



# 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)

**PRINCIPAL**

Mrs. Margaret Fair

**VICE-PRINCIPAL**

Mr. Calvin Moore

**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 (vice-chair)	Ward 1
<a href="mailto:ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca">ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca</a>	
Phone: 204-222-1486	
Jerry Sodomlak (Chair)	Ward 1
<a href="mailto:jsodomlak@retsd.mb.ca">jsodomlak@retsd.mb.ca</a>	
Phone: 204-999-1409	
John Toews	Ward 2
<a href="mailto:jtoews@retsd.mb.ca">jtoews@retsd.mb.ca</a>	
Phone: 204-663-0475	
Rod Giesbrecht	Ward 2
<a href="mailto:rgiesbrecht@retsd.mb.ca">rgiesbrecht@retsd.mb.ca</a>	
Phone: 204-661-5984	
Keith Morrison	Ward 3
<a href="mailto:kmorrison@retsd.mb.ca">kmorrison@retsd.mb.ca</a>	
Phone: 204-795-3357	
Brianne Goertzen	Ward 3
<a href="mailto:bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca">bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca</a>	
Phone: 204-955-6782	
Susan Olynik	Ward 4
<a href="mailto:solynik@retsd.mb.ca">solynik@retsd.mb.ca</a>	
Phone: 204-661-6440	
Peter Kotyk	Ward 4
<a href="mailto:pkoty@retsd.mb.ca">pkoty@retsd.mb.ca</a>	
Phone: 204-668-4181	
Currently Vacant	Ward 5

**MEANING OF HOME**

Our students in Grade 4 & 5 at John de Graff School have an opportunity to extend their chains of kindness. Habitat for Humanity Manitoba, part of a National Non-Profit Organization that works toward providing affordable housing for communities, is having a writing contest where they have asked students to write about “The Meaning of Home”. For each entry submitted Sagen will donate \$10 to Habitat for Humanity. Since 2007, over 80,000 students have participated in the Meaning of Home contest. Thanks to their inspiring words and the support of Habitat for Humanity’s sponsors, this contest has raised over \$1.7 million to build homes across Canada for families in need of safe, decent and affordable housing. The contest runs from January 3<sup>rd</sup> -February 18<sup>th</sup>. Our visits to the site have allowed us to check out the entries that have been submitted across the country. We are excited to watch Manitoba’s numbers climb! We know we are making a difference!

**COVID VACCINATIONS**

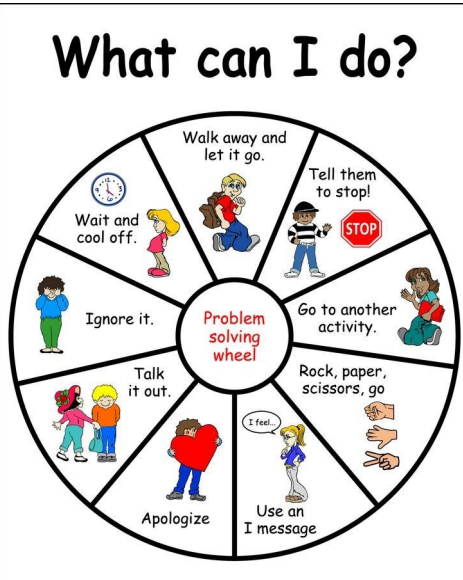
Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Clinic will be held at John de Graff School in the gym on Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> starting in the morning and will be a.m. & p.m.

This clinic is for students 5 - 11 years old for Dose #2 of the COVID vaccine. Parents will need to sign a permission letter to have their child receive this vaccination. These letters went home February 2<sup>nd</sup> and must be returned to school by February 8<sup>th</sup>. The alternative for providing permission is to do an eConsent form available with the link provided in the letter emailed home. Students with permission will go with their classroom to the gym with their teacher. Parents will not be able to come into the school during the clinic.

**Friday, February 4 ..... NO School - Coordinated Day**  
**Monday, February 21 ..... NO School - Louis Riel Day**

## SAFETY AT JOHN DE GRAFF SCHOOL

Daily, we work with students to explain, model and encourage safe & kind behaviour choices. We have a behaviour expectation matrix that we follow as well as a video of what good behaviour is at our school. These expectations are posted throughout the school. Conflict or disagreement between different sides is something that does occur as children learn to play together, cooperate, work on ideas and regulate emotions in many different situations. Everyone must develop strategies to resolve conflicts so that our environment can be calm & peaceful. We are proud of the way our students behave & work on solving problems.



We also include teaching and learning about bullying prevention. Not all conflict is bullying. Bullying involves a power imbalance & is purposely done to hurt or humiliate someone. We have a tool that we are using called our “Problem Solving Wheel” for the question “What can I do?” (as displayed on the left of this page).

If there are times where a problem occurs, we work to have students develop problem solving skills - and we support students to always tell an adult if there is an ongoing or serious concern or any bullying behaviour.

The Office of the Children's Advocate outlines steps to take to stand up to bullying. We use these in our discussions at school.

We also appreciate parent support and feedback, as we want John de Graff School to be a very safe environment for everyone.

### IF YOU ARE BEING BULLIED

- S - Stand up for Yourself**  
*Stand tall (even if you feel small), make eye contact, tell them to stop, walk away*
- A - Ask for Help**  
*Ask a friend or adult to help, keep asking and keep them informed.*
- F - Figure out Your Options**  
*Think of different ways to handle the situation, avoid unsafe situations.*
- E - End it Calmly**  
*Don't listen to what the bully says about you, treat them the way you want to be treated.*

### IF SOMEONE ELSE IS BEING BULLIED

- C - Care About Others**  
*Offer to help, tell the bully to stop, walk away with your friend.*
- A - Tell an Adult**  
*It's important to tell an adult who can help. When a bully is after you or a friend, speak up!*
- R - Reach Out**  
*Check in with your friend often about how they're doing.*
- E - End It**  
*Let them know you are here to help. Be a mentor and a positive influence in your school & community!*

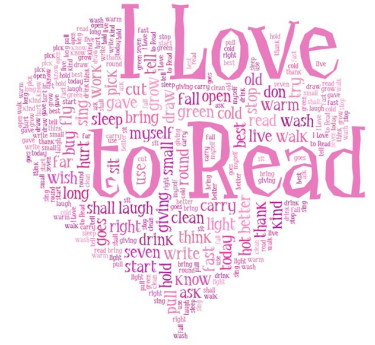
## FEBRUARY IS I LOVE TO READ MONTH!

We look forward to reading favourite books, new books and books by authors that are new to us!

We will be writing and discussing book recommendations to encourage our friends to enjoy the books we love.

We also will be reading:

- ◆ Maps
- ◆ Labelled diagrams
- ◆ Comics
- ◆ Recipes
- ◆ Legends
- ◆ Glossaries & Table of Contents
- ◆ Building instructions
- ◆ Labels & signs throughout the school
- ◆ Bulletin Boards at JdG
- ◆ News information about the Beijing Winter Olympics
- ◆ Myrca books
- ◆ Lists
- ◆ Poetry



Happy Reading!

We have some special days planned for February to go with our reading plans!

- ◇ Word Wednesdays ..... wear clothing with print/positive messages on them
- ◇ Fan Fridays..... wear red/white to show your support for Canadian Athletes at the Beijing Winter Olympics
- ◇ Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup> ..... Pajama Day or Dress up for Valentine's Day (choose what you like best!)
- ◇ Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> .. Pink Shirt Day
- ◇ Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> ..... Dress as a Book Character Day

We hope many staff and students will participate in our February special dress plans.

Keep reading, enjoying and talking about what you read!

## LOCKDOWN PROCEDURES

We practise Lockdown Procedures several times per year as part of our safety preparedness. Our next practise will be on Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> in the morning. Staff explain the drill to students and the drill takes about 5-10 minutes. Students, visitors to the school, family members at school or coming into the school must respond quickly to any directions from staff during this drill. Our drill will be slightly different this year - due to COVID restrictions.

The creation of a culture of safety depends on good planning and communication. If parents have any questions or concerns - they are always invited to contact the school. We will also review "Hold & Secure" expectations with students. This is used if there is a danger outside of the building and we do not let students go outside—or let anyone come inside the school.

Thank you in advance for helping to explain safety procedures at home with your child.

If you need to get in touch with Dawn & Dusk or Kindercare, you can reach the coordinator, Deborah at  
204.654.1594

## VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS - Monday, February 14, 2022

The ideas and goals of caring, compassion, connectedness, friendship are highlighted at school in February, along with the fun of Valentine's Day.

We will be permitting the exchange of cards for Valentine's Day. We will be using the strategies of distancing and hand hygiene (before and after touching shared items).

We would appreciate it if the Valentine cards could be brought to school during the week of February 7 - 11<sup>th</sup> if your child wishes to participate.

Students may also bring in a snack/treat for themselves to eat, but no sharing will be permitted.

Teachers will provide any further information about Valentine classroom events.



## TAB COLLECTION

Thank you for sending in your tabs to help Catie receive her new power wheelchair!  
Please continue collecting so we can forward them to Tabs for Wheelchairs. We emptied just over 3 large recycled water bottles this month to pass on.



## BATTERY BLITZ CHALLENGE

The Battery Blitz has ended, but you can still bring in your used batteries to the school. You can send them with your child or kindly drop them off in the box just inside the front/lobby doors of the school and we will continue to recycle them.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2021 Fall Earth Rangers/Call2Recycle Battery Blitz School Mission Challenge. John de Graff School collected 77 KG of used batteries!





### GREETINGS FROM PHYS. ED.

This month the students will be getting creative with movement in the snow with the focus on basic FUNdamental gymnastics movement patterns. Our gymnastics unit will be outdoors where we will practice different locomotion's, rotations, landings, supports, balances, swings, and springs.

### ESSENTIAL CLOTHING FOR PHYS. ED. THIS MONTH:

- Mittens (no thin gloves please)
- Neck Warmer (essential for windy days)
- Ski pants
- Boots
- Toques



## MUSICAL TYMES

If you walked by the Music Rooms at John de Graff School you would hear singing and instruments playing and observe student led creative movement. We are busy investigating new ways and repertoire to expand our musical abilities while having fun!

Did you know that February is Black History Month? We will be celebrating through music by listening to and observing performances. We will listen to the music of Ellington, Fitzgerald, Knowles, Ross and Hancock just to name a few!!

Musicplay is a music website that we are using at school and one that students can access at home. The student access code can be found in their classroom team site in the Music Choice Board learning. If you have any questions, please message Mrs. Kula or Ms. Schau.

Musically,

Mrs. Kula and Ms. Schau

## NATIONAL PINK DAY - WED. FEBRUARY 23, 2022 & INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PINK – WED. APRIL 13, 2022

The Day of Pink is a day 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 day 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 4/5, room #10 is taking charge by promoting kindness in the school.

The National **DAY OF PINK** 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.

**Please support Day of Pink by wearing Pink on Wednesday, February 23, 2022.**

**Stay tuned for school wide activities and learning lead by our grade 4/5 leaders.**

**Thank you in advance for your support!**



## SCHOOL HOURS

Our school classes start in the morning at 9:00 am.

Our school classes in the afternoon start at 12:45 pm.

Students should be in school - in their classes when school begins both morning and afternoon, as instruction and learning begin promptly.

If your child will be away, please call the school to inform us at 204-669-1280. If your child arrives late - please call the office when you arrive so we can meet your child at the front doors of the school.

If your child is leaving early, please let us know in advance and we will bring your child to the front door to meet you.

Thank you for your continued help with these items.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration is open for all children born in 2017. This means that your child must have had their fifth birthday on or before December 31, 2022.

John de Graff School is **closed** to “School of Choice” for the 2022-23 school year.

Registration will start on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> by appointment only.

Kindergarten registration forms will be available on our school webpage on Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. You will need to bring the completed registration forms to the registration appointment. If you prefer, you can complete the fillable Registration forms and email them to the school prior to your appointment. School email is: [jdg@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:jdg@retsd.mb.ca)

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 [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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022. 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.

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.





### OUR ART PANELS

Our students worked with Annie Bergen, a Winnipeg Muralist and Arts Facilitator.

They are colourful and wonderfully done!

The students painted panels, did applique, collage and 3 dimensional designs. Our school focus is on:

- ◆ Literacy
- ◆ Numeracy
- ◆ STEAM
- ◆ IAA
- ◆ Play
- ◆ Peace

So we made the murals to show these topics!







Art Panels created  
by

our John de Graff  
students  
&



Anne Bergen,

Winnipeg Muralist  
& Art Facilitator



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2021—2022

### FEBRUARY

Friday, February 4 ..... No School - Coordinated PD Day

Monday, February 21..... No School - Louis Riel Day

### MARCH

Monday, March 7..... Kindergarten Registration Begins by Appointment only

Monday, March 14..... Report Cards online

Thursday, March 17 ..... PTS Conferences, evening, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Friday, March 18 ..... No School - Coordinated Day

Friday, March 18 ..... PTS Conferences, a.m. School PD, p.m.

Friday, March 25 ..... LAST Day of classes before Spring Break, Regular Dismissal

### APRIL

Monday, April 4.....1<sup>st</sup> Day of classes after break, Day 6

Friday, April 15 ..... No School, Good Friday

Monday, April 25..... No School - Coordinated PD Day

### MAY

Monday, May 2 ..... Music Monday

Monday, May 23 ..... No School—Victoria Day

### JUNE

Friday, June 24 ..... Grade 5 Farewell, 1:00 p.m.

Monday, June 27 ..... No School, School PD Day

Thursday, June 30 ..... LAST Day of School 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>

### VALLEY GARDENS MIDDLE SCHOOL

This February 7<sup>th</sup> & February 9<sup>th</sup>, the Grade 5 students are seeing a video of Valley Gardens Middle School to prepare them for Grade 6.

They are also having a Team Meeting with Valley Gardens' staff members to ask questions about Grade 6.

Middle Years Applications have been handed out and are due back to John de Graff School by Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup> please.

We will then forward them to the Middle Years School. Please ensure that your child's elective choices are marked #1, #2 and #3 in order of preference and that all signature lines are complete.

A PowerPoint will be posted on the Valley Gardens' website for future students & parents to watch. A question & answer period will occur at their Open House on Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Valley Gardens Middle School is currently closed to School of Choice.

If your Grade 5 child has a different designated Middle School - he/she would have received that school's registration material.