



# CONNECTIONS

**JOHN DE GRAFF SCHOOL**

1020 Louelda Street  
 Winnipeg, MB R2K 3Z4  
 Phone: 204-669-1280  
 Fax: 204-668-9413  
 Email: [jdg@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:jdg@retsd.mb.ca)  
 Webpage: [www.retsd.mb.ca/schools/jdg](http://www.retsd.mb.ca/schools/jdg)

**OFFICE HOURS: 8:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.**

**PRINCIPAL**  
 Mrs. Margaret Fair

**VICE-PRINCIPAL**  
 Mrs. Pam MacDonell

**SCHOOL TIMES:**  
 School Bell Rings 8:50 a.m.  
 School Starts 9:00 a.m.  
 Lunch Begins 11:45 a.m.  
 Afternoon Bell Rings 12:40 a.m.  
 Afternoon Begins 12:45 p.m.  
 School Dismisses 3:30 p.m.

**REMINDER: NO PARKING**  
**YELLOW BUS ZONE 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**RIVER EAST TRANSCONA SCHOOL DIVISION**  
 589 Roch Street  
 Winnipeg, MB R2K 2P7  
 Phone: 204-667-7130

**RIVER EAST TRANSCONA SCHOOL TRUSTEES**

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| Colleen Carswell (Chair)<br><a href="mailto:ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca">ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca</a><br>Phone: 204-222-1486      | Ward 1 |
| Sheri Irwin<br><a href="mailto:sirwin@retsd.mb.ca">sirwin@retsd.mb.ca</a><br>Phone: 204-223-5079                         | Ward 1 |
| Rod Giesbrecht<br><a href="mailto:rgiesbrecht@retsd.mb.ca">rgiesbrecht@retsd.mb.ca</a><br>Phone: 204-661-5984            | Ward 2 |
| Sheri Hanson<br><a href="mailto:shanson2@retsd.mb.ca">shanson2@retsd.mb.ca</a><br>Phone: 204-915-7313                    | Ward 2 |
| Brianne Goertzen (Vice-Chair)<br><a href="mailto:bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca">bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca</a><br>Phone: 204-955-6782 | Ward 3 |
| Keith Morrison<br><a href="mailto:kmorrison@retsd.mb.ca">kmorrison@retsd.mb.ca</a><br>Phone: 204-795-3357                | Ward 3 |
| Brenda Bage<br><a href="mailto:bbage@retsd.mb.ca">bbage@retsd.mb.ca</a><br>Phone: 204-221-2951                           | Ward 4 |
| Susan Olynik<br><a href="mailto:solynik@retsd.mb.ca">solynik@retsd.mb.ca</a><br>Phone: 204-661-6440                      | Ward 4 |
| Shannon Hiebert<br><a href="mailto:shiebert@retsd.mb.ca">shiebert@retsd.mb.ca</a><br>Phone: 204-771-8435                 | Ward 5 |

**EARTH DAY**

Earth Day is celebrated around the world on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. It demonstrates our support for Environmental Protection and highlights our need to constantly learn more and take action.



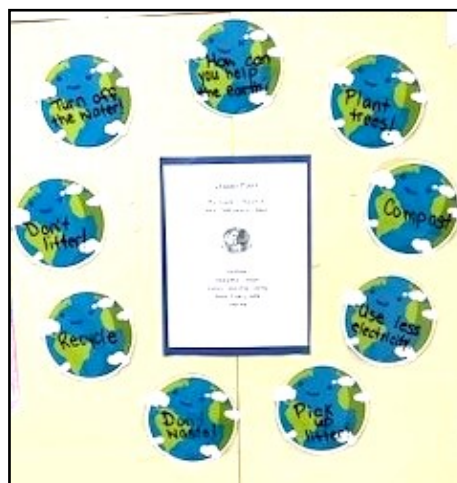
Everyday really is Earth Day—as these goals are woven throughout our curriculum and our school activities. We are caregivers for our planet.

At John de Graff School students discuss the ideas of reduce, reuse and recycle and also the responsibility we all share to treat the earth with respect. Environmental issues, wildlife, habitats, the importance of soil, trees, clean water, the oceans, growing food, clean air are all topics that students can learn about, and think and plan ideas and actions for. There are so many little ways to make a difference!

Our ongoing sustainability plan at John de Graff is focused on students being outside in nature—playing, learning and valuing our wonderful natural environments! We also recycle batteries, markers and paper & plastic products throughout the year.

During the Earth Day week students had discussions, did writing and artwork about this important topic!

We will have some Twitter posts to share some of the students' work.



*RETSD is on Facebook and Twitter!  
 Like and follow us to stay up-to-date on what's  
 happening in the division.*



## MUSICAL TYMES

Did you know that Music Month is held every year in May?

Music Monday, a National Celebration of Music Education will be held on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> across Canada and at Canadian International schools abroad.

John de Graff School will be having our school celebration of Music Education at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> in the gym. The celebration will include individual and group performances.

The school community will come together to sing Hi Ho the Rattlin Bog at the end of the celebration!!

In addition to the Music Monday celebration there will be student performances in Choir throughout the month and student performances during morning announcements.

It is an exciting time to see and hear all of the students shine their lights through the Musical Arts!!!

Musically Speaking,  
Mrs. Kula and Ms. Schau



## A NEW CLASSROOM AT JOHN de GRAFF SCHOOL!

We are very fortunate to have a new classroom space being created at John de Graff School for the 2023 - 2024 school year.

The current staffroom will become a classroom and the current film room will become a new staffroom.

This change is being made to accommodate our increasing student enrollment.

Work is beginning on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> to alter these spaces.

A huge thank-you to the RETSD Board of Trustees, the Maintenance Department and our Superintendents Department!



## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PINK

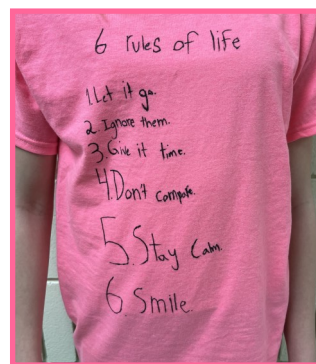
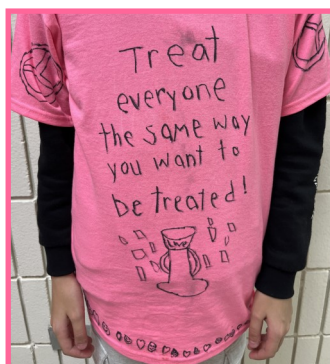
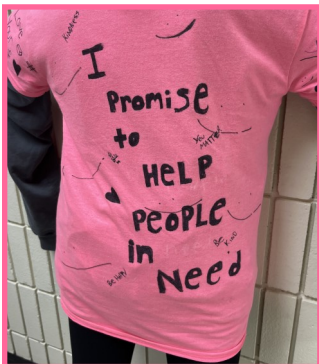
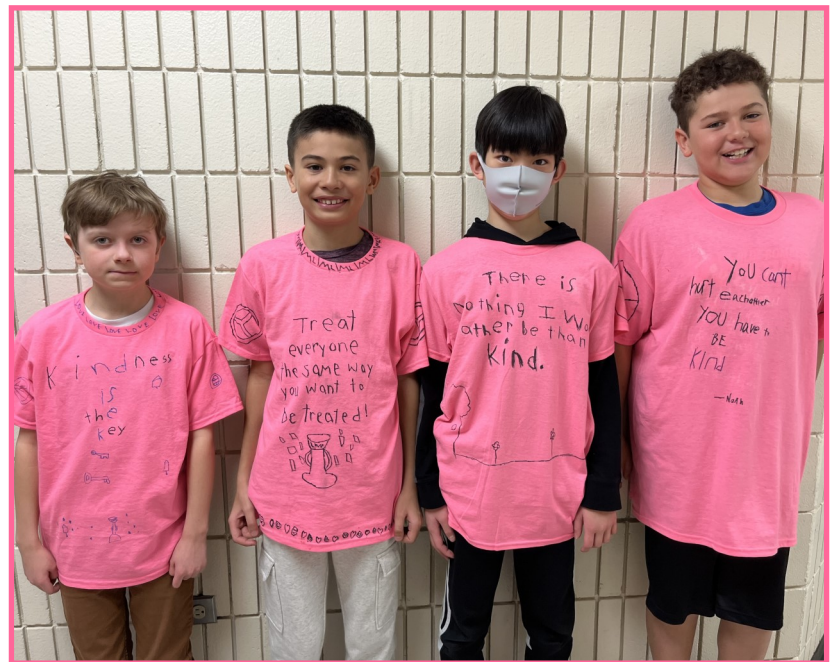
**International Day of Pink** was celebrated on April 12, 2023. It was created as a campaign to end bullying. This day aims to make the world more inclusive and diverse. Wearing **PINK** represents acceptance, courage, diversity, equality and inclusivity.

The Grade 5 students in room 10, Ms. VanAlstyne's class, led John de Graff in promoting kindness on this special day. They proudly wore their hand-decorated **PINK** shirts with personal positive messages. There were many important conversations around themes of kindness, courage and inclusivity.

The students and staff at John de Graff School did an excellent job at recognizing the importance and meaning of the **International Day of Pink**.

Thank you for your help spreading kindness every day and for wearing **PINK**!

Remember... **Pink Shirt Day is EVERY DAY!**



## CLASS LISTS

We are currently working on class lists for the 2023-24 school year. We will have 24 classes. There will be some changes in the teachers at each grade.

Class List

## SCHOOL PLAN

April 14<sup>th</sup> was a Professional Development Day for teachers – no school for students. We worked on our School Plan priorities, developing outcomes, strategies indicators of success and data analysis. Our school plan priorities align with the divisional priorities.

We have 4 main priorities at John de Graff:

1. Literacy
2. Math
3. Curiosity and Wonder
4. Wellbeing

These priorities will connect with all subject areas and particular focus is placed on students learning English as an Additional Language, Positive Behaviour, Indigenous Academic Achievement, STEAM, Critical Thinking.

If you have thoughts about our school plan—we are happy to hear from you!

## OUR SCHOOL PATROLS

The staff and students of John de Graff would like to extend a special 'Thank You' to all our school patrols for braving the cold of the winter. All patrols came well dressed and prepared for post, ensuring all students arrive safely to school, ready to learn!!!

Great job patrols!!

We are beginning to make plans for training our Grade 4 students who will be taking over as patrols next year.

All Grade 4 students will watch an online training video led by a Winnipeg Police Officer. Our patrol training is also supported by our School Resource Officer, Police Constable Kaitlyn Thiessen. Students will learn how to safely cross their school-mates at the different intersections and crossings around the school.

This is an incredible opportunity to step up and be a leader in our school!

All Grade 4's are encouraged to sign up and follow in a long-running tradition of excellent patrolling at our school. More information will be forthcoming on this opportunity.





On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Grade 4 Gymnastics Club participated in the Divisional Tumbling Rally event at Bernie Wolf School. The students worked very hard over three months on learning and practicing a variety of gymnastics skills and preparing a creative routine to show. They did a fabulous job!

For the month of April, we will be running a Racquet club for Grade 3-5 students over lunch. Students are welcome to attend on their grade level day.



RACKETBALL CLUB				
COHORT	TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
2	11:45 am to 12:15 pm	Grade 3's	Grade 4's	Grade 5's
1	12:15 pm to 12:40 pm	Grade 3's	Grade 4's	Grade 5's



On April 20<sup>th</sup>, the Grade 5 Basketball Club participated in a basketball tournament with Harold Hatcher School. They worked hard, played well, and enjoyed their day!





# Unpacking School Options When Moving

## Planning a Move?



If your family is planning a move to a new home, there are a few things to keep in mind when it comes to school.



## Moving Within the Division?

Find your child's designated school by using our School Locator, found at the top of the Schools page at [retsd.mb.ca](https://retsd.mb.ca). A student's designated school is based on the address of their custodial parent/legal guardian.

## Moving Outside Your Current School's Catchment Area?



If your child wants to continue attending their current school, you can apply under **Schools of Choice**. Pick up an "In Division/Out of Designated School Boundary" application from their current RETSD school.



## Moving Outside the Division—But Want Your Child to Attend an RETSD School?



You can also apply under **Schools of Choice**. Pick up an "Out of Division" application from an RETSD school.

**Reminder:** Students applying under **Schools of Choice** are considered for acceptance based on available space, the ability of the school to provide appropriate support/programming, and a number of applicant criteria listed online at [retsd.mb.ca](https://retsd.mb.ca).

*Transportation is not provided to Schools of Choice students.*



### PUDDLE PLAY

The students of Mrs. Houston's KG class have been having a lot of fun playing in the puddles. They have been observing the Spring seasonal changes and discovered that some puddles are icy and some are muddy. Some children have been bravely walking through the puddles to determine how deep they are. Others love to jump in the puddles and create a splash.

Puddle Play is a fun activity that improves coordination, balance, and gross motor skills. Children are delighted once they understand that they are allowed to get wet and dirty. Puddle jumping is the perfect activity for children who seek sensory experiences. During puddle play, the students learn about the natural world around them. As a class, we discussed our puddle play experiences. The students wrote their puddle stories. Please read the stories the students wrote.



## PUDDLE PLAY



I saw a puddle and I mixed it with a stick.

By Raina



I went down the slide and fell in the mud and I am wet in the mud.

By Japreet



I went in a puddle. I didn't know that it was muddy. Then my boot got stuck in the puddle. I could not get it out!

By Marko



I went down the slide and got splashed!

By Jackson



I like to jump in the puddles with my new flower boots.

By Thia



I put snow in the puddle and mixed it!

By Gurneet



I jumped in the puddle and my pants got wet. They were soaked!

By Yashita



I walked in the puddle.

By Prabhnoor



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration is open for all children born in 2018 in our John de Graff School catchment. This means that your child must have had their fifth birthday on or before December 31, 2023.



John de Graff School is **closed** to “School of Choice” for the 2023-24 school year.

Registration started on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> **by appointment only**.

Kindergarten registration forms are available on our school webpage. You will need to bring the completed registration forms to the registration appointment.

You can call 204-669-1280 to book your appointment. Appointments will run until June 30<sup>th</sup>.

At the registration appointment, you will need to bring the following:

- ◆ Completed John de Graff School Registration form (1/child)
- ◆ 2 pieces of identification regarding proof of address of parent/guardian (e.g. Driver’s license, Utility Bill, Tenancy Agreement, Offer to Purchase)
- ◆ 1 piece of identification regarding your child’s proof of age (e.g. birth certificate, baptismal certificate, Passport, Treaty Card)
- ◆ In-Division Out of Designated School Boundary form (if applying for another school in the division)

Please pass this information to any neighbours or friends who have children ready for Kindergarten, who do not receive this newsletter due to not having children attending John de Graff School. Thank you for your help.

Please visit our webpage [here](#). We will update it with any changes that may arise.

**IN-DIVISION/OUT OF DESIGNATED SCHOOL BOUNDARY** Parents/Guardians do have the ability to make a request that their child attend a different school from the one designated by their home address by the school division. In-Division out of Designated School Boundary requests for students living within the River East Transcona School Division will be accepted starting March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Request forms can be obtained from our school website located under Registrations or at any school in the division; however, parents must hand in the form along with the registration at their designated school. The designated school will then notify the school of choice about the request. Applicants will be notified as to whether or not they have been accepted into the school of choice by June 30<sup>th</sup> by the school you are requesting.

Please note the Divisional “**Welcome to Kindergarten**” video is on the RETSD website. Please feel free to check the website regularly for any Kindergarten or RETSD information.

## KINDERLINKS

The following is a link to our May edition of Kinderlinks.

Programming for preschoolers & their parents.

[May 2023 Kinderlinks](#)





# Countdown to Kindergarten Preschool Growing & Learning Days

## Is kindergarten just around the bend for your child?

If so, we can help you stay ahead of the curve, learn a thing or two about what to expect, and have fun at the same time! If your child will be attending kindergarten in our division in the year 2023–24, you are invited to attend one of our free Preschool Growing & Learning Days this spring.

Get a taste of school and meet the friendly, helpful people you'll find in it. Kindergarten, resource, and gym teachers will be on hand with all kinds of games and activities for you to enjoy.

Meet administrators, teachers, student services staff, and community partners who have helpful information for you. You can even get your child's hearing and vision screened. The activities and screening stations take approximately 60 minutes to complete.

## Registration begins March 6, 2023

Dates and locations are listed on the reverse side of this handout.



THESE EVENTS ARE FREE BUT YOU MUST REGISTER – SEE OTHER SIDE FOR INFO



# Countdown to Kindergarten Preschool Growing & Learning Days

## Event schedule

Meet administrators, teachers, and community partners at the host sites listed below. Families are welcome to pick the event that works best for their schedule. The activities and screening stations take approximately 60 minutes to complete.

École Centrale, Joseph Teres, Bernie Wolfe, Westview  
**Wednesday, May 3, 4:30–6:30 p.m.**  
École Centrale, 604 Day St.

Hampstead, Sherwood, Betrun E. Glavin, Salisbury Morse Place, John De Graff  
**Wednesday, May 10, 4:30–6:30 p.m.**  
Hampstead School, 920 Hampstead Ave.

Margaret-Underhill, Radisson, Harold Hatcher, Wayoata  
**Tuesday, May 16, 4:30–6:30 p.m.**  
École Margaret-Underhill, 25 Regina Pl.

Maple Leaf, Emerson, John Pritchard, Dr. Hamilton, Bird's Hill, Sun Valley, Donwood  
**Thursday, May 25, 4:30–6:30 p.m.**  
Maple Leaf School, 251 McIvor Ave.

Springfield Heights, Polson, Princess Margaret, Lord Wolseley, Neil Campbell, Prince Edward, Angus McKay  
**Wednesday, May 31, 4:30–6:30 p.m.**  
École Springfield Heights School, 505 Sharron Bay

## Register online:

<https://forms.office.com/r/BgtzRq9Siv>

**Or call:** 204.669.4043

kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca  
www.retsd.mb.ca



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
2022—2023**

**MAY**

Monday, May 1 ..... Music Monday Assembly at 1:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 3 ..... Hot Lunch Orders due  
Tuesday, May 9 ..... PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Monday, May 22 ..... No School, Victoria Day  
May 23 - May 26 ..... Dance Week [please watch emails coming to you for more information]  
Thursday, May 25..... KG Open House (6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.). More information will be provided to KG families  
Friday, May 26..... KG Open House (10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.). More information will be provided to KG families  
Friday, May 26..... Hot Lunch  
Monday, May 29 ..... No School, Co-ordinated PD Day  
Wednesday, May 31 ... Field Day

**JUNE**

Tuesday, June 13 ..... PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Friday, June 23 ..... Grade 5 Farewell (p.m.) [more information will be sent to Grade 5 families]  
Monday, June 26..... No School, School PD Day  
Friday, June 30 ..... LAST Day of School before Summer, **Early Dismissal 2:30 p.m.**

We continue to add important dates to our Calendar of Events as the year progresses. Please check the monthly calendar that comes home in the newsletter or our Website daily:

<http://retsd.mb.ca/school/jdg/Pages/default.aspx>

Our next **PAC Meeting** is on  
**Tuesday, May 9, 2023**  
**At 6:00 p.m.**  
**In the Conference Room**  
All Parents/Guardians are welcome!

**NOTICE REGARDING: FEE-FOR-SERVICE BUSING**



If you are requiring Fee-For-Service transportation, the application form must be submitted to the Transportation Dept. **each school year**. Transportation Application – Fee-For-Service 2023-2024 forms are available from the school office or follow the Quick Link on the RETSD website, [Fee-For-Service](#).

Fee-For-Service applications must be submitted to the Transportation Department by **June 30<sup>th</sup>** of each school year. Applications received after June 30<sup>th</sup> will be reviewed on an individual basis.