



MAPLE LEAF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

225 12th Street Morden, Manitoba, Canada R6M 1Z3

www.westernsdb.ca/mapleleaf

E-Mail: mloff@westernsd.mb.ca

Principal: Ms. Cynthia Dick

Phone: (204) 822-4458

Fax: (204) 822-5491

January 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As your child approaches kindergarten, we would like to welcome you to the Maple Leaf Elementary School community. We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning with your child. Kindergarten is an exciting step in your child's journey of learning and growing through their early experiences. We hope to form a strong home and school relationship with you to help make your child's years at Maple Leaf nurturing, exciting, and fulfilling.

The first step to entering school is to register your child for kindergarten. We kindly ask that you complete the online registration form by clicking [here](#). If you would prefer to download or print the form, please visit our [website](#) and navigate to the registration section.

We anticipate that the majority of registrations will be submitted during the week of February 2-6, 2026. If you encounter any difficulties while completing the forms, please feel free to contact the school office for assistance (204-822-4458).

To complete the registration process, please provide a copy of the following documents.

- **Child's Birth Certificate** (or another legal document containing their legal name and birth date) - This is usually a government-issued document that shows your child's legal name and birth date.
- **Proof of Residency** - Examples include a utility bill (electric, water, or gas bill), a lease agreement, or any official document that verifies your address.
- **Proof of Citizenship (for newcomers to Canada)** – Copy of Permanent Residence document or Study/Work Permit for both parent and child.

You can submit these documents by emailing a copy to mloff@westernsd.mb.ca when you send in your registration form. Alternatively, you are welcome to visit the office in person, and we can make a copy for you at that time.

Please be aware that morning or afternoon placement is not guaranteed. If you have a compelling reason for preferring one over the other, you are welcome to submit a written request at the time of registration. Be sure to include a clear explanation of your reason for the request. We will do our best to accommodate your preferences, but please understand that placement is subject to availability and other factors.

If you believe your child has any special needs or requirements for their education, please inform us as early as possible. We are committed to providing reasonable accommodation to support your child's learning and will do our best to address these needs whenever feasible.

We encourage you to schedule an eye exam with an optometrist before the school year begins. Please complete the “[Eye See...Eye Learn](#)” children’s eye exam form and take it with you to the eye appointment.

The [transportation request](#) is only required for students who qualify for bus services. This includes rural students and those who live more than 1.6 km away from the school. If you are uncertain whether your address qualifies for bus transportation, please don't hesitate to contact our office. We will be happy to assist you. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the transportation form, please let us know.

In the spring, you will receive additional information regarding our Kindergarten orientation process. This will include an invitation to visit the school and complete a kindergarten readiness assessment with one of our dedicated kindergarten resource teachers.

Once again, we extend a warm welcome to you and your child. We assure you that we will do our very best to provide your child with rich and rewarding educational experiences, and we look forward to having your family join our school community.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "CDick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cynthia Dick,
Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Upon entering Kindergarten, your child is due for his/her school entry immunizations. Immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other medical intervention. Immunizations help your immune system to recognize and fight bacteria and viruses that cause diseases.

Manitoba Health's recommended immunizations for children 4-6 years include the following:

- MMRV vaccine (Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella)
- Tdap-IPV vaccine (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio)

Immunizations in Manitoba are voluntary and only given with the consent of the parent or legal guardian.

These immunizations can be given free of charge by your family doctor or by a Public Health Nurse at the Child Health Clinics. The Child Health Clinics are located at_____.
Please call_____ if you wish to make an appointment.

The role of the Public Health Nurse in schools is to act as a resource linking schools to information and resources, provide school-based immunizations in designated grades as per Manitoba Health's schedule (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/schedules.html>), and follow-up on reportable communicable diseases.

Here are some resources you may find helpful as a parent:

- Manitoba Health's Communicable Disease Control website:
Find topics such as Lice, Mumps, Pertussis, Lyme Disease, and vaccination
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/index.html>
- Immunize Canada:
Up-to-date information on immunizations
<https://immunize.ca/>
- Caring for Kids:
Information for parents from the Canadian Paediatric Society
<https://www.caringforkids.cps.ca>

Please feel free to contact a local Public Health Nurse at the number listed above if you have any concerns or for more information.

Sincerely,



Eye See...Eye Learn™ an MAO children's vision program

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Starting school is an exciting time for kids. Ensure your child isn't hindered in learning, play or how they look at the world. Please make an eye exam a regular part of your child's overall health care.

Surprisingly, one in four children entering school has a vision disorder. Many of these children accept poor vision and other eye problems because they are unaware that their vision is not the same as that of other children. If left unchecked, serious long-term effects can result.

Since 80% of a child's learning is based on vision, excellent sight and eye health are critical to doing well in school.

The Manitoba Association of Optometrists is part of a national vision program ***Eye See...Eye Learn™***. The Association is working to get the message out to parents that ALL children should have a thorough eye examination by an optometrist before they enter school. Eye exams are covered by Manitoba Health for children and youth under 19 years of age!

With generous support of our sponsors, Modern Optical and OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation, The Manitoba Association of Optometrists (MAO), is pleased to offer the Eye See... Eye Learn™ **Kindergarten First Pair Free Program**. Manitoba kindergarten children – turning five during the calendar year they begin kindergarten- are eligible for one free pair of glasses. Children are eligible from January 1 of the year they begin kindergarten through to June 30 of the following year.

To locate an optometrist near you close to you, go to the MAO website at www.optometrists.mb.ca and select *Find an Optometrist*. You can also search the website for a list of First Pair Free Participating Practices.

Sincerely,

Your Manitoba Optometrists

An important message for parents of children entering the school system:

Vision directly affects how a child learns.

80% of a child's learning is based on vision.

One in five children entering school has a vision disorder.

Reading, learning and behavior problems can be related to undetected vision problems.

Why are kids not getting an eye exam?

Parents may think their children's vision is OK if they don't complain, or if they've successfully completed a vision screening. However, screenings are limited – they do not assess near vision ability, eye health, and how well the eyes work together as a team.

Our school and healthcare systems don't insist children have an eye exam, but they should. In some jurisdictions, eye exams before school entry are mandatory.

Parents might assume that if they have good eyes, their children must too. It doesn't always work that way. Why not book an eye exam and be sure?

Why not wait until my child is a little older?

The wiring between the eyes and the brain develops in the first 5 years of life. If a child has an eye problem, it will respond best if treated when young. Some eye problems can't be corrected as well if you wait until age 8 or 10. Eye exams are child friendly – your child does not need to know his/her alphabet in order to have an accurate exam. Most three year old children can complete a thorough eye exam easily! **Book an appointment before your child starts school.**

To find an optometrist near you, go to www.optometrists.mb.ca and select *Find an Optometrist*, or call the Manitoba Association of Optometrists at 204-943-9811.





Is your child starting kindergarten?

**Get their first pair
of glasses, free!**

Ask your optometrist.

@optometrists.mb.ca

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