



REPORT

Recognition of Excellence

***J W Walker School
Success with Second Languages***

Regular Board Meeting:
April 4, 2017

For further information, please contact:
Al McManaman, Superintendent of Education
Kevin Knutsen, Principal, J W Walker School



RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Success in Second Languages

Date: April 4, 2017
To: Rainy River District School Board Trustees
From: Kevin Knutsen
Principal- J.W. Walker School

Recommendation: It is recommended that the report be received for information only.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Second language programs ensure the unique historical and cultural story of our Indigenous community is embedded in the curriculum, as well as highlight the importance and successes of our French programming.

CONTEXT

The second languages programs and experiences at J.W. Walker School are an important part of the education of our Grades 4-6 students. The students and staff work very hard to achieve the success in quality programs.

SUMMARY

Research shows that there are many benefits to second language learning. Acquiring a second language improves memory and increases attention span. Multitasking abilities improve as people are able to switch from one language to another. Being fluent in a second language increases the chances and opportunities of employment in today's economy.

The School Effectiveness Framework states that, "Students build on in-school and out of school experiences to further explore and reflect upon their interests, strengths, skills and education and career/life aspirations." Many of our second language programs offer additional experiential learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom.

This year, all Grade 6 students at J.W. Walker school had the opportunity to travel to Winnipeg to participate in activities at Festival de Voyageur, which focuses on rich cultural experiences. At Festival, the students were able to go to a maple forest, attend a French concert and experience a day in the life of a Voyageur. Our Grade 6 students also benefitted from being able to participate in the annual Fall Harvest activities at the Nanicost complex. Students learned how to cook wild rice, participated in Métis dancing, listened to storytelling with elders, and learned the anatomy of a harvested deer.

At the end of March, our Grade 5 and 6 Ojibwe Language students attended Quest for Knowledge, which is a competition among District schools where students are quizzed on their knowledge of Ojibwe



language and culture. Great pride and hard work is always demonstrated by the students involved in this engaging competition.

All Grade 4 to Grade 6 students at J.W. Walker participate in either the Ojibwe second language program or our core French program. We are proud of the work of our students and staff and recognize how fortunate we are to provide such rich programming and experiences in this area across our Board.
