

Via the Seine

Report to the Community

Supporting learning excellence through strategic priorities

A message from our Superintendent

As we reach the summer break, I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone on a successful school year. It has been an absolute pleasure to settle into my role as superintendent and to see the hard work and dedication of our staff in supporting our students and their families.

As part of my first year in this role, my team and I joined the Board of Trustees to engage in a series of board-building workshops. As a result of these workshops, our board's values, beliefs, and governance priorities have been redefined. It also resulted in directions for setting a new multi-year divisional strategic plan.

In terms of educational programming, I am pleased to inform you that our division's strategic priorities align with the province's K-12 Education Action Plan. Moving forward, the division will focus its efforts on System Wellness, High-Quality Learning, Operational Efficiency, and Continuous Learning & Improvement. Through these strategic priorities, the division will continue to be a leader in education within Manitoba.

Further to these strategic priorities, we have made some positive changes to how we approach teaching

and learning. For example, we adjusted our divisional assessment framework, increasing teaching and learning time for teachers and students. We are also bringing refinements to how school-based staff collaborates to support all students through an approach called Collaborative Response. These changes will improve how schools identify the learning needs of students and how teams of staff support students across all grades.

I am excited to share with you a graphic on the next page that represents our division's strategic priorities, with additional materials to be posted on our website and shared with schools in preparation for the upcoming school year.

I hope all students and their families enjoy a much-earned summer holiday and that it is a time of rest, reflection, and enjoyment. Thank you again for your ongoing support as we provide the best quality public education for our students.

Warmest regards,

Ryan Anderson, Ph.D.
Superintendent / CEO



Congratulations!
Class of 2023

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, senior administration and all divisional staff, we would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all of our 2023 Graduates!

We are incredibly proud of all that you have accomplished and we know that you have a bright future ahead of you. May your path be filled with happiness, health and success as you embark on this new chapter of your life. We wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you shine in all that you do! 🌟



Land Acknowledgement

Rivière Seine River School Division is located on Treaty 1 Territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples and the homeland of the Red River Métis. SRSD respects the treaties that were made on this territory and are dedicated to working together in the spirit of reconciliation for as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the river flows.



Seine River School Division Strategic Priorities



System Wellness

We will ensure the wellness of the school division, its staff and its students.



High-Quality Learning

We will provide high-quality learning for students through literacy, numeracy, Indigenous education, and French immersion programming.



Operational Efficiency

We will improve the operational efficiency of the division and its schools through refining management functions and processes.



Continuous Learning & Improvement

We will enhance the development and performance of our employees through capacity building and professional learning opportunities.

Chess players go head to head

Dozens of students faced off against each other in hopes of achieving a “checkmate!” at Seine River School Division’s first-ever division-wide chess tournament.

Grade 5-12 students from all 14 of the division’s middle and high schools gathered at La Barrière Crossings School (LBC) for the tournament on May 31, with five students participating from each school. Some schools sent their whole chess clubs, some had students volunteer to attend, and some held their own mini tournaments to choose who would get the chance to participate, says Mireille Bazin-Berryman, Director of Curriculum.

“This was an opportunity to experience a tournament and play against other students from the division. We saw how engaged the students were and how chess is a high-interest mind sport,” said Bazin-Berryman, who organized the event along with LBC principal Cindy Mason and teacher Collin Anderson, an avid chess player who has run school chess clubs for years and came up with the idea for the divisional tournament.

The event was held as a “Swiss style” tournament, with individual students representing their school teams. Dawson Trail School placed first, with Collège St Norbert Collegiate in second place and La Salle School in third.

Manitoba Chess Association president Blair Rutter provided the chess boards, pieces and timers, created the schedule and ran the four-hour tournament, and was “integral in the day being a success,” Bazin-Berryman said. 🟡



▶ Grade 5-12 students face off in our first-ever divisional chess tournament.

Survey says... focus on mental health

Hundreds of Seine River School Division staff, students and family members were asked to share their thoughts about wellness – and their voices are being heard.

Approximately 4,100 K-12 students, nearly 500 parents/guardians and about 560 staff members responded to surveys sent out between December and April.

The school division worked with Canadian researcher Blulantern to create the customized surveys using the Beacon4+ assessment tool, which measured responses and calculated data in six areas: Safe, Respectful, Caring, Welcoming, COVID-19 Impact and Mental Health & Wellness.

The survey was conducted as part of our commitment to fostering a culture of wellness to enhance the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of staff and students by creating supportive and healthy school environments for all. This is led by the belief that student and staff well-being contributes to the overall effectiveness of our school communities. These goals are also connected to Manitoba’s provincial K-12 Education Action Plan.

“Prior to administering the survey we had some ideas of what we would learn, but this allowed us to focus and celebrate what the strengths are, and drill down in

the areas of growth,” says Teresa Hampton, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services.

Teachers helped students complete the online surveys, which were customized to each age group. Parents/guardians and staff – covering all types of division employees – completed the surveys online. In-depth interviews were also conducted with nearly 100 staff members to gain additional valuable insight.

Full details of the survey results are still being studied and evaluated. However, the strong message received is that while mental health supports for students, staff and families are already in place within the division, the need to continue to focus on this as a priority was confirmed, Hampton says.

“People across all of the groups said they were struggling with coping with emotions as well as how to handle tough situations, and some also need help navigating the supports and services we already have in place. Now that we know all of this, we are moving forward with how we target our areas of support for the staff, the students and their families.”

Watch for more detailed information about the survey results in the new school year. 🟡

A day entre amis

Connecting with art, nature and creativity – all while practicing their French language skills – was on the agenda for all Grade 3/4 French Immersion students across the division on June 6.

For the full-day event called *Entre Amis* ("Between Friends"), 260 students from five schools gathered at École Ile des Chênes School (EIDC).

"The day was intended to give the students an opportunity to speak French in authentic situations with people other than their classmates," explains Director of Curriculum, Mireille Bazin-Berryman.

Organizers planned the event with an Indigenous storytelling theme, kicking off the day by playing an audio recording in French of a book called *La racine du Nénuphar* ("The Lilypad Root"). The story was chosen to highlight the importance of nature and land-based understandings, leading to the next activity on the

agenda: an outdoor walk and nature treasure hunt.

After the nature walk, the students split off into four groups that included a mix of students from every school, with each group assigned one of the four colours of the Medicine Wheel. Every group had a chance to practice their French vocabulary while moving through activity stations that included beading a keychain, taking a jigging lesson, making and playing Métis games, and designing a paper "quilt" square representing one of the four seasons – connecting back to the nature theme. Prior to the day, the students had learned new French vocabulary words in their classrooms that they would be using during these activities.

"It's great to see the students be able to make new connections and see that there are other kids outside their own schools who are learning French too," says EIDC Principal Elizabeth Hammond. 🟡



🟡 Grade 3/4 French Immersion students from five SRSD schools created a human Medicine Wheel as part of the Indigenous themed day, wearing yellow, red, white and black – the four colours of the wheel.

Award-winning students

Congratulations to the students who have been recognized by our Board of Trustees with the following awards! 🟡

Creative Young Minds Awards

MIDDLE YEARS

Ward 1 Megan Edwards, Grade 6, LSS
Kirsten Falconer, Grade 6, LSS

Ward 2 Aberlynn Sulit, Grade 8, EIDC
Kaelie Spokes, Grade 7, ESAS

Ward 3 Shelby Gulbinski, Grade 8, RCH

HIGH SCHOOL

Ward 1 Lauren Edel, Grade 11, CSNC

Ward 2 Peter Martin, Grade 10, CLC

Student Citizenship Awards

INDIVIDUAL

Early Years Charlotte Adams, Grade 1, ELI

Middle Years Emily Ridd, Grade 8, RCH

High School Sifa Kagondou, Grade 11, CSNC

DIVISIONAL NOMINEE FOR MANITOBA SCHOOL BOARD STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Individual Charlotte Adams, Grade 1, ELI