



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

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

We had wonderful performances at all of our Christmas concerts!

Students were singing, moving and playing instruments with lots of energy and joy and we loved it!

Thank you to our wonderful audience who came to see the performances. Everyone felt excited and proud!



Sounds of the Season

Wednesday, December 21, 2022



2:30 p.m. Early Dismissal,

Winter Break begins

Thursday, January 5, 2023.....1st day back to school after Winter Break, Day 3
 Friday, February 3, 2023No School for Students, Coordinated Day
 Monday, February 20, 2023No School, Louis Riel Day

River East Transcona SCHOOL DIVISION

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

PATROL NEWS

Hello family and friends,

As the cold weather approaches, we as a community need to work together to ensure our patrols are kept safe on the streets. As the snow falls and the roads get icy, it will take longer for cars to stop and vehicles may even skid past a crossing or stop sign. Please adjust your speed to match the conditions and take in to account the extra space needed to stop. Snow banks will also accumulate as the snow falls and could block the view of the patrols. It may become difficult to see the patrols and extra caution should be given when driving through our school zone.

For our patrols, appropriate clothing is required to go out on post. As the temperature drops, patrols are required to wear: jackets, ski pants, toques, gloves, neck warmers or scarves and boots. Patrols will not be allowed out on post if they are not dressed according to the weather. Post times will be shortened in the event of extreme weather.



We know that stopping for patrols and slowing down for our students' safety slows down your day. We sincerely appreciate your care and adherence to safety!

Please remember not to park in the back lane by the school.

Please do not stop in the back lane and let your child run across the lane or into the parking lot.

This is a very important safety rule!

SCHOOL TWITTER ACCOUNT

John de Graff School is on Twitter!

Give us a follow @jdg_RETSD to see some of the excellent learning activities happening at school! We are posting photos and information about student work and some of our activities. We hope this will give our families some more knowledge about things going on in school this year, as well as some joy!



BATTERY BLITZ

Thank you very much to our amazing community for sending old batteries to be recycled. During the Battery Blitz, our John de Graff community collected 464.48 kgs (1024 lbs.) of batteries!!! That is amazing. We are thrilled to be helping keep batteries out of our landfill. Thank you for your support. Since the contest closed, we have sent in another 53.07 kgs (117 lbs) of batteries to Call2Recycle. Please keep sending your old batteries and ask friends and family members to start collecting their old batteries for us.

We are making a BIG difference here at John de Graff!

Thank you to everyone who participated.





DECEMBER 2022

Season's Greetings to Everyone!

Just a short note to update you on Tabs for Wheelchairs. On Oct. 6, all our tabs were picked up at **Access Storage** on Marion St. by **YRC Freight** and brought to **Western Scrap Metals**. Thank you once again to all three of these companies for continuing to partner with us! We would also like to take this opportunity in a very big way, to thank Dave, who used to be the owner of St. Boniface Bag, for donating **2000 bags** to the program just a few months ago. He kept them for us after selling his business in the spring and surprised me with this wonderful gift! **Thank you, Dave!** You were a Godsend to the program and we will be forever grateful! This number of bags will last us for at least five years.

Now, none of this would be possible if it wasn't for each and every one of you! You can all be very proud of what we have accomplished in these last 24 years! At this time, we have presented **52 specialized wheelchairs**, 26 from the tab collection and 26 from monetary donations, which includes two anonymous very generous benefactors.

I would also like to thank all of you who have personally dropped off tabs, cans and metals of various kinds during this last year, to **Western Scrap Metals** in Winnipeg and **Wesman Salvage** in Brandon! Please, never forget to inform both places that your drop-off is to go to Tabs for Wheelchairs, as they will credit our ongoing accounts. Thanks so much to both of these companies for doing this for us!

Trailblazers Life Choices must also be mentioned and recognized as they have been a tremendous asset to us, both in Winnipeg and Steinbach! They do all the final bagging of the tabs and have been a wonderful group to work with! **Both places will be closed for the holidays from Friday, Dec. 23 – Tuesday, Jan. 3.**

NOW TO GET TO THE VERY BEST PART AND SOME ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL NEWS!!!

Last week, I received a cheque for **\$8,500.98** from Western Scrap Metals, plus a \$100 donation. This was for 12,115 lbs. of aluminum tabs and 15,592 lbs. of miscellaneous metals. This is the most we have ever brought in. Last year, we had 8,690 lbs. of aluminum tabs and 2244 lbs. of miscellaneous metals. Wesman Salvage also has given us a total of **\$2,583.00** this year. We are definitely just getting better and better!

Our next newsletter will be in April 2023 and please keep saving for Bernard and Hayden!

Wishing everyone all the best of the season and much peace, joy and good health in the coming year!

Gwen Buccini
Tabs for Wheelchairs Founder & Coordinator

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Every year on November 11, Canadians observe a memorial day in honour of members of the Armed Forces who have served our country. Their service & courage should always be remembered. This remembrance occasion also honours and thanks those who have sacrificed their lives to protect the freedom we have today.

Our Remembrance Day Assembly was on Wednesday, November 10th at 10:45 a.m. presented by the Grade 5 students.

Below are some writings from Mrs. Korb's Grade 5 class. The students discussed Remembrance Day and imagined what wars would have been like.

The pictures are from our Assembly.



July 4th, 1942

Dear Dad,

Every time I think of you, I cry on my bed wishing this dreadful Never-ending war to stop! I want peace, I want you to come back home! My mom is hugging my sister to stop her sobbing. (BOOM, CRASH, SCREAMING!) When I sleep, I still hear guns shooting, buildings exploding, bodies dropping on the ground, booming and screaming. Please come back for my eleventh birthday, it's in eleven days! Every day our house is crumbling. We only have freedom to get out of our house for a few hours before everyone starts running back in their house. We run back in our basement because it's not safe upstairs anymore. When I come outside there's smoke everywhere! I see blood all over the cracked landscape. There are many destroyed buildings and houses. I was writing this letter in tears. Rest in peace for all the innocent beings and all the soldiers who fought in the war who passed away from this hated war. Please dad, COME BACK SOON!!

Sincerely, your beloved son,

NICK (Ali)



September 11, 1942

August 25, 1942

Dear Dad,

This is my fourth letter that I'm writing to you. I hope your coming back soon. I'm scared. I hear gunfire and explosions. I want to go outside but I can't. Do you even remember that my birthday is in six days? The only present I want is for you to come back. I want peace not this dad. Dad are you even coming to my birthday? Please tell me. Nav and mom are not good, they miss you a lot. When I look outside, I just see people running, soldiers fighting and people hiding. If you're not coming back, I will always remember that you fought for the country. Please write back dad please! I just want to lock myself in my room until you come back. Its 9:17 right now. I can't sleep because I hear voices of people screaming and running. I wish you were here so we could play chess or snakes and ladders.

Love Angad



Dear Dad,

I cannot sleep without knowing that you are safe and secure. My best friend helps and understands how sad I am that you are not here with me. She takes my mind off things. Mom, Trent, Ky, and Jai are not doing well without you.

I am writing this letter at 2:42 at the dead of night. The nights are loud, cold, and even worse than at dawn.

My birthday is in two days, I know that you will not make it back by then. I want you to write to back to me to let me know that you are okay.

I want you to know that Trent started the Volleyball team at his school, and I started the girls team. Our land is falling apart, I do not even want to take one glance outside. Its not safe to go in the basement anymore were upstairs.

Whenever I see your photograph hung on the wall, I imagine what you are going through right now.

When you left for war, I held your picture close to my heart dreaming of the moment you would arrive home to hug me as tight as you can.

Love, your little girl Mali (Maliya)

MUSICAL NOTES



MRS. KULA & MS. SCHAU

November flew by as we had been singing, playing pitched and unpitched instruments and moving and groovin' to the music all month long! We listened and performed music of many genres and styles.

In December, the focus of our learning has been Christmas Carols from around the globe, some are old and others are new!! It has to be a fun-filled and exciting time of music making!!!

Musically speaking,

Mrs. Kula and Ms. Schau



LIBRARY NEWS



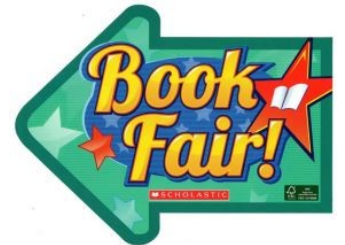
MS. CESSFORD & MRS. HUNT

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR UPDATE

Thank you very much for the overwhelming response to our 1st John de Graff Book Fair in a number of years! We were thrilled to see many of you in the library and we are glad so many of you were able to find something special to buy. There were not only books purchased by families but also for our classroom and school libraries. The Book Fair is a great way to build up our collection of new fantastic books for students to enjoy. With your help we were able to add approximately \$3000 worth of books to our library.

Congratulations to all our winners of the poster draw!

Thank you to everyone for supporting literacy and our library program!



REPORT CARDS

Our first term report cards were posted on the Parent Portal on November 22nd.

Our Parent-Teacher-Student conferences were held In Person and on Teams this term.

Thank you for participating in this and celebrating your child's successes with learning.

All students also have goals for term 2 that we know parents/guardians support them with, such as home reading, that they do outside of school.





December Dress Recommendation:
Please remember to dress for the colder weather, such as a winter jacket, ski pants, toques and mittens or gloves.

The last while in gym have been fun and exciting! Students celebrated Jets Day where they took the seat of a pilot or passenger and travelled around a scooter circuit in the gym wearing Jets colours or their favourite Jets clothing.

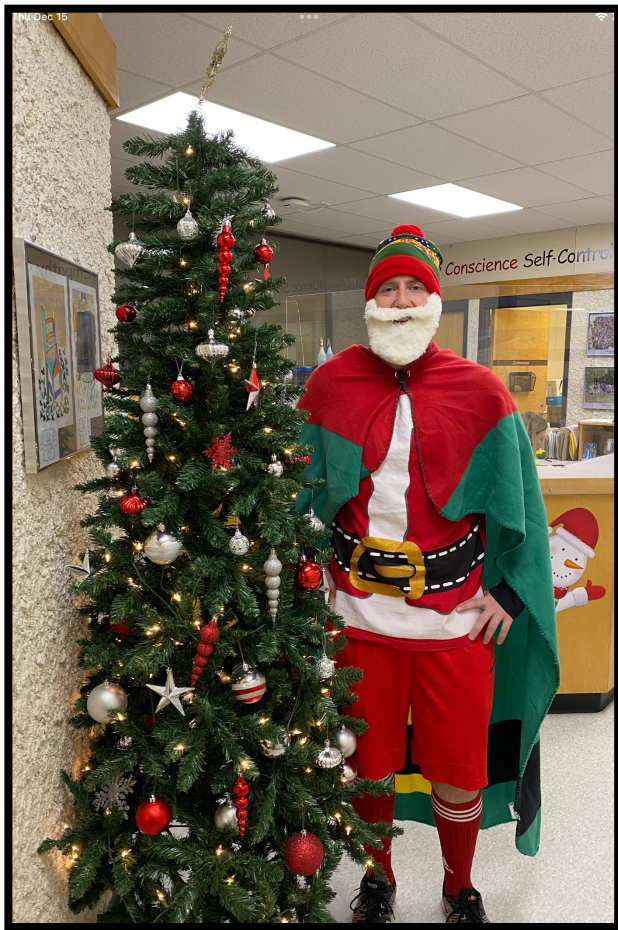
Students also enjoyed Hallowe'en gym and had many exciting Hallowe'en activities to participate in. Students sliced the pumpkins at the basketball and frisbee station, fed Frankenstein moon cookies, stepped over Halloween obstacles on the balance bean, jumped through the graveyard, swung across the swamp and of course, tried to find their way through a giant mat maze.

We ended November with a fitness unit that took place both indoors and outdoors and wrapped up our volleyball unit.

We look forward to a bowling Unit, an outdoor Phys. Ed week and are excited to end the year with a special holiday themed gym event.



Holiday Gym



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

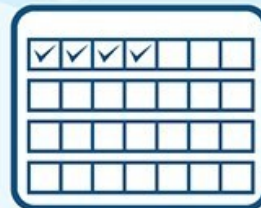
What To Do When You're Sick

If you test positive OR are ill with COVID-19 symptoms, it is recommended that you:

- **Isolate for five days** either from symptom onset, or from receiving a positive test result
- Return to school after the isolation period when you have **no fever** and your **symptoms are improving**
- **Wear a mask** for the remaining 5 days in public



**Stay Home
When Sick**



**Monitor Symptoms
Daily**

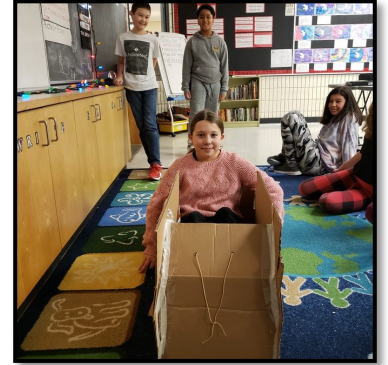


**Cough or Sneeze
into Your Elbow**



**Wash Your Hands
Frequently**

STEAM CHALLENGE



STEAM CHALLENGE

STEAM stands for:

S - Science

T - Technology

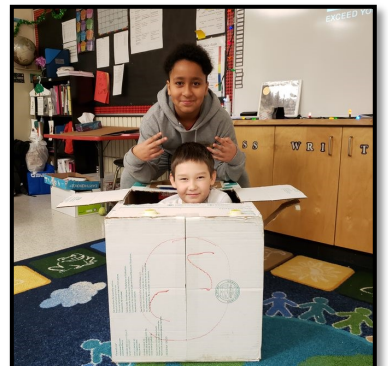
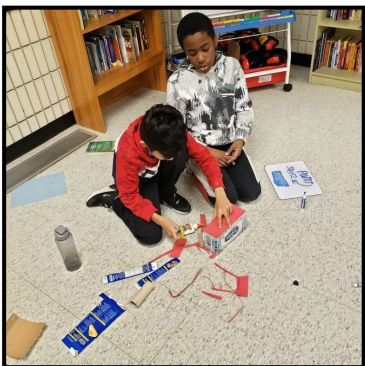
E - Engineering

A - Art

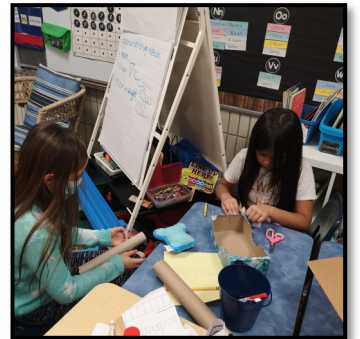
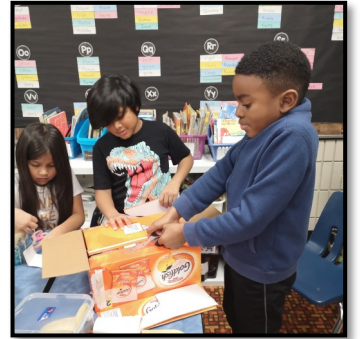
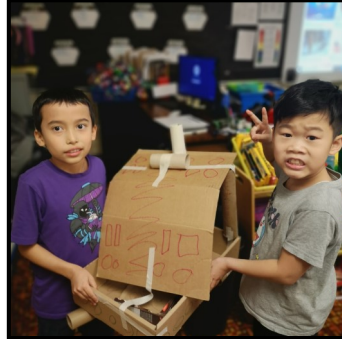
M - Mathematics

It is one of our School Plan priorities.

Our students participate in STEAM Challenges throughout the year to create experiments and designs. They came up with ideas and solutions to problems by using their creative and critical thinking skills.



STEAM CHALLENGE (CON'T)



PROVINCIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 'OUR SCHOOL' SURVEY FOR GRADES 4 TO 12 STUDENTS

As part of our ongoing efforts to increase school effectiveness, Manitoba Education and Training will continue with the implementation of an online student survey called *OurSCHOOL* (formerly: *Tell Them From Me* (TTFM)). This is a well-known survey tool which gives students the opportunity to express their thoughts anonymously in terms of various school routines and improvement initiatives.

Students had the opportunity to participate in the *OurSCHOOL* survey from November 15 - 17th. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Margaret Fair, our school principal at 204-669-1280. Thank you for your support in this important initiative.



HELPING OTHERS

John de Graff School would like to thank our community in supporting others with donations of non-perishable food items (Harvest Manitoba).

We collected items up until December 16th.

We filled over 5 bins of donations.

We thank everyone who participated!

PAC

Our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is a very important part of our school. PAC organizes and runs our Lunch Program. PAC does fundraising to provide extra activities and learning items for our students. PAC also is a support for some school projects.

The PAC board is:

Melissa Oertel – Chair

Susanne Kilbrei – Vice Chair & Lunch Program Coordinator

Yet to be filled – Treasurer

Yet to be filled – Secretary

Trisha Hill – Lunch Program Treasurer



MESSAGE FROM OUR LUNCH COORDINATOR

Just a reminder, if you have children staying for lunch, lunch fees are now past due. We ask that payments still outstanding to please be submitted.

Payment can be either cash or cheque payable to John de Graff Lunch Program.

Our next PAC meeting is:

**Tuesday, January 10th at 6:00 p.m. at John de Graff School
(all parents/guardians welcome!)**



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.

Busing

When the temperature or wind chill is -45C 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.

Indoor 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.

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 -34°C and below, patrols will remain on post for five minutes. At -40°C and below, no patrols will be on duty.

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 -34°C and below, facial protection is essential, and it's recommended that children avoid going outdoors unaccompanied—skin will freeze in less than 10 minutes.

If you have any questions not addressed by these guidelines, please contact your child's school.

Take it Slow in Ice & Snow

A Message from Curtis Basso, Director of Transportation



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

The snow looks like it's here to stay. Remember roads may be slippery with ice hidden under the new snow. These conditions can make stopping or turning difficult at stops, intersections, and corners, so please be cautious when you see our school buses.

We may be stopping at any moment for children!

Remember—we are carrying precious cargo.

So, please adjust your driving to suit the conditions, especially when you see one of our many buses on your commute—keep your eyes peeled for their stop signs and our students. The piles of snow that line streets can make for tempting hills to climb, so parents, please talk to your children about the danger of slipping into traffic and advise them to stay on the sidewalk.

And drivers, be especially alert when driving near schools. Student safety is all our responsibility. Take it slow, and we will all get to where we need to be, safely.



Follow us on Twitter
 @RETSDtransport


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SCHOOL DIVISION
creating student success



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022—2023

DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 21 . LAST Day of classes before Christmas Break. **Early Dismissal 2:30 p.m.**

JANUARY

Thursday, January 5 1st Day of classes after break, Day 3

Tuesday, January 10 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 3 No School, Co-ordinated PD Day

Monday, February 20 No School, Louis Riel Day

Tuesday, February 21 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

MARCH

Monday, March 13 Report Cards Online

Tuesday, March 14 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 16 Parent Teacher Student (PTS) Conferences, evening 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Friday, March 17 Parent Teacher Student (PTS) Conferences, a.m.

No School, Co-ordinated PD Day, p.m.

Friday, March 24 LAST Day of classes before Spring Break, **Regular Dismissal**

APRIL

Monday, April 3 1st Day of classes after break, Day 5

Friday, April 7 No School, Good Friday

Tuesday, April 11 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 14 No School, Co-ordinated PD Day

MAY

Tuesday, May 9 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Monday, May 22 No School, Victoria Day

Monday, May 29 No School, Co-ordinated PD Day

JUNE

Tuesday, June 13 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

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>

