

## RMS Education Newsletter – First Edition

### Message from the Director of Education

Dear Rowntree Families,

As we approach the end of the month and prepare for the holiday break, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the learning, growth, and strong sense of community evident across all three campuses. It has been a busy and productive period, and we are truly appreciative of the continued partnership between home and school that supports each child's success.

Across all grade levels, our shared focus remains on ensuring that students understand their learning goals, receive ongoing feedback, and feel supported in taking ownership of their progress. When communication between school and home is clear, consistent, and purposeful, students are empowered to engage more meaningfully in their learning. This alignment continues to be a strength across our classrooms.

### Learning Highlights and Instructional Practices

In Kindergarten through Grade 5, learning is shared regularly with families through *Week in Review* communications and *Month at a Glance* overviews. These provide insight into classroom learning experiences, upcoming goals, and important events, ensuring families remain closely connected to their child's learning journey. As students progress into Grades 6 through 8, enhanced course outlines clearly communicate learning expectations and goals, while daily Google Classroom posts provide consistent updates, organization, and transparency for both students and families.

In addition to these classroom practices, our Senior Leadership Team conducts monthly Learning Visits across the school as part of our commitment to continuous school improvement. During these visits, school leaders spend time in classrooms observing learning, speaking with students, and reflecting collaboratively with educators. These visits are supportive and developmental in nature, helping to ensure consistency in instructional quality while keeping student learning at the center of our work.

### MAP Growth Results

We are pleased to share that our recent Fall MAP Growth assessment results indicate that Rowntree Montessori students are performing above national averages in both Mathematics and Language. Many of our students are also achieving results that exceed national norms. These outcomes reflect strong instructional practices, thoughtful planning, and our continued use of assessment data to inform teaching and support student growth across grade levels.

## Our Five Learning Pillars in Action

Teaching and learning at Rowntree Montessori are guided by our Five Learning Pillars, which were introduced to students during our Spirit Day assembly last month. These pillars focus on Academic Achievement, Multilingualism, Life Competencies, Future Pathways, and International Learning Opportunities through our ILOS programs.

Through this framework, students engage in experiences that connect learning to real-world contexts. As part of our focus on Life Competencies, students recently completed a December STEAM Challenge connected to the value of Generosity. Classes created holiday cards or ornaments for residents at the Woodhall Retirement Centre, combining creativity, problem-solving, and citizenship while strengthening community connections.

Our pillar of Future Pathways was also reflected in a recent evening parent information session focused on different high school pathways and options. We are pleased to share that we are planning to offer a similar session in the spring for Grade 7 families as students begin to think ahead to future transitions.

## Homework Policy Update

To further support clarity and alignment across the school, we have introduced a revamped Homework Policy. The purpose of this update is to ensure transparency and consistency across grade levels, with clear expectations for students and families. This will help further support meaningful reinforcement of classroom learning while also promoting a healthy balance between academic responsibilities and family time. Please see a copy of the Homework Guidelines here:

 [Homework Guidelines - 25-26.pdf](#)

We hope you all have a wonderful holiday and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year!

Warm regards,

**Emina Tihak**  
Director of Education