

GROWING *good fruits*



FREEDOM
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING NEW GROWTH

a message from the board

by Alex Bartmanovich

*What a fantastic year at Freedom!
We have so much to be thankful for:*

This past year has been marked by significant growth and meaningful milestones for our community. Our student body expanded from 36 to 60, which I believe stands testament to the increasing demand for our unique and Christ-centered educational approach. We are proud to celebrate the graduation of 5 students, an achievement that holds special significance for both the graduates and our entire team.

Congratulations, graduates! In addition, our 2024 Summer Employment initiative gained considerable momentum, with students collectively completing over 1,027 hours of work-based learning, equipping them with invaluable real-world experience. We abide in hope that this experience has and will open doors for our students.

We welcomed back Rachel Smith, and also welcomed Victoria Sotunde to the board. Both have infused our leadership with fresh energy and insight, positioning us for even greater success in the years ahead. We are also ecstatic to have Hannah Cavey express a desire to continue serving as a board member once her time as our principal comes to a close. We are excited at the Christ-loving, experienced candidates being considered to become our school's next leader.

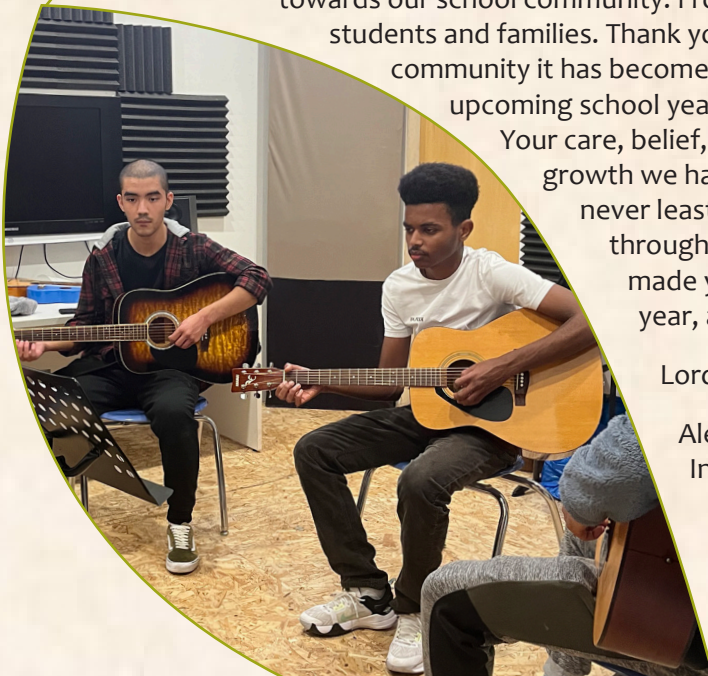
Looking forward, we are thrilled at the opportunity to deepen our impact in the personal, academic, and spiritual development for our students, and to see more doors open. As we work towards a more secure financial future, we are cultivating relationships with potential supporters to build sustainability and growth in our mission. We ask for our community's steadfastness in prayer, and for God to move in the hearts of people to see the incredible potential of our students, and rapidly fall in love with our school.

There are so many to thank for this year. The Lord, firstly, for His love and providence towards our school community. From there, I want to say thank you to all our students and families. Thank you for choosing us. You make Freedom the vibrant community it has become. We are thrilled to continue serving you in the upcoming school year. Thank you to our team of staff and volunteers.

Your care, belief, and excellence in your craft is integral to the growth we have witnessed this year. Fantastic work! Last, and never least, thank you, thank you to our donors. Whether through funds, time and skill, or gifts, your generosity has made you our greatest asset. We thank God for you all year, and for the years to come.

Lord bless and keep you all,

Alex Bartmanovich
Interim Chair



FRIDAY CHAPEL: *growth and connection*

by Betiel Woldai

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

This year, the chapel program has seen meaningful growth, both spiritually and communally. Worship times have become more vibrant, with students eagerly participating in singing and creating a welcoming atmosphere.

The Student Spotlight has helped deepen connections, allowing students to share their stories and learn more about one another. Guest speakers from diverse backgrounds brought fresh perspectives that encouraged curiosity and reflection, enriching the learning experience.

Through discipleship groups, students explored their faith more deeply, communicating openly and building trust. Spiritually, we believe seeds have been planted in their hearts — seeds that God will continue to nurture and grow.

Chapel has also supported academic development, as many students engaged in learning English through the Bible, blending language learning with faith formation. Most students, being Christians, participated with genuine commitment, leading to growth not only in spirituality but also in cultural understanding, intellectual curiosity, and community life.

Overall, chapel has become a vital space for worship, learning, and connection, one that continues to shape students' hearts and minds in lasting ways.

Thank you to our 2024-2025 Chapel Guest Speakers:

Mwambusa Francis, Eva Bilungi Kiwanuka, Ashley Ginter, Pastor Ahmed, Dan Ingram, Cody Schuender, Jared & co (Millar College of the Bible), Naomi Letkeman, Dimitri (Millar College of the Bible), Joey Sanchez, Justin Lange, Kevin Lariviere, Rachel Smith, Cher Paulson (LBE)



GROWING COMMUNITY and giving thanks

We are so grateful for all who share their time and talents with our school, either at events, for special projects, or on a regular basis in the classroom.

2024-2025 Volunteers: Abe Harder, Cathie Van Benthem, George Bock, Melinda Bidzinski, Nyamal Jack Kuon, Paul Bergsagel, Shalys Okareufe, Sandy Plett, Amelia Warkentin, Rachel Smith, Zahra Niazi, Edward Roa, John Wall.

Student Volunteers: Raki Yowhannes, Eliane Nimvyimana, Celine Muhawenimana, Sabreen Hassan, Chudier Gathluak, Stephanie Nimvyimana, Sam John, Merina Tesfaldet Ghirmay, Taha Hussain Rezaie

One on one reading volunteer

This year saw over
1,843
hours
of volunteer work!

Staff: Jessica McInnes, Nick Mullin, Dorothy McInnes, Darlene Wall, Brook Friesen, Zachary Ferguson-Baird, Jan Basanes, Cyndi Wiebe, Tim Bock, Tasha Reimer, Hannah Cavey, Bonnie Ferguson-Baird, Ahmed Jibo, Nyamal Jack Kuon, Jenny Gonzalez, Samara Froese, Jim Spoelstra, Nikki Tamayo, Betiel Woldai, Nathan Klassen, Onyeka Okoro, Anuna Ojwato, Hadish Teklay, Delina Berhe

Summer Staff: Nyamal Jack Kuon and Elijah Kawooya

Community Connections

SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS: Anonymous, Akin's Business Centre, African Communities of Manitoba (ACOMI), Blennerhassett Family Foundation, Busy Bee Day Care Centre, Mount Carmel Clinic, Mara Home and Health Services (Elisha Thunder), Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities, Starlite Colony, New Life Ministries, Fort Richmond Baptist Church, Iglesia Pentecostal Triunfantes en Cristo, Dr. Carmine Scarpino Dental Corp, James Valley Colony, Pembina Valley Bible Camp, Circle Square Ranch, Living Bible Explorers, Dorias Charities, Fast Air, The Wave Church, Miami Colony, Mission Baptist Church, Horizon Colony, Westwood Presbyterian Church, McDermot Ave Baptist Church, Poplar Point Colony, Cindy Klassen Recreation Complex, Axworthy Health and RecPlex, University of Winnipeg, YMCA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Alex Bartmanovich (Interim Chair), Victoria Sotunde, Rachel Smith, Elmer Constanza, Tim Reimer

GOVERNMENT FUNDERS: Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba; Department of Education, Urban/Hometown Green Team

MEMBERSHIPS: Association of Christian Schools International, Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools, Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations



Share the Night
Benefit Concert



REFLECTIONS ON GROWTH

movement & change

by Hannah Cavey

Thank you, Freedom Community, for the many emails, texts, calls and conversations over the last few months to tell me of your prayers and hopes for my health and the good of the school in this time of transition. They are all felt.

As we celebrated Thanksgiving and thought about harvest and growth, I was reminded of what Paul said to the Corinthians, *“Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow.”* 1 Cor 3:5b-7.

Every member of the Freedom team has a part to play in educating and caring for teenage and young adult newcomers in our city, but it is God who changes hearts and gives us the ability to love and serve with a full sense of those small words. I was honoured to be principal, and I am honoured to be chair. I am also honoured to be a weekly volunteer reading one on one and tutoring in Math. This has brought so much joy to my heart when I see up close what this school does for students who must learn how to navigate this new life in Canada with confidence, skills and knowing that they are loved by Jesus.

At our year-end staff events, we often reflect on our past year by identifying a rose (praise item), a thorn (challenge), and a bud (area for growth). Looking back at the 2024-25 school year, I chose these to share with you. Rose: Our incredible board: They are a diverse group of people who see the beauty and power of the school. Thorn: This past year has been a time of health challenges and I am still in the midst of finding support for my health, unsure how much I can/should do in a week. I welcome your prayers for clarity, determination, protecting my “yes,” and healing. Bud: joining in the work of our school board as the chair. Standing with these amazing board members who spend countless hours in prayer, deliberation and action to ensure that they make wise decisions in moving us forward.



Jr High Art Show
This is My Story



2025 Graduating Class

2024-2025

BY THE NUMBERS

- 323** Hours, T4T
(Student Trade 4 Tuition, cleaning & kitchen)
- 1027** Hours, 2024 Summer Employment
- 24** Student participants (work placement)
- 60** Students
- 22** People groups (enrolled at FIS, to date)
- 5** Graduates
- 21** Staff
- 1843** Volunteer hours
- 2.3** Math grades/hrs gained (on average)
- 1.5** Reading levels gained (on average)

GROWING IN SKILL *athletics update*

by Jim Spoelstra

Sports have had a massive impact on our students in the past year! From intramurals at lunch and free time, the track and field meet at U of M to volleyball and basketball games, the students have come to know and love many different games and activities. Leaders have emerged and explained rules, strategies and game plans. It has been wonderful to see the tutorials from older/returning students to the newcomers and new students. One student has jumped into the role of captain of the volleyball team and has shown such passion for the sport and her team. The teams' skill levels have increased dramatically and everyone enjoys gym time and recreational activities! Freedom students have learned about hockey and attended a Moose game for Project 11 and loved it! They have learned about health units and the value of exercise and daily activities. There are so many things that they take away from sports: cooperation, teamwork, communication, respect, listening, leading, etc. Sports are an integral part of Freedom and one of our passions!



Students at YMCA swimming lessons

GROWING UP — *life after high school*

Zebib arrived in Canada from Eritrea in 2021, stepping into a new country, a new culture, and a new language. When she first came to Freedom, English felt overwhelming but she was met with patience, encouragement, and teachers who believed in her even before she fully believed in herself. Slowly, she found her voice.

Along the way, something even deeper happened. As she engaged in Bible class and community life at Freedom, her faith blossomed. She often shares that “after starting Bible class, my life changed and I grew closer to God.”

Her transformation academically, personally, and spiritually has been remarkable to witness. And her story doesn't end there. In 2024, Zebib graduated from Freedom, and this year she proudly earned her diploma as a Health Care Aide. Her journey is a powerful reminder of what support, perseverance, and faith can make possible.



Scan to hear more of Zebib's inspiring story.



Zebib and Ms Tasha

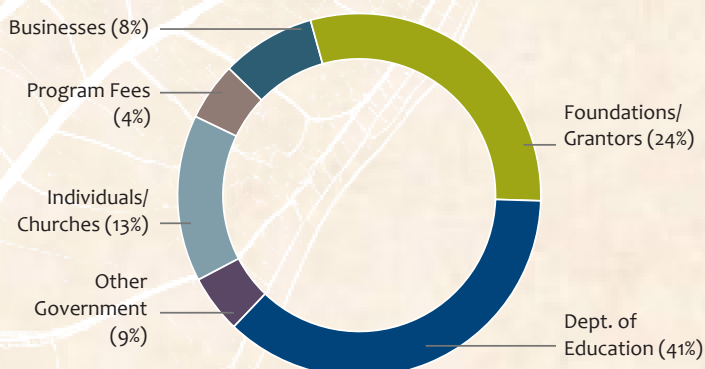
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FREEDOM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL INC.

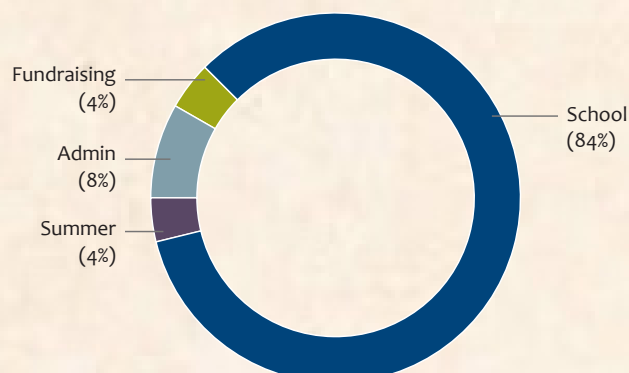
Audited Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for the Year Ended June 30, 2025

REVENUE	2025	2024
Federal and provincial grants	307,160	351,775
Grants - non government	216,343	167,459
Donations	174,804	140,340
Student fees	38,325	30,235
Special events and fundraising	6,952	5,215
Donated products revenue (Note 6)	16,148	1,209
	759,732	696,233
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries and wages	510,265	511,192
Management salaries	93,728	93,898
Rental	36,275	38,300
Supplies	30,449	27,056
Amortization	26,513	24,739
Donated goods (Note 6)	16,148	1,209
Professional fees	13,666	23,646
Bursaries and scholarships	11,343	3,550
Repairs and maintenance	6,455	4,028
Student transportation	4,980	8,673
Fundraising	2,998	3,964
Insurance	3,201	3,151
Meetings and conventions	2,235	1,326
Memberships	1,915	1,193
Advertising and promotion	1,103	640
Bad debts	844	88
Interest and bank charges	385	443
Utilities	168	195
	762,671	747,291
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	(2,939)	(51,058)
OTHER INCOME		
Interest income	3,565	4,103
Gain on disposal of assets	875	2,500
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	1,501	(44,455)

2024-2025 MONETARY REVENUE



2024-2025 EXPENDITURES



FREEDOM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

We are a registered charity serving newcomer and former refugee youth ages 12-21 providing holistic, trauma-informed, accredited high school education in a Christ-centred environment.



Learn more about us at
FREEDOMINTERNATIONALSCHOOL.NET
f i y @FreedomSchoolWinnipeg



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We acknowledge that we gather on ancestral lands, on Treaty No. 1 Territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinabe (Ojibway), Inineew (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dene, and Dakota, the Birthplace of the Métis Nation and the Heart of the Métis Nation Homeland.

Freedom International School Inc. is a registered Charity: 755945318RR0001