



# 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 or STOPPING  
 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  
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 Phone: 204-222-1486

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Keith Morrison Ward 3  
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 Phone: 204-795-3357

Brenda Bage Ward 4  
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 Phone: 204-221-2951

Susan Olynyk (Vice-Chair) Ward 4  
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 Phone: 204-661-6440

Shannon Hiebert Ward 5  
[shiebert@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:shiebert@retsd.mb.ca)  
 Phone: 204-771-8435

**HAPPY DECEMBER**

We had wonderful performances at all of our Christmas concerts!

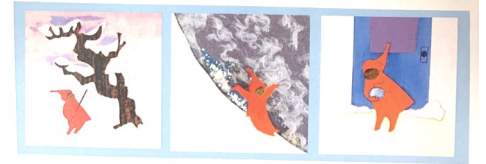
Students were singing and reciting the story of The Snowy Day. The students brought lots of energy and joy and we loved it!

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

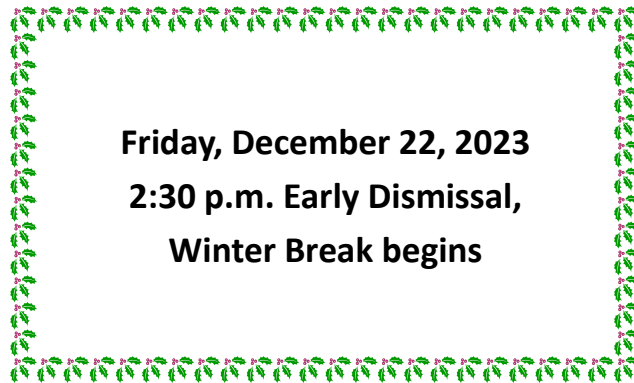


The Snowy Day

Two years later, Ezra wrote and illustrated his own book. The Snowy Day featured a young African-American boy named Peter. Ezra based the character of Peter on a series of photos he had cut out of Life magazine in the early 1940s. Ezra had noticed that the main characters in the books he illustrated were always white. That didn't seem fair to other children, who deserved to see characters in books that looked like them. He decided that Peter would be the hero of his story because "he should have been there all along." The Snowy Day was awarded the Caldecott Medal in 1963. It was the greatest honor given for picture books at the time.



Top, bottom: Scenes from The Snowy Day. Right: An early inspiration for Peter. From Life magazine.

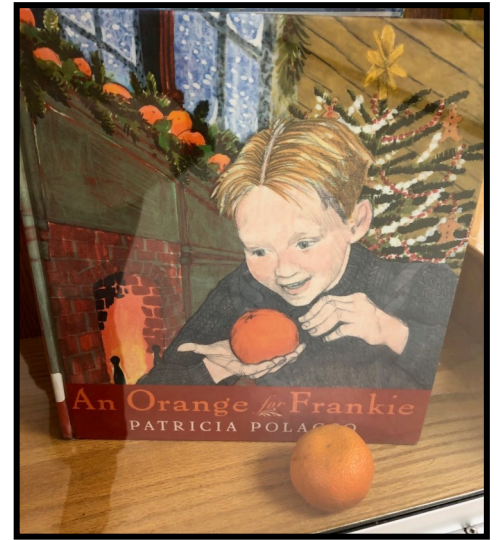
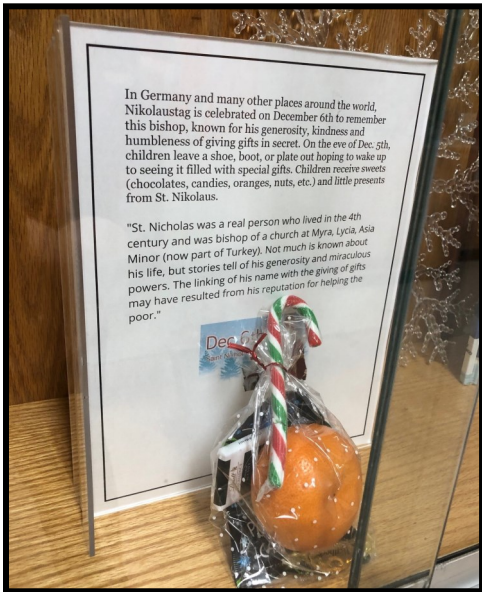


**Friday, December 22, 2023  
 2:30 p.m. Early Dismissal,  
 Winter Break begins**

Monday, January 8, 2023 .....1<sup>st</sup> day back to school after Winter Break, Day 1  
 Friday, February 2, 2023 .....No School for Students, Coordinated Day  
 Monday, February 19, 2023 .....No School, Louis Riel Day

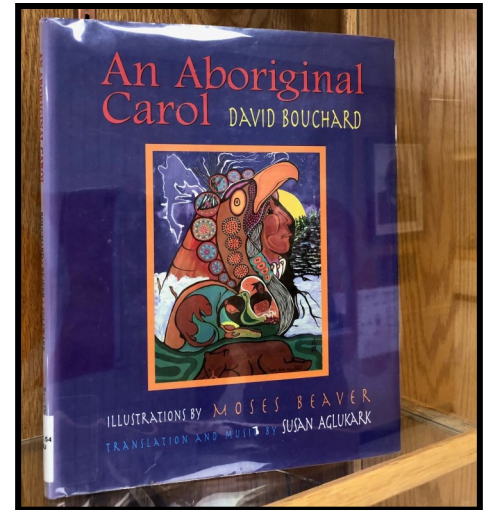
**River East Transcona** SCHOOL DIVISION

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



**CELEBRATIONS OF DIFFERENT CULTURES**

Here are some photos from the display case that show celebrations from many different cultures that are recognized in our school.







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

In Phys. Ed, we were lucky to enjoy the beautiful December weather and get out to play soccer while the gymnasium was being used for the holiday concerts. When we returned indoors, students enjoyed glow bowling and our Annual Holiday Gym week.

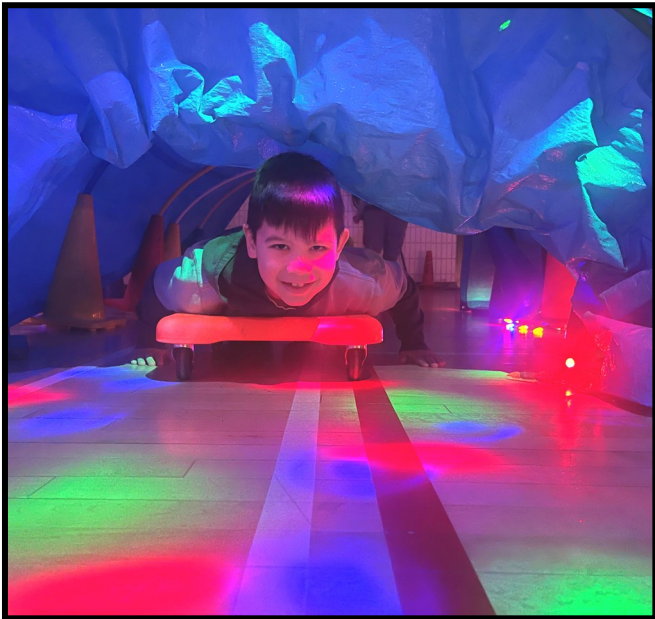
A few of the favourites were throwing snowballs down the chimney, hopping around the Christmas tree, tip toeing over the Christmas presents on the balance beam, feeding Santa sugar cookies, scootering under the Northern Lights, tossing Christmas oranges, ringing the jingles bells and of course, candy cane golf!

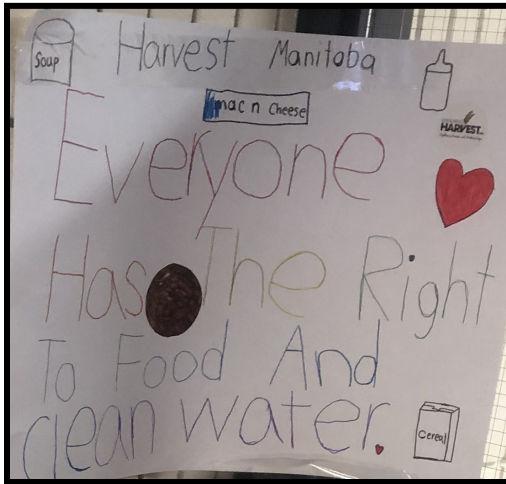
When we return in January, we will be beginning Gymnastics clubs at lunch hour for students in Grade 3-5. More information on dates will be provided to students in the new year.

Happy Holidays!



# Holiday Gym





**HELPING OTHERS**

John de Graff School would like to thank our community for their generosity of bringing in non-perishable food items for Harvest Manitoba.

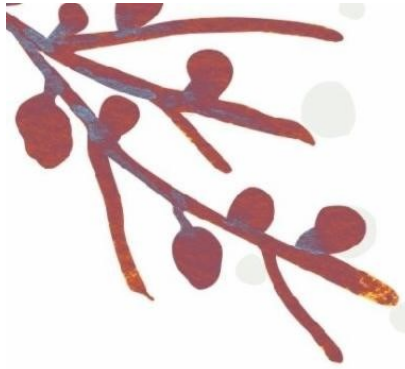
We were able to fill 2 bins and 8 boxes of donations.

We collected items up until December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to Mrs. Dallmann's Grade 3 class for helping organize the food drive.







Wishing you less snow to shovel,  
but still enough to play in.

Have a safe and  
happy holiday.

From the CAA School Safety Patrol team.

*M Khan* *deiesjeweli*





# 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.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023—2024

### DECEMBER

- Friday, December 22.....Subway Lunch for students who place an order—Organized by PAC  
Friday, December 22.....LAST Day of classes before Winter Break, Early Dismissal at 2:30 p.m.

### JANUARY

- Monday, January 8.....1<sup>st</sup> Day of classes after break, Day 1  
Tuesday, January 16.....PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

### FEBRUARY

- Friday, February 2.....No School, Co-ordinated PD Day  
Tuesday, February 13.....PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Monday, February 19.....No School, Louis Riel Day

### MARCH

- Monday, March 4.....KG Registration begins, born 2019  
Monday, March 11.....Report Cards Online  
Tuesday, March 12.....PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, March 14.....Parent Teacher Student (PTS) Conferences, evening 4:00-8:00 p.m.  
Friday, March 15.....Parent Teacher Student (PTS) Conferences, a.m.  
No School, Co-ordinated PD Day, p.m.  
Friday, March 22.....LAST Day of classes before Spring Break Regular Dismissal

### APRIL

- Monday, April 1.....1<sup>st</sup> Day of classes after break, Day 1  
Tuesday, April 9.....PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 10.....Bus Evacuation Drills (KG - Grade 5)  
Thursday, April 11.....Bus Evacuation Drill (KG only)  
Monday, April 22.....No School, Co-ordinated PD Day

### MAY

- Monday, May 6.....Music Monday  
Tuesday, May 14.....PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Monday, May 20.....No School, Victoria Day  
Thursday, May 30.....KG Open House (6:00-7:00 p.m.). More Information will be provided to KG Families.  
Friday, May 31.....KG Open House (10:30-11:30 p.m.). More information will be provided to KG Families.

### JUNE

- Friday, June 7.....No School, Co-ordinated PD Day  
Tuesday, June 11.....PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 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>

**Winter break begins Monday, December 25, 2023**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Day Back to School Monday, January 8, 2024**