



GENERAL BYNG SCHOOL

1250 Beaumont Street, Winnipeg, MB R3T 0L8

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Mission Statement

Committed to being a dynamic educational community celebrating learning and personal growth

Principal
Colleen Roberts

Vice-principal
Robin Stacey



Board of Trustees Three Expectations for Student Learning

1. All students in Pembina Trails will be personally and intellectually engaged in their learning at school.
2. By the end of grade 8, all students in Pembina Trails will meet the provincial curricular standards in literacy and numeracy, allowing them the greatest possibility for success in high school.
3. All students in Pembina Trails will graduate from high school.

2020-2021 School Plan Priorities:

To maintain trusting and collaborative relationships with a focus on student achievement.

To foster a school culture of kindness, respect, responsibility that extends to self, our diverse community as well as, our environment.

To establish STEM throughout our school in our teaching and instructional practice.

To embed and enhance Community School philosophies and practice.

To promote strategies for students and staff that segment literacy and numeracy abilities in all curricula areas.

To foster academic and personal engagement in our community and learning environment.

To ensure that all students transition successfully to next grade levels with emphasis on academics and well-being.

To capitalize on staff expertise through a co-teaching lens in areas of STEM, Library, Indigenous History, resource and counselling.

Progress towards School Priorities

We would like to acknowledge that General Byng School is located in Treaty 1 Territory and the homeland of the Metis Nation. In 1871, the First Nations and the Canadian Government entered an agreement that we will all live and work together respectfully in friendship. The Treaty is our promise to take care of this land together for as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the rivers flow.

We begin our Community Report by showing respect to the children of Tk'emlups te Sewepemc First Nation and for all victims of Residential Schools, we commit to listening, learning, and working towards reconciliation.

This year has been a year like no other. The ongoing COVID 19 Pandemic has challenged us and disrupted our intentions and school plan. Having said that, disruptions and challenges have also provided new learning and new perspectives. The priorities listed above remained on our radar, however we were drawn to include and expand our focus particularly in the areas of technology, mental health and well being, and communication. Remote Learning Kindergarten to Grade 9 morphed into a variety of configurations, depending on student need and grade level. Staff acknowledged and embraced Critical Service Workers, Children in School and out, Teachers in School and on-line, work packages, safety protocols, mental health and so much more.

To begin, let's share celebrations: While we were challenged, we were engaged, and the following accomplishments were highlighted and recognized:

Our School Library Technician was honored as Manitoba School Library Technician for 2020-2021. Mikaela Oldenkamp has always been remarkable in coordinating books and reading opportunities for students. During the pandemic she continued to provide opportunities for student access and literacy.

One of our Grade 8 students, Tommy Mateo earned the honor of the Exceptional Children 'Yes, I Can Award'. With great care and attention to new social distancing guidelines. Tommy greeted all staff and students daily at the beginning and end of each day. He also exceeded programming expectations in the areas of classroom deliveries, managing the recycling and communication goals.

Our entire school has nurtured and cared for our family of geese at the back of the school. We learned from our grade 1/2 classes that with care, attention and mindfulness, we can safely co-habitat.

General Byng School earned the designation of Community School in 2019 by meeting the philosophy and rationale for Community School criteria. Our focus on student achievement and well-being, school/family and community connections, extended hours and expanded opportunities and community partnerships to name just a few have been remarkable. That intention and focus extended this year to meet the criteria of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO schools. Our staff's Professional Development on the topic of Social Justice (Guests and Presenters including Past Winnipeg Police Chief, Devon Clunis as well as Knowledge Keeper and Elder Alison Cox) along with school-wide activities for World Oceans Day/Week and partnering with our friends at Assiniboine Park Zoo, the Beluga Bits Scientists.

Our partnerships with outside agencies such as the Fort Garry Community Network, Second Harvest, South Winnipeg Family Centre, Child Nutrition Council, exemplified a gesture of appreciation to our community members.

Finally, please join me in acknowledging and congratulating this incredible community of parents, staff and students in managing this school year. Our traditional values of Kindness, Respect, Responsibility were all called upon and demonstrated this year and we add with confidence the value of Resilience! We did it! Thank you to everyone for your care and compassion in taking care of yourselves and each other.

As our superintendent, Mr. Ted Fransen shared during one of our many virtual meetings, he said that 'silver linings can be found'. I would like to share the following silver lining from a General Byng staff member: 'working alongside other teachers this closely has completely altered my take on teaching.....I have grown (in my work) this year'.

Progress Towards the Three Expectations of Student Learning:

Engagement: As you can see, the information above indicates the deep engagement of our students, teachers and parents. Our efforts to work with students in person and off site away from school was above and beyond this year. We are so fortunate to have a strong faculty, responsive students, and supportive families.

Literacy and Numeracy: General Byng operates on a balance school day schedule. The current research outlining the benefits of this daily structure are uninterrupted time/blocks for Literacy and Numeracy, balanced nutrition, active play and healthy lifestyles that students and staff enjoy. General Byng staff understand that assessment informs practice. Teachers worked this year to ensure they had a solid understanding of student strengths and areas of growth. Ongoing assessment occurred whether learners attended school in-person or through remote platforms.

Graduation: Student attendance continued to be a focus this year. Our planning and implementation of interventions for consistent daily attendance and prompt arrival time included the following: staff available for meet and greet in mornings at school or home visits, Breakfast Program food and welcome, call-backs to engage families in problem solving, early morning greetings at school doors, staff home visits, breakfast program, 'School is Great-Don't Be Late (on line or in person)' continued throughout the year.

Grade level transitions, as a time of change, can be filled with excitement and/or concern. Focus and attention of this topic for students and families is important for mental health and wellness. Our Senior Year, grade 9 students have been preparing for the transition to a bigger high school all year. With virtual visits, registrations, and eventually all students prepared their own PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope). If you know a grade 9 students, please ask them to share their plan...the hope and optimism our students have is contagious and so important for their journey and next steps.