

Manning Aurora Composite School



Raider's Report

SEPTEMBER EDITION



Brought to you by the Grade Seven Class!

Welcome Back to School!

Manning Aurora Composite School Staff 2025-2026



Miss Heather MacGregor: Kindergarten

Mrs. Trina Kelemen: Grade One

Miss Brooklyn Nessler: Grade Two

Miss Bryana Smith: Grade Three

Mrs. Jessica Ewach: Grade Four

Mrs. Britney Buchinski: Grade Five

Ms. Joanne Hebert: Grade Six

Mrs. Melody Taylor: Grade Seven and Music Teacher

Mrs. Sayler Schmidt: LA 8, Math 8, PE 8 & 10, CTS, Work Experience,
RAP, Green Certificate

Mrs. Cassidy Noble: Math 10C/20-1/2, Science 9, PE 9, Jr High Leadership

Mr. Andrew Bullen: Math 10-3/20-3, Science 10, Biology 30, Science 8

Mr. David Hyatt: LA 8/9, Social 9, Social 20-1/2, Jr High Robotics

Mr. Matt Taylor: Math 9, Science 7, Math 30-1, Math 30-3

Mrs. Jackie Ristesund: Jr/Sr High Shop, CTS

Mrs. Anita Bak: CALM, Work Place Safety, Sr High Foods, CTS

Mrs. Nicole Gardecki: Inclusive Education Coach, Grade 7 PE

Ms. Lesli Atkinson, Miss Georgia Burton,

Ms. Char Caron, Miss Kenzie Galbraith, Mrs. Maxine Goddard,

Mrs. Jenine Robinson, Miss Nyoka Salome,

Miss Jennifer Supernault, Miss Danielle Vandemark,

Mrs. Maria Wiebe & Mrs. Lacey Yasinski: Educational Assistants

Mrs. Christa-Lee Bailey: Speech and Language Assistant & Educational Assistant

Mrs. Cleo Pawluski: Student Support Worker

Mrs. Ashley Johnson: Information Specialist

Mrs. Terra Goodzeck & Mrs. Michele Greschner: Office Managers

Mrs. Vikki Presakarchuk: Vice Principal, English 30-1/2, Health 7, Jr High Drama, Art

Mr. Britain Olischefski: Vice Principal, Social 8, Math 8, Jr High Fall Sports, Hockey

Ms. Kim Matheson-Lyseng: Principal, Math 7

Mr. Ken Asmussen, Mrs. Lori Asmussen & Mrs. Miranda Shields: Custodial Staff



Welcome to the 2025–2026 School Year!

I'm so excited to be working with students from Kindergarten through Grade 12 as your Student Support Worker!

What does that mean? It means I have the wonderful opportunity to help students learn skills that support good mental health. Most of my time will be spent in classroom settings with students in Grades K–9, and I'll also be visiting with the Grade 10–12 classes throughout the year.

By learning these important life skills early on, students are better prepared to handle challenges before they even happen. As a School Support Worker, my role is to support and encourage students, families, school staff, and even the wider community to work together in creating a strong foundation for positive mental health...for everyone!

Wishing you a fantastic year ahead!

Student Support Worker- Mrs. Pawluski



School Council



*Join
Us*

Chairperson- **Jessica Ewach**
Vice-Chairperson- **Tasha Brown**
Secretary- **Kelsi Pakula**

Parent Representatives

Kindergarten-Gr. 3- **Cheri Kulyna**
Gr. 4-Gr. 6- **Amanda Kamieniecki**
Gr. 7 to Gr. 9- **Nicole Gardecki**
Gr. 10 to Gr. 12- **Erica Bacso**

Being part of School Council is such a great opportunity to stay informed, share your voice, and get the inside scoop on all the wonderful things happening at Manning Aurora Composite School!

At our very first council meeting of the year, a group of staff and parents gathered together in the school library for an evening of discussion, collaboration, and community building. We covered a variety of interesting topics, talked about upcoming events, and officially elected our Council Officers and Parent Representatives who will help guide and support the work of our council throughout the year. It was such a positive start, and we are looking forward to keeping that momentum going!

School Council Meeting Dates

October 8, 2025 @ 7pm
November 5, 2025 @ 7pm
December 3, 2025 @ 7pm
February 4, 2026 @ 7pm
April 8, 2025 @ 7pm



Our school community proudly came together to take part in the annual Terry Fox Run. The day was filled with excitement, school spirit, and a strong sense of togetherness as students and staff walked to honor Terry Fox's legacy and his dream of finding a cure for cancer. MACS raised **\$3177.00!** Congratulations to our top fundraisers, Hadley Greschner and Archer Skach!



GRAND OPENING



This grand opening is the culmination of many years of planning, collaborating and revising and more planning, revising and collaborating. Our school community feels very fortunate to be part of this journey and be the first to walk the halls of Manning Aurora Composite School. Thank you to Peace River School Division and our local governments for their advocacy efforts and their shared belief in the value of education. To the PRSD technology department for their expertise and willingness to field many, many questions. Thank you to Mr. John Przybylski for his expertise in managing this project and always putting kids first. And finally, a heartfelt thanks to students, staff, families and our greater community for their input, their patience and their dedication to providing a top notch school for our children. You all make Manning Aurora Composite School a great place to be and we are ready to make history together!

-Ms. Kim Matheson-Lyseng



Why Did Canada Start Being Honest About Residential Schools?

By: Abigail Pierson



Most people should know about residential schools, how they mistreated and abused many indigenous children in an attempt to have them take Euro-Canadian ideals and culture. Federally run from 1867 to 1996, residential schools caused generational trauma, even children who never went to a residential school were affected by mental health issues, addiction, and even violence. But how did Canada apologize for all of this? Why did Canada start being honest about what actually happened? Well it started with the truth and reconciliation commission making the 94 calls to action. The former prime minister Stephen Harper lived up to one of these calls to action and made a public apology in the house of commons on 11 June 2008 to acknowledge the intergenerational trauma caused by residential schools, to offer an apology, and ask for forgiveness.

Stephen Harper showed a great example with listening to the calls to action, and you should follow him by reading the calls to action and following the ones that apply to you.



Forced Into Religion

By: Anya Pakula



Imagine you were forced to go to a school, you don't know anyone who goes there and it's far away from your home. Everything is confusing, and you can't express your culture, spirituality, music, drums, dances, or ceremonies. This is what would happen to many indigenous children in residential schools. The residential schools forced the children to speak English instead of their beautiful language that they felt a spiritual connection to, making it a hard transition for many. On top of that they were forced to pray and go to church, even when they did not really understand why. They were told that their beliefs were wrong and that their drums, dances, and everything they knew and loved was bad. This made the children confused and made them think that their parents and elders were wrong as well. This made the children believe in things they did not want to believe in, and lost a little bit of trust with their parents. This was wrong, and it went on for a very long time.

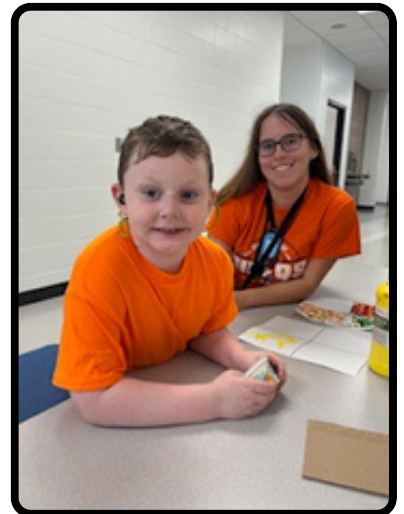
Fortunately, after all of the residential schools shut down some of the indigenous children did choose to find their culture again, and realized that what they were being taught was not right for them. Today there is much more acceptance for the residential school survivors, where they get to decide whether they want to relearn their culture or continue being christian.

What We Can Do

By: Sofia Perrier



Have you ever wondered why we have orange shirt day or why we have red dress day? There are ways we can show our reconciliation. In 1973, there was a girl named Phyllis. She bought a bright orange shirt and was excited to wear it for the first day of school. When she went to school it was taken away from her. This was a residential school. We wear orange shirts to acknowledge Phyllis and the other children who went to residential schools. In the residential schools, the respect for the children was very inadequate. Next is Red Dress Day. We have Red Dress Day to recognize all the indigenous women who have gone missing or murdered. You can wear a red dress to show your reconciliation on May 5th. Some people hang them on buildings, fences, or even their houses. Another thing we can do to show our reconciliation is celebrate National Indigenous day. This is a day to acknowledge the indigenous people who got their culture taken away. We have this day to make sure there is a place in Canada for their culture. All of these days we have to show our reconciliation. So start today! We can thrive together in our orange shirts for orange shirt day. Or hang red dresses on your fence or by your house for Red Dress day!



What Happened in the Past?

By: Dacey Stone



Have you ever thought or wondered about the wrongs done in the past? Here are some great ideas on how to learn this very important information. This first one is very common, but you are able to check social media platforms that are professionally checked and true, you always want to make sure your information is true because for one, you don't want to start rumors, and two, if your doing a research project you want to make sure your not giving false information. Next, you can use your family members as your knowledge tellers, especially if they are indigenous. That would be great. You can also use the old fashioned books, like "Stolen Words", "WAYI WAH", and lots more books on orange shirt day, and red dress day. You can also use textbooks, audio books, and even a biography! Biographies are true stories by the way. True stories can give you lots of correct information. And last but not least, if most people aren't fans of reading you can be the hero by joining an indigenous club or group that can invite anyone, and with an indigenous leader to share knowledge about residential schools or the bad things that went on in the past. I know that this was a harsh topic, but most Canadians need to know and understand what happened in the past. And if you would like to promote Truth and Reconciliation today, the Manning Metis club is offering their "Sacred Pathway Project". They are hosting cultural classes, beading, ribbon skirt making and the murdered missing Indigenous women walk on Friday, October 3rd at 4pm. If you would like more information on these events, you can go to the Manning Metis Facebook page.

The Worst Of The Worst

By: Abigail Hale



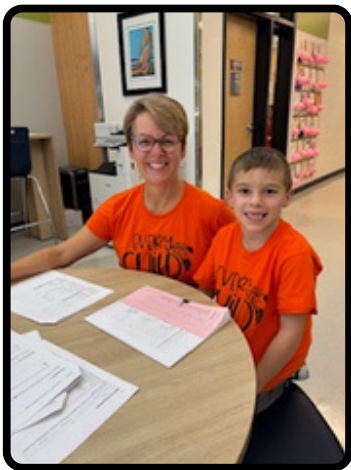
Do you really know all the truth about residential schools? Residential schools were a tragedy. So many indigenous people still have trauma, the indigenous people had to be in the terrible place that they were forced to call home for a period of time as well as all the fury from the weapons and things they used to scare these amazing people.

People say all, but it's not all. Not all residential schools did these terrible and abusive things. Some residential schools were better than others. For the unlucky children who went to the bad ones they usually were one of the 3000-6000 indigenous children that died in residential schools. Be glad that they are closed, I'm thankful my grandmother went to a good one as well as all the others because if she didn't, I wouldn't be here and neither would all the other indigenous families. Residential schools were a nightmare as my grandma's sister said from experience. She was one of the survivors that came out from the residential school as well as her sister.

In residential schools sometimes it was like walking through a line of fire. The people who ran the school did so many things that are disgusting and unforgettable. Some of the adults running the school sexually assaulted students and beat them until they were paralyzed or even to the point where death came and took them. The non-indigenous peoples used so many things to defeat the attendees of the school. Typically they used wooden spoons, pointers and rulers to harm the children. Somedays when the kids were hungry they would try to steal food, that resulted in them getting their hands held against the burning hot stove.

Over half of the population of Canada still aren't aware of what happened at residential schools and that isn't helping or doing anything so if you really want to help then just be aware of what happened. Go to events that can help you understand, and stand up for the indigenous!





Come With Us And Support Orange Shirt Day!

By Sage Stone

I am in the leadership team and we are promoting orange shirt day. Our Leadership team has made lots of orange shirt day posters in our school. Orange shirt day is a very special day to everyone because we support all the indigenous children who went to the residential schools by wearing an orange shirt. Orange Shirt day is on September 29th. You can help in orange shirt day events by wearing an orange shirt, attend to help or organize community events, and educate others about the history of residential schools. We can celebrate by joining public events or ceremonies in your community or participating in virtual events and education sessions about helping in orange shirt day events. Orange shirt day, observed annually on September 30th, is celebrated to raise awareness and promote reconciliation for the intergenerational impacts to Canada's residential school system. On the 30th is national day for Truth And Reconciliation Day. Please join us on orange shirt day.

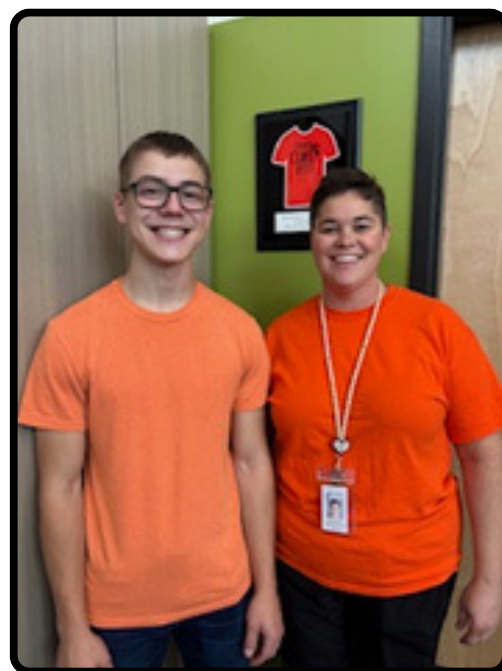


Why are People Wearing Orange Shirts

By: Emma Stone



Are you wondering why people are wearing orange shirts? Maybe you are like Dacey Stone thinking it is national orange day where you dress like an orange but it is not. This day is very momentous. It's about this girl named Phyllis. In 1973 Phyllis went with her grandma to go clothes shopping, so she would look great on her first day of school. When she got to the school her mood changed. She felt that the school was cold, unfriendly, and strange, and the respect for the kids was inadequate. Phyllis was worried about how long she would stay. Phyllis's orange shirt got taken away, she was resentful. When summer came she felt overjoyed to see her grandma and the farm. That is why we wear our orange shirts to remember that every child matters. We honor First Nations people and reflect on how every child is special and deserves our respect. If you want to help you can thrive in a bright orange shirt on the 29th of September. If your friend or friends don't know about this share it with them to let them learn about this too.



Sisters in Spirit!

By: Summer Payawal



Have you ever wondered what the Sisters in Spirit event is? Every year on October 4th, indigenous people gather around to honour the lives of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. They also show support for their families, loved ones and indigenous communities. Vigils and community events are organized and held across Canada. In the Sisters in Spirit event, they do ceremonies, walks and make a speech on social media. To show support to the Sisters in Spirit you can take a moment of silence to remember the victims, light a candle next to your window, participate in an event that is happening in Peace River or Manning, and share words to honour missing and murdered indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people using #SISVigils and #MMIWG. These vigils are powerful acts of remembrance and resistance. I hope you can participate in the Sisters in Spirit event.



Why Red Dress Day is Important

By: Rebecca Doll



What is Red Dress day? Red Dress day is a day where Canada honours the memories of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Between 2009 and 2021, the rate of homicide against Indigenous women and girls was six times higher than non-Indigenous people. Red dresses are hung on windows, trees, fences, and balconies to represent the pain, loss, fear, and suffering the family and Indigenous women or girl must have felt during the time she was missing or murdered.

Many girls do not return to their family with their bodies, but they do return to their families by spirit or through memories. Red Dress day is inspired by the REDress Project, an art installation created by artist Jaime Black, which uses red to represent the missing and murdered. Red Dress day is important because Canada needs to recognize those girls' lives and families.

Red Dress day is less recognized than Orange Shirt day. The colour red was chosen because in some Indigenous cultures it is believed that red is a colour spirits are able to see, making the red dress a way to call lost spirits home. Red also represents healing in many Indigenous cultures. Although, people may think the woman or girl has passed on and been forgotten, her spirit will never remain unrecognized with Red Dress day. Red Dress day takes place on May 5th, you may wear red on Red Dress day to appreciate those women and girls who went missing and who were murdered.

Day Schools

By : Myla Kamieniecki



Day schools are like residential schools but the indigenous were allowed to go home, their hair was still cut and they still got their language taken away. Did you know Thomas Simpson school first opened in 1960 and was named after the arctic explorer who led an expedition through the western section of the northwest passage in the 1830s. The Anglican-run Bompas Hall also opened in 1960. It was originally a residential hostel for children around the north to live while attending the Tomas Simpson school. Kids still attend class in the two buildings that at once functioned as a federal day school and residential school. Nicole Gardecki used to go to Tomas Simpson School after the day school closed. But in 2021 they found unmarked human remains under their track and playground area at the Tomas Simpson school. Della Koch said that her grandfather went to a residential school but he only talked about it briefly because it was really painful for him to talk to. He was also very forgiving. The respect for the children was inadequate. If you wanted to help fix what happened you can wear an orange shirt on Monday 29th.



Food For Thought

We are looking for volunteers to help provide free breakfast to our students.

Our Food For Thought volunteer coordinator is Amanda Kamieniecki. Thank you so much for stepping forward to take on this important role!

Please phone the school (780-836-3532) if you are able to volunteer some time to this program!

Our monthly school calendar is now available on our school website. You can easily view upcoming events and important dates, or subscribe to the calendar directly from the site or by clicking the link provided to stay up to date with all that's happening at school.

We encourage you to check it regularly and subscribe so you never miss a reminder.



Thank you for staying connected and involved!
[Manning Aurora Composite School Calendar](#)

We're excited to host provincials and are looking for amazing volunteers to help bring it all together! If you are interested in being a part of the action please call the school if you are able to help out!

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

SAVE THE DATE!

★ ★ **1A Girls Provincials**

November 27-29, 2025

Hosted by:
Manning Aurora
Composite School



*Thank
you*

Thank you to...

*Thank
you*

Pat Ek

for the donation of school supplies!

Eileen Gerrits

for the donation of school supplies!

Erica Bacso

for the beautiful bouquet of sunflowers!

Maya Dorion

for the plants for the Learning Commons!

Laurie Henitiuk

for the donation of the craft foam sheets!

Jodie Reinders

for the donation of school supplies!

Wanda Jackson with Serenity Therapy

for the donation of the Nodpod weighted blanket!

Hotchkiss Flower Farm

for the lovely bouquet of flowers for our office!

Cheri Kulyna

for the donation of skates!