

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER



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Principal's Message

As we embrace the winter season and the joy it brings, I am delighted to share the many achievements and exciting developments happening at our school. The dedication of our students and the unwavering support from parents have made this a remarkable year so far.

Our students are demonstrating dedication and intellectual curiosity! We have seen many of our teachers introduce project-based learning strategies. The classrooms are vibrant with the spirit of learning, and it is truly gratifying to witness the remarkable academic progress our students are making. I extend my gratitude to our staff for fostering an environment that encourages such enthusiastic engagement.

On the athletic front, our volleyball teams have exhibited outstanding sportsmanship throughout the season. My sincere congratulations go out to both the players and coaches for their collective efforts in representing our school with distinction on the court.

As we look to the future, there is a sense of excitement in the air. We anticipate the thrill of upcoming basketball games and tournaments, where our students will undoubtedly showcase their athletic prowess and team spirit. Additionally, our talented musicians are diligently preparing for the upcoming Music Concert on January 18th, promising an auditory delight for all. Many students are also hard at work organizing our school musical. I am eager to witness the students' creativity come to life on the stage.

I want to take a moment to express my deepest appreciation to our parents for your unwavering support. Your active involvement in your children's academic journey contributes to the vibrant and supportive community we have cultivated together.

As we approach the holiday season, I extend warm wishes to you and your families. May this festive season be filled with joy, warmth, and cherished moments. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our school community. I eagerly anticipate the new year, where we will continue to witness the growth, creativity, and shared success of our remarkable students.

Wishing you all the best for the holiday season and the upcoming year.

Ryan Francis, Principal

River East Transcona School Division: Administration Office

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Attendance

If your child will be away from school, please call the office at 204-958-6500 (you can leave a voicemail) or email us at jwg@retsd.mb.ca

Contact Info

If your contact information has changed, don't forget to let us know!

Stay up to Date

Remember to check out the John W. Gunn website on a regular basis for updates and important school information.

ww.retsd.mb.ca/jwg

You can also follow us on



twitter.com/jwg_RETSD



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This October marked the return of the Grade Seven Hiking Trip. Eighteen Grade Seven students spent three days hiking and camping in the back-country of Spruce Woods Provincial Park. The participants hiked over sixteen kilometres while carrying all the equipment and food required for the trip. Students learned how to effectively pack gear, set up tents, plan and cook meals, treat drinking water and many other wilderness travel and camping skills. Through this experience, students had the opportunity to overcome both physical and mental challenges along with making a connection to nature and our physical surroundings. Students are encouraged to listen to school announcements for future wilderness education and recreation opportunities.





Grade 6 Art

This might look good enough to eat...if you like clay! Artists in grade 6 were challenged to sculpt and paint a holder of some sort, much like a bowl or container. The creative solutions that students came up with were outside the box, or should I say bowl?!





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Grade 7 Art

Artists in grade 7 spent many, many classes creating one-of-a-kind *alebrijes*—sculptures of colourful, whimsical spirit animals that have become an important part of Mexican culture. Students were able to create a single animal or have a combination of creatures to produce a completely unique art piece. The process took students on a journey from brainstorming to building, sculpting with papier mâché, priming with paint, colour blocking, and small patterned details. Phew! As you can see, this was an incredibly successful project!

Aliie B.



Gurnaaz H.



Sophia Z.



Grade 8 Art

Vincent Van Gogh was known for a style called 'impasto' where brushstrokes are thick and tactile, not smooth and blended. He painted the world around him, showing so much beauty and colour, showing no hint of his short and troubled life.

Using nature as inspiration, artists in grade 8 papier machéd their piece before adding all sorts of beautiful colours in that same vibrant, energetic way.



Addisyn J.



Vanessa P.

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Art Club is a monthly lunch time activity where students can make a seasonal craft. So far, we've done spooky lettering, Remembrance Day posters, and winter gnomes. Listen for your grade and time and come on up to the Art room for your make-and-take creation.





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Winter Reading Tips from the Library

Research shows that students who read more become better readers with larger vocabularies. The best way to improve reading skills is to spend time reading! The winter break is a great time for kids to sneak in some extra reading. Even if it's just a few minutes here and there. Some is better than none. Here are a few tips to keep children reading during their time away from school:

- Read with your child. If there is a book your child is interested in that is above their reading level, read it with them. Middle school students love being read to!
- Model reading at home and share what you're reading with your child (fiction or non-fiction.) Ask your child about what they are reading.
- Encourage older children to read to younger children!
- Literacy skills transfer across languages. Many newcomer students want to read in English to develop their English skills. Reading in their first language(s) helps maintain those language skills while continuing to develop literacy skills in ALL languages. Encourage your child to enjoy a book in their first language (Sora has many options, check it out!)
- Visit a public library. The new Transcona Library is a beautiful space! Library cards are free for residents of Winnipeg. Everyone in your family can have their own card. You can sign-up while you're visiting.
- Log-in to Sora for an ebook or an audiobook (download the app or go to www.soraapp.com). Students can access Sora for free with their divisional log-in information. Add your Winnipeg Public Library card to your Sora account for even more options!
- Going for a long drive? Listen to an audiobook in the car as a family!
- Keep it fun! We want children to WANT to read. We want to foster a LOVE of reading. Let children choose, even if it's a book they have read many times before. Graphic novels are very popular right now, so is non-fiction, and audiobooks are a great option as well!

Happy reading!



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New Lunch Schedule

***Starting January 8th**

Grade 6	Eat Inside 11:20 - 11:45 Outside 11:45 - 12:15
Grade 7/8	Outside 11:20 - 11:45 Eat Inside 11:45 - 12:15



Online Safety

RETSD annually provides information to parents on the topic of online safety. Many parents have questions about their children's online behaviors.

Information to help parents protect their children on the internet can be found at:

ProtectKidsOnline.ca

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Winter Music Concert

We are very excited to present our Winter Music Concert to you this year! The students have been working very hard the past few months and cannot wait to share the music they have learned so far!

The concert will be on **Thursday January 18th, 2024**, at **6:00pm in the John W Gunn Gymnasium**. The concert will feature our Drumming Group, School Choir, Grade 7 Band and our Grade 8 Band. We are inviting all friends and family to take in the music!

Doors will open for seating at 5:00pm however students involved will be asked to report to their designated rooms in concert attire (Black tops and bottoms as solid black as possible.) no later than **5:30pm**.

Thank you very much for your continued support for our kids in Drumming, Band and Choir. We hope to see you at the concert!

Sincerely,

Elliz Alvarez

Jorrel Camuyong



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Important Dates

December 22

Early Dismissal

December 23 - January 7

Spring Break

January 8

Classes Resume

January 18

Winter Music Concert

February 2

Co-ordinated Day (No Classes)

February 19

Louis Riel Day

March 14

Student Led Conferences

March 15

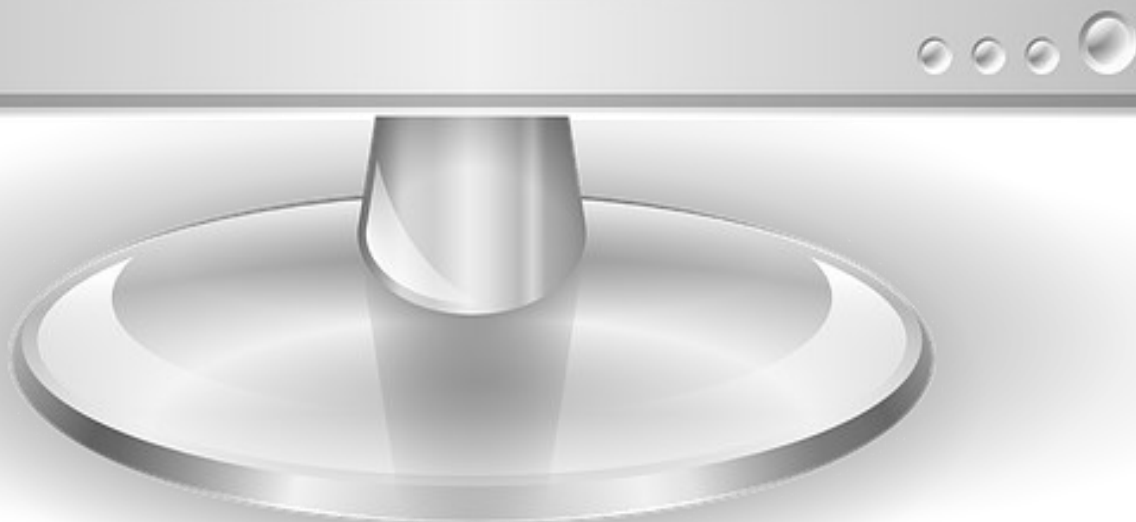
Co-ordinated Day (No Classes)

March 22

Report Cards

March 23 - 31

Spring Break



JWVG SPIRIT WEAR

2023-2024

Wildcats

Est. 1966
John W. Gunn



Available in
all house
colours!



Visit website to order!



<https://www.promoplace.com/JWGSchool>



TIME TO BUNDLE UP!

RETSD Extreme 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 is -35°C and/or wind chill is -45°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.

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 -35°C to -39°C , patrols will remain on post for five minutes. When it is -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 below -34°C , 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.**



Keeping Students Safe & Parents Informed

Did you know? RETSD uses a variety of procedures to keep students safe and parents informed. They help us respond to a situation safely, rather than simply react, and serve as precautionary measures for a number of scenarios—a medical emergency, a student in distress, a hazard in the community, an intruder, a coyote on school grounds, or a police operation taking place nearby.

Lockdown

Lockdowns are a response to situations that arise inside the school and are activated by the police or staff. Exterior and interior doors are locked. Parents are informed by Regroup and with a letter home.

Hold-and-Secure

Hold-and-secures are a response to situations that arise outside the school and are activated by the police or staff. Exterior doors are locked. Parents are informed by Regroup and with a letter home.

Monitored Access

Monitored access is a response to the presence of uninvited guests in the school and is activated by the principal. Exterior doors are locked with staff monitoring access in and out. Parents are informed at the discretion of the principal with a letter home.

Remain in School

Students are required to remain in the school as a response to a potential hazard in the immediate area. Parents are informed at the discretion of the principal with a letter home.

Remain in Classroom

Students are required to remain in the classroom as a response to a sensitive situation taking place in the school. Parents are informed at the discretion of the principal with a letter home.

These procedures are just a handful of the many ways RETSD staff work to provide a safe and caring environment for students and our school communities.

Why Not Give the Gift of Learning?



If you are in search of last minute gift ideas for your loved ones, please visit [RETLife](#) for ideas to thrill all ages!

For the chef in your family:

Kids Can Cook – Cooking Basics Bonanza! (8 – 12 years old) – Thursdays, January 25 – March 14, 2024 – Transcona Collegiate Institute – RETLife

Chocolate Decorations with Don Pattie – (ages 18 and up) – Saturday, February 3, 2024 – Kildonan East Collegiate – RETLife

For the adventurer:

Mastering Lightsaber Martial Arts – Unleash Your Inner Jedi (adults 18+) – Thursdays, January 11 – February 15, 2024 – John W. Gunn Middle School – RETLife

Stay Safe! (ages 9 – 13) – Saturday, January 27, 2024 – College Pierre Elliott Trudeau – RETLife

For the scientist or engineer:

Basic Robot Training With LEGO® – Becoming a Robo Creator (ages 8 – 12) – Saturday, March 16, 2024 – College Miles Macdonell Collegiate – RETLife

Drones for Youth – (ages 10 – 15) Saturday, February 10, 2024 – Emerson School – RETLife

Kids Can Make a Marshmallow Bridge for Apprentice Engineers (ages 8 – 12) – Wednesday, January 31, 2024 – Ecole Regent Park – RETLife

For the nature lover:

Blizzards and Biodiversity: The Transcona Bioreserve Walking Tour with FortWhyte Alive – (16 years and up Families Welcome!) Saturday, January 27, 2024 – RETLife

Discover Owls! (All ages) – Tuesday, March 5, 2024 – Ecole Regent Park School – RETLife

Honk If You Love Safety: Living With Our Goose Neighbours – Wednesday, March 13, 2024 – Ecole Regent Park – RETLife

For the artist:

Creating Beats for Beginners: Crafting Your Signature Sound! (Ages 14 and up) – February 20 – April 16, 2024 (no class on March 26) – McLeod Education Centre – RETLife

The Art of Floral Design: Creating Beauty With Blooms (ages 18 and up) – Tuesday, March 19, 2024 – Chief Peguis Middle School – RETLife

Kids Can Create – Crazy Characters Toy Hacks (ages 6 – 13) – January 20, 2024 – College Miles Macdonell Collegiate – RETLife

For the athlete:

Adult Dance Fitness (18 years and up) – Thursdays, January 18 – February 29, 2024 – College Miles Macdonnell Collegiate – RETLife

Circuit Training (14 and over) – Mondays, January 15 – March 4, 2024 (No classes on February 5 or Louis Riel Day) – Ecole Springfield Heights School – RETLife

NEW LOCATION! Restorative Yin Yoga With Shell Andrea (for adults) – Mondays, January 29 – March 18, 2024 (no class on Louis Riel Day) Lord Wolseley School – RETLife

Looking for more ideas? Visit [RETLife.ca](https://www.retlife.ca) to view more than 50 programs in the River Transcona School Division!

