



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) Ward 1
ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-222-1486

Sheri Irwin Ward 1
sirwin@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-223-5079

Rod Giesbrecht Ward 2
rgiesbrecht@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-661-5984

Sheri Hanson Ward 2
shanson2@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-915-7313

Brianne Goertzen (Vice-Chair) Ward 3
bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-955-6782

Keith Morrison Ward 3
kmorrison@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-795-3357

Brenda Bage Ward 4
bbage@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-221-2951

Susan Olynik Ward 4
solynik@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-661-6440

Shannon Hiebert Ward 5
shiebert@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-771-8435

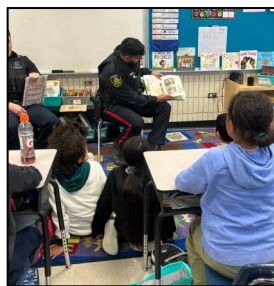
I LOVE TO READ MONTH

February is a wonderful month for reading. We have put a special emphasis on books, reading and writing in all subjects during February.


We have been connecting “I Love to Read” with our schoolwide school plan goal of building student agency. This goal has been made to develop students’ purposes and goals for their own learning.

THANKS TO OUR GUEST READERS DURING “I LOVE TO READ” MONTH!

- ◆ Mr. Andrew Mickelfield, MLA for Rossmere
- ◆ Mr. Matt Wiebe, MLA for Concordia
- ◆ Tyler Magz, Radio Host 103.1 Virgin Radio
- ◆ Kaitlin Thiessen, School Resource Officer
- ◆ Police Officer Meloo
- ◆ Family & friends who work in various fields



Friday, March 17 No School for Students, PD Day
 March 27 - March 31..... No School for Students, Spring Break
 Monday, April 3..... 1st Day of Classes after Spring Break, Day 5


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


Meaning of Home

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S MEANING OF HOME CONTEST

Thank you very much to the 171 students in Grade 4 and 5 at John de Graff School for submitting their writing to this fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity. Each entry raised \$10. All money raised by Manitoba students stays in Manitoba. Grades 4, 5 and 6 students across Canada were invited to submit a poem or essay explaining what home means to them. It's a great way for students to engage in an interactive and fun way, and it teaches youth the importance of safe, affordable housing. Go to [Meaning of Home Student Contest - Habitat for Humanity Canada](#) to find the entries and more about the writing contest.

[Meaning of Home](#)

Grade 4 Meaning of Home Writings

THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME

By Muizat Rm. 7

Home is a place not just filled with walls
But it is a place with lots of love
And it's a place that raised me from young
It's filled with tons of fun

Home is a place that is deserveable for all
It never makes me think I am small
It makes me smile like I am in a dance ball
It makes me think of my grandma's buttered corn

The word home and love are inseparable
Home makes me feel comfortable
Home is not comparable
It makes me think I am honorable

Home has a lot of meanings, but I will only tell you some
Home is awesome, loving, great, amazing, fun, calming, fantastic,
thrilling, cool and entertaining

Home is filled with light
And also, is a delight
It secures me like a knight
It teaches me how to be nice and polite

THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME

WHAT HOME MEANS TO ME

By Liam Rm.21

My home is a place where I can feel safe and comfortable. Home is a place where you can make memories and have fun. Home is a place where you can share your feelings. Home is to protect from sickness and bugs. Home is a place to eat good food you like. Home is a place to share your imagination. Home is a place to share your love. Home is a place where you can make new friends. That is what home means to me!

MEANING OF HOME TO ME

By Daniel Rm. 8

Home is love.
Home is warm.
Home is where we play with family and friends.
Home is where we eat delicious food.
Home is special.
Home is where we share love.
Home is where we sleep.
Home is amazing!
Home has a cozy bed!
Home has loving parents to take care of you.
Home has a cool fireplace.
Home is safe.
Home is the greatest gift given to us.
Home has grandmas.
Home has grandpas.
Home has uncles.
And home has aunties.
Who all care for us.
Home has siblings, older and younger than us.
Home is cool.
Home is special.
That is why home is the best!

WHAT HOME MEANS

By Hargun Rm. 21

H stands for happy memories with your family.
Have a good time with your family.

O stands for open and free. Home is a place where you can feel and be open and free.

M stands for memories. You don't need photo books filled with pictures because your home is made of memories.

E is for everyone in your home like your family. Be thankful you have a family because some people don't.

Your house has a roof and walls, but your home has memories. You can have a lot of houses, but you can only have one home.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S
GRADE 5
MEANING OF HOME CONTEST**

HOME IS A...

By Annalea Rm. 9

Home is a place to feel safe and secure. Home is a place to sing and dance. Home is also a place for family and friends. Home is a wonder. Everyone's home is different and that makes everyone's home special and unique. Home is special to everyone in a different way! Whenever I go into my house, I feel safe, and I feel loved. I'm thankful that I have a home. That's why I think it's important to support Habitat for Humanity so everyone can make a house a home!

Grade 5
Meaning of Home Writings

THE PLACE WHERE I BELONG

By Amelia Rm.10

Home. A safe place to live in, where I can have as much fun as I want. It's a place where I can be myself and no one will ever judge me. It's also a place filled with beautiful memories that I will never forget. No matter the size of my home, I will always love it.

School. A place where I can learn and build up huge friendships that I will never forget. It's also a place where I can dance, laugh, and make memories with my best friends.

Me. A quirky ten-year-old girl who will never forget who she is no matter what happens. This young girl will always love herself, her school, and most importantly her home. There are a lot of places in this world to love, but nothing beats the place where I belong.

My beloved home.

HOME SWEET HOME

By Saakhi Rm 9

If home were a sound, it would be the laughter among families gathered for a celebration.

If home were a touch, it would be a soft weighted blanket on a cold winter night.

If home were a taste, it would be fresh fluffy pancakes with syrup dripping from the edges.

If home were a smell, it would be freshly picked flowers from a garden with roses, tulips and orchids.

If home were a sight, it would be a sunset by a shining lake with families and friends in the distance.

Home is not just bricks layered on top of each other.

It's a shelter from the most thunderous storms. A comforting hug when you get home from a long day.

When you're feeling sick it provides you with a warmth, a bed to lay in and a blanket to cover you.

Thank you, Habitat for Humanity for bringing homes to people who need them!

THE LETTERS OF HOME

By Jade Rm.16

H Stands for happiness and all the good things that happen at home. H stands for honesty and telling the truth.

O Stands for optimism and oddness. Home is a place to be yourself and feel loved.

M Stands for magic and iMagination. It also stands for memories... memories that you have with people you love... memories that last forever.

E Stands for energy and everlasting because of the everlasting love at home.

H.O.M.E. Home is not just a house, there's a difference... a house is built with bricks or stone but a home... is built with feelings and love.

Home is in everyone, even you.

2023 Battle of the Books

Here are the contenders for our 6th Annual John de Graff Battle of the Books!
Which are your top 3 favourites?

The top three books will be purchased for our library. We will announce the
Battle of the Books 2023 winner soon!

2023 Battle of the Books

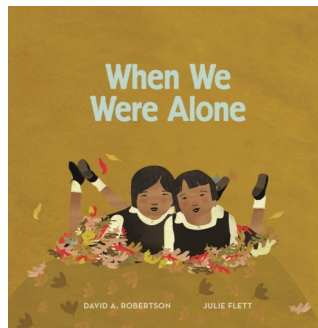


DAVID A. ROBERTSON (he, him, his) BIOGRAPHY

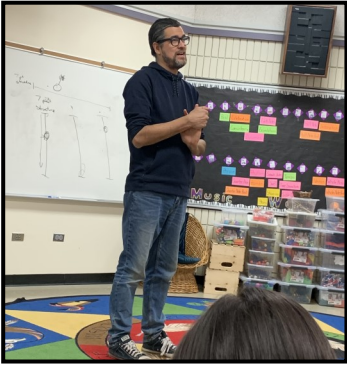
David A. Robertson was the 2021 recipient of the Writers' Union of Canada Freedom to Read Award as well as the Globe and Mail Children's Storyteller of the Year. He is the author of numerous books for young readers including *When We Were Alone*, which won the 2017 Governor General's Literary Award and the McNally Robinson Best Book for Young People Award. *The Barren Grounds*, Book 1 of the middle-grade *The Misewa Saga* series, received a starred review from Kirkus. His memoir, *Black Water: Family, Legacy, and Blood Memory*, was a Globe and Mail and Quill & Quire book of the year in 2020, and won the Alexander Kennedy Isbister Award for Non-Fiction as well as the Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award at the 2020 Manitoba Book Awards. *On The Trapline*, illustrated by Julie Flett, won David's second Governor General's Literary Award, won the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award, and was named one of the best picture books of 2021 by the CCBC, The Horn Book, New York Public Library, Quill & Quire, and *American Indians in Children's Literature*. Dave is the writer and host of the podcast *Kíwew* (Key-Way-Oh), winner of the 2021 RTDNA Praire Region Award for Best Podcast. His first adult fiction novel, *The Theory of Crows*, was published in 2022 and is a national bestseller. He is a member of Norway House Cree Nation and currently lives in Winnipeg.

THE MISEWA SAGA SERIES

OTHER AWARD WINNING BOOKS BY DAVID ROBERTSON IN OUR LIBRARY



The Grade 5 classes were excited to have award winning, Winnipeg author, David A Robertson speak to them on February 2nd. Mr. Robertson told us about *The Misewa Saga* series which each class had read at least the first book from (some classes had finished the second or even all three). He spoke to the students about his process as a writer and stories from his life. It was a great pleasure to have him come and we look forward to the next three books in the series coming soon. We have many of Mr. Robertson's books in our school library.



DAVID A. ROBERTSON

On February 2nd, David Robertson came to visit the Grade 5 classes at John de Graff School! All of us were very excited to go and see him because he is a famous writer and we had read several of his books in our classes. We had many questions about his books and his life as an author. We learned that he had wanted to be an author since he was in elementary school. He started off writing poems and from that point on, he wanted to be a writer. He made many of us think that we could be writers too! He told us about his favorite book which was *On the Trapline*. This was his favourite because it was about the time he spent with his dad.

He also talked a lot about his *Misewa Saga* series. It is a series of books that take place in Winnipeg and the fantasy world of Aski. If you haven't read them, you should, they're great. The series is based on traditional stories and the constellations. We can hardly wait for him to write more and luckily, he is writing more right now! There is also going to be a graphic novel and a tv series. We are so excited for these to come out!

We thought that Mr. Robertson was interesting, kind, and very cool. He even gave us all autographs and some of us received his novels for prizes. We are all thankful for his visit.

Written by Grade 5 students in Room 11





The month of February has flown by in the Music Room!! We have celebrated the musical contributions of the Jackson Five, Diana Ross, Sammy Davis Jr. and Duke Ellington as part of our Black History Month learning. Each of these musicians or musical groups have made a profound impact and contribution to the lives of people across the globe through their innovation and artistry!!!

The grade two classes and the grade two/three combined class have had opportunities to come to the music room during the morning recess to continue developing their musical creativity through Composer's Cafe. Each class has had three recess periods to explore the instruments and create their own melodies and rhythms. Students have composed music alone and/or with their peers.

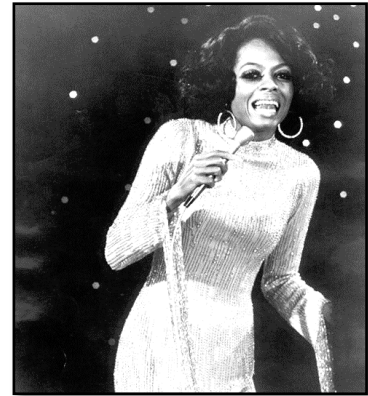
The grade three classes will participate in Composer's Cafe during the month of March.

The grade four and five classes have been learning to play their soprano recorders in Music class. Some of the students have been dropping by during the afternoon recess to continue learning to play their instrument with greater ease and to develop their skills.

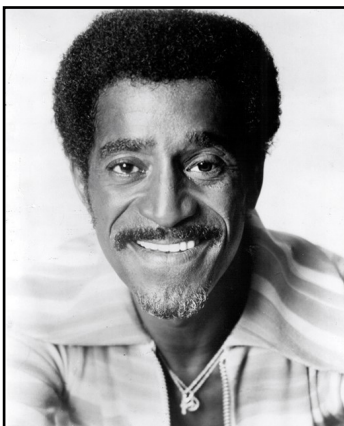
After Spring Break, there will a lunch hour instrumental music experience for Grade Four and Five students. Everyone is welcome!! There will be more details in the March newsletter.



Jackson Five
American Pop Band Honored with star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame



Diana Ross
Singer of The Supremes & received Presidential Metal of Freedom in 2016



Sammy Davis Jr.
Singer, dancer, actor, and comedian
Awarded Grammy Lifetime Achievement



Duke Ellington
Jazz pianist
Awarded the Pulitzer Prize Special Award



On February 17th the students participated in Snow Day. It was a great success! They participated in 10 outdoor winter activity stations and two indoor stations for the entire morning/afternoon. Thank you to Mrs. Nelson's Grade 5 students that helped lead the activities for the day!

Gymnastic club has continued for the month of February for Grade 3, 4 and 5 students. The Grade 4 Club will be participating in the Divisional Tumbling Rally event on March 22nd at Bernie Wolf School. More information will be sent home to the Grade 4 participants about this event.

In March we look forward to participating in a whole-school *play week*, where students will have the opportunity to participate in fun, unstructured play stations in Phys. Ed. classes along with in their classrooms. Free and unstructured play is cognitively stimulating, helps children develop intrinsic interests, solve problems, exert self-control, learn to regulate their emotions and form friendships.

A great video on the decline of play in our culture can be found on [Peter Gray's TEDx video](#).



GIRLS MULTI-SPORT SERIES

Friday, Mar. 17, 2023

**Sport Manitoba
145 Pacific Avenue
Winnipeg, MB**

Sport Manitoba is proud to host the Girls Multi-Sport Series! This FREE series gives girls ages 7-12 of all backgrounds the chance to get active and try multiple different sports they may not have tried before.

Each sport will have instructors leading the way with experience and knowledge specific to their activity, ensuring everyone is learning, staying safe, and having fun!

**Featuring basketball, artistic gymnastics,
football, and baseball!**

Sport
MANITOBA



SPRING SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Watch for information about our upcoming book fair the week of March 16th and 17th during student conference times.



WE WON!

Congratulations to all the battery recyclers at John de Graff! We received an exciting phone call telling us that we came in 2nd place in the fall Call 2 Recycle Battery Blitz! Thanks to our hard work our school will receive \$1000.00 to buy resources for our students. Thank you to the students and staff who went above and beyond to find batteries for us to recycle. Most importantly we are changing behaviour and keeping old batteries out of the landfill. Start saving your batteries for the next Battery Blitz next fall.



HOLD AND SECURE PRACTISE

Our next emergency drill will be a Hold and Secure Practise on Tuesday, March 7th. In this practise everyone in the school remain inside due to a possible threat outside the school.

PATROLS



Our patrols this year, have been a very committed and responsible group. Congratulations to all our John de Graff Patrols who chose to attend the "Patrol Appreciate Day" on Monday, February 20th when the Manitoba Moose took on the Grand Rapids Griffins with their families. We hope you had a great time!!!

Just a reminder: Patrols should always remember to do up their vests and carry their flag when they are on duty.

February has been a very chilly month. Thank-you to all our John de Graff Patrol members. We appreciate your dedication as you have carried out your duties through snow, wind and extremely cold weather. You are awesome!!!

Way to go Team!!!



Dawn and Dusk Before and After School / Kindercare Program

Please email:

waitlist.dawndusk@gmail.com

For all waitlist and registration enquiries:

www.dawnandduskba.com



FESTIVAL DU VOYAGUER

The Grade 4 students attended Festival du Voyageur on Tuesday, February 21st. They had a fantastic day trying new things and seeing all the amazing sculptures at Fort Gibraltar. All of the classes tried their own activities. Some highlights included Indigenous Hoop Dancing and trying a tasty treat at the Sugar Shack. There was also a unique outdoor playground that included a fun snow slide and smaller slides through a tunnel in the snow for a movement break. The sun was shining all day and everyone had a great time experiencing different elements of Indigenous and Francophone culture.





THE MAGICAL FAIRY TALE BALL

We had a fantastic time at the fairy tale ball! It was fun to dress up like our favourite fairy tale characters for the day. We enjoyed playing many games and testing our knowledge with fairy tale trivia. We even planned and built a raft to help the gingerbread man escape from the fox! To end the ball, we danced in the gym. It was a great day and don't worry no one lost a glass slipper!





FAIRY TALE BALL



River East Transcona School Division TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Curtis Basso
Director of Transportation

2057 Camsell Avenue
East St. Paul, Manitoba
R2E 1G2
Telephone: 669-0202

Jeff Baldauf
A/Assistant Director

NOTE TO ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS IN THE RIVER EAST TRANSCONA SCHOOL DIVISION

BUS EVACUATION DRILLS

The Public Schools Act, P250-R.M. 465/88 R - Pupil Instruction, states the following:

"The school board shall ensure that at least twice in each school year each pupil is instructed in safe school bus riding practices and participates in emergency school bus evacuation drills which shall be conducted at least once during the fall term and at least once during the spring term of each school year."

The River East Transcona Transportation Department has an excellent safety record. In maintaining this record, we carry out Bus Evacuation programs in all of our schools in the early fall and late spring of each school year.

These practice drills are carried out so that in the event of an emergency, our students can evacuate the bus as quickly and safely as possible.

The safety of our children is of the utmost importance and must be given first consideration.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Curtis Basso
Director of Transportation

BUS EVACUATION DATES

Tuesday, April 25th KG to Grade 5

Wednesday, April 26th KG only

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration is open for all children born in 2018 in our John de Graff school catchment. This means that your child must have had their fifth birthday on or before December 31, 2023.

John de Graff School is **closed** to “School of Choice” for the 2023-24 school year.

Registration started on Wednesday, March 1st **by appointment only**.

Kindergarten registration forms are available on our school webpage on. You will need to bring the completed registration forms to the registration appointment.

You can call 204-669-1280 to book your appointment. Appointments will run until June 30th.

At the registration appointment, you will need to bring the following:

- ◆ Completed John de Graff School Registration form (1/child)
- ◆ 2 pieces of identification regarding proof of address of parent/guardian (e.g. Driver’s license, Utility Bill, Tenancy Agreement, Offer to Purchase)
- ◆ 1 piece of identification regarding your child’s proof of age (e.g. birth certificate, baptismal certificate, Passport, Treaty Card)
- ◆ In-Division Out of Designated School Boundary form (if applying for another school in the division)

Please pass this information to any neighbours or friends who have children ready for Kindergarten, who do not receive this newsletter due to not having children attending John de Graff School. Thank you for your help.

Please visit our webpage [here](#) we will update it with any changes that may arise.

IN-DIVISION/OUT OF DESIGNATED SCHOOL BOUNDARY Parents/Guardians do have the ability to make a request that their child attend a different school from the one designated by their home address by the school division. In-Division out of Designated School Boundary requests for students living within the River East Transcona School Division will be accepted starting March 1st, 2023. Request forms can be obtained from our school website located under Registrations or at any school in the division; however, parents must hand in the form along with the registration at their designated school. The designated school will then notify the school of choice about the request. Applicants will be notified as to whether or not they have been accepted into the school of choice by June 30th by the school you are requesting.

Please note the Divisional “**Welcome to Kindergarten**” video is on the RETSD website. Please feel free to check the website regularly for any Kindergarten or RETSD information.



NATIONAL PINK DAY - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023 & INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PINK – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023

Both National Pink Shirt Day and The International Day of Pink are days where communities across the country, and across the world, can unite in celebrating diversity and raising awareness to stop all forms of bullying. It is a time when John De Graff School is going to say, “No to Bullying” and “Yes to Kindness” by wearing **PINK, SPREADING KINDNESS AND HAVING CONVERSATIONS WITHIN OUR CLASSROOMS**. This year Grade 5, room #10 is taking charge by promoting kindness in the school.

PINK SHIRT DAY was started in Nova Scotia when two high school students saw a student wearing a pink shirt being bullied. The two students intervened by standing up and getting help and they wanted to do more to prevent bullying. They decided to buy pink shirts, and a few days later got everyone at school to wear pink, standing in solidarity.

The result was that an entire school stopped bullying. Each year, millions of people wear **PINK** to remember that positive actions make a difference and that the change starts with each one of us.

International Day of Pink celebrated on April 12, 2023 was created as a campaign to end bullying. This day aims to make the world more inclusive and diverse. Wearing pink represents acceptance, courage, diversity, equality and inclusivity.

The Grades 3, 4 & 5 students also listened to a Winnipeg Police Service presentation about Bullying and how to stop it and prevent it.

Stay tuned for activities that will take place on the **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PINK** coming up on Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

Thanks in advance for your support!

Be an upstander, not a bystander!

Bullying Stops Here!
Together we can make a difference!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022—2023

MARCH

Monday, March 13 Report Cards Online
Thursday, March 16 Parent Teacher Student (PTS) Conferences, evening 4:00-8:00 p.m.
Friday, March 17 Parent Teacher Student (PTS) Conferences, morning 9:00-11:00 a.m.
No School, Co-ordinated PD Day, p.m.
Tuesday, March 21 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m. *Date Change
Tuesday, March 22 Tumbling Rally at Bernie Wolf School, 6:00 p.m. (Grade 4 Gymnastics)
Thursday, March 23 Hot Lunch
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
Thursday, May 25 KG Open House (6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.). More information will be provided to KG families
Friday, May, 26 KG Open House (10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.). More information will be provided to KG families
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>

OAK HAMMOCK MARSH SPRING CAMP 2023

Join us at Oak Hammock Marsh for spring day camp for kids ages 6-9! We have five fun-filled days planned, so choose one, or choose them all! Each themed day will include crafts, games, outdoor activities, exploring the exhibits in the Harry J. Enns Wetland Discovery Centre, and tons of marsh fun!

- March 27 – Migration Marathon
- March 28 – Happy Habitats
- March 29 – Fun in the Sun
- March 30 – Wonderous Wetlands
- March 31 – Crafty Critters

Our spring day camps are for kids ages 6 to 9 and run from 9 am to 4 pm daily (early drop-off and late pick-up are available upon request). Cost for each camper is \$33 for members, and \$40 for non-members. Let us take care of packing your child's lunch & snacks with our new camp lunch add-on for just \$12! Camp lunch includes a sandwich, drink, chips, something fresh from our café bakery, and fruit.

No substitutions. Please note that we do not have an allergy free kitchen.

Check out our website oakhammockmarsh.ca or to register: <https://www.oakhammockmarsh.ca/plan/camp/>

