



Bernie Wolfe School

Newsletter—December 2025

Bernie Wolfe School

95 Bournais Dr

Winnipeg, MB

R2C 3Z2

P: 204-958-6532

F: 204-667-9871

bw@retsd.mb.ca

Acting - Principal

Joanne Zahaiko

Vice Principals

Frank Reeves—EY

Scott Hjartarson—MY

(acting-vice principal)

Office Hours:

8:00 am—4:00 pm

Lunch Program

Joyce Aniel

Mission Gardens Nursery

204-663-8053

mgpc@mymts.net

Spring Meadows Daycare

204-663-9237

springmeadows@shaw.ca

In Service Days

Friday, January 30

Monday, February 2

Friday, March 20

Friday, April 10

Message from the Administration

Dear Families and Community,

As we approach the holidays, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible growth and achievements we've seen throughout this term. December is a time for celebration, joy, and gratitude, and I couldn't be prouder of our students, staff, and families for the dedication and support that make our school such a vibrant place to learn. Our community has come together at our meet the teacher evening, student-led conferences, cross-country events, volleyball games, e-sports, and most recently, at our winter concert. These are only a few celebrations I have mentioned here. These celebrations show our strong community, the commitment to learning from our students, and the dedication of our staff, because without them, we could not provide such rich opportunities for our students. From early morning practices to after school and weekend commitments, the staff at Bernie Wolfe School go the extra mile so our students can enjoy these experiences. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the countless hours that our staff give, that go beyond the school day, so that our students can grow. Thank you BWS staff!

As we head into winter break, I encourage everyone to take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy moments with loved ones. Thank you for your continued partnership in fostering a positive and enriching learning environment. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, ready for new challenges and successes.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

J. Zahaiko



Farewell Mr. Iwan!



From Mr. Iwan's former students to his colleagues:

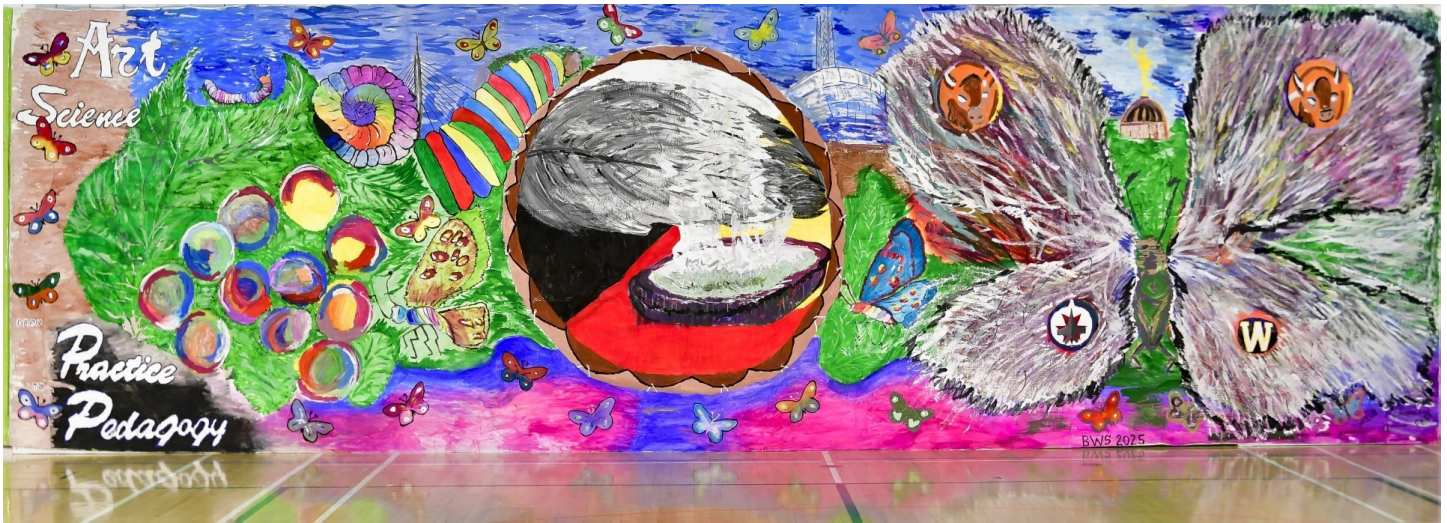
Mr. Iwan has inspired the next generation of Bernie Wolfe teachers. Mr. Maxwell, Ms. Mirwaldt, and Ms. Hando were once his students, and they have since had the privilege of working alongside him as colleagues.

After 26 years of dedicated teaching, we are honoured to announce the retirement of Mr. Norbert Iwan. Throughout his career, he has ignited a passion for learning in countless students—especially in the areas of science, math, and art—and he has shared his love and talent for photography in everything he has contributed to Bernie Wolfe School.

Mr. Iwan's influence has shaped our school community in countless ways. We are deeply grateful for the impact he has made and the legacy he leaves behind. Most recently, his art classes created a beautiful mural that will continue to inspire students for years to come.

Congratulations, Mr. Iwan, on your retirement. Your dedication, creativity, and passion will always be remembered.

PRACTICE TO PEDAGOGY Mural



MURAL FROM PRACTICE TO PEDAGOGY

(28 feet long and 9 feet high, created with watercolor on paper)

This mural is a celebration of growth, transformation, and the power of learning. Just as a caterpillar doesn't simply wish for wings—it works for them—true growth requires effort, patience, and perseverance.

The mural begins with the smallest beginnings: tiny cells or eggs that evolve into caterpillars. After a period of steady growth, they enter the chrysalis stage, where metamorphosis takes place, and finally emerge as butterflies—symbols of beauty, strength, and possibility.

At Bernie Wolfe School, the caterpillars represent us as learners. At first, education may seem ordinary, but it is the foundation for unlocking our full potential. We embrace the belief that “**practice leads to pedagogy**”—the more we practice, nurture our passions, and challenge ourselves, the more we develop the skills that shape who we become. Like butterflies, we emerge transformed, ready to soar.

As we grow, we share our learning with others, creating a continuous cycle of knowledge and inspiration. This mural reminds us that growth is not instant—it is a journey. And every step, every effort, brings us closer to becoming the best version of ourselves.

Gr. 7 & 8 students in Mr. Iwan Art class BWS 2025



Reminder to Visitors and Parents

All visitors, including parents, to Bernie Wolfe School are required to report to the office upon arrival.

Arrival, Departure, and Office Drop Offs

Students arrive and depart school through their assigned doors. If a student arrives late to school, please be sure they report to the office for an arrival slip. If a student is required to leave school early, please inform the classroom teacher ahead of time so your child can meet you in the office for pick up. All “forgotten items” or lunch drop offs should come to the office. We will ensure it gets to your student.

Dressing for the Weather

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather conditions each day. Extra clothes in your child’s backpack is recommended in case of playground accidents and warmer clothing for colder days. Please ensure all clothing is labeled with your child’s name in the event it is misplaced.

Student Attendance

If your student will be absent from school for any reason, please contact the school at 204-958-6532 or email us at bw@retsd.mb.ca 24 hours a day! Please make sure you mention your child’s **first and last name** when emailing or leaving a phone message.

Moving?

If you are moving, please notify the school at bw@retsd.mb.ca. You can check your designated catchment school using the **School Locator** (mybaragar.com).

Please note that if you move out of catchment during the school year, your child will be required to attend their new catchment school.

School Parking Lot, Safe Pick up and Drop of Students

Please note that the school parking lot is reserved for daycare, school, and divisional staff from **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** **Numbered spots are assigned.** The lot is **one-way**, and the **handicap stall is only for vehicles with a valid permit.**

Parents should use the designated **pick-up/drop-off area on Rougeau Ave** or nearby street parking. The Drop Zone is for **immediate loading and unloading only**—please do not wait in this area.

Thank you for supporting our safety procedures.

Lunch Expectations

Please note that we do not have microwaves for students to use at lunch time. Please do not send lunches that need to be heated.

Students should be bringing their own cutlery and water bottles for snack and lunches.

***** Allergy Alert *****



In Bernie Wolfe School, we make every effort to protect students with life threatening allergies from exposure to known allergens. In order to minimize the risk of exposure and to ensure the immediate response to an emergency, we provide general awareness regarding life-threatening allergies. Per Policy JLCG-R2, school administrators also support the implementation of strategies to reduce the risk for the students with allergies; as such, they notify parents not to send peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oil, nuts, and products containing them to school. Parents are encouraged to help their children understand the seriousness of life-threatening allergies. Individual teachers may send out information regarding specific allergies in their classes so parents can make informed decisions when sending food to school.

Lunch drop off's are NOT encouraged as we are limiting traffic in the building and disruptions to class.

Middle years students

Grade 6 students who stay for lunch must remain on school grounds, while all other students are encouraged to do the same. Grade 7 and 8 students who choose to leave school grounds to visit community stores are expected to return by 11:55 AM. Students arriving after this time should wait in the outdoor classroom area until the 12:25 PM bell, then enter the school and go directly to class. Students who go home for lunch should only return at the 12:25 PM bell. All students are expected to behave responsibly and respect the community while off school grounds.

Party/Class treats

Due to allergies and specific dietary needs, **we are not able to facilitate birthday parties or treats being sent with students to class. Please do not send party treats to school to share.**

Water Bottles

All students should be bringing a refillable water bottle to school. Bottles can be filled at the filling stations located through out the school.



TIME TO BUNDLE UP!

RETSD Cold Weather Guidelines

Sometimes, severe weather requires us to make changes to busing, outdoor recess, and safety patrolling to keep your children safe.

School Closures

Schools very rarely close due to winter weather.

Winter Clothing

Please ensure that your child comes dressed appropriately for the weather each day. When the temperature or wind chill is between -27°C and -34°C , warm winter clothing is essential, and facial protection is recommended. When it is below -34°C , facial protection is essential, and it's recommended that children avoid going outdoors unaccompanied—skin will freeze in less than 10 minutes.

Busing

When the temperature is -35°C and/or wind chill is -45°C or colder at The Forks, metro Winnipeg school divisions (RETSD included) cancel buses for the entire day—but schools usually remain open.

We will post a cancellation alert on the RETSD website home page if buses are cancelled, and alert the media. If we have not posted a cancellation alert by 6:45 a.m., buses are running.

School Patrols

When the temperature or wind chill is between -27°C and -34°C , patrols will remain on post for 10 minutes. When it is -35°C to -39°C , patrols will remain on post for five minutes. When it is -40°C and below, no patrols will be on duty.


Recess

When the temperature or wind chill is between -25°C and -27°C , a shortened recess period may be warranted. When it is below -27°C , recess is usually moved indoors. This is at the discretion of the principal. **with the exception of Polar Bear Club students*

Polar Bear Club Recess

For schools participating in Polar Bear Club Recess:

- Participation is voluntary.
- Parental consent is required.
- Students who have consent can participate in all or none of the recess breaks.
- Students must be dressed appropriately, including a warm toque/hat; snow pants; face covering; warm, insulated jacket; mittens; and snow boots.
- Students can go back inside at any time.
- Staff supervision will be provided.

 **All students will remain inside when the temperature/ windchill is -40°C or below. If you have any questions not addressed by these guidelines, please contact your child's school.**

Concern Protocol

Your child's school will always try to make the learning experience a positive, safe and happy one for its students.

However, if you have a concern or an issue, please don't hesitate to let the school know. Open communication between home and school is very important to us.

1

Talk to the person most directly involved—your child's teacher. If you must leave a message, provide a day and evening phone number where the teacher can reach you.



2

If talking to the teacher doesn't resolve the issue, talk to the principal.



3

If you've talked to the principal, but the issue has not been resolved over a period of time, call the superintendent's department at 204.667.7130 or email communications@retsd.mb.ca.



4

If you disagree with the decision of the superintendent's department, you can make an appeal in writing to the board of trustees.



For more information:
Policy KE – Concern Protocol
Policy KE-R – Concerns and Complaints Process
retsd.mb.ca

Tips to Stay Warm this Winter



- Make sure sleeve cuffs are over mittens and ski pant cuffs are over boots.
- Boots and Winter Coats should fit larger than everyday wear - this allows for layers and keeps you warmer.
- Multiple thin layers create more warmth than one thick layer.
- Send extra socks and mittens to school to replace wet ones.

Take it Slow in Ice & Snow

Winter driving conditions are here, and the roads are not always clear!

They may be slippery, with ice hidden under the new snow. This can make it difficult to negotiate stops, intersections, and corners, so please be cautious when you see our school buses. We may be stopping at any moment for children... we're carrying precious cargo!

The piles of snow that line streets over the winter can make for tempting hills to climb, so please talk to your children about the danger of slipping into traffic and advise them to stay on the sidewalk. And be especially alert when driving near schools, because student safety is everyone's responsibility.

Take it slow and we'll all get where we need to be—safely.



BWS Bus & Street Patrols

Bernie Wolfe School is honored to have such outstanding patrols who serve our school and community. They have demonstrated being safe, being respectful, and being responsible. Many patrols are eager to take on additional roles/responsibilities and continue to exceed expectations. Keep up the good work, patrols!



Terry Fox Run/Walk

Terry Fox Run/Walk

Bernie Wolfe School participated in a fundraiser which was held over two-week period from September 22nd - October 3rd, 2025, where students helped by bringing in pledges for the Terry Fox Foundation.

This year Bernie Wolfe School fundraised **\$1258** for the Terry Fox Foundation. I would like to personally thank the students, staff, and families who supported this worthy cause. Thanks again everyone!

Ms. L. Vizza



TERRY FOX RUN

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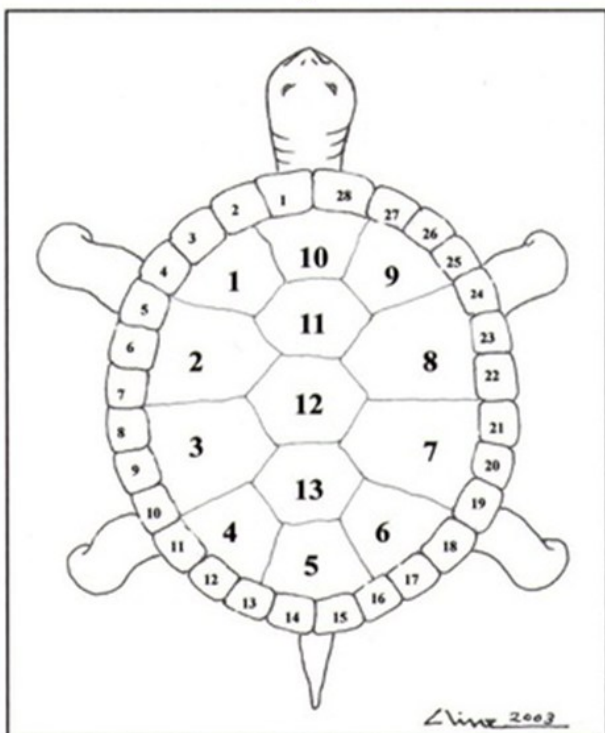
Halloween



Diwali



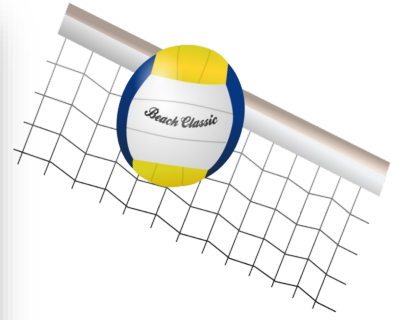
NATIONAL Day for Truth & Reconciliation



The Turtle Calendar is a traditional lunar calendar used by the people of Treaty No. 1. The small plates represents the days. The large plates represents the 13 moons of the year, with each moon marking a seasonal change and guiding life on the land.

This month is *Manidoo Giizisoons*, Little Spirit Moon. The cold and darkens of winter is upon us. Lakes and trees are covered in ice and snow. Cold winds whisper through the prairies and forest. The blanket of winter encourages the people to connect to their families and friends, knowing that the earth and our bodies will rest

Bison Volleyball



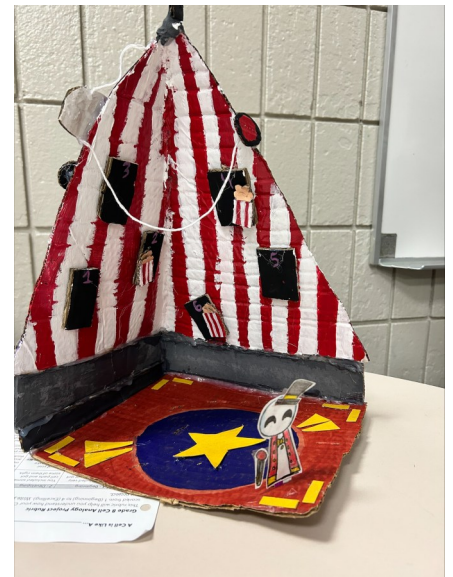
5C Projects

Class 5C was busy this term creating Tim Burton style self portraits, painted pumpkins in the style of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama and they did research on Canadian Indigenous Veterans who served in the war. So very proud of how hard they worked on these projects with awesome results!



Cell Analogy Project

8A 8B 8C Students created cell analogy projects that worked on their critical thinking and creativity! They showed their knowledge of cell organelle functions through an analogy.



Manitoba Moose Game



Winter Concert



Library News

New Books – New books are so exciting! We are constantly adding new books to our library. We've been adding a lot of manga and other high-interest books and we are always open to suggestions from students!

Book Care Habits – Please help your student find a safe place for their library book and to remember to return it to school on their library book exchange day. Damaged books will charged a fine.

Sora - Students have access to many audiobooks and eBooks through Sora (an app and a website) using their RETSD log in information. (Tip: connect to "River East Transcona School Division" as the school, not specifically Bernie Wolfe). We particularly encourage students in grades 4-8 to use this great site/app.

Book Fair – Thank you to the Bernie Wolfe School community for making our Scholastic Book Fair in October such a success! These book fairs work like a fundraiser and your purchases helped us add many new books to our school library. We greatly appreciate your support.

Used Book Donations – In the new year we will once again be collecting used books (all levels, any language) to host a used book sale during I Love to Read celebrations (February). Please begin to save these items for us! (More information will be shared in early January.)

Guest Reader Connections? – Do you know anyone "famous"? Do you have a personal connection to anyone that would be a great person to invite to be a guest reader in February as part of our I Love to Read celebrations? We are always searching for engaging, interesting, and exciting guest readers. Please reach out to Mrs. Card (ncard@retsd.mb.ca) in the library if you have a connection!

The Power of Everyday Reading – Spending as little as 20 minutes a day with a good book can have a meaningful impact on a student's growth. Regular reading strengthens vocabulary, deepens understanding, and sharpens the ability to think critically. It also helps ease stress and fuels imagination. Whether you pick up an exciting adventure, an inspiring article, or a comforting tale, reading invites us into new experiences and gives us insight into ourselves. Visit the library often, find stories that spark your interest, and enjoy the lasting rewards that come from reading purely for enjoyment!

Happy Reading, -Mrs.
Card & Ms. Vasanthy

