



# RED RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DIVISION

Fall 2009

## Enrolment - September 2009

Albright Colony School	21
Domain School	22
Heritage Immersion	95
ICSP	79
J.A. Cuddy School	204
Low Farm School	84
Morris School	439
Oak Bluff Community School	155
Peace Valley Colony School	28
Rosenort School	236
St. Malo School	126
Sanford Collegiate	357
Starbuck School	177
Suncrest Colony School	29
Vermillion Colony School	30
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2082*</b>

\*Full-Time Equivalency is 2016.5 (For funding purposes, Kindergarten students count as .5 of a student)

**How does this compare to last year?** Overall our division has a decrease of 19 students mostly because of large graduating classes and lower kindergarten enrolment.

## 2009-2010 Strategic Plans

Every year The Red River Valley School Division updates its Educational Strategic Plan and the Board of Trustees updates their Board Strategic

Plan. Strategic plans are dynamic ongoing plans that guide our decision-making.

The Board held its strategic planning session on September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Board Strategic Plan

- 1. To plan and provide quality education for the future of our students.**
- 2. To continue to recruit and retain dedicated and highly competent employees.**
- 3. To provide safe and friendly environments (Building, Grounds & Transportation).**
- 4. To be leaders in education.**

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On October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, the division's administrative team held its strategic planning session. Priorities were reaffirmed and updated as follows:

### Educational Strategic Plan

- 1. To develop and provide appropriate programming to address the needs of at-risk individuals and to support learning groups at critical stages of the educational process.**
- 2. To maintain and strengthen expertise, continuity and motivation of staff.**
- 3. To strengthen public relations.**
- 4. To strengthen school division image by promoting new programs in the division.**

**Our 2009/2010 Strategic Plans  
will be available on the divisional  
website soon!  
[www.rrvsd.ca](http://www.rrvsd.ca)**

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### **Did you know...?**

The RRVSD Board of Trustees wants to hear from its communities. A survey will be available through your local school and on the divisional website @ [www.rrvsd.ca](http://www.rrvsd.ca).

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### **Rachel's Challenge**

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, a thought-provoking program called Rachel's Challenge was held at the Southern Manitoba Convention Centre in Morris. This program was inspired by the many journal writings of Rachel Scott, the first victim in the Columbine High School shootings in 1999. An audience of 1100 students and staff were touched by the messages of kindness and compassion delivered through powerful presentations.

Our speaker, Nicole Nowlen, is a former Columbine student who was in the school's library on that tragic day. After surviving being shot by the gunmen, she has shared her story with hundreds of thousands of people and has been sharing Rachel's story since 2006.

Rachel's story encourages students to make a difference in the lives of others that are around them every single day. Our students just may start a chain reaction of kindness.

Here are a few of the quotes received from students and staff who were in attendance to hear Rachel's story:

- I was really touched by the presentation.

- One of the most powerful conferences I have ever attended.
- It opened my eyes and kind of taught me about what happened and how far a little kindness can go.
- It made a lot of kids think of ways to be better people.
- It is important for everyone to have a friend and this program has a reaction on people to go be a friend to someone different.
- It changed my life!

### **GREAT SCHOOLS in RRVSD**

**STARBUCK SCHOOL** is our K-8 school located in the town of Starbuck. This school also offers a hockey academy for students in grades 5 to 8.



***DID YOU KNOW...***on November 15, 2010, Starbuck School will be celebrating the Centennial of the Starbuck Consolidated School building that currently houses the hockey academy? A committee of teachers, parents and community members will be established this year to plan the celebration. They will likely have a day with period costumes, a horse-drawn school van and learning activities that are authentic to the early years of the school's existence. What a great opportunity for the whole community to connect with their past! Now that's a great Social Studies project!

**ÉCOLE ST MALO SCHOOL** is a dual track K-8 school that offers the English program and the français partiel program. This year, École St. Malo School is also offering a hockey academy program for grades 5 and 6 students. Its goal is to expand it to grades 7 & 8 in the next two years.



The school works closely with the community, partnering in several programs such as: the Baby Clinic, the Superstart Program, The Metis Literacy Group, Garderie des Bambins (local daycare), Petits Papillons (preschool program). Here's another great example of a school and its community working together to make a difference.

**PEACE VALLEY SCHOOL** is a K–12 school located on the Homewood Colony near Starbuck, MB. The school population consists of 28 students, all of whom live on the colony and walk to school. English is the 3<sup>rd</sup> language these children are learning. They speak Low German at home; learn High German before and after school; and use English in school. The students and staff of Peace Valley School are starting a "Chain of Compassion" in honour of Rachel Scott (Rachel's Challenge). These students are "making a difference"!



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### **Did you know...?**

The Red River Valley School Division has its Pandemic Plan available on the divisional website. This plan was reviewed by the trustees, bus drivers, custodians, office staff, school secretaries, and school administrators. Administrators then shared the plan with school staff. We know we can't prevent the school population from getting the H1N1 but we're as prepared as we can be to face any challenges ahead.

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### **A Message from the Superintendent & CEO, Kelly Barkman**

With H1N1 appearing in daily headlines, it is no wonder that pandemic planning has been one of the main focuses of this fall. Once again, I see the wonderful teamwork-based environment we have in this division at work. I am grateful to all staff for working together to ensure our schools are kept as safe as possible, and that our students continue to receive the quality of education they deserve.

The evidence of the importance of teamwork in this Division is everywhere – from the classroom, to the school ground; from meeting rooms to board rooms; from special events held in each school to the division-wide Rachel's Challenge event. It is an integral part of what makes us strong.

Working together, staff, students, parents, and community members continue to make The Red River Valley School Division a great place to grow and learn.