



SEVEN OAKS AND BEYOND

Our 2018/19 Year in Review

#KEEP7OAKS7OAKS



Grade 8 students at H.C. Avery Middle School took this photo as their high altitude balloon traveled 33,000 meters to the edge of the earth's atmosphere.



Diane Cameron
Ward 2, Maples – Riverbend



Derek Dabee
Ward 2, Maples – Riverbend



Teresa Jaworski
Ward 3, Garden City – West Kildonan



Greg McFarlane (Vice-Chair)
Ward 2, Maples – Riverbend



Evelyn Myskiw
Ward 1, West St. Paul



Edward Ploszay (Chair)
Ward 3, Garden City – West Kildonan



Maria Santos
Ward 2, Maples – Riverbend



Claudia Sarbit
Ward 3, Garden City – West Kildonan



Richard Sawka
Ward 3, Garden City – West Kildonan

Your Board of Trustees

We are all part of Seven Oaks School Division. Because education in Seven Oaks goes beyond the classrooms, the school grounds and even beyond the curriculum.

It's not just the fact that we all contribute to support education. It's not that we have kids attending the schools. It's not even that we may have attended the schools ourselves.

It's the responsibility for and the benefits of education in our schools that are shared by the community.

It's the amenities we share, like the fields where teams are cheered on by enthusiastic spectators. It's the before and after school programs that give neighbours a chance to become friends. It's the music and art that is shared in concerts and exhibitions. And of course, it's even reflected in workplaces where students are making their first forays into the working world.

SOSD students spend time in the community learning about empathy, activism and environmental stewardship by volunteering, getting involved and making real change. This takes many forms, from spending time with seniors to cleaning up parks to raising awareness

and funds for causes that touch many lives.

Every interaction between the Division and the community is a learning experience for students. And each interaction gives us an opportunity to share in that experience. We often talk about lifelong learning, and nowhere is that more demonstrated than when the community connects with the Division.

Think about your own connections with SOSD, both the obvious and the not-so-immediately obvious. Then think about those experiences from the viewpoint of a student, a neighbour or a different culture.

When you start to look at the Division and the community it's part of, you see how far beyond the Division our ideas about education go...and how we are all part of a learning community.

Edward Ploszay,
Chair

Beyond Ourselves

Garden City Collegiate's Community Engagement Day is a bit misleading...because the impact goes so far beyond a single day.

Every teacher has their own Advocacy Group they begin leading in Grade 9. That teacher remains with the group for the students' entire four-year period at Garden City, guiding them as they share ideas, discuss issues and take part in activities... including Community Engagement Day.

Nicole, a Grade 9 student in Ms. Stephanie Ringer's Advocacy Group, describes this year's Community Engagement Day – her first – very simply: “We had an event for seniors where we spent time with them and did activities together.”

That event was a day where the students invited residents of nearby Monash Manor seniors' home to come visit the school for a tour of the multitude of changes made over the years. While many residents of Monash Manor have lived in the area for years, they haven't had the opportunity to really see how much Garden City Collegiate (which used to consist of two separate buildings at one time) has changed.

As Ms. Ringer points out, Nicole's description doesn't do justice to the amount of thought, time and hard work the students put into making the day memorable for their guests.

“The kids did EVERYTHING,” says Ms. Ringer. “For example, they knew they would need supplies, so they drafted sponsorship letters themselves, they brainstormed where to drop off the letters and they successfully received donations from Save-On-Foods and Tim Horton's.”

This was only one aspect of the project which also included developing floor plans, making a music playlist, setting up equipment, baking,

making bingo cards and prizes and planning entertainment to go along with the tour – anything required to make their guests feel like V.I.P.s was done, and all done by the students.

“I think they don't fully realize how impressive it all was and how much they did because it's new to them but they more than met the expectations set out for them,” says Ms. Ringer.

The seniors definitely noticed though. They were picked up and brought to the school for a guided tour. They were entertained with karaoke and bingo. They also shared their own memories of the school and personal stories with the students, who had a hard time saying goodbye to their new friends.

“They talked about themselves and about how different everything was because it had been so long since they had been here,” says Advocacy Group member, Maithi.

Anastasia, another student involved in the day, appreciates how the event makes those conversations possible: “I think Advocacy Group opens us up to speak more and to be more open to the community.”

The success of the day has inspired Ms. Ringer's Advocacy Group students to continue building their relationship with Monash Manor, inviting more people and hopefully growing their event each year.

And that is the beauty of Community Engagement Day—the connections it builds make as big an impact on the students as it does the community.

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Seven Oaks students spend over 100,000 volunteer hours in the community throughout the year.

Ms. Ringer and her Advocacy Group

Schools in SOSD open their doors for after-school programming and community use over 20,000 hours every year.



Beyond the School Day

If you were to walk through the doors at Amber Trails Community School after the end of day bell fades, you'd find a place transformed.

A large group of older Indian gentlemen, affectionately known as the Grandfathers Club, are gathered in the Ric Dela Cruz Commons, playing cards and talking politics. Families sit against the walls of the gymnasium, watching their children run up and down the court at the Attack Basketball program. And just around the corner in the dance and fitness studio music fills the air as kids explore Punjabi culture through dance.

"I live in Amber Trails and for people in this area, this school is not just a school," says Navaneet Brar of the Bulla Arts Centre, who teaches Punjabi folk dances many weekday evenings. "It's a community centre. It's a recreational facility. It's everything for us."

In the heart of the community, Principal Lorelei Bunkowsky and the rest of Amber Trails Community School have opened the doors to help fill a void in the area. For many families, the school has become a place to come together, learn, take part in activities and even just socialize within walking distance of their homes.

That opportunity means a lot to so many, including the Punjabi grandfathers, many of whom don't know many people in Canada and often only speak Punjabi. For them, the school provides a place where they can talk about what's going on back home in India and play cards. But it's not only about socializing—it's a way to keep connected with their culture.

"I am here every day," says one of the grandfathers who drops his grandson off in the morning, picks him up after school then returns to spend the evening with his friends – just as he's been doing for the past three years. "We share our views with each other and everyone likes playing cards."

In the midst of the grandfathers and the dancing, the gym is filled with members of the Attack Basketball club, running drills and honing their skills as they develop their love of the game.

"I was one of the first kids to play and my sister Abneet was one of the first girls," says Gurishan, who's been playing basketball since he was in Grade 2. "They motivate you, get ready for games and you get to play with your friends."

Gisele is happy to go to a school that offers programs like Attack Basketball. "I think it's a really great thing to do," she says. "I think our school is trying to do what Attack Basketball is trying to do; they're trying to get us to learn and have fun at the same time."

And it's not just a meeting place for kids and grandfathers. Families accompany their kids to dance and basketball and stay not just to watch and cheer but to visit with one another, turning neighbours into friends.

This is the magic of Amber Trails Community School. It's not just a school—it's a place that embodies the core of the Division – the idea that "Community Begins Here."

Beyond the Books

The crowd hushes, the conductor motions and the bands of Maples Collegiate begin to play, bringing the notes on the page to life for the audience and for themselves. This is the culmination of weeks of dedication and a passion for playing music.

But for some students, that passion for music and the lessons that go with it might not have been possible before SOSD began to provide the instruments.

While music is for everyone, the reality is that musical instruments are expensive. Even renting an instrument can be beyond the budget of a family, ultimately meaning that a student is denied the opportunity to experience the joy of playing – and the many lessons that come with it.

For example, Brian, a Grade 9 trumpet player, found music gave him confidence. “For me, I was a very shy person,” he says. “Following music as a passion forced me to interact with people, but we had something in common. I knew I could talk about music with them, and it taught me how to communicate and form relationships.”

For Candy, a Grade 12 bass clarinet player, the lessons were a little different.

“Being in music and being in band taught me responsibility and it also taught me time management,” she says. “It helped me figure out what to prioritize when it comes to school work.”

Whether it’s confidence, social interaction, time management or simply a love for music, the instrument program in SOSD has opened the door to more students being able to experience those lessons – a fact not lost on the parents.

Charais Rosario is the mother of two Maples band students. But she remembers how she herself was one of the students unable to take band.

“When I was younger, Seven Oaks didn’t have funded instruments,” she says. “Even renting the instruments was too much for my parents to be able to shoulder that fee. I didn’t have that opportunity to take band. So I wanted my kids to be able to see if they have a passion for it. I think it’s great that Seven Oaks provides equal opportunities to learn to play instruments, develop a love of music and maybe even find a career in the Arts.”

Whether or not every student in band goes forward in the Arts, there is no denying the love of music displayed in the performances of all of the Maples Collegiate bands who take the stage of the Performing Arts Centre. They have spent months rehearsing and a day doing dress rehearsals to deliver powerful performances that range from famous classical pieces to medleys of popular mainstream songs.

And as the music plays, each student becomes focused solely on the performance.

“I feel like our community is Seven Oaks, we are very diverse in culture and backgrounds,” says Charais. “And with music, students learn how to come together. They learn how to play together and develop a love for music regardless of their background.”

That alone is a lesson worth the cost of an instrument.

Over 3,000 students from Grade 6 to 12 play in our school bands. The provision of free musical instruments has increased participation in high school band by 50 per cent and saves parents over \$200 per year.



The Aki Land-Based Learning Centre is situated on Treaty One territory, the traditional land of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples and the homeland of the Métis Nation. Seven Oaks School Division is grateful for the opportunity to live and learn on these traditional lands and is committed to reshaping our relationships with the land and with each other in a spirit of reconciliation.



Beyond the Classroom

There are lessons to be found in the world around us. Lessons taught by the land, the wildlife and the plants. Forgotten lessons that the new Ozhaawashkwaa Animikii-Bineshi Aki Onji Kinimaagae' Inun, or Blue Thunderbird Land-Based Teachings Learning Centre, promises to recapture through a unique multi-use space.

Set on 49 acres of land just outside of West St. Paul, the Aki Land-Based Learning Centre, as it is often called, is an expansive space that features both indoor learning and outdoor teaching spaces in the gardens, naturalized pond, tree nursery and soon-to-be greenhouse.

A project that was years in the making, the Aki Land-Based Learning Centre is intended to be a gathering place with everything from the available aprons to the picnic tables being made by students in the Division.

“This is a place for students and community to reconnect with the land through environmental stewardship and agriculture,” says Alexis Nazeravich, Program Coordinator of the Aki Land-Based Learning Centre.

Eighty-seven per cent of the area on which the Aki Land-Based Learning Centre has made its home is dedicated to restoring the land to its natural state – the last remaining remnants of the tall grass prairies and one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. “This is a chance for us to engage students in sustainability and environmental stewardship,” explains Alexis.

As they look to revive the land, they also hope to inspire students and the next generation of land-stewards by teaching them about food, healthy eating, sustainability, conservation and history in connection and harmony with the land.

This land-based learning approach both transcends and intertwines with traditional math, science and communication subjects typically found in the classroom.

“We can demonstrate these teachings by bringing back the ecosystem, making ongoing observations and showing students how it works,” says Alexis, both a passionate educator and land preserver. “Lessons are brought to life and are more hands-on because teachers can actually bring students here, they can walk around and see the land for themselves.”

In the not-too-distant future, when the area is more fully developed, Alexis hopes to open the area up to the entire community, with classes, tours and possibly even community gardens. In the meantime, people are encouraged to come and walk the paths, to see the medicine wheel shaped Wawiyia'kiti'gahn (Circle Garden) with its engraved benches representing the Seven Sacred Teachings and, come winter, to enjoy the toboggan hill.

The Aki Land-Based Learning Centre is a land of endless learning opportunities grounded in teachings that extend beyond the classroom and onto the land – it's a true living lesson for the Division and the community to enjoy.

Going Above and Beyond

In SOSD, we are dedicated to making sure every student receives a quality education and reaches their fullest potential. We do that by going beyond what is expected.

We go beyond what other divisions do to ensure the success of our students by focusing our spending where we know it makes the most difference – in the classroom and on programs that actively engage students in learning. Our investment in the classroom and students has a continuous track record of success, with graduation rates consistently above 90 per cent – far exceeding provincial averages.

We are equally proud of our ability to prepare students for their post-graduation lives with two out of every three students deciding to pursue further education, whether that comes in the form of a trade school, a college or a university.

From giving students a head start in attaining college credits through the Beyond Grade 12 Now program to providing an opportunity for students to meet with former U.S. President Barack Obama, SOSD creates unique experiences that educate, inspire and support students not just academically, but as individuals discovering their passions and planning their futures.

Small class sizes allow instructors to recognize how each student learns best. Cooperative

Vocational Education programs provide real-world experience and help student develop skills. Bilingual schools and heritage language programs are rooted in culture. We are constantly moving forward with progressive learning and new directions in education so that kids, and our community, can thrive.

Our commitment to our students extends beyond our schools' walls to include their families and our neighbourhoods as well. The Division has long championed for greater fairness in school taxation. We have led the charge for more schools to accommodate the growing communities we serve. We have added our voices to projects that have an impact on the daily lives of everyone in the neighbourhoods around us, like the Chief Peguis Trail extension.

Even these initiatives provide opportunities where students can learn about infrastructure, government and activism.

When you give students opportunities to excel, they rise to the occasion. Our role is to guide and support them as they go from student to citizen.

Seven Oaks
cost per pupil:
\$12,074

Provincial
average:
\$12,820



We spend less and provide more than other school divisions.

86%

of our graduating students plan to continue their education after high school by attending trade school, college, university or starting an apprenticeship.

SOSD
82.8%



Provincial
average
78.8%

We dedicate a greater amount of our budget to directly supporting students in the classroom than any other Manitoba school division.



Over 300 Seven Oaks high school students are enrolled in dual credit university and Community College courses at no cost.



\$500,000

Our graduates earn over \$500,000 in scholarships and bursaries each year.

*Ken Spencer Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning
Met Innovation Centre for Entrepreneurship (MICE)
Maples Met School*

*Ken Spencer Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning
Wayfinders Program*

*Canadian National Dance Championships
Choreography Award, Hip Hop Duo Gold Award
Maples on Beat Dance*

*2nd Place – Rookie Category
FIRST Robotics Competition
The Garden City Collegiate robotics team (Gophertronics)*

*Premier Award for School Board Innovation
Beyond Grade 12 Now*

*Premier Award for School Board Innovation
Channel 7 Oaks*



Maples Met School students meeting Barack Obama

Community Begins Here

Early Years: K-5

École Belmont

French K-5
525 Belmont Avenue
204-338-7893

Collicutt School

English K-5
75 Cottingham Street
204-338-7937

École Constable

Edward Finney School

Dual Track K-5
25 Anglia Avenue
204-694-8688

Forest Park School

English K-5
130 Forest Park Drive
204-338-9341

Governor Semple School

English K-5
150 Hartford Avenue
204-339-7112

École James Nisbet

Community School

Dual Track K-5
70 Doubleday Drive
204-633-8870

Margaret Park School

English K-5
385 Cork Avenue
204-338-9384

R.F. Morrison School

English K-5
Ukrainian Bilingual K-6
25 Morrison Street
204-338-7804

Riverbend Community School

English K-5
Ojibwe Bilingual K-4
123 Red River Boulevard W
204-334-8417

École Rivière-Rouge

French K-5
55 Swinford Way
204-697-5962

Victory School

English K-5
395 Jefferson Avenue
204-586-9716

Early Years/ Middle Years: K-8

A.E. Wright Community School

English K-8
1520 Jefferson Avenue
204-632-6314

Amber Trails Community School

English K-8
1575 Templeton Avenue
204-697-5965

Elwick Community School

English K-8
30 Maberley Road
204-633-5641

O.V. Jewitt Community School

English K-8
66 Neville Street
204-633-1714

West St. Paul School

English K-8
3740 Main Street
204-339-1964

Middle Years: Grades 6-8

Edmund Partridge Community School

English 6-8
1874 Main Street
204-339-9889

H.C. Avery Middle School

English 6-8
10 Marigold Bay
204-334-4391

École Leila North Community School

Dual Track 6-8
20 Allan Blye Drive
204-694-8071

École Seven Oaks Middle School

Dual Track 6-8
800 Salter Street
204-586-0327

Senior Years: Grades 9-12

Collège Garden

City Collegiate
Dual Track 9-12
711 Jefferson Avenue
204-339-2058

Maples Collegiate

English 9-12
1330 Jefferson Avenue
204-632-6641

Maples Met School

English 9-12
1300 Jefferson Avenue
204-632-6641

Seven Oaks Met School

English 9-12
640 Jefferson Avenue
204-336-5050

West Kildonan Collegiate

English 9-12
101 Ridgecrest Avenue
204-339-6959

Additional Education Opportunities:

Seven Oaks Adult
Learning Centre
950 Jefferson Avenue
204-632-1716

Adult Education Centre

1240 Main Street
204-953-0818



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