

John de Graff 2023 — 2024 February Newsletter

#### JOHN DE GRAFF SCHOOL

1020 Louelda Street Winnipeg, MB R2K 3Z4 204-669-1280 Phone: 204-668-9413 Email: idg@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. 9:00 a.m. School Starts **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

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

Sheri Irwin Ward 1

sirwin@retsd.mb.ca Phone: 204-223-5079

Rod Giesbrecht Ward 2

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Ward 2 Sheri Hanson

shanson2@retsd.mb.ca Phone: 204-915-7313

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Phone: 204-955-6782

Ward 3

Keith Morrison

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#### 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!

- Tyler Magz, Radio Host 103.1 Virgin Radio
- Kaitlin Thiessen, School Resource Officer
- Principal Kai Jacobs from Valley Gardens Middle School
- Nic Demski & Tanner Cadwallader, Winnipeg Blue Bombers
- James Murphy, Retired Winnipeg Blue Bomber & Hall of Famer
- Family & friends who work in various fields



Friday, March 15 ...... No School for Students, PD Day March 25 - March 29...... No School for Students, Spring Break Monday, April 1......1<sup>st</sup> Day of Classes after Spring Break, Day 1



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







### I LOVE TO READ SPECIAL GUEST READERS FROM THE WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS







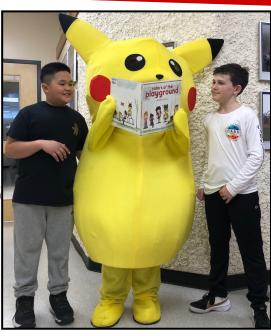
Nic Demski and Tanner Cadwallader

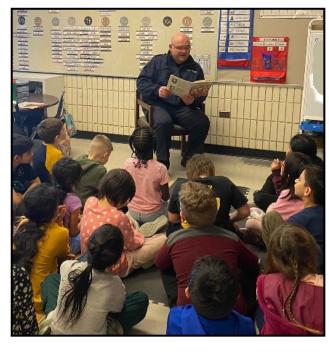


James Murphy
Played for the Blue Bombers 1983-1990



Guest Readers















### **PATROL CELEBRATION**

We want to thank our patrols who have been working hard since September, to ensure the safety of our students and community members. They have been exemplary leaders in the school community. This month we had an opportunity to celebrate our patrols and engaged in some cookie decorating for Valentine's Day.

Thank you for your dedication and making a difference in the community.



#### **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 19<sup>th</sup> when the Manitoba Moose took on the Milwaukee Admirals 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.

Thank-you to all our John de Graff Patrol members. We appreciate your dedication as you have carried out your duties through the rain and snow. You are awesome!!!

Way to go Team!!!

#### **SPRING SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**

Hooray, the Scholastic Book Fair is coming!

Where: John de Graff School Library

When: March 14 & 15, 2024

(coincides with Parent/ Student/ Teacher Conferences)

Why: To raise funds to purchase new books and resources for the

school library, to promote literacy and love of reading!

Please look for more information which will be sent home soon.



Dawn and Dusk Before and After School / Kindercare Program

Please email:

waitlist.dawndusk@gmail.com

For all waitlist and registration enquiries:

www.dawnandduskba.com

### Meaning of Home Thank you very much to the 188 students in Grade 4 and 5 at

#### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S MEANING OF HOME CONTEST

John de Graff School for submitting their writing to this fundraiser

for Habitat for Humanity. Each entry raises \$10—that's \$1,880.00 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.

#### **FAMILY IS HOME**

F is for families that love us.

A is for adventures and going to new places.

**M** is for memories that we make and keep.

I is for imagination and making stories in our heads.

**L** is for listening to each other's stories and getting inspired.

Y is for yellow, the colour of the flowers we grow in the spring.

I is for ideas and being creative.

**S** is for smiling and being happy.

**H** is for happiness that we share every day.

**O** is for opening up and finding new friends.

**M** is for meals that we help cook.

**E** is for eating the wonderful meal we've just made.

By Dahlia

#### **HOME SWEET HOME**

Home is a place where love is found, home is comfort.

Home is a base, our favourite place.

Our beginning and the end of each day.

It is our triumph of glory, that these walls tell us stories.

As they grow up, we do as well.

This is our space, corner is laced.

With the items, we've chosen with care.

From sweet hearted candles to fixture handles the atmosphere just right to share.

So near or so far, where what we are.

No matter where we choose, we'll live and we'll learn.

But we will always return.

And this is what we call home.

Home is not where we should be scared.

Home is where you are proud, where you are happy.

Home means love, comfort and kindness to me.

By Omorinsola

#### MY HOME

My home isn't all alone.

My home has my family with me,

And together we will always be.

Home is where manners are taught,

And our rooms are usually where things are lost.

Food, blankets and tables,

In my home we are able,

To have the things we dream of,

Right beside the ones we love.

When the days fly by,

There we are my family and I.

We sometimes have imaginations of our own,

I had one where I was alone.

But that will never happen, I know.

Because home is a place of love and a place of trust.

I can trust my family,

especially when it's just us.

By Eliana

#### WHAT HOME MEANS TO ME

Home is a place where families are.

Home is a place where I feel warm and cozy.

Home is a place where fun memories are made.

Home is a place where laughter is.

Home is a place where we celebrate new holidays.

Home is a place where joy and happiness are.

Home is a place where I feel comfortable.

Home isn't just living in a house. It is spending time with families.

What does home mean to you?

By Jomi

**Grade 4 Meaning of Home Writings** 

#### WHAT HOME IS TO ME

Home is magical. Home is fun. At home we can play, at home we can run.
Home is my special place, free from harm. Home houses family to hold in our arms.

Home is our sanctuary, the place we belong. Home stays forever, all year long. Home is a caring place to learn and be free. Home is a string that connects everybody.

Home is wonderful, joyous, and snug. At home we can gather for laughter and hugs.

Home is a palace full of love. Home is enchanted, where all are beloved. Home is a blessing, embracing pets and family.

Home is a loving place, and my favorite place to be.

By Simon

#### HOME IS...

Home is a wonder; Home is a blessing. Home may be messy; Home may be smelly. But Home is where you make most of your memories.

Home is where I eat delicious food, that magically lifts my mood. Home is where I eat my mom's cooking. Home is where you go snooping. Home is where my dad stays up until the middle of the night. Home is where my dad has the worst sight.

Home is where my mom struggles to make reservations. Home is where my dad makes home renovations. Home is where my grandma lives. Home is where she babysits. Home is when she calls family every night. Home is where she measures our height.

Home is where my brother and I fight. Home is where we say, "goodnight". Home is where we have ups and downs. Home is where we sometimes frown. Home is where we have family parties. Home is where we hate smarties. Home is where God is with u. Home is where he never looks at us in disgust.

Home is where we have sweet dreams. Home is where we may mislead. Home is where we share love, laughs and tears, but home is where we never fear.

Home is love; home is pride. If I look with my eyes, home love never meets its demise.

By: Naomi

Grade 5 Meaning of Home Writings

#### **MEANING OF HOME!**

Home is magnificent. Home is fantastic. Home is amazing. Home is home.

It's a space where we are protected from harm. It is a place called home.

Sometimes negative feelings storm our way but as branches we can stand strong and let nothing pass our phase.

Ups and downs are part of life but nothing possible without contentment.

Homes are all different in a kind of way. Even if there are too old. They last though summer sun till winter snow.

Home also comes with goodies to taste. My mom's famous curries are a fulfilling taste. Meals are a way family comes together to celebrate and unite as one forever and ever.

Home full of adventures and memories to last for centuries.

Sometimes times are hard, and you might have to leave this elegant place. No matter what the case you will always come back to this radiant place.

Home is remarkable!

Thank you to Habitat of Humanity for giving homes to kids in need. I hope you got a taste of what home means to me!

By Harnoor

#### THE HOME CAN SING

Home is a part of us. It's something we can't let go, as we sit by the TV and watch memories grow.

We listen to the bird's tweet and the doorbell ring, and then your home will start to sing.

Friends and family come together, and we make bonds that get glued forever.

Looking at clouds and gazing at stars,

We tell each other things that warm our hearts.

For all of the people who don't have a home,

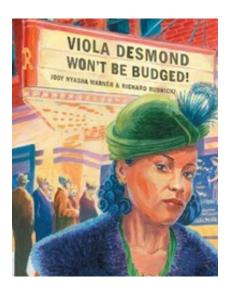
These are the reasons we need to make known.

Not enough money,

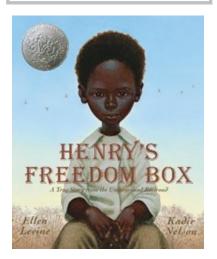
not enough food,
but lots and lots of people can be quite rude.
But it doesn't have to be,
as great as you or me,
for the love that you bring,
The home can sing.
The home can whistle,
The home can bring,
Magic and mysteries,

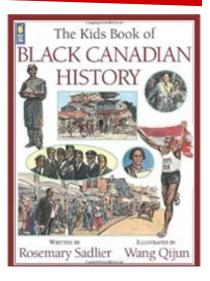
The home can sing.

By Cylas

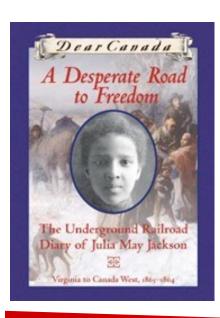


#### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

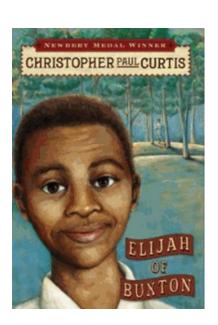




In 1995 the Honourable Jean Augustine introduced the motion to make February, Black History Month in Canada. Many Black Canadians, along side Augustine have played an important role in shaping our country's history. Although such achievements should be recognized year-round, this month is a time to honour the legacy of Black Canadians and think about the many contributions they have made to our country. We have gathered a collection of books and resources to share with our students.



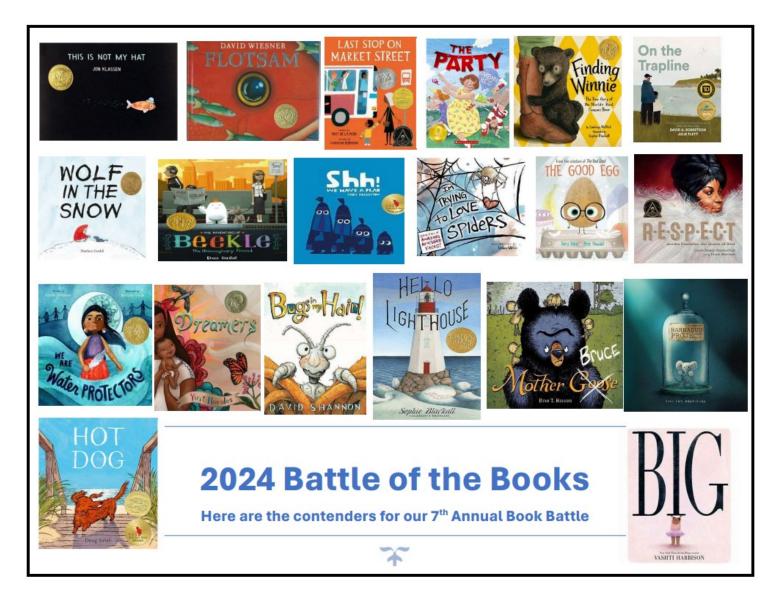




### 2024 Battle of the Books

For the entire month of February, the Grade 3 classes have participated in a daily book battle. This year is our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Battle of the Books and it has been a lot of fun reading and voting on this year's contenders. The criteria for this year is that each book was a picture book found in our library or a nearby library that we could borrow from, the book could not have been a previous winner, and it must have been recognized with a book award. The students have learned about many of the popular book awards in Canada and the United States. Classes will be voting on a winner at the end of the month and our 2024 winners will be announced at a special Grade 3 get together on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

We will keep you posted on the results!



# LEADERSHIP IN GRADE 5

In Grade 5 we talk a lot about leadership, and believe that we are all leaders. We know that leaders have many qualities and characteristics.



Our Grade 5 students are often selected to help with special school events and activities because of the qualities that they demonstrate. This year, all of our Grade 5 students submitted a piece of writing, nominating someone that they think would be a strong leader and student representative on a John de Graff Student Council. Teachers used this information to select a group of 11 students that will meet monthly with administration and teacher teams, and share the voice of students at our school. We are excited to have these voices contribute to our decisions and planning at John de Graff!



#### **BATTERY BLITZ**

The Battery Blitz has started!! The contest runs from February 19<sup>th</sup> - March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please bring in as many batteries as possible to help. Please talk to friends and family to see if they have batteries we can help recycle. We will start sending our boxes in next week. Last year we came in second place in Manitoba and this year we hope for a first place finish.

Earth Rangers will be coming to do an assembly with us on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. We will share how many kgs of batteries we were able to send in at that time. Earth Rangers advocates for the environment with positive actions—and sponsors the battery blitz contest.

Thank you for your help and support with our recycling efforts. A special thank you to all the staff members who have been going out of their way to gather batteries for us over the past few months. Keep those batteries coming! See the link for more information below. Recycle Your Batteries, Canada! Battery Blitz School Mission Contest - Earth Rangers

#### **MANITOBA PRIZES**

#### 1st PLACE:

\$3,000 cash prize for the school

#### 2nd PLACE:

\$2,000 cash prize for the school

#### 3rd PLACE:

\$1,000 cash prize for the school

To date, our school
has 24 boxes of
batteries with a total
weight of:
470.01 kg
(1,036.2 lbs)



Please continue to talk to family and friends.

Keep those batteries coming in.

Thank you!

Plus, any school that exceeds 750 kg will receive a bonus \$150 Visa gift card for a pizza party!





In February students in music focused on building connections between music and daily life, playing instruments, and singing. Students spent class time listening to music and learning to decode meaning from sound. Older students continued work on recorders and many joined Mr. Schroeder in the music room at lunch for Recorder Club. Younger students continued to explore new methods of music making and participated in music games to help build basic understanding of music concepts. Grade 3 students are looking forward to singing songs about reading during their assembly next month.







On February 16<sup>th</sup> 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 Mr. Rofaeil'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 Gymnastic Club will be participating in the divisional Tumbling Rally event on March 19<sup>th</sup> at Bernie Wolfe School. More information will be sent home to the Grade 4 participants about this event. Only the Grade 4 Gymnastics Club will continue for lunch hour practices in March, picking up additional days as needed for finalizing their routines.

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.

















## FESTIVAL du VOYAGEUR





On Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> the Grade 4 students went to Festival du Voyageur. We experienced many aspects of different cultures. We ate the delicious and sticky maple syrup on a stick. We learned about Indigenous drumming and went on a sleigh ride. There were snow sculptures to see and even some made from branches and hay. Some students toured Fort Gibraltar and learning about its interesting history. It was a beautiful day in the sunshine with lots of learning! Heho!









# FESTIVAL du VOYAGEUR







#### DAY OF PINK - WED. FEBRUARY 28, 2024 & INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PINK - WED. APRIL 10, 2024

Both 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 #11 is taking charge by promoting kindness in the school.



#### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024

**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.

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

International Day of Pink celebrated on April 10, 2024, 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.

Please support both Pink Shirt Day and The International Day of Pink by wearing Pink on Wednesday, February 28, and April 10, 2024.

Stay tuned for school wide activities and learning lead by our Grade 5 leaders. Thank you in advance for your support!

A good resource to review is <u>pinkshirtday.ca</u> for parent and caregiver tips on bullying prevention and awareness.



Grade 5 students from Ms. VanAlstyne's class spent time reading books about kindness, friends and not using bullying behaviour to all classrooms in the school.

Well done Grade 5's!

## River East Transcona School Division TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Martin Monette Director of Transportation 2057 Camsell Avenue East St. Paul, Manitoba R2E 1G2 Jeff Baldauf Assistant Director

Telephone: 669-0202 transportation@retsd.mb.ca

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.

Martin Monette

Director of Transportation

**BUS EVACUATION DRILL DATES AT JdG** 

Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> .... Morning only Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> ....... Morning only

#### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration is open for all children born in 2019. This means that your child must have had their fifth birthday on or before December 31, 2024.

John de Graff School is **closed** to "School of Choice" for the 2024-25 school year.

Registration started on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> by appointment only.

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

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

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 (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 <a href="here">here</a> 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  $1^{st}$ , 2024. 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  $30^{th}$  by the school you are requesting entry into .

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.



#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### 2023-2024

MARCH  Monday, March 4KG Registration begins, born 2019, By appointment only  Monday, March 11MYRCA "I Love to Read" Assembly, 10:30 a.m., Hosted by G.3, Families welcome  Monday, March 11Report Cards Online Tuesday, March 12PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14Parent Teacher Student (PTS) Conferences, evening 4:00-8:00 p.m.  Friday, March 15Parent Teacher Student (PTS)	MAY  Monday, May 6
Conferences, a.m. No School, Co-ordinated PD Day, p.m. Tuesday, March 19Gr.4 Tumbling Rally at Bernie Wolfe School Friday, March 22LAST Day of classes before Spring Break Regular Dismissal	Monday, June 24
APRIL  Monday, April 1	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

Please call the school if your child will be absent or leave a message before 9:00 a.m.

Please don't wait for us to call you!

daily:

#### **OAK HAMMOCK MARSH SPRING CAMP 2024**

Wednesday, April 10......Bus Evacuation Drills (Morning only)

Thursday, April 11.....Bus Evacuation Drills (Morning only)
Monday, April 22.....No School, Co-ordinated PD Day

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!



http://retsd.mb.ca/school/jdg/Pages/default.aspx

- March 25 Mysterious Migrators
- March 26 Waking from Winter
- March 27 Happy Habitats
- March 28 Swamp Sleuths

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 \$38 for members, and \$45 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: <a href="https://www.oakhammockmarsh.ca/plan/camp/">https://www.oakhammockmarsh.ca/plan/camp/</a>