room 3 captivated audiences with a powerful Reader's Theater performance, bringing to life the stories of our culture through expressive reading and dramatic narration. Their voices echoed with emotion, carrying messages of values, unity, and love for the country. The students also presented a lively cultural dance number that highlighted traditional Filipino folk dances. Their vibrant costumes and synchronized moves energized the crowd and reflected the rich cultural heritage of the Philippines. They also took the stage with an inspiring skit, portraying the culture, tradition, and values of the Philippines through acting. For their finale, they performed a heartfelt song—an ode to the beauty, resilience, and spirit of the Filipino people. Their harmonious voices united in a musical tribute that resonated deeply with everyone present.



# 127<sup>th</sup> Philippine Independence Day Celebration



Room 4 under Mr. R. Iscala did a Book Launching activity during the 127<sup>th</sup> Philippine Independence Day Celebration at Arthur E. Wright Community School. The students read their 'shining moments' pieces from the book 'Kumukuti-kutitap, Kumikislap-kislap' that everyone contributed. Included in the book are the stories about 'Earth Day' that they wrote. Using stuffies as characters, they made meaningful stories on how to save the planet earth. Parents and guests, including our retired Vice Principal, Mr. Manny Calixto and SOSD trustee, Derek Dabee, witnessed the book launching event. They were all delighted on how the students read and spoke both in English and Filipino while showcasing their skills in writing and story-telling.

## Our Interconnected Approaches in Developing Culturally-Responsive Bilingual Students

Room 12 with Mrs. C. Espino read "Everlasting Nora," a novel about struggles and homelessness. The study led to connecting with the CEO of St. Boniface Street Links and joining the "Meaning of Home" writing contest sponsored by Habitat for Humanity, and raising \$260 through writing. The most powerful moment came upon learning that one of Room 12's own families will receive a home from Habitat for Humanity in September 2025.

Promoting Media Literacy in Room 17 through song interpretation of "The Waving Flag" and infusion of language and cultural games.

As part of learning the Filipino language and culture, Room 19 students under Mr. K. Talay read recipe books and applied their learning by making dishes during the Filipino Food Month Celebration in April.



Staff, students, and families donated household supplies to St. Boniface Street Links in December of 2024



Grades 6 and 7 students under Mr. M. Santiago created a four-minute video highlighting their pride in being Filipino-Canadians.  
([https://www.7oaks.org/aewright/\\_ci/p/12688](https://www.7oaks.org/aewright/_ci/p/12688))



Grades 7 and 8 students cooked Filipino dishes like "sinigang," a Filipino favourite tamarind soup with meat and vegetables.