



Bernie Wolfe School

Newsletter—June 2026

Bernie Wolfe School

95 Bournais Dr

Winnipeg, MB

R2C 3Z2

P: 204-958-6532

F: 204-667-9871

bw@retsd.mb.ca

Principal

Christopher Chartier

Vice Principals

Joanne Zahaiko—MY

Frank Reeves—EY

Scott Hjartarson—Acting

EY 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

Last Day of School

June 30

Early Dismissal @ 2:25

Message from the Administration

It is hard to believe that another school year has come and gone! We have been working hard to complete all the goals we set in our 2025-26 school plan, and we are looking ahead to the next school year by working together to finalize our 2026-27 school plan. We look forward to sharing our plans with you at our Parent Council meeting in the fall.

It's always hard to say goodbye but we cannot hold on to our students forever. As our grade 8 students move on to high school, we would like to wish them all the very best. We know that they will be successful in their pursuits and continue to be positive leaders in their new schools. We also know that some families move over the summer. We want to wish all students who are not returning to Bernie Wolfe all the best as they continue with their educational journey.

Thank you to all our volunteers and to the Parent Council for your dedication and support of our school programs. I hope that the new school year will allow for even more opportunities for caregivers to get involved. I encourage all Bernie Wolfe families to get involved in our shared vision of fostering student success at Bernie Wolfe.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the very dedicated staff for their hard work, professionalism, and commitment to our students and school community. It has been a pleasure working with all of you and I look forward to next year and to continuing the work that we have started. I wish all those staff who are leaving us success wherever their path leads them. All the best as you take on new challenges and paths in your professional careers. You will be missed.

I would like to thank everyone in the Bernie Wolfe community for all their support they have given us over the year. It was wonderful seeing our school full of people for our concerts, sporting events, student led conferences and other school events. Bernie Wolfe school is an incredibly special place. To all our Bernie Wolfe students, thank you for all your hard work. Bernie Wolfe would not be the wonderful learning environment that it is without all of you! Finally, I am honored to have served this great community over the past year and look forward to many more years to come. I wish you all the absolute best in everything you do.

I hope all of you have a safe, active, and enjoyable summer holiday.

Important information for our Middle Years Students for 26-27 school year

We will be having a staggered start to the first day of school for our Middle year's students. This will mean that grade 6 students will be coming in the morning at the regular start time of 8:40 and stay for the day. While the grade 7 & 8 students will be arriving to school on the first day for 1:00. It is our hope that this staggered entry for our grade 6 students will allow them to have a smoother transition into Middle Years.

Meet the Teacher

Bernie Wolfe will be having its annual Meet the Teacher on Tuesday, Sept. 8 from 4:00-6:00. Feel free to bring all start up supplies. This is an informal "come and go" for families.

Staffing News

Year end marks a time where we say goodbye to staff who are moving on. I want to wish all staff the best as the move on from Bernie Wolfe. Thank you for all your work with the Bernie Wolfe community. You will be missed. Finally, the new school year brings with it several new faces joining the BW community.

Staff Leaving

Ms. Zahaiko- Vice- Principal

Ms. Card

Mr. Drover

Ms. Sembi

Ms. Jackson

Ms. Fehr

Mr. St. Kitts

Ms. Dawes

Ms. Epp

Ms. Delow

Ms. Hamm

Mr. Reeves

Mr. Iwan

Ms. Pellaers

Ms. Struthers

Ms. Kolsun

Ms. Salvador

Ms. Noeum

New to BW in 26-27

Ms. Cote- Vice - Principal

Ms. Dianquinay- Gr. 4

Ms. Bannister – Grade 7 & 8 Visual Arts

Returning to BW in the fall

Ms. Fast- Gr. 6

Ms. Sangalang- Physical Education

Ms. Beckwith – Gr.1/2

Ms. Mekuria- Gr.1/2



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


River East Transcona
SCHOOL DIVISION
creating student success



Summer Office Hours

Bernie Wolfe office will be closed over the summer break.

July 1st-August 25th—CLOSED

Office will open to the public on August 26th

If you require assistance during this time please contact the RETSD Board office at
(204) 667-7130

Moving over the Summer?

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.

Library News



As the school year winds down, here are a few library updates and reminders!

Return Those Library Books

Still have a book (or two) at home? Please send them back our way. We don't charge late fees, but getting books returned helps keep our shelves full and ready for next year's readers.

Summer Borrowing is Here

Students in Grades 1–7 can borrow up to five books to enjoy over the summer—perfect for keeping reading habits strong! Books will be due back by Friday, September 11, 2026. Please take good care of them, as a fine will be charged for any that aren't returned.

Shout-Out to Our MYRCA Readers

Our MYRCA team did a fantastic job representing BWS at the RETSD Battle of the Books in June at Kildonan East Collegiate. Way to go, Samantha, Illyana, Sienna, Tea, and Amy! It was also great to see so many students involved and voting this year—lots of enthusiastic readers in our school!

Winnipeg Public Library Visit

On June 29, we'll be welcoming a guest from the Transcona branch of the Winnipeg Public Library to introduce their summer reading program to our elementary students. We encourage families to check it out and get involved!

Keep Reading All Summer

Wherever summer takes you, don't forget to pack a good book! Visit your local Winnipeg Public Library or try RETSD's Sora app for easy access to eBooks and audiobooks anytime. Reading over the summer is a great way to stay curious and keep your imagination growing.

Saying Goodbye

Mrs. Vasanthy, library technician, will be returning to BWS in the fall, but Mrs. Card, teacher-librarian, will be saying goodbye as she moves to a divisional library support teacher role next year. She has greatly enjoyed the three years she has spent at BWS and getting to know the wonderful students and families.

Wishing everyone a happy, relaxing, and story-filled summer—enjoy the break!

— Mrs. Card & Mrs. Vasanthy



Grade 4 Field Trip to Oak Hammock Marsh

In April, the Grade 4s went on a field trip to Oak Hammock Marsh. We went on nature walks to learn about our local wetlands and the creatures that live in them, and we explored the interpretive Centre's exhibits and activities. We were lucky to get beautiful weather and had a great day together.



Grade 1 & 2 Field Trip to Morning Sound Farm



On May 26th, our Grade 1 and 2 students spent a wonderful day exploring Morning Sound Farm. The weather was perfect—sunny with a light breeze—allowing us to have an exciting day of hands-on learning.

Students enjoyed a self guided walking tour where they learned about the history of the farm. Each child had the chance to milk a goat and ride a pony, which quickly became favourite moments. We also had the joy of holding baby chicks only one or two days old, cuddling playful kittens and cute puppies, and watching the farmer shear a sheep. Students were even gifted a small piece of wool to take home.

A wagon ride took us past newborn lambs, and along the way we sang songs and asked the farmers questions about their daily life and favourite farm activities. Throughout the visit, teachers were proud of the respectful and caring behaviour our students showed toward the animals and the farmers.

It was a memorable day filled with learning, laughter, and new experiences for all.



Grade 1/2 C and 1/2 G – Painted Lady Butterfly Project

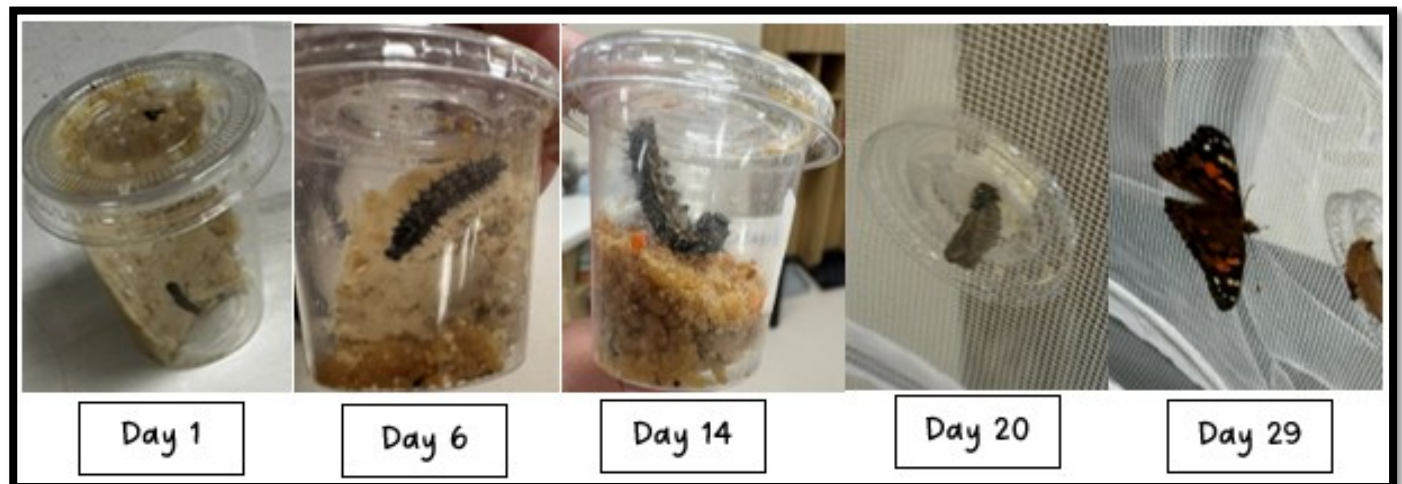


Grade 1/2 C and 1/2 G – Painted Lady Butterfly Project

This spring, students in Grade 1/2 C and Grade 1/2 G had the exciting opportunity to learn all about Painted Lady butterflies. At the beginning of May, our classes received very tiny little caterpillars, and students eagerly observed them each day as they grew and changed.

Throughout the month, students learned about the stages of the butterfly life cycle—starting as tiny caterpillars, transforming into chrysalises, and finally emerging as beautiful butterflies. Watching this transformation happen in real time helped students build their understanding of living things and sparked plenty of curiosity and wonder.

It was a memorable hands-on learning experience that brought science to life in our classrooms.



Ms. Angie's Grade 7 & 8 Art Dioramas

Grade 7 and 8 art students created miniature scenes inspired by their interests and imaginations. From TV shows and video games to nature and original creations, each diorama tells its own unique story. We hope you enjoy exploring these creative worlds!





Kindergarten Registration

2026-2027 Kindergarten Registrations

If you have a child born in 2021, we are accepting Kindergarten registrations for the 2026- 2027 school year.

Registration packages are available online on the Bernie Wolfe website. Please email bw@retsd.mb.ca the completed forms over the summer break.

We look forward to welcoming our new Kindergarten families!

Our New School 2026

the torch



The Board of Trustees Wants Your Help to Name Our New School



The Board of Trustees wants your help to name the brand-new school in Transcona—the future of learning, laughter, and community spirit—set to welcome 800 students and their families.

Trustees are inviting the community to suggest names worthy of the memories, milestones, and bright futures that will fill the school's halls.

“Naming the school is an exciting and historic act,” said Colleen Carswell, Board Chair. “This is a chance to become part of history and to reflect community spirit and pride.”

Names can be based on the neighbourhood where the school is located or something of historical and cultural significance to the community.

A name could also recognize a community member who made outstanding contributions to education and community life.

For further information, please visit our website at retsd.mb.ca/policies and see Policy FFA-R1.



Submission forms and more information can be found by following the QR code or <https://bit.ly/4dfhEuc>

Deadline July 3, 2026, at 4 p.m.

Submissions can be sent to communications@retsd.mb.ca

Building the Heart of a Community: Transcona's New School



The countdown is on! The announcement of River East Transcona School Division's newest school with K to 8 English programming is creating excitement across Transcona. Once the school is built and the doors open, students will fill the halls with curiosity, creativity, and connection—transforming bricks and mortar into a vibrant hub of learning and community life.

The new school is more than just a new building; it's a heart for a growing community. The Government's original announcement was to create space for 650 students, but knowing the community is still expanding, the RETSD Board of Trustees advocated for a larger school. We're happy to announce that 800 students will now call the school home. As a result, all of the students currently being transported out of the neighbourhood will be able to return to their community to discover their talents, form friendships, and make memories.

The new Devonshire school will include:

- Manufacturing, textiles, and foods labs.
- A large library, and band and music rooms.
- 32 classrooms.
- A Student Services suite to support students with additional needs.
- Dedicated drop off/pick up space.
- An attached childcare centre for 104 children.

We're excited to welcome families into the school. Additional information will be shared on social media channels and the RETSD website as soon as it is available.

We're grateful to the Government of Manitoba for recognizing the need for this new school—the first new school in Transcona since 1990—and helping RETSD to build it. But the Board of Trustees won't stop with this school.

Now more than ever, there is compelling need for more schools in RETSD—K-8 and senior years. Stay connected to learn how you can help us!

New School Catchment Area

We are excited to announce that a catchment area for the new school has been created. The western-most border follows Lagimodiere Boulevard from Reenders Drive to the train tracks north of the Devonshire area. It follows the tracks to Bill Briercliffe Drive, then veers south to Devonshire Drive West. The southern-most border runs along the train tracks south of the community and Reenders Drive.

A visual map will be published on the RETSD website soon.

Your River East Transcona School Division Trustees

Ward 1

Colleen Carswell (Board Chair)
204.222.1486
ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca

Sheri Irwin
204.223.5079
sirwin@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 2

Sheri Hanson
431.278.0738
shanson2@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 3

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Keith Morrison
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Ward 4

Susan Olynik (Board Vice-Chair)
204.661.6440
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Brenda Bage
204.221.2951
bbage@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 5

Shannon Hiebert
204.771.8435
shiebert@retsd.mb.ca

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 > Your RETSD > Board of Trustees

Mission Gardens Play Centre

95 Bournais Drive
located in Bernie Wolfe school



2 year old program

Mondays
9:10am - 11:30am

3 year old program

Wednesday & Friday
9:10am - 11:30am

4 year old program

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
1:10pm - 3:40pm
OR
Tuesday & Thursday
9:10am - 11:30am

3 & 4 year old program

Tuesday & Thursday
1:10pm - 3:40pm

For more
information:

email

mgpc@mymts.net

or 204-663-8053

RETLife – Summer Programming Still has space available!

Limited spots are available - in most of RETLife's Summer Programming options this year! Visit [RETLife](#) for more information about summer programs such as:

- [RETLife weekly Summer Day Camps](#)
- [Volleyball Camp](#) – SOLD OUT
- [Engineering for Kids: Robo Games](#)
- [Engineering for Kids: Battle Bots](#)

PLUS - [RETLife](#) still has a few spaces available in the **one-day Summer Camp Experiences on Thursday, July 2 and Friday, July 3!** These one-day experiences are great for kids (or their parents) who are interested in:

- Trying a short camp experience to see if the child enjoys it before committing to our 5-day camps
- Keeping a child busy for one or two days before family vacations begin

Opening some time for parents who are looking for ways to keep the kids busy while they finish their work week

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.



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