

ÉCOLE LEILA NORTH SCHOOL

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2025-26



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SCHOOL PRIORITIES

At École Leila North Community School, we believe that strong schools are built through meaningful relationships, engaging learning experiences, and a shared sense of purpose. This year, our staff dedicated significant time to reflecting on who we are as a school community and what we want learning to look and feel like for our students. We also gathered feedback from students and families to better understand what matters most to them and what they value in their school experience.

As a middle years school, we believe students should have opportunities to explore their passions, interests, identities, and strengths in a wide variety of ways. We want students to see school as a place where they feel connected, challenged, supported, and inspired to discover who they are and who they want to become.

Through collaboration, staff voice, student experiences, family feedback, and ongoing conversations, we developed a renewed school plan grounded in four key priorities: Literacy, Numeracy & Rich Learning Experiences; Learning for a Just & Sustainable Future; Truth, Reconciliation & Indigenous Ways of Knowing; and an Inclusive, Safe & Welcoming Environment.



Rather than existing as a separate document, our school plan became part of our everyday work. These priorities helped guide classroom learning, professional conversations, extracurricular opportunities, student leadership experiences, and school-wide events throughout the year. From literacy and numeracy learning, to sustainability initiatives, cultural experiences, athletics, the arts, and community building, our staff worked intentionally to ensure our priorities were reflected in all that we do at Leila North.

This report highlights some of the many ways students, staff, and families helped bring our school plan to life throughout the 2025–2026 school year.





LITERACY, NUMERACY & RICH LEARNING EXPERIENCES

At Leila North, we believe students learn best when they are actively engaged, challenged to think creatively, and given opportunities to explore learning in meaningful and authentic ways. Throughout the year, our staff worked collaboratively to create rich learning experiences that fostered curiosity, creativity, problem solving, and a love of learning.

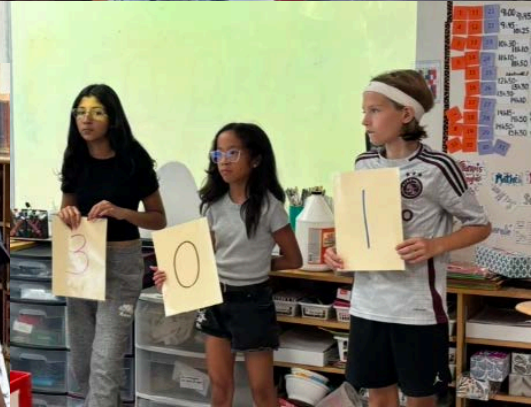
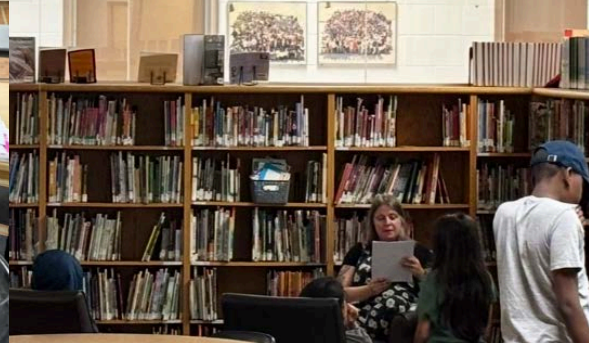
Literacy and numeracy learning remained a strong focus across all grade levels and subject areas. Students participated in novel studies, book clubs, collaborative discussions, writing opportunities, and cross-curricular learning experiences designed to strengthen both foundational skills and critical thinking. During I Love to Read Month, classrooms and school-wide activities helped celebrate reading while encouraging students to see themselves as readers and storytellers.

This year also saw an increased emphasis on inquiry-based and hands-on learning opportunities, centred around the new Manitoba Science Curriculum. Students explored science, technology, engineering, art, and design through a variety of engaging projects and experiences. With support from Tech Hub, classrooms had access to digital microscopes that were widely used to encourage observation, exploration, scientific thinking, artistic creation, and meaningful writing opportunities across subject areas.

Our first annual Science Fair showcased the creativity, curiosity, and innovation of our students, with approximately 150 participants sharing projects and discoveries with peers, staff, families, and community judges. Students also participated in rich learning opportunities connected to Projet GENIE, design challenges, collaborative problem solving, and creative scientific exploration throughout the year. The addition of Chromebook carts in each pod also helped increase student access to technology as a tool for research, collaboration, creativity, and learning.

Our staff also continued to learn alongside one another. Through Teacher Talk, collaborative planning, and professional learning opportunities that leaned into staff expertise, teachers worked together to share engaging practices, strengthen instruction, and support student success across the school.

Together, these experiences helped create classrooms where students could explore their interests, take risks in their learning, collaborate with others, and see themselves as readers, writers, mathematicians, scientists, artists, and problem solvers.



LEARNING FOR A JUST & SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

At Leila North, we believe students learn best when they are empowered to care for one another, their community, and the world around them. Throughout the year, students had opportunities to explore sustainability, environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and community action in meaningful and authentic ways.

Our Eco-Warriors continued to play a leadership role within the school community, organizing and leading a school-wide Earth Day assembly and full-day activity event that engaged students in learning and action connected to sustainability and environmental responsibility. Students also helped organize several clothing swaps throughout the year, encouraging the reuse and sharing of items within our school community.

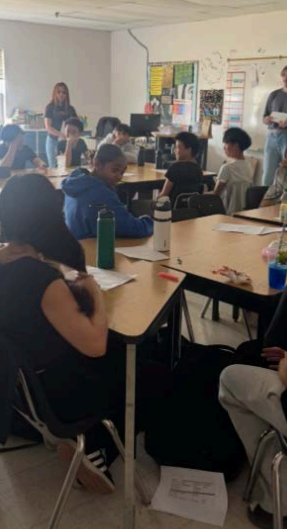
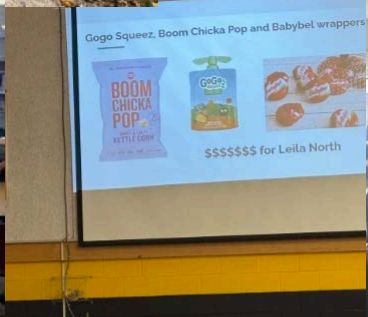
Leila North continued its partnership with TerraCycle, helping divert large amounts of waste from landfills by recycling everything from coffee pods and potato chip bags to razors and single-use plastics. Students took pride in helping support these initiatives and learning about the importance of reducing waste and caring for the environment.



Community care and food sustainability also remained important priorities. Through our continued partnership with Second Harvest and our Tuesday bread program, we were able to support many families within our community. In November alone, approximately 150,000 eggs were distributed to community members. Students also helped care for our growing collection of animals and outdoor learning spaces, including our chickens, bees, quail, and community gardens, which continue to expand each year. Opportunities to tend gardens, harvest honey, care for animals, and participate in outdoor learning experiences helped students develop responsibility, connection, and an appreciation for the natural world.

Together, these experiences helped students see that even small actions can make a meaningful difference. Through leadership, service, environmental stewardship, and community care, students were encouraged to see themselves as active contributors to a more just and sustainable future.







TRUTH, RECONCILIATION & INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING

At Leila North, we believe that Truth and Reconciliation must be reflected in meaningful learning, authentic relationships, and ongoing opportunities for students to learn from and alongside Indigenous perspectives, teachings, and communities. Throughout the year, students engaged in experiences that encouraged reflection, connection, cultural understanding, and respect for Indigenous Ways of Knowing.

This year marked the introduction of our Indigenous Cultural Exploration Group, which met every Day 3 morning throughout the school year. Students and staff worked collaboratively to co-plan experiences, teachings, and opportunities they were interested in learning more about. Through this group, students participated in a wide variety of cultural experiences including drum making, ribbon skirt and ribbon shirt creation, medicine picking at Bird's Hill Park, archery, visits to the Aki Centre, and teachings connected to the sweat lodge. These experiences provided students with opportunities to learn through doing, listening, observing, reflecting, and connecting with the land and community.

Students involved in the Indigenous Cultural Exploration Group also took leadership roles within the school community by helping organize and lead Métis Days activities as well as an Indigenous Peoples' Day assembly and school-wide learning opportunities. This year also saw the introduction of a drumming group that met regularly throughout the school year, helping students build community while learning through music, rhythm, and shared experiences.

Truth and Reconciliation learning also continued within classrooms across all grade levels and subject areas throughout the year. Students engaged with Indigenous literature, histories, perspectives, and land-based learning opportunities that encouraged deeper understanding and reflection. Staff worked intentionally to ensure Indigenous perspectives and teachings were embedded within learning experiences in authentic and meaningful ways.

Together, these experiences helped strengthen students' understanding of community, identity, respect, and responsibility while continuing our collective learning journey toward Truth and Reconciliation.



INCLUSIVE, SAFE & WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

At Leila North, we believe that students learn best when they feel safe, valued, respected, and connected to their school community. Throughout the year, staff worked intentionally to foster an inclusive and welcoming environment where students could explore their identities, build healthy relationships, and develop a strong sense of belonging.

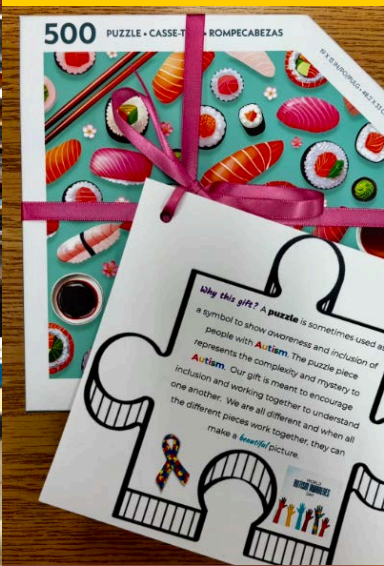
Our classroom teachers and Learning Support Teachers continued to work collaboratively to support student wellbeing, mental health, and digital citizenship. Through classroom lessons, small group work, school-wide initiatives, and ongoing conversations, students explored topics connected to identity, empathy, relationships, self-regulation, inclusion, and responsible technology use. Our continued work with the My Life Online program helped students develop the skills needed to navigate online spaces safely, respectfully, and thoughtfully.

Students also had opportunities to learn from one another and celebrate diverse identities and experiences throughout the year. Our GSA (Gender and Sexuality Alliance) continued to provide a welcoming and supportive space for 2SLGBTQ+ students and allies. Classrooms engaged in important conversations and presentations connected to neurodiversity, including student learning opportunities focused on autism awareness and understanding.

Throughout the year, our school community also came together to recognize and celebrate important events and initiatives that promoted kindness, inclusion, and community connection, including Orange Shirt Day, Pink Shirt Day, and other opportunities to honour the diverse cultures, identities, languages, and experiences represented within our school community.

Staff also continued to deepen their understanding of inclusive practices through collaboration and professional learning connected to identity, belonging, mental health, and culturally responsive teaching. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to creating a school where every student feels seen, supported, empowered, and encouraged to share their voice.







PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Physical Education and extracurricular athletics continued to play an important role in promoting health, belonging, leadership, and school spirit at Leila North this year. Thanks to the dedication of our physical education staff and the many staff members who volunteered their time to coach and support teams, students had opportunities to participate, compete, and grow both in and beyond the classroom.

One of the strengths of our athletic program is the wide variety of opportunities available to students of all interests, skill levels, and experiences. From divisional and school-based teams to intramurals and recreational activities, our focus remains on creating opportunities for participation, connection, and personal growth. Students participated in badminton, basketball, volleyball, pickleball, track and field, and a variety of intramural activities throughout the year. Our Grade 6 students also took part in several divisional jamborees, helping build confidence, teamwork, and school spirit while introducing younger students to inter-school athletics.

This was also an outstanding year for competitive athletics at Leila North. Both our girls' and boys' volleyball teams captured divisional championships, with the boys advancing to win the provincial championship. In basketball, our girls' teams earned both divisional and provincial championships, while both divisional boys' and girls' teams competed in their respective divisional finals. These accomplishments reflected not only athletic talent, but also the dedication, perseverance, teamwork, and sportsmanship demonstrated by our student-athletes throughout the year.

Physical Education classes provided students with a variety of unique learning experiences beyond traditional team sports. Students participated in wheelchair basketball, helping build awareness and appreciation for adaptive sports. Through a week-long residency with Archery Manitoba, students developed skills in focus, safety, and precision while learning the fundamentals of archery. Students also participated in two days of instruction with Golf Manitoba, where they were introduced to golf skills and techniques while exploring a sport that was new to many of them. The return of the bike program helped students build confidence, independence, and outdoor recreation skills, while our Grade 8 fishing program encouraged students to connect with nature and enjoy active outdoor learning experiences.

Whether representing Leila North at championships, participating in a jamboree, trying a new activity, or cheering on classmates from the sidelines, students helped create a positive and inclusive athletic culture that makes our school a vibrant and active place to learn.



PERFORMING ARTS

The performing arts continued to be a vibrant and important part of student life at Leila North this year. Through band, choir, dance, musical theatre, and performance opportunities, students were encouraged to develop confidence, creativity, collaboration, and self-expression while sharing their talents with the school and wider community.

This year, Leila North proudly had four jazz bands on the go, along with jazz choirs, pop choirs, concert bands, dance teams, and a wide variety of performing opportunities for students across grade levels. Students demonstrated tremendous dedication and growth throughout the year as they practiced, performed, and represented the school with pride and professionalism.

Our Grade 6 students began their musical journeys with First Note Night, an exciting opportunity for students and families to experience the beginning of band together. Throughout the year, students also showcased their learning and talents through several band and choir concerts held at SOPAC, where students had opportunities to perform for families and the community in a professional performance setting. Our Grade 7 students also participated in band camp at Camp Assiniboia, where students strengthened both their musical skills and their sense of community through shared learning and experiences.

As part of an Arts in the Park year, students had the opportunity to showcase their talents for the community through performances that celebrated music, creativity, dance, and the arts. Our dance teams also proudly represented Leila North at the divisional Spotlight Dance Day.

One of the highlights of the year was the school musical production of Beetlejuice, which brought together students and staff from across the school in an impressive collaborative production involving acting, singing, music, backstage work, set design, technical support, and leadership.

Our music students also had opportunities to perform beyond the walls of Leila North. Bands and choirs travelled to the Brandon Jazz Festival, the Moose Jaw Festival, and several local festivals and performances throughout the year. Time and time again, audience members, adjudicators, and community members expressed disbelief that these talented performers were middle years students. Their performances reflected countless hours of practice, teamwork, and commitment from both students and staff.

Beyond performances and festivals, the performing arts program continued to help students build friendships, develop confidence, take creative risks, and experience the joy of working toward a shared goal. The energy, enthusiasm, and talent demonstrated by our students helped make the arts an exciting and meaningful part of life at Leila North.







THANK YOU

As we reflect on the 2025-2026 school year, we are filled with gratitude for the people who help make Leila North such a special place to learn, grow, and belong.

Thank you to our students for the energy, creativity, leadership, kindness, and school spirit you bring to our community each day. Your willingness to try new things, support one another, and share your voices continues to inspire us. To our families, thank you for your ongoing support, encouragement, and partnership throughout the year. To our staff, thank you for the care, passion, creativity, and dedication you bring to your work every day. Your commitment continues to shape the experiences and opportunities that make Leila North unique.

This year was filled with learning, growth, celebration, creativity, teamwork, and connection. We are proud of all that was accomplished together and look forward to continuing this work in the years ahead.

MERCI

Alors que nous réfléchissons à l'année scolaire 2025-2026, nous sommes remplis de gratitude envers les personnes qui font de Leila North un endroit si spécial pour apprendre, grandir et s'épanouir.

Merci à nos élèves pour l'énergie, la créativité, le leadership, la gentillesse et l'esprit d'école que vous apportez à notre communauté chaque jour. Votre volonté d'essayer de nouvelles choses, de vous soutenir les uns les autres et de faire entendre vos voix continue de nous inspirer. À nos familles, merci pour votre soutien, vos encouragements et votre partenariat tout au long de l'année. À notre personnel, merci pour le soin, la passion, la créativité et le dévouement que vous apportez à votre travail chaque jour. Votre engagement continue de façonner les expériences et les possibilités qui rendent Leila North unique.

Cette année a été remplie d'apprentissage, de croissance, de célébrations, de créativité, de travail d'équipe et de liens. Nous sommes fiers de tout ce que nous avons accompli ensemble et avons hâte de poursuivre ce travail dans les années à venir.

