

# WESTERN SCHOOL DIVISION COMMUNITY REPORT 2024 - 2025



Brian Fransen



Nicole Levesque



Darcy Wolfe  
*Chair*



Lisa Burley  
*Vice Chair*



Susana Hawryshko

## Board of Trustees

### ***Things to Celebrate!***

- Grand Opening of École Discovery Trails
- Election of a new Chair/Vice Chair
- Continued community and divisional growth

### ***Divisional Facts***

- Student Population: 2339
- 5 school sites
- Over 318,375 square feet of educational space in schools
- Total professional staff: 188
- Total teaching and support staff: 335
- Average monthly student attendance was 92.5%

**WESTERN**  
School Division  
Morden, Manitoba

***"Rooted In Caring;  
Committed to Learning"***



### ***Division Office Administration***

Stephen Ross	- Superintendent
Marianne Fenn	- Asst. Superintendent
Joey Sarto	- Secretary Treasurer
Yuriy Lebedyuk	- Facilities Supervisor
Adam Adamson	- Transportation Supervisor

***Developing people who are Rooted in Caring, and Committed to Learning.***

***"Mission statements obligate people to moral action"***

***Thomas Sergiovanni***



# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY FROM THE WESTERN SCHOOL DIVISION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Western School Division: Reflecting on a Year of Growth and Change (2024-2025)

The 2024-2025 school year marked an exciting milestone for Western School Division with the grand opening of École Discovery Trails. This modern, dual-track school, the first new school constructed in over three decades positively transformed our community's educational landscape. Its opening significantly alleviated overcrowding, creating more spacious, inspiring learning and working environments at Maple Leaf, Minnewasta, and École Morden Middle School (EMMS). This achievement underscores our commitment to providing high-quality educational spaces and fostering vibrant learning communities.

Throughout the year, the board received numerous insightful reports from schools, showcasing outstanding work by staff and students during board meetings. These presentations frequently highlighted one or more of our board priorities. Notably, students and staff from various schools demonstrated impressive projects related to critical thinking and numeracy through initiatives like "Building Thinking Classrooms" and the professional development led by The Critical Thinking Consortium. These innovative approaches enriched classroom experiences, equipping students with essential skills to tackle complex challenges confidently and independently.

Student ownership was vividly illustrated through meaningful projects presented at board meetings. Younger students notably shared impactful presentations on Treaty Education and Land Acknowledgments. These initiatives exemplified our ongoing commitment to reconciliation, equity, and fostering respectful relationships within our schools and broader community.

This year was also a significant time of transition within our leadership team. After many dedicated years of service, Superintendent Stephen Ross and Secretary Treasurer Carl Pederson both announced their retirements. Stephen and Carl worked closely together for 19 years, significantly influencing both the educational and fiscal directions of our division. During his years as Superintendent, Stephen Ross's thoughtful and steady leadership was deeply rooted in caring and committed to learning. He consistently prioritized the well-being and academic success of every student, impacting thousands of students over his tenure. Similarly, Carl Pederson's meticulous fiscal stewardship ensured the financial stability and sustainable growth of our division. Together, their leadership has left an enduring legacy. Only the future will truly reveal the full impact of their combined contributions. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for their extraordinary service and unwavering commitment to our community.

Following the promotion of Joey Sarto from Assistant Secretary Treasurer to Secretary Treasurer, the Board turned its focus to the task of selecting a new superintendent. Early in 2025, the Board undertook an extensive and rigorous consultation process, engaging staff, parents, and community members to ensure the next superintendent would align with the values and vision of Western School Division. Through this collaborative and thoughtful process, we are pleased to welcome Stephen Jaddock as our new Superintendent. His extensive experience and deep understanding of education make him an ideal leader to carry forward the division's strong legacy and guide us into the future.

As we close this transformative year, we want to thank our dedicated staff, engaged students, and deeply supportive community for their ongoing partnership. Staff and students have contributed through their creativity, hard work, and the sharing of their learning, both in classrooms and through presentations at board meetings. Meanwhile, community members have offered their voices in consultations, supported school events, and partnered with us in meaningful ways to enhance student experiences. Together, these contributions have shaped our collective success. With a strong foundation that is rooted in caring and committed to learning, the board is filled with confidence and excitement for the future, knowing that our community will continue to be at the heart of everything we do.

*Darcy Wolfe, Chairperson, on behalf of the Western School Board of Trustees*



*As Western School Division welcomes a new leader, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the community for the unwavering support you have shown during my time here. Your ongoing engagement and collaboration have been essential to the progress we've made together.*

*The division will continue to play a vital role in nurturing the growth and development of our young people, while also contributing to the ongoing growth and vibrancy of our community.*

*With sincere gratitude and respect,*

**Stephen Ross**  
Superintendent of Schools





**MINNEWASTA SCHOOL**  
1 ACADEMY DRIVE, MORDEN, MB R6M 1Z4  
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### Highlights

- Transition Days for staff, parents, and students
- Project Based Learning activities school-wide
- Community experiences
- School-wide assemblies each month
- Guest visitors to the school
- I Love to Read Month celebrations
- Grade 4 team participating in the Numeracy Achievement Project
- School Spirit Weeks
- Celebrating the diversity of all staff and students
- Field Trips
- French Performances by Damien Lussier and Gerald Laroche
- Natural Playground & Outdoor Classroom Space
- PAC organized Hot Lunch Program
- Jump Rope for Heart Day
- Stanley Park Day organized by school staff
- Mamàhtawisiwin Staff Professional Development
- Staff initiated "kindness club" for students
- Kindergarten and Grade 4 Graduation Ceremonies
- Performances at Festival of the Arts
- Intramurals
- Professional Development residences for staff

### About Us

- K-4 school with approximately 250 students
- Diverse and inclusive learning community, welcoming to all
- 35 professional and support staff members
- English programming with Early Start French in K-3 and French: Communication and Culture in Grade 4
- Strong inquiry/PBL driven instruction
- Small-school feel (sense of community)
- Kindergarten programming offered in AM/PM time slots each day
- Diverse population with many EAL learners



### Priority Areas for 2025-2026

Literacy  
Numeracy  
French  
Culture/Wellness  
Education for Sustainable Development  
Mamàhtawisiwin

### Find us on Twitter and Instagram!

[twitter.com/minnewasta\\_wsd](https://twitter.com/minnewasta_wsd)  
[instagram.com/minnewastaschool/](https://instagram.com/minnewastaschool/)



*The mission of Minnewasta School is to provide a friendly, safe and respectful place where students, staff, parents/guardians and community work together to encourage lifelong learning. Minnewasta's staff will use the best available resources to challenge all students in a caring and competent way, knowing that each child is an individual.*

*"Learning and Growing Together"*





**ÉCOLE MORDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
 150 WARDROP STREET, MORDEN, MB R6M 1Z2  
 PRINCIPAL: MR. GARTH SHINDLE  
 VICE-PRINCIPALS: MS. ASHLEY ZYLSTRA, MR. JORDAN PAULS  
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## Goals & Priorities

- Improve numeracy and literacy skills
- Create “Thinking Classrooms” across all grades/subjects
- Full implementation of Mamàhtawisiwin framework
- Improve parental engagement

## Highlights

### Student Learning:

- Focus on numeracy and literacy skills through involvement in mRLC and other PD initiatives
- Working with Professor Garfield Gini-Newman and Jerrold Wiebe to build “thinking classrooms” where students think to learn and learn to think
- Making connections to 21st century workplace skills through programming options like coding, robotics, and hands-on science
- Building regulation, executive function, and resiliency
- Incorporating Mamàhtawisiwin principles through elder visits, field trips and Orange Shirt Day activities

### Student & Community Well Being and Connection:

- Student participation in mental health activities, community clean-up, and food drives
- Strong communication through email, website, newsletter, and social media accounts
- Variety of extra-curricular clubs and activities including music, sports, technology, art, and more
- Monthly citizenship awards connected to Blazers acronym



WE ARE:	
<b>B</b> RAVE	We try and do the right thing, even when it's hard or no one is watching.
<b>L</b> EADERS	We set a good example by being positive, respectful, and hardworking.
<b>A</b> CTIVE	We care for our physical and mental health.
<b>Z</b> EALOUS	We work with enthusiasm and dedication to pursue our goals.
<b>E</b> MPATHETIC	We are sensitive to the feelings, thoughts, and experiences of others.
<b>R</b> ESILIENT	We keep going, even when we experience disappointment or failure.
<b>S</b> INCERE	We are honest and treat others with kindness and respect.

## About Us

- Grade 5-8 dual track French/English middle school
- 640 students
- 40 professional staff, 13 Educational Assistants, and 8 support staff
- We promote student success through engaging instruction, strong relationships, and high expectations.
- Our inclusive learning environment supports students of diverse backgrounds and abilities, helping them thrive both in and out of the classroom.



*École Morden Middle School is committed to providing children with experiences to help them develop intellectually, socially, and morally. These experiences will take place in a caring and nurturing environment created and supported by a partnership of parents, students, educators, and the community.*

*We are working to develop attitudes and abilities that will enable children to continue their education and learn skills for independent living. Through the shared responsibility of all the partners, the children are expected to acquire a sense of respect for self and others, a responsibility to the community, and a lifelong desire to learn.*





## ÉCOLE DISCOVERY TRAILS

1079 PARKHILL DRIVE, MORDEN, MB R6M 0A8

PRINCIPAL: SAMUEL JEREMA

VICE-PRINCIPAL: JENN KROETSCH

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### Highlights

- House League Teams & Dino Cup
- Dino Discovery Time
- Musical - Aristocats
- Winter & Spring Concerts
- Festival of the Arts Performances
- Concours d'Art Oratoire
- DSL - Dino Student Leaders Program
- Universal Nutrition Program/Snack Shack
- Beau Dixon - Black History Month
- Orange Shirt Day & Pink Shirt Day
- Grade 2 Garage Sale
- Mental Health Awareness Week
- School Spirit Weeks & Field Trips
- Over 20 Student Clubs
- School Safety Patrol Program
- Various Speakers & Performances
- Morden Park Recess
- Garden Club Spring Plant Sale
- Participation in Student Vote
- I Love to Read Month, Guest Readers, & Book Fairs
- Sports Clubs, Intramurals, Track & Field Days
- Village du Père Noël & Festival du Voyageur



### About Us

École Discovery Trails is a brand new, state-of-the-art K–6 dual-track school in the Western School Division, offering both English and French Immersion programming. Currently home to 493 students, our school celebrates a rich cultural mosaic, with 28 distinct language groups represented within our vibrant learning community. Looking ahead, we are excited to expand to a K–7 model for the 2025–26 school year, continuing to grow alongside our students and families.

### Priority Areas 2025-2026

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Mamāhtawisiwin
- French Language & Culture
- Mental Health & Well-Being



*At École Discovery Trails, we nurture curiosity, empathy, and lifelong learning in a diverse and inclusive environment. Through collaboration, creativity, and respect, we guide students on a journey of academic and personal growth, empowering them to become responsible global citizens who honor our shared history and embrace new possibilities.*





## MAPLE LEAF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

225 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET, MORDEN, MB R6M 1Z3

PRINCIPAL: CYNTHIA DICK

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### Highlights

- Folkorama
- Garden Club
- Mental Health mixer
- Buddy readers
- Legend assemblies
- Snack shack
- Legends Fall Classic- run at Stanley Park
- Orange Shirt Day
- Terry Fox Run
- Athletics MB Milk Run
- Monster Project (Gr. 1 Theissen & MCI students)
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Partnership with MCI Family Studies Students
- PAC - Holiday Bash & June Carnival/ BBQ
- PAC Hot Lunch Program
- TiBert et Douzie performance- French performance
- Garfield Gini-Newman (Critical Thinking)
- Regional Connections lunches for newcomers
- I Love to Read Month in February
- Cuddle Up and Read Night
- Guest readers and Author visit
- Pink Shirt Day
- Beau Dixon Music Guest Performance
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Junior Achievement Program- Gr. 2
- Grade 4 Mixer @ ÉDT
- Bike Safety Presentation
- Storyteller Siobhan Faulkoner from Truth and Reconciliation
- PAC Fundraiser- Samosas & Krispy Kreme donuts
- Bike Everywhere Challenge
- Field Trips
- Track & Field Days with ÉDT for grades K-4
- Numeracy Assessment Program for Gr.4
- MCI Jazz Band & Choir Performance
- Winter Concerts K-4
- Tipi Joe – Indigenous education
- Treaty Education Kits in classroom

### About Us

The Maple Leaf Elementary School learning community is a vibrant and exciting place. We work hard to provide a safe and caring environment for everyone. Our school population and staff are increasingly diverse with 250 students and 30 staff. It is always busy here with lots of fun learning happening. We strive to deepen the learning of everyone who comes into the school, building student and adult capacity in critical thinking, problem solving, making connections and building bridges.

Maple Leaf Elementary School hosts a nutrition program which offers daily breakfast, recess snacks and a coordinated hot lunch program.

We understand that literacy is at the heart of what we do. In addition to core programming, we utilize Early Years Evaluations (EYE assessments) for all kindergarten students, we offer reading recovery to grade 1 students experiencing difficulty with reading, literacy support to students in grades 2-4 as well as English as an Additional Language programming support for newcomers.

Our diverse student population inspires us to offer a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities for our students. From Regional Connections lunch club, gardening club, run club, outdoor skating in the winter and biking in the warmer months, we offer a host of in-class, before and after school and lunch-hour activities (including soccer, gymnastics, badminton, basketball and Run Club, Garden Club and Voluntary Choir) to keep our active learners engaged.



*We strive to provide educational excellence through challenging and enriching experiences for all.*

*At Maple Leaf Elementary School we CARE. **Motto:** Learn, Grow, Live **School Goal:** To provide students with the tools to care for self, others and environment. As Legends, we believe in MLES; meaningful curriculum, learning for all, emotional and socially responsible, and safe inclusive environments.*





**MORDEN COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE**  
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#### About Us

Morden Collegiate offers a wide array of educational pathways for students in grades 9-12. We are a growing school with 2025 enrollment projection of 791 students! Our commitment to student achievement is evident through our programming, including advanced placement courses in Grade 12 Psychology and Biology; a vibrant French Immersion program, which provides the opportunity to receive a French Immersion Diploma; and partnerships across multiple divisions that provide access to vocational programs and high school apprenticeship credits. Our school fosters an environment where students excel in art, athletics, philanthropic activities, and technical training through a rich array of electives! We take pride in our students' achievements and celebrate their success throughout the year! We are looking forward to another exciting year; Go Thunder!

Morden Collegiate offre un éventail de parcours éducatifs pour les élèves de la 9<sup>e</sup> à la 12<sup>e</sup> année. Nous sommes une école en pleine croissance avec une inscription projetée de 791 élèves pour 2025! Notre engagement envers la réussite des élèves est évident à travers nos programmes, y compris des cours de placement avancé en Psychologie, Biologie en 12<sup>e</sup> année, un programme dynamique d'immersion française, qui offre la possibilité d'obtenir un diplôme d'immersion française et des partenariats dans plusieurs divisions qui donnent accès à des programmes professionnels et des crédits d'apprentissage au secondaire. Notre école favorise un environnement où les élèves excellent dans les arts, l'athlétisme, les activités philanthropiques et la formation technique grâce à un large éventail de cours optionnels! Nous sommes fiers des réalisations de nos élèves et célébrons leur succès tout au long de l'année! Nous attendons avec impatience une autre année excitante; Go Thunder!

#### Highlights / Faits saillants

- Conseil Jeunesse Provincial - ALÉA, St. Boniface gathering of all French speaking students
- Festival du Voyageur
- Annual Post Secondary Symposium and Career Fair
- Beau Dixon performance – Storytelling to engage and learn during Black History Month
- Youth in Philanthropy starts back up at MCI
- Evening of Elegance – Grateful for all donated Grad clothing. This event was a vast success!
- New E-Sports and New Fishing Club
- Grade 9 - Take your Kids to work day
- "Radium Girls" MCI Drama production to sold out crowds!
- Brandon Jazz Festival
- Grade 10 math team zone champions in the CEMC Cayley math contest
- MHSAA Provincial Champions – Boys soccer
- MHSAA Provincial Medalists – Girls Soccer (3rd), JV Girls Basketball (3rd), JV Boys Cross Country (3rd), Varsity Girls Cross-Country (3rd), Boys Curling (2nd), Varsity Boys Doubles Badminton (2nd)
- Zone 4 Champions – JV Boys Cross-Country, Varsity Boys Cross-Country, Aggregate Cross-Country, Hockey, Boys Curling, JV Girls Basketball, Varsity Boys Doubles Badminton, JV Mixed Doubles Badminton, JV Girls Doubles Badminton, JV Boys Singles
- Manitoba High School Adventure Race – 1st, 2nd
- MHSAA Athletes of the Week – 2 times



#### School Goals and Priorities

- Improved achievement in student literacy outcomes with a focus on continuous improvement and meaningful data collection.
- Improved achievement in student numeracy outcomes with a focus on grade 9 foundational math.
- Focus on developing French culture within our French Immersion programming and increasing the representation and visual presence of our thriving francophone culture
- Purposeful infusion of the Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder we are Born With – Indigenous Education Policy Framework.



*The mission of our school is to create a safe and caring environment which emphasizes learning as a lifelong quest. Our school strives for equality, mutual respect, and cooperation in everything that it does; to be a place where all citizens are encouraged to seek continually to be better, more informed people and citizens.*





## MORDEN ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE

200-30 STEPHEN STREET, MORDEN, MB R6M 2G3

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### What happen in 2024/2025 at MAEC...

As we approach the end of another successful school year, the Morden Adult Education Centre is proud to share some highlights and accomplishments from 2024–2025.

This year, 99 students registered with our Centre. Of those, 69 were mature students working toward their high school diplomas or personal goals, while 30 were upgrading students taking courses to meet prerequisites for post-secondary programs or employment opportunities. Together, our students completed an impressive 121 courses over the year — a testament to their hard work and commitment.

We are excited to celebrate 23 graduates at our upcoming graduation ceremony on June 23, which will be held at Westside Community Church. This special event will honour the determination and resilience of our students as they reach this significant milestone.

Throughout the year, several memorable events and projects brought our school community together. Our Grade 12 Law class took insightful tours of the local police station, providing students with real-world connections to their studies. A special thank you to Southern Health for awarding us a \$500 Promoting Art for Mental Health Grant. Our students had the opportunity to express themselves artistically, creating positive, meaningful messages to display around our Centre and share with the wider community.

We wish to extend a huge thank you to the Morden Community Thrift Shop for their very generous support in granting us \$5000 to help replace our out-of-date computers. Upgrading these essential resources will improve access to digital learning tools, enhance student engagement, and support the delivery of quality education.

In October, we opened our doors to the public for an Open House event, welcoming visitors to tour our facility, meet our staff, and learn more about our programs and services. December brought plenty of cheer with our 12 Days of Christmas games, where students and staff shared countless laughs, lightening the cold winter days with festive fun, food and camaraderie.

We are proud of all our students and grateful for the continued support of our community partners, staff, and families. The Morden Adult Education Centre remains committed to providing a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment where learners can achieve their goals and build brighter futures.



*To provide adults with the opportunity to expand their educational horizons in a flexible and comfortable academic setting. Our school strives to promote learning as a lifelong activity accessible to all.*