



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
 Webpage: 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) Ward 1
ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-222-1486
- Sheri Irwin Ward 1
sirwin@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-223-5079
- Rod Giesbrecht Ward 2
rgiesbrecht@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-661-5984
- Sheri Hanson Ward 2
shanson2@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-915-7313
- Brianne Goertzen (Vice-Chair) Ward 3
bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-955-6782
- Keith Morrison Ward 3
kmorrison@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-795-3357
- Brenda Bage Ward 4
bbage@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-221-2951
- Susan Olynik Ward 4
solyunik@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-661-6440
- Shannon Hiebert Ward 5
shiebert@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-771-8435

EARTH DAY

Earth Day is celebrated around the world. We celebrated Earth Day during the week of April 22-26th at John de Graff School. Earth Day highlights our need to constantly learn more and take action to protect our Earth.

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, our Student Council had some ideas for us to think about and teachers discussed ideas and read to students about our Earth!



RETSD is on Facebook and Twitter!

Like and follow us to stay up-to-date on what's happening in the division.

MUSIC

In April, students at John de Graff spent their music classes working towards Music Monday. Held on May 6th, Music Monday is an opportunity to share and celebrate music talent, music making, and music expression. Students are all preparing a song titled, "We are One," in addition to dozens of students who are preparing individual performances. Students also spent class time learning folk dances and engaging in group music activities.



GRADE 5 MYRCA VOTES HAVE BEEN CAST!

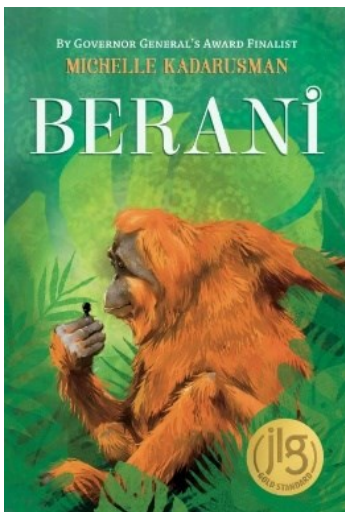


Our Grade 5 classes have read many of the 10 books nominated for MYRCA (Manitoba Young Readers Choice Awards) awards this year. Our votes had to be submitted to the MYRCA committee by Friday, April 19th and the results were tabulated. The official results were revealed at a special celebration at the Gas Station Theatre on Friday, April 26th. John de Graff was one of the thirty-three schools given tickets to attend. Christina, Harkirat, Noah C., Lexi, Payson, and Ms. Cessford attended and shared the winners with their classmates. We also got to hear from two of this year's nominated authors and learned the list of the 2025 nominees.

Thank you to all the students and teachers who celebrated the work of this year's incredible Canadian authors.

OUR JdG MYRCA WINNERS FOR 2024

1st

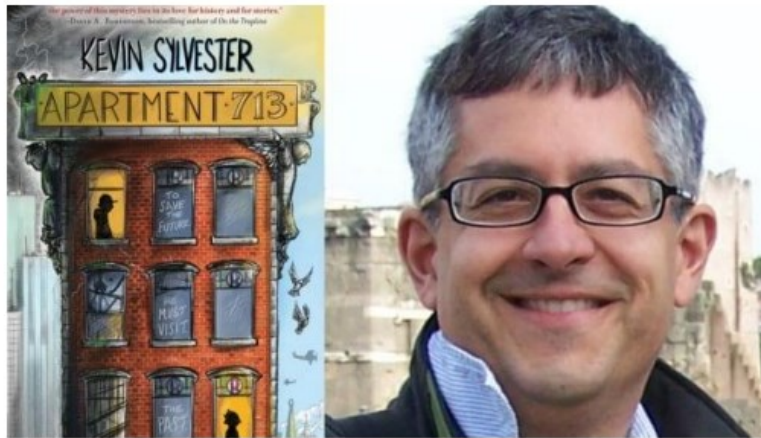


2nd



3rd

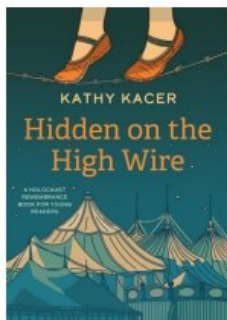




Official MYRCA 2024 Winner

Apartment 713

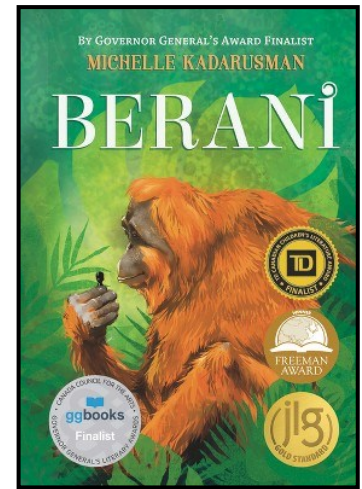
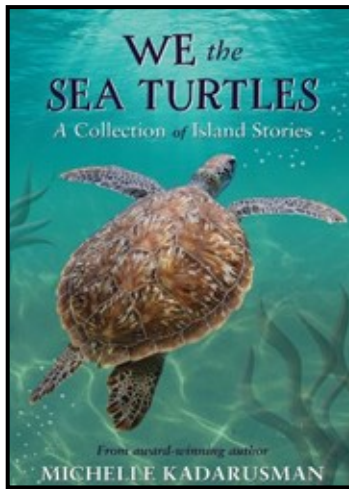
by Kevin Sylvester



Honour (Runner Up)

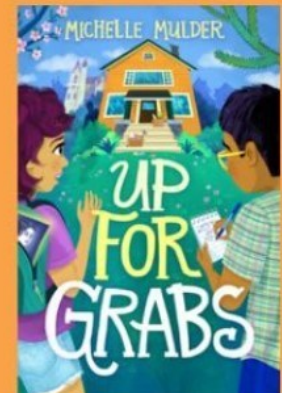
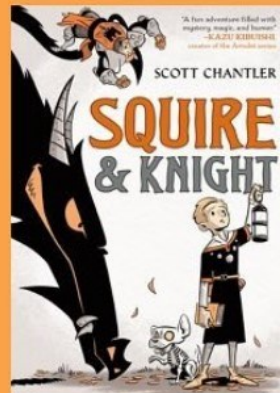
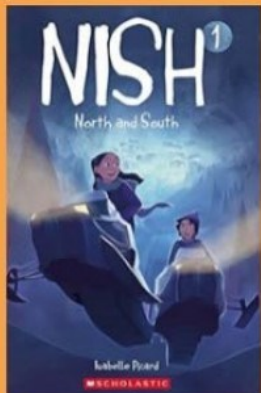
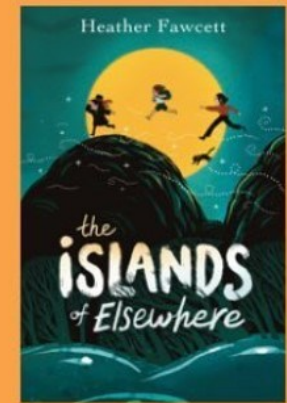
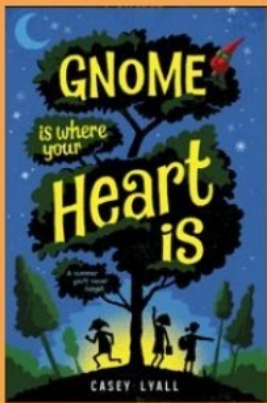
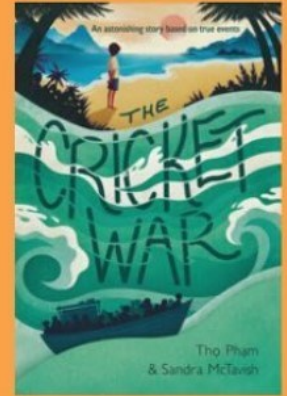
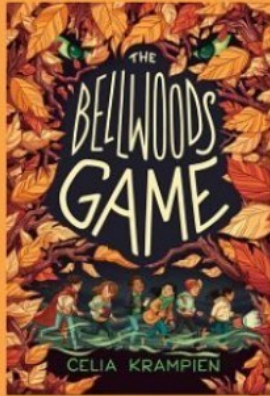
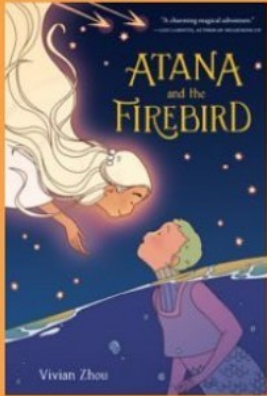
Hidden on the High Wire Kathy Kacer

OUR VISIT WITH AUTHOR OF MYRCA NOMINATED BERANI, MICHELLE KADARUSMAN



On Monday, April 15 the grade 5 students gathered in the music room and had an opportunity to meet with Michelle Kadarusman on TEAMS from her home in Toronto. Ms. Kadarusman wrote one of this year's MYRCA nominated books, Berani. We had a 20 minute Q&A session and our students asked thoughtful questions. Ms. Kadarusman shared how she gets inspiration for her books, what she does when she is stuck, her favourite genre to read, and many other interesting facts about herself. We loved speaking with her and she sent Ms. Cessford a lovely email following our session and complimented our John de Graff students on their fantastic questions, amazing audience behaviour, and appreciation for her book. We are already excited to check out her new book, We the Sea Turtles.





#myrca2025



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PINK

International Day of Pink was celebrated on April 12, 2024. 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 11, 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!**





KINDERGARTEN MATH

In Kindergarten, we have been taking our math measurement learning outside. We compared length and height of natural elements we found using various measuring tools.

In exploring our forest, we learned so much more!

The students discovered other attributes to measure and had wonderings connected to our conversations about Spring and our year long learning about trees.





**KINDERGARTEN
MATH**





KYRIE

Our 2024 recipient will be receiving her | specialized chair on **Wednesday, June 19th** in Holy Cross School's gymnasium. The assembly will begin at **1:00 p.m.** There is parking at the back of the gym.



Tabs for Wheelchairs is asking us to send in our Tabs by Friday, May 31st, so that they can be bagged for Kyrie's special presentation on Wednesday, June 19th. If you have tabs at home, please send them in by Friday, May 24th. We will continue collecting tabs after that date but they will be for next year's recipient.

Thank you for making a difference by recycling your tabs!

NOTICE: FEE-FOR-SERVICE BUSING



If Fee-For-Service transportation is required again for your student (s) for the upcoming school year, a 2024-25 application form must be submitted to the RETSD Transportation Department. Transportation Application – Fee-For-Service 2024-2025 forms are available from the school office or on the Transportation icon located on the RETSD home page at www.retsd.mb.ca.

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

Below is a link to the 2024/25 fee for service application:

transportation-application-fee-for-service-form-b-2024-25.4017f719901.pdf (retsdb.ca)



GRADE 4 TRIP TO CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

On April 24th and 25th the Grade 4 students visited the Children's Museum to learn about light and sight! It was a fun day where students made kaleidoscopes and looked at optical illusions. There was also time to explore the museum where students went on the train, climbed on the lasagna structure and played at the water table.

A great day was had by all!



CLASS LISTS

We are currently working on class lists for the 2024-25 school year. Class lists will be created in May and once teachers are assigned to classrooms, we will include the information in our Newsletter.

Class List

SCHOOL PLAN

April 22nd 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.

The current Grade 5 patrols will be enjoying some celebration time and treats as the school year finishes.



CELEBRATING AND LEARNING ABOUT OUR WINNIPEG JETS

A new and evolving bulletin board is up in our school library to learn about the Winnipeg Jets hockey team as they play the Colorado Avalanche in the first round of the NHL playoffs. This bulletin encourages students to read in a different way. There are symbols, maps, charts, legends, photographs, 'Did you know' facts to build vocabulary and knowledge as well as dates, times and scores of the games. Non-fiction reading encourages students to think critically and develop information gathering skills, build vocabulary and language skills, and make connections to the real world. Our Jets bulletin will continue to add new facts and information for our students to read.

We hope that our playoff run will go well into May as the Jets advance! Go Jets Go!

Did you know...



A WINNIPEG WHITEOUT is not just a snow storm?

Winnipeg Jets fans are asked to wear WHITE on game days during the playoffs. This is called a WINNIPEG WHITE OUT.

This hockey tradition started in 1987 as a response to Calgary Flames fans who created a "C of Red" by wearing red. The Jets eliminated the flames that year and the WHITE OUT tradition was started.





For the month of April, students participated in a basketball and racquet unit in Phys. Ed. Students in Grade 4-5 also had the opportunity to participate in a basketball tournament at noon hour.

Students have now commenced their two week Jump Rope Ninja Skipathon Challenge in their Phys. Ed classes. Families and caregivers are welcome to support our skipathon event with a pledge of any denomination as the students work to achieve different ninja belts during their Phys. Ed class. Funds raised will go towards purchasing playground recess equipment for all classrooms. Please see the letter sent home outlining additional information about this event. The last day for pledges will be Wednesday, May 8th.

On Wednesday, May 22nd, all students at John de Graff will participate in our Annual Dance Day event that will be held outside on our field. The event will start at 1:00 p.m. and families are welcome to watch. In event of rain, we will reschedule it for May 24th.

On Thursday, May 30th, all students will participate in our annual Field Day event.

- ◆ KG– Grade 2 students will participate in the morning
- ◆ Grade 3-5 will participate in the afternoon

In event of rain, we will reschedule it for Thursday, June 6th.

Students will need to come prepared with appropriate footwear, clothing, water bottle, sunscreen, and a hat for both events.

SKIPPING CLUB (GRADE 2 & 3)				
TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
12:15 pm to 12:40 pm	2A & 2B Room 14 & 15	2C & 2D Room 13 & 12	3A & 3B Room 8 & 6	3C & 3D Room 5 & 3







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. 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.

Transportation is not provided to Schools of Choice students.

TRAFFIC UPDATE

Most families have been kind and helpful with our traffic and parking lot requests.

We appreciate this.

For our students' safety, please do not let your child walk in the parking lot or the back lane.

Please adhere to the traffic and parking signs.

If you can help us more with safety, please do!

REMINDER: NO PARKING YELLOW BUS ZONE

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



RETLife Spring Programming and Summer Camps – Space Still Available!

RETLife still has space available for many of its spring programs in the RETSD community! Visit [RETLife](#) for a complete list of over 40 programs available, including:

[Engineering in Stories](#)

[Parent and Child Yoga](#)

[Parent and Child Learning to Sew Together](#)

[Kids Can Draw](#)

[LEGO Robots](#)

[Stay Safe](#)

[Choreography Workshop for Youth](#)

[Mother's Day Parent and Child Craft Activity](#)

[Father's Day Parent and Child Craft Activity](#)



And don't forget – [RETLife](#) is pleased to announce the return of its **Summer Day Camp** programming! Weeklong camps are offered at Valley Gardens Middle School, between July 3 and August 9 and promise to be a fun filled week full of learning, action, and activities! And, we're pleased to also offer a one week/half day [ART CAMP](#) as well! Call or visit [RETLife](#) for more information – 204 667 6193.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration is open for all children born in 2019. This means that your child must have had their fifth birthday on or before December 31, 2024.

John de Graff School is **closed** to “School of Choice” for the 2024-25 school year.



Registration started on Friday, March 1st **by appointment only**.

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

You can call 204-669-1280 to book your appointment. Appointments will run until June 27th. Appointments will resume on Tuesday, August 27th.

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 (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 1st, 2024. 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 30th by the school you are requesting entry into .

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 Kinderlinks, Countdown to Kindergarten, Issue 1:

[Countdown to Kindergarten](#)

The following is a link to Kinderlinks, Outdoor Programming, April—June 2024:

[Kindergarten Outdoor Programming](#)



IT'S FREE!

Countdown to Kindergarten Preschool Growing & Learning Days

Do you have a child who will be starting kindergarten in RETSD in September 2024?

At this FREE event, your child will have the opportunity to enjoy educational games and activities with kindergarten, resource, and gym teachers, play musical instruments, and get their vision and hearing screened. Meet our friendly principals, student support staff, and community service providers to help your child get ready for the adventure of school.

The activities and screening stations take approximately 60 minutes to complete.

Bertrun E. Glavin, École Salisbury Morse Place, Hampstead, John de Graff
Wednesday, May 1, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Sherwood School, 509 Grey St.

École Margaret-Underhill, Harold Hatcher, Wayoata
Wednesday, May 8, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Radisson School, 1105 Winona St.

Bird's Hill, Donwood, Dr. Hamilton, Emerson, Maple Leaf, John Pritchard
Wednesday, May 15, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
École Sun Valley School, 125 Sun Valley Dr.

Angus McKay, École Neil Campbell, École Springfield Heights,
Lord Wolseley, Polson, Prince Edward
Wednesday, May 22, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Princess Margaret School, 367 Hawthorne Ave.

Bernie Wolfe, École Centrale, Westview
Wednesday, May 29, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Joseph Teres School, 131 Sanford Fleming Rd.

**Registration for these events
begins March 1, 2024**

Register online:

<https://forms.office.com/r/9ccVzBZhSW>

Or call: 204.669.4043

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



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
2023—2024**

MAY

- Wednesday, May 1 Growing and Learning Event for new KG. Held at Sherwood School.
Children should pre-register.
- Monday, May 6 Music Monday Assembly, 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 14 Grade 2 Assembly, 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 14 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- Friday, May 17 Kernels Popcorn (PAC Fundraiser) going home. More information to follow.
- Monday, May 20 No School, Victoria Day
- Wednesday, May 22 Dance Day at JdG
- Thursday, May 23 RETSD Pow Wow at Kildonan East Collegiate
- Friday, May 24 Dance Day at JdG, (Alternate Date)
- Thursday, May 30 Field Day, KG—Grade 2 (a.m.) / Grades 3—5 (p.m.)
- Thursday, May 30 KG Open House (6:00-7:00 p.m.). More Information will be provided to KG Families.

JUNE

- Thursday, June 6 Field Day, KG—Grade 2 (a.m.) / Grades 3—5 (p.m.), (Alternate Day)
- Thursday, June 6 Gr.5 Tour of Valley Gardens Middle School, (9:00—10:15 a.m.)
- Thursday, June 6 Subway Lunch Day
- Friday, June 7 No School, Co-ordinated PD Day
- Tuesday, June 11 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, June 20 KG Assembly, 1:00 p.m.
- Friday, June 21 Grade 5 Farewell, (p.m.)
- Monday, June 24 No School, School PD Day
- Friday, June 28 LAST Day of classes before Summer, Early Dismissal at 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 14, 2024
At 6:00 p.m.
In the Conference Room
All Parents/Guardians are welcome!