

Report to to the Community

Riverbend Community School

2025-2026

Our Land Acknowledgement

We live and play on Treaty 1 Land. We are thankful to the Indigenous Peoples who cared for this land before us, and who still care for it today. We love playing with our friends and families. We love watching the sun, the clouds, and the sky. We love the flowers that bring the butterflies, and the trees that give us shade and clean air. We are thankful for the food we eat, the water we drink, and the grass we run and play on. We are thankful for the seasons and the medicines the land gives us. We are thankful we can make mistakes when living and learning, it will help us do better. We promise to care for the land by picking up our garbage, not wasting water or paper, and only taking what we need. When we take something from the land, we will say "Thank you" and try to give something back. We promise to learn about, to share, to love, and to take care of this land.

Thank you, Treaty 1 Land.

Love,

The Kids in Room 3



Fall (Dagwaagin)

Biindigen is an Anishinaabemowin phrase meaning "come in," "welcome,." At Riverbend we continually work towards creating a space where everyone feels welcomed. In the small acts of greeting our students as they enter our school, to the kind smiles from our office staff to the larger commitments made by our staff to create inclusive safe spaces for learning. Throughout the year our staff planned and supported students in engaging in diverse learning experiences across the 4 seasons.



Room 13 testing out their "ghost cars"



Morning Kindergarten Room 2

Fall (Dagwaagin)

September is a time of new beginnings. According to some Anishinaabeg teachings, Fall (Dagwaagin) is a time of harvest and preparing for the upcoming winter months. There is an excitement in the air as our youngest students begin their school journey, students meet their teachers, see their classrooms, and reunite with friends.



Students made new connections through collaborative project work, learning buddies, sports teams, becoming a patrol and weekly club gatherings. This year's club included bookmark making, origami, chess, beading, craft, crochet, henna, Earth, Pow Wow, Bhangra, K Pop, and Rainbow club, as well as a variety of sports teams and intramurals at lunch hour. Sport teams included handball, flag football and tennis. Many students look forward to our swimming and skating program. Our preschool program was well attended and provide families with time to engage with their children through play, art, books, song and dance.



"Each student gets a turn to bring things that are important to them and place them on the Medicine Wheel, its an opportunity to learn and connect with each other"
Ms. Hart Room 16

Fall (Dagwaagin)

Riverbend started the year by bringing the community together for fun evening of games, face painting, dancing and pizza! Many classrooms started the year by creating a classroom pledge, promise or treaty that together they agreed upon what it look and feels like to show kindness and respect at school.

Every Fall on Sept 30th Canadian's observe The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Students at Riverbend honors the survivors of residential school and remember the thousands of indigenous children who never made it home by wearing orange shirts.



"We made a star blanket honouring the children who went to Residential Schools. We began our blanket in oranges and reds and we kept adding to it over weeks until we decided that we should include all of the colours of the rainbow, along with four smaller stars to represent the families missing their children."

Ms. Kira



Learning buddies collaborating on a mural based on the book "The Giving Tree"



Room 4 making life-sized self portraits



Mrs. Hastings class began the year by looking into where their families originated.



The students in Room 10 read Emily Gravett's book Meerkat Mail and were inspired to write their own postcards. They learned how to address their postcards correctly, created their own art and wrote messages to family and friends

Fall (Dagwaagin)

With the beautiful fall weather, many teachers looked for opportunities to take their learning outside in the community. Some outdoor learning has included exploring soils, studying the pond and visiting local parks. Room 19 has been following the state of the Red River in our community. Students reflected on the impact the treatment Plant has to help keep the river clean. Earth Club, students explored the rich biodiversity of our local environment and took an active role in enhancing our school grounds.



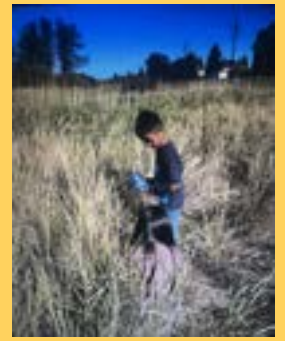
Room 17 Gardening



*Room 19 Studying
the Red River*



*Kindergarten Exploring Trees in the Fall,
They will return to make observations and
record their wonderings*



Earth Stewardship in Action

One of the key components of the Ojibwe Bilingual Program is to engage in authentic and traditional activities at the Aki Centre. Students this fall learned how to harvest and prepare foods for the coming winter such as vegetable preservation, learning and preparing manoomin, and preparing the land for its winter sleep. Students also learned to pick our sacred medicines used in ceremonies, as well as in everyday practical applications.



Fall (Dagwaagin)

This year room 24 students took part in the "Roots of Empathy" program.

"Roots of Empathy has been a meaningful and engaging part of our classroom experience this year. Students formed a special connection with Baby Noah, delighting in observing important developmental milestones such as crawling, losing his first tooth, and saying his first words. These visits fostered empathy, curiosity, and a deeper understanding of growth and relationships"

Ms. Gagnon



Riverbend Community School celebrated the Diwali Mela at Maples Collegiate High School. This event was a wonderful chance for students to perform the dances they had been practicing at school. Their hard work really showed on stage, and they made our school proud. It was a joyful celebration filled with music, colour, and excitement for everyone.



The Fall is a busy time for our Phys. Ed teachers as they planned for our annual Terry Fox Walk raising awareness and funds for cancer research as well as helping students train for the cross country meet and prepare both the grade 4s and 5s for handball.



Terry Fox Walk



Grades 4&5 Handball Jamboriet



Divisional Track and Field Day

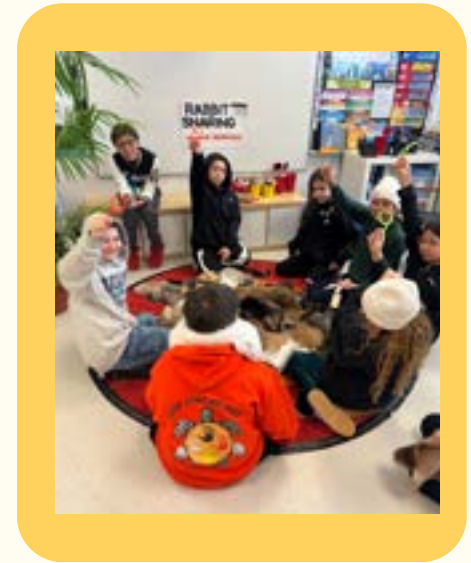
Biboon (Winter)

Biboon (Winter) marks a time of rest and quiet for Anishinaabeg. During the winter months, storytelling, clothing making, and connecting closely with the spirit world are the focus. It is a time for the land to rest and time for people to slow down and enjoy a quieter life. The Anishinaabeg took this season of quiet to focus on aadookikaan (storytelling) where stories and teachings were passed on to the next generation.

In December a "Feasting the Drum Ceremony" was held at school.

"Following the practice of our ancestors from time immemorial, we "feast the drum" to honor Dewe'igan as a living being with spirit. Dewe'igan is the heartbeat of Mother Earth and offering it food (like berries) and tobacco is an act of gratitude for its spirit, energy, and role in connecting people, healing, and preserving Anishinaabeg culture"and language. The sacred ceremony shows respect, feeds the drum's spirit, and acknowledges its power in ceremonies, powwows, and strengthening the community." Ms. Morrison

The Ojibwe Bilingual Program celebrated Biboon by holding a series of events at our school aptly named Bibooni-giizhigad. Students participated in winter events such as making bannock, playing games such as the snow-snake and hoop and stick game, art activities like creating a star pattern art piece, a mini-drum, and listening to ancient stories around a fire.



Room 7 brought their outdoor learning inside by taking care of red wiggler worms from the Aki Centre over the winter months. They have explored the differences between earth worms and red wigglers, learned the importance of worms for the environment and are learning how to properly care for and build a proper vermicompost bin.



Grade 4/5 students exploring forces and simple machines using the design process



Biboon (Winter)



As fall turned into winter, students prepared for colder weather and looked forward to what the snow would bring.



Hide and Go Seek with Ms. Carol was a recess favorite for students!!



Room 24

Ms Hart's students from room 16 visited FortWhyte Alive, where they explored how climate change impacts communities and natural habitats. They had the opportunity to examine traditional Inuit clothing and food, including various furs from Arctic animals, gaining a deeper understanding of life in northern environments. The visit also included snow sampling and observations, allowing students to engage in hands-on scientific learning in a winter environment.



Room 16



One of the highlights for students this year was gathering in the gym to watch the Canada play in the gold medal game in the gym.



Indoor gardening and planting (Room 21 & 24)

Biboon (Winter)

As the winter break approached, classes found many ways to celebrate different holidays. The hallways were filled with cheer and holiday spirit. This year Ms. Heidi's students in room 14 learned about Hannukah. They baked cookies and shared their learning with the whole school by creating a Hannukah video. Ms.Chincilla's class spread holiday spirit by carolling in the classrooms!



Room 14



Room 12



Morning Kindergarten Room 1

In the spirit of giving back to the community, students collected nonperishable food items to create holiday hampers. With the help of monetary donations, we were also able to purchase gift cards for families. Staff were also treated to some great holiday snacks!

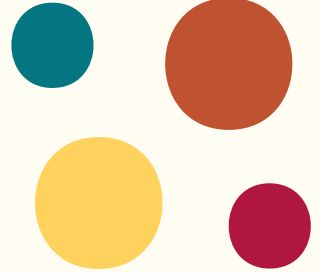


In the spirit of helping others and giving back

Ziigwan (Spring)

Ziigwan (Spring) is a time to celebrate renewal and awakening – both physically and spiritually. Mother Earth wakes up. It is the fresh beginning of a new year. The arrival of Ziigwan marks a time of coming together to strengthen communal and family relationships with each other and the land.

As the snow melts and the flowers begin to bloom spring is welcomed after a long a winter with many days spent indoors. Blizzards and snow forts have been replaced with rain, mud puddles and the return of the geese to the pond.



Last year the students in room 17 took ownership of caring for a garden naming it "Garden of Seasons". Spring is the time where they have weeding, pruning, cleaning and making plans for future. They have documented growth and the animals/insects that were living in it. They also collaborated with their grade 1 & 2 learning buddies who were studying living things to share in joint science activities.



Room 22 Field Trip to The Zoo



Henna Club



"The visit from Farmer Eric in combination with our Science weather learning, has helped Room 17 understand more about seeding, growth, harvesting and how weather conditions affect plants in Manitoba climate".
Ms. Fredette

Ziigwan (Spring)

For months students prepared for the spring concert at SOPAC (Seven Oaks Performing Arts Center). The countless hours of rehearsal were evident in the amazing musical performances for all of students. The care, teamwork, and intention behind every classes performance were so evident. Thank you to our music teachers, EAs and teachers who support 4 concerts over 2 days!



Our school patrols take a leadership role at school. They help keep our students safe while crossing the street and help support, on the bus, during bus evacuation and in the hallways on extremely cold or rainy days. To say thank you for their commitment to being a school patrol they were treated to a bowling field trip.



The Giinawind Riverbend Community School Abinoojiiyag Nagamog (Riverbend Community School Ojibwe Choir) preformed at "Music Monday" at the Manitoba Legislative Building in May. Previously they performed at the Youth Leadership Program, Human Rights Museum, Indigenous Veterans Day, Southern First Nations Network of Care General Meeting, Divisional day, Blueprint Language Gathering and the Veterans Gala Award. The choir is looking forward to opening at the Winnipeg Folk Festival this summer for the second time.



Riverbend students and staff honored the victims and supported the survivors on Red Dress Day MMIWGTS (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirited People). As a school we walked through the community together and took time to sit at a sacred fire to pay respect and help create more awareness.



Ziigwan (Spring)



Our staff had the privilege to learn from the land and each other during our April 10th professional development day at the Aki Centre. As a staff we reviewed the new Manitoba Science curriculum with a focus on Indigenous perspective, connections to everyday life and future careers in science. Ms. Chili shared her knowledge on star stories and her student's writing titled "We Come From the Stars". Ms. Fredette shared how the new science curriculum can be easily tied to land based learning, gardening and local agriculture. The Aki Centre has been a place where both adults and students can connect with the land.



We were excited to attend the Seven Oaks School Division Arts in The Park/Les arts en plein air 2026, a three day arts festival showcasing the creativity of our Kindergarten to Grade 12 students through music, visual arts, dance, drama, and student developed movies. This year Riverbend had 8 groups performing, 7 choral performances and our Bhangra dance group. Thank you to all of our performers and staff for putting on a great show!



*Arts in the Park
Kildonan Park*



Many students joined Mr. Meacham in making Stanley Cup predictions.

A spring highlight for the students was a visit from former Blue Bomber Brandon Alexander who spent time with students learning about flag football.

Niibin (Summer)

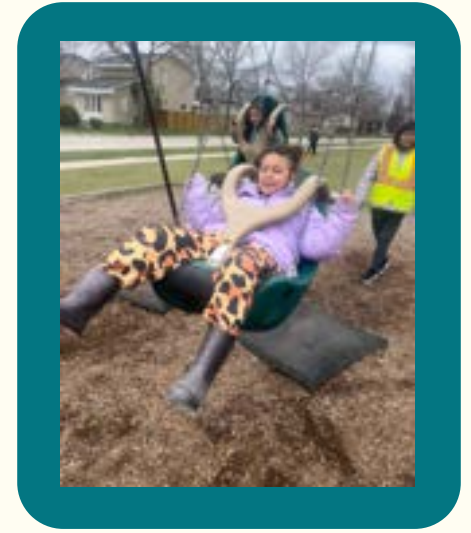
Niibin (Summer) is marked by a season of abundance and growth. The Anishinaabeg are most active in the summer months through active engagement and connection with other communities and families from near and far. Celebrations such as powwows, feasts, and games take place in the summer months.



Playing Hoop and Spear at Aki Centre



Eating Fresh Peas and Enjoying the Flowers



After years of advocating, an accessible swing was installed on the playground.



Graduation Pow Wow

On June 4th Pow Wow dancer from across the division danced in the annual graduation Pow Wow held at Maples Collegiate. It was a proud moment to see the diversity in the 102 pow wow dancers all coming together to celebrate our 2026 graduates.



Pride Walk

June is Pride month across Manitoba. Students came together for a community walk to support the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. The walk celebrates love and shares the message that everyone should feel free to be their true selves without fear. This work is reflected throughout the year in our teaching, in the books on our shelves and through the Rainbow Club.

This year we had the pleasure of welcoming local abstract rapper and music producer Osani Balkaran to Riverbend. During his previous time at Riverbend he collaborated with students to write our school song "Ginawand" (This is us) which is sung with pride by our students. He is back again to work with our students to create a second song.



Osani Concert and Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day

Niibin (Summer)



As we approached the end of the year our Kindergartens celebrate finishing their first year of school. We say farewell to our grade 5 students as they move onto middle school. This year is unique in that we also say goodbye to many of our teachers, students, and their families as they move to our newest Seven Oaks school Ecole Mino Pimatisiwin. Students have been working on a whole school art piece inspired by a star blanket. They will create two pieces of art; one will be displayed at Riverbend and the other at Ecole Mino Pimatisiwin. It will symbolize the student connections between the two schools.



Kindergarten Room 1



Grade 5 Room 19

This June marks the 10-year anniversary of the Ojibwe Bilingual Program (Anishinaabemowin). The Ojibwe Bilingual Program officially launched in September 2016. It was a grass roots initiative driven by a push for language revitalization and reconciliation. A celebration will be held in the fall.

Reflecting upon the year, we take pride in celebrating the learning that took place at Riverbend School. Teachers thoughtful and creative planning was evident. Our teachers continued to talk about best practice through their participation in professional learning communities, as well as attending a variety of professional development opportunities offered. Some teachers dove deeper into their questions about literacy practices with many trying new strategies using a multi-classroom approach. Our clinicians including speech and language and occupational therapy worked along side teachers engaging in co-teaching experiences in the classrooms. At Riverbend, our teachers guide their students to become curious about their surroundings, aware of the world around them and to become activists, advocates and allies in their educational journeys.



Twinning during Spirit Week



Narcisse Snake Dens



Working with Clay



Using coding robots to study area and perimeter

