



# Bernie Wolfe School

## Newsletter—December 2024

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### Bernie Wolfe School

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Winnipeg, MB

R2C 3Z2

P: 204-958-6532

F: 204-667-9871

bw@retsd.mb.ca

### Principal

Christopher Chartier

### Vice Principals

Lindsay Lawrence—MY

Frank Reeves—EY

### 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 31

Monday, February 3

Friday, March 14

Friday, March 28

Friday, April 11

Monday, May 5

Monday June 2

### Message from the Administration

I want to start by thanking everyone in the Bernie Wolfe community for all their hard work during this first term. Our staff have been working tirelessly to provide the best educational opportunities for their students. I personally have enjoyed the many events such as Meet the Teacher, Student Led Conferences, Winter Concert, Flag Football practices, Cross Country and of course having fans in the stands during Volleyball. More exciting events are planned for the New Year!

Thank you to all parents/caregivers who were able to join us for conferences back in October. It is our hope that by having them early in the school year we can work together to have an impact on student learning. Ultimately the purpose is for teachers and caregivers to be able to talk about the many great things their child is doing at Bernie Wolfe. This is an important part of learning as students were able to showcase some of the excellent learning opportunities that they have participated in for the start of the year and to set goals moving forward.

I would also like to encourage you to please take the time to thank the staff at Bernie Wolfe for all the hard work they put into creating such a rich learning environment for your child. All the extra time our staff put in to help make your child's experience here at Bernie Wolfe an enjoyable one is often overlooked. Staff can often be seen giving up their prep time to do additional work with students, giving up their breaks / lunch to help support learning or staying afterschool to provide extra curricular opportunities for students. They come in early and stay late to meet with families and help to create plans for student success. We truly have the best staff !

In addition, please take the time to talk to your child about Digital Safety. With an increased emphasis on using technology comes an increased risk of using it inappropriately. Further, the upcoming holiday season may also be a time where students may receive their first Electronic Communication Device (aka cell phone) and are excited to use it. This is a perfect time to create rules around its use and discuss digital citizenship. With this in mind please remember that cell phones are not to be used by students during the school day.

Finally, I want to wish everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season. I hope that it is filled with love, laughter and that you can spend time with family and friends.

Sincerely,

C Chartier



# 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  $-27^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $-34^{\circ}\text{C}$ , warm winter clothing is essential, and facial protection is recommended.

When it is below  $-34^{\circ}\text{C}$ , 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  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$  and/or wind chill is  $-45^{\circ}\text{C}$  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  $-27^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $-34^{\circ}\text{C}$ , patrols will remain on post for 10 minutes. When it is  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-39^{\circ}\text{C}$ , patrols will remain on post for five minutes. When it is  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  and below, no patrols will be on duty.


### Recess

When the temperature or wind chill is between  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $-27^{\circ}\text{C}$ , a shortened recess period may be warranted. When it is below  $-27^{\circ}\text{C}$ , 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  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  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.



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

# 2



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](mailto:communications@retsd.mb.ca).

# 3



# 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](http://retsd.mb.ca)

  
River East Transcona  
creating student success

# 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.



## **Reminder to Visitors and Parents**

In the interest of safety for our students we ask that all start/end of day pick up and drop offs be done outside at your child's assigned location. In the event that you are dropping your child off late please go through the office get an arrival slip and say your "goodbyes" in the foyer. Further, please inform the classroom teacher ahead of time if you are picking up students early from school so your child can meet you in the office for pick up. All supply or lunch drop offs need to come to the office. Finally, only with permission of Administration should we have parents picking up and dropping off students inside the school at their classroom doors.

## **Dressing for the Weather**



Please ensure your student(s) are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions each day. Extra clothes in your student's backpack are recommended in case of playground accidents. Please ensure all clothing is labeled with your student's name in case it should be misplaced.

## **Student Attendance**

If your student will be absent from school or arriving late for any reason, please contact the school at 204-958-6532 or email us at [bw@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:bw@retsd.mb.ca). The school voicemail is available for messages 24 hours a day, press #1 to leave a message after hours. Please make sure to clearly **state your child's first and last name** when emailing or leaving a phone message.

## **Moving?**

If your family is considering or definitely making a move to a new home, please remember to inform the school as soon as possible. It is important to have accurate contact information on file (addresses, phone numbers, e-mail etc.). If you move, please provide new proof of address to the school office to update your information.

## **School Parking Lot**

Please be advised that the parking lot is restricted to daycare, school and divisional staff use from 8:00am – 4:00pm. Parents are encouraged to use the designated pick-up/drop-off route located on Rougeau Ave. Alternatively, there is street parking available around the school. **For extenuating circumstances (early pick-up, meetings, etc.), there are a limited number of guest spots available in the parking lot please do not use Bus Loop.**

Any spot with a number is an assigned spot. The parking lot is a one-way directional route. Thank you for helping to keep our students safe.

## **Safe Pick up and Drop of Students**

Please remind your child that if they are being picked up or dropped off and need to cross Rougeau, they should be using the one of the crosswalks to cross the street.

With the Drop Zone on the south side of the street and cars passing on the north side it is often difficult for drivers to see people who are crossing between cars. That in combination with icy roads, means we all need to be extra cautious to ensure student safety. We appreciate your help in reviewing these safety procedures with your child. The Drop Zone is for immediate loading and unloading of students, please do not stop and wait in this area.

## **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 to their school communities. 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. All other students are encouraged to stay on school grounds during lunch. Those students in Grade 7 & 8 who choose to leave school grounds and go to community stores are expected to return by 11:55. Students who return to school after that time are expected to wait in the outdoor classroom area until 12:25 and then enter the school and head directly to class. Students who are choosing to go home for lunch should only return at 12:25 bell.

## **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 throughout the school.



## *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 23rd - October 4th, 2023, where students helped by bringing in pledges for the Terry Fox Foundation.

This year Bernie Wolfe School had fundraised **\$1400** 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**

a



Halloween









# Diwali Assembly and Celebration



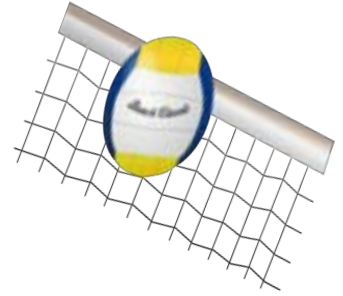


# NATIONAL Day for Truth & Reconciliation





# Bison Volleyball





## EY Cross Country & Flag Football

The gym has been very busy with extra curricular activities this past month! We had over 85 students participate in grade 3-5 cross country and had our final run at Birds Hill Park at the end of September. Next, we had gr. 5 flag football and had over 45 students participate! The BW Bisons showed great sportsmanship, respect and teamwork at their final tournament at the East Side Eagles field. Coming up next is gr. 5 volleyball with a tournament at the end of November! Go Bisons Go!





# 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 be charged a fine.

**Overdue Books** – Unfortunately many students currently have overdue library books. RETSD schools do not charge late fines, however if a book is declared lost (if it is very overdue we assume it is lost), students can be fined an amount towards the book’s replacement cost. To ensure your student isn’t charged, please help return all outstanding books.

**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.

**Clubs** – Many clubs are held in the library each week.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11:30-11:55	M.Y. Open Library	Unity in Gaming (*December only - Must be signed up)	M.Y. Open Library	Grade 8 eS-ports (*Must be signed up)	Grade 7 eS-ports (*Must be signed up)
12:00-12:25	Grade 4 Reading Club		Grade 5 Reading Club		

**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](mailto:ncard@retsd.mb.ca)) in the library if you have a connection!

**The Joy and Benefits of Daily Reading** - Did you know that spending just 20 minutes a day reading for pleasure can make a big difference in a student’s life? Daily reading not only improves vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills, but it also reduces stress and nurtures creativity. Whether it’s a thrilling novel, a thought-provoking article, or a heartwarming story, reading transports us to new worlds and helps us better understand our own. Make it a habit to explore the library, discover books that excite you, and enjoy the lifelong benefits of reading for fun!

Happy Reading,  
-Mrs. Card & Ms. Vasanthy



## *BWS Esports*

BWS's esports program expanded this year to include esports for Grade 7s and Grade 8s. Each grade has been invited to participate in game play at lunch recess once per week. As well, these students were provided with the opportunity to join the after school provincial Rocket League tournament this fall.

We had two teams play in the Rocket League A Division this season. Congratulations to "BWS Yellow Bisons" that qualified for the provincial playoffs at Daniel McIntyre Collegiate on November 23, where they won! BWS Yellow Bisons are the Manitoba Champions in A Division Rocket League! We are so proud of all our players.

Also, we are excited to be bringing a team of female-identifying and gender-diverse students to play in an RETSD "Empower Esports: Unity in Gaming" event in December. These students will participate in a Super Smash Bros. tournament and Mine-craft Build Challenge. We wish them the best of luck!

In the new year, our esports teams will be focusing on Brawlhalla and interested students will be able to join an after-school provincial tournament as well. More information will be shared with esports players in January. (Students in Grade 7 or 8 that would like to join esports are encouraged to see the supervisors for more information and the necessary forms.)

-Mrs. Card, Ms. Coulis & Mr. Cowan





## Ms. Bobychuk's Gr 5D Class



### **Charles McGee**

**Artist, painter, sculptor**

McGee was born in Clemson, South Carolina, on December 15, 1924. He was first raised by his grandparents, who were sharecroppers working on plantations

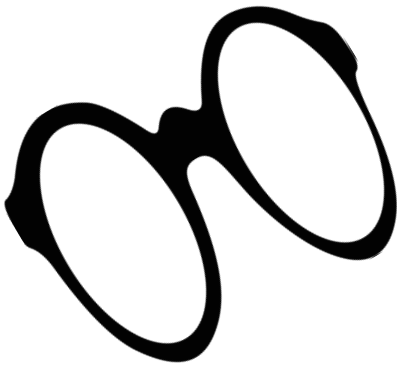
and he also learned how to pick cotton. He had no formal schooling until moving to Detroit at age 10. He attended art school and high school where he made floats for parades. When he was 19, McGee enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps in 1943 and he served for three years, including during World War II. He was stationed in Nagasaki as part of the Allied occupation of Japan.

He taught art at many different schools and universities in Detroit. He won special art awards and later in life had a stroke which affected his ability to create art. He died at 93 in February, 2021.



## *Ms. Petersen/Delow's Gr 1A class*

Grade 1A students had a wonderful time collaborating with their Grade 6 buddies for a science project! Together, they engaged in the design process, learning how to brainstorm, plan, create, and test their ideas. It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved, and we are proud of their hard work and creativity!



## *Haunted house project*

Exploring our senses turned our haunted house into an adventure – where we saw, heard, touched, smelled, and even imagined the spooky thrills!





# RETLife Winter 2025

**RETLife Winter 2025 Programming is now open for registration!**

RETLife is pleased to announce the launch of its Winter 2025 Programming lineup! With more than 50 new and returning programs to choose from, there's something for everyone!

Just a small sample of some of the programs being offered this winter include:

Engineering for Kids – Mission to Mars

Parent and Child Cooking Together – Lunches Made Easy

Martial Arts for Kids

Parent and Child Yoga

Introduction to GymTASTICS

Babysitting

Basketball for Youth

Volleyball for Kids

And much more!!!

Visit RETLife for more information and to register! Book early to avoid disappointment!

*River East Transcona School Division is located on the original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Anishiniwak, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Red River Métis. We recognize our part of the Treaty relationship and, as acknowledgement of the harms done, we commit to collaborating with Indigenous communities in the shared spirit of Truth and Reconciliation for the healing and inclusion of all who share this Land.*



## Your River East Transcona School Division Trustees

### Ward 1

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The Board of Trustees meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. You are welcome to attend, either in person or online.

For more information about the Board of Trustees, visit: [www.retsd.mb.ca](http://www.retsd.mb.ca) > Your RETSD > Board of Trustees



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happening in the division.*

