



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


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. Last year was a record-breaking year earning \$311 000. for Habitat for Humanity. We are hoping to break that record this year. The contest runs from January 9th - February 24th. 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!


GLOBAL PLAY DAY

Today, February 1, 2023 is Global Play Day!



All students are spending part of the day playing.
 Unstructured, regular play is important for all children.



Friday, February 3 NO School - Coordinated Day
Monday, February 20 NO School - Louis Riel Day

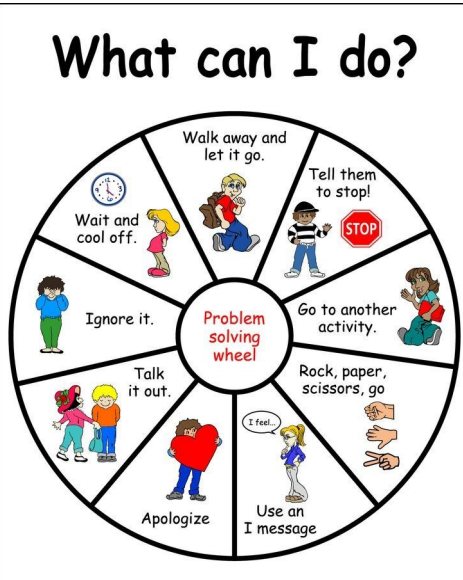


RETSD is on Facebook and Twitter!
 Like and follow us to stay up-to-date on what’s
 happening in the division.

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
- ◆ MYRCA books
- ◆ Lists
- ◆ Poetry



Happy Reading!

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

- ◇ Word Mondays..... wear clothing with print/positive messages on them
- ◇ Theme Day Tuesdays..... Below is a list of Themes for the month of February:
 - ◆ Tuesday, February 7th Be a bright reader - wear neon
 - ◆ Tuesday, February 14th Show your love for reading - wear red & pink
 - ◆ Tuesday, February 21st Slip into a good book - wear slippers & PJ's
 - ◆ Tuesday, February 28th Book character day - dress up as your favourite book character
- ◇ Wednesday, February 22nd.. Pink Shirt Day and reading kindness books
- ◇ Daily..... Student readings during morning announcements
- ◇ Throughout February Welcoming a number of guest readers

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

Keep reading, enjoying and talking about what you read!

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 - Tuesday, February 14, 2023

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

All students may exchange Valentines - but all students must be included.

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.



LOCKDOWN PROCEDURES

We practise Lockdown Procedures several times per year as part of our safety preparedness. Our next practise will be on Tuesday, March 7th 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.

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.

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 - signing in at the office is essential.

Thank you for your continued help with these items.

HARVEST MANITOBA

We received a lovely "Thank-you" letter from Harvest Manitoba for our support of the holiday season food collection.

Your generous donations truly helped those in need across Manitoba!

We raised **930 lbs of food!**

This is equivalent to **1190 meals** for Manitobans!

Our community is an amazing and generous group of people!

Thank-you!





Students have been working on basketball skills in January and will be moving into gymnastic skills next. The Grade 4's and 5's had an opportunity to participate in a basketball lunch club for a couple of weeks.





Our next lunch club, gymnastics skills, started on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 and will be continuing until the end of February.

Please encourage your child to attend!

Please make sure your child is dressed to play in the snow as some Physical Education classes will be outside in February.

We are also planning to have a Snow Day on February 17th (alternate date February 24th).

This day will have stations/activities for students to rotate through outside.

ESSENTIAL CLOTHING FOR PHYS. ED THIS MONTH:

Mittens (no thin gloves please)

Neck Warmer (essential for windy days)

Ski pants

Boots

Toques

INTRAMURALS

Held during the Lunch Hour
(see schedule below)

January 24th to the end of February

| Intramurals | Mondays | Tuesdays | Wednesdays | Thursdays |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 11:45 am to 12:15 pm | Grade 5 Tumbling Rally Club | Grade 4 Tumbling Rally Club | Grade 4 Tumbling Rally Club | Grade 3 Gymnastics Club |

PULL APART DAY



On January 25th Grade 1 Room 17 had Take Apart Day. We have been studying Objects and Materials in Science. We explored characteristics of materials as well as how materials are joined to make objects. We noticed that many objects are made out of plastic even though they have different functions. We worked cooperatively in groups and had to persevere and solve problems that came up as we worked. Thank you to the volunteers that made this day possible!





MUSICAL Tymes

Our Music Rooms are hopping with the wonderful sights and sounds of composers using their sense of curiosity and wonder to create, revise/rethink, and present their works!!

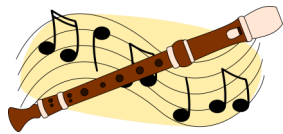
The Kindergarten students are using fruit to create their own rhythmic compositions.

The Grade One students are learning about the instruments of the orchestra through listening experiences with the children's musical fairy tale, *Peter and the Wolf*, by Sergei Prokofiev.

The Grade Two and Three students during the months of January, February and March are making Music during the morning recess in the Music Room. Each class is invited to spend 3 recesses playing instruments with learned or student created melodies and/or rhythms. After Spring Break the Grade Four and Five students will be invited to come on down and make their own music!

Grade Four and Five students are using major, minor and pentatonic scales to improvise melodies on the barred instruments. They are learning about the art of improvisation through the study of listening to and performing jazz.

Musically Speaking,
Ms. Schau and Mrs. Kula



NATIONAL PINK SHIRT DAY - WED. FEBRUARY 22, 2023 & INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PINK – WED. 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.

Please support both **Pink Shirt Day and The International Day of Pink** by wearing Pink on:

- * **Wednesday, February 22nd** and
- * **Wednesday, April 12th**

Stay tuned for school wide activities and learning lead by our **Grade 5 Leaders**.

Thank you in advance for your support!

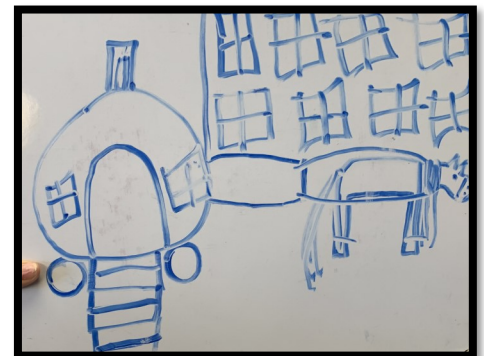
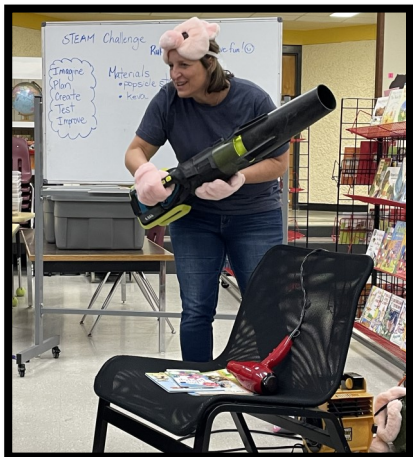
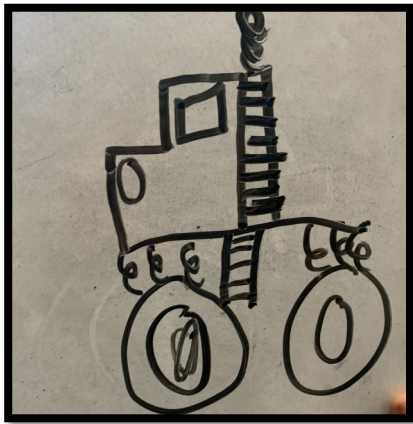


FAIRYTALES



The Grade 2's and the 2/3 class have been learning about the Fiction genre: Fairy Tales. They have read numerous versions of the same tale, read version from around the world, and compared the key elements of the story. We have learned new vocabulary and talked about different illustrating styles that make each version different than the others. After reading Cinderella, the students had an opportunity to sketch a vehicle they would want to take them to the ball. We shared many creative ideas. As a STEAM challenge we did a Huff & Puff Challenge to see if our 'stick' structure could stand up to the Big Bad Wolf. We tested our structures using a blow dryer, large fan, and a leaf blower. We had a ton of fun! The classes have created puppets of a favourite character and we are now using the green screen and the Doink app to put each one into their story. Our fairy tale fun will continue for a few more weeks and we end with a Fairy Tale Ball near the end of February.

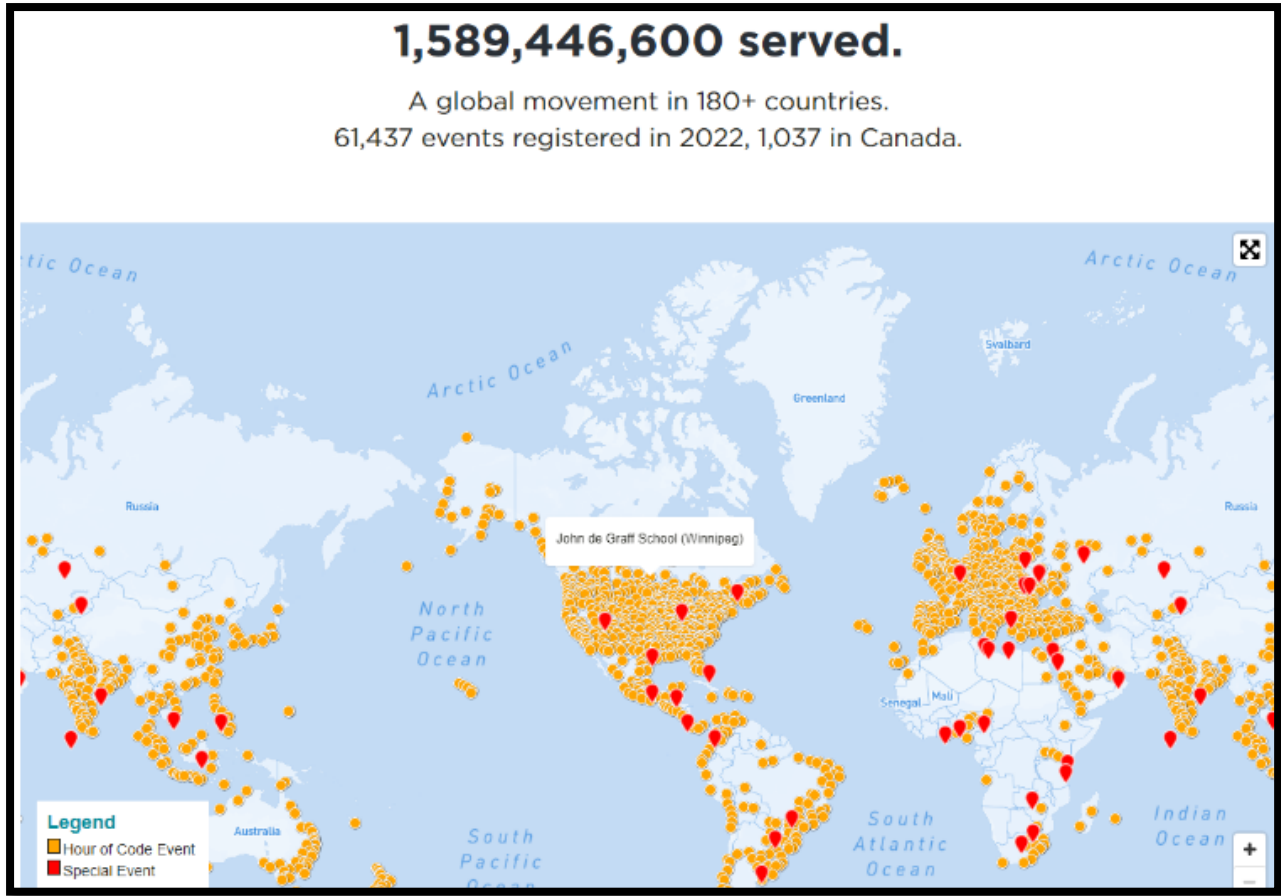
We love to read at John de Graff!!



HOUR OF CODE

1,589,446,600 served.

A global movement in 180+ countries.
61,437 events registered in 2022, 1,037 in Canada.





HOUR OF CODE

HOUR OF CODE FUN

With technology changing every industry on the planet, computing knowledge has become part of a well-rounded skill set. But just half of all schools offer computer science! “The Good News” is, we’re on our way to change this. If you've heard about the Hour of Code, you might know that it has made history. More than 100 million students have now discovered how accessible and fun computer science can be by doing just one Hour of Code.

It was fantastic taking part in our 8th Annual Hour of Code event at John de Graff School. This year we were able to have our learning buddies help our youngest students learn directional keys to write code in Kodable and the older grades applied their block coding skills to our Dash & Dot robots and our newest robots, Talebots. The students in Grade 2-5 tried programs to teach block coding designed by code.org and Scratch.



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 will start on Wednesday, March 1st **by appointment only**. Appointments can be scheduled starting Tuesday, February 21st.

Kindergarten registration forms will be available on our school webpage on Monday, February 27th. You will need to bring the completed registration forms to the registration appointment. If you prefer, you can complete the registration forms and email them to the school prior to your appointment. The school email is jdg@retsd.mb.ca.

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.



VALLEY GARDENS MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADE 6 OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Starting at 6:00 PM

220 Antrim Road

Phone: 204.668.6249

Email: VG@RETSD.MB.CA

Mr. K. Jacob

Principal

Mr. C. Dasch

Vice Principal

All This And So Much More:

Grade 6 DENS
Five Grade 6 Classes
Lunch Cart

Wood Shop
Graphics Art Lab
Home Economics



Concern Protocol

Your child's school will always try to make the learning experience a positive, safe and happy one for its students.

However, if you have a concern or an issue, please don't hesitate to let the school know. Open communication between home and school is very important to us.

1

Talk to the person most directly involved—your child's teacher. If you must leave a message, provide a day and evening phone number where the teacher can reach you.



2

If talking to the teacher doesn't resolve the issue, talk to the principal.



3

If you've talked to the principal, but the issue has not been resolved over a period of time, call the superintendent's department at 204.667.7130 or email communications@retsd.mb.ca.



4

If you disagree with the decision of the superintendent's department, you can make an appeal in writing to the board of trustees.



For more information:
Policy KE – Concern Protocol
Policy KE-R – Concerns and Complaints Process
retsd.mb.ca


River East Transcona
SCHOOL DIVISION
creating student success



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.

Take it Slow in Ice & Snow

A Message from Curtis Basso, Director of Transportation



Winter driving conditions are here, and roads are not always clear!

The snow looks like it's here to stay. Remember roads may be slippery with ice hidden under the new snow. These conditions can make stopping or turning difficult at stops, intersections, and corners, so please be cautious when you see our school buses.

We may be stopping at any moment for children!

Remember—we are carrying precious cargo.

So, please adjust your driving to suit the conditions, especially when you see one of our many buses on your commute—keep your eyes peeled for their stop signs and our students. The piles of snow that line streets can make for tempting hills to climb, so parents, please talk to your children about the danger of slipping into traffic and advise them to stay on the sidewalk.

And drivers, be especially alert when driving near schools. Student safety is all our responsibility. Take it slow, and we will all get to where we need to be, safely.



Follow us on Twitter

 @RETSDtransport


River East Transcona
SCHOOL DIVISION
creating student success



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2022—2023

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 3..... No School, Co-ordinated PD Day
Friday, February 17..... Snow Day
Monday, February 20 No School, Louis Riel Day
Tuesday, February 21 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Friday, February 24..... Snow Day (alternate date)

MARCH

Wednesday, March 1..... KG Registration begins, by appointment only
Monday, March 13 Report Cards Online
Tuesday, March 14 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
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.
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 {evening}. More information will be provided to KG families
Friday, May, 26..... KG Open House (daytime). 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/>

