



# 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)

**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 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](mailto:ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca)  
 Phone: 204-222-1486

Sheri Irwin Ward 1  
[sirwin@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:sirwin@retsd.mb.ca)  
 Phone: 204-223-5079

Rod Giesbrecht Ward 2  
[rgiesbrecht@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:rgiesbrecht@retsd.mb.ca)  
 Phone: 204-661-5984

Sheri Hanson Ward 2  
[shanson2@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:shanson2@retsd.mb.ca)  
 Phone: 204-915-7313

Brianne Goertzen Ward 3  
[bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca)  
 Phone: 204-955-6782

Keith Morrison Ward 3  
[kmorrison@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:kmorrison@retsd.mb.ca)  
 Phone: 204-795-3357

Brenda Bage Ward 4  
[bbage@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:bbage@retsd.mb.ca)  
 Phone: 204-221-2951

Susan Olynyk (Vice-Chair) Ward 4  
[solynik@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:solynik@retsd.mb.ca)  
 Phone: 204-661-6440

Shannon Hiebert Ward 5  
[shiebert@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:shiebert@retsd.mb.ca)  
 Phone: 204-771-8435

**MEANING OF HOME**

The students in Grade 4 and 5 are working on their pieces for the Habitat for Humanity fundraiser, The Meaning of Home. Students across Canada in grades 4-6 are invited to submit a piece of writing sharing what **home** means to them. Each entry raises \$10 for the local Habitat for Humanity. We have more than 200 eligible students in our school and we are hoping to raise at least \$2000. Last year one of our students, Simon, was a runner-up in the grade 4 category, raising an additional \$10 000 for our local Habitat for Humanity. It would be incredible if we had a student place among the winners again this year. Our students can extend an act of kindness to others through this contest. John de Graff students have participated in The Meaning of Home contest for many years and raised thousands of dollars.


For more information visit <https://meaningofhome.ca/>

**TAB RECYCLING**

Our John de Graff community are remarkable recyclers! The response to our call for tab recycling has exceeded our expectations and we have boxed up the tabs we have so far to deliver to the collection site. (Thank you to the students in Mrs. Peltz class for helping box the tabs). The tabs are collected for Kylie, the little girl who will receive a wheelchair this year. Please keep sending in your tabs. We are making a difference!





**Friday, February 2 ..... NO School - Coordinated Day**  
**Monday, February 5 ..... PAC Pizza Fundraiser due**  
**Wednesday, February 7..... Grade 4 "Meaning of Home" Assembly, 1:00 p.m.**  
**Families are welcome**  
**Monday, February 19 ..... NO School - Louis Riel Day**  
**Thursday, February 22..... PAC Pizza Fundraiser Order Pick-up Day**



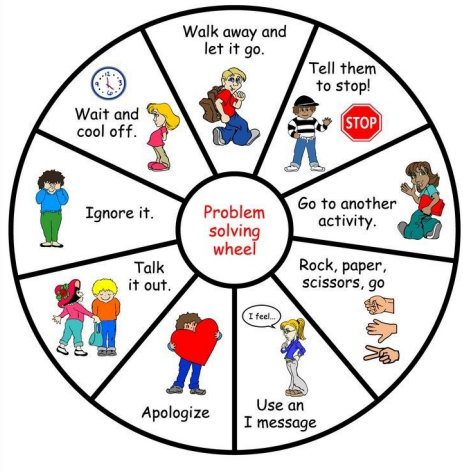
*RETSD is on Facebook and Twitter!*

*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!*

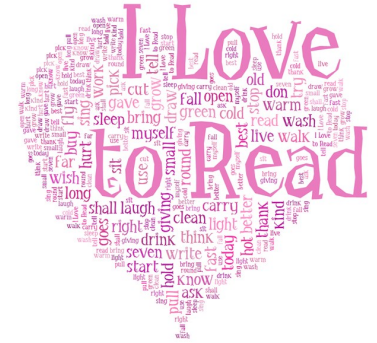
## FEBRUARY IS I LOVE TO READ MONTH!

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



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

- ◆ Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup> ..... “Be a bright reader” - **wear neon**
- ◆ Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> ..... “Slip into a good book” - **wear slippers & comfy clothes/PJ’s**
- ◆ Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> ..... “Show your love for reading” - **wear red & pink**
- ◆ Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> ..... “Book character day” - **dress up as your favourite book character**

We will also be welcoming a number of guest readers throughout this special month.

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

Keep reading, enjoying and talking about what you read!

Happy reading.



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 - Wednesday, February 14, 2024

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 February 27 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. We will have a Hold & Secure practise on February 27 in the morning.

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

## Welcome back to another year of RETLife programming in the River East Transcona School Division!

Space is still available for most of *over 50 exciting programs being offered* by [RETLife](#) this winter, including:

### FOR KIDS

[Stay Safe](#)

[Basic Robot Training with Lego](#)

[Recreational Dancing for Pre-teens and Youth](#)

[Creating Beats for Beginners](#)

[Creating Crazy Characters Toy Hacks](#)

[Stay Safe](#)

### FOR EVERYONE

[Blizzards and Biodiversity – Winter Walk of the Transcona Bioreserve with FortWhyte Alive!](#)

[Discover Owls](#)

[Honk if You Love Safety: Living With Our Goose Neighbours](#)

### FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

[Emergency First Aid and CPR](#)

[Food Safe Handlers](#)

We look forward to seeing you soon!



# Keeping Students Safe & Parents Informed

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

## **Lockdown**

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

## **Hold-and-Secure**

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

## **Monitored Access**

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

## **Remain in School**

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

## **Remain in Classroom**

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

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

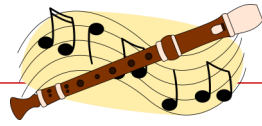


### MESSY MATH

On December 21<sup>st</sup> all the Grade 1's and Ms. Boutang's Grade 4 class went outside for some math activities. We showed them the school yard on Google Earth and talked about ways we could measure the soccer field.

We even used our bodies to measure the soccer field and discovered it is 79 Grade 1's long!





MUSIC NEWS

During January & February 2024, students at John de Graff will participate in a focus on instruments during their music classes.

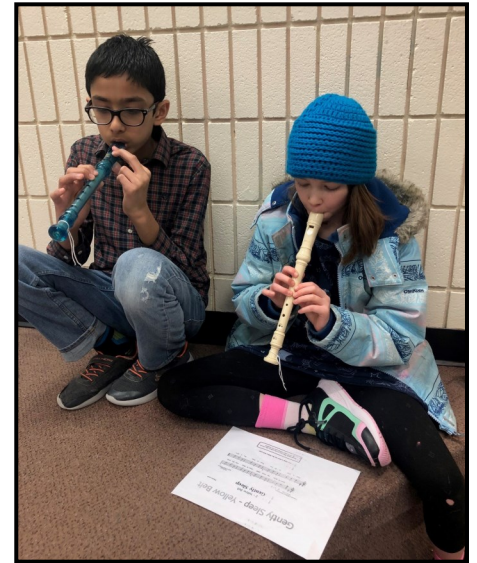
Our kindergarten students have the exciting opportunity to play on **boom whackers** and are learning to incorporate new **non-pitched percussion** instruments into their singing and musical practice.

Our Grades 1-3 will focus on extending their learning onto barred "Orff" instruments and will enrich their vocal practise with new sounds and games.

Our Grades 4 & 5 have begun work on recorders. Recorders present an exciting shift to more traditional instrument work including, note reading, and improvisation.

Our Grades 4 & 5 have also begun their work in "Recorder Karate", a lunch hour club which helps students progress through a series of recorder playing challenges.

The months leading up to spring break will be filled with new challenges and fun musical experiences.





We hope your New Year is off to a great start. A new year often signifies a fresh start for many people. We hope you were able to think about setting some New Years resolutions with your family for a healthy 2024!

This month the students will be focusing on basic FUNdamental gymnastics movement patterns. Students will be practising different locomotion’s, rotations, landings, supports, balances, swings, and springs.

We have started Lunch Hour Clubs again for Grades 3-5 students. The Grade 4’s will be preparing for a divisional Tumbling Rally event in March. More information will be sent home regarding this event at a later date.

We are also planning to have a Snow Day on February 9<sup>th</sup> (alternate date February 16<sup>th</sup>). This day will have stations/activities for students to rotate through outside.

**INTRAMURALS**  
Held during the Lunch Hour  
(see schedule below)  
**January 22<sup>nd</sup>—February 29<sup>th</sup>**

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





**BASKETBALL  
IN  
GYM CLASS**



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

Both Day of Pink 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

**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.

### 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 [pinkshirtday.ca](http://pinkshirtday.ca) for parent and caregiver tips on bullying prevention and awareness.

## PAC FUNDRAISER—“KITCHEN NORTH FROZEN PIZZA”

Kitchen North uses locally sourced Bothwell cheese, Old Country Meats and Peak of the Market produce to create it’s delicious, restaurant-quality pizza.

Order forms have gone home and are **due Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**. Please ensure your orders match the amount of money collected.

Orders will be available for pick-up after school at John de Graff School on **Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

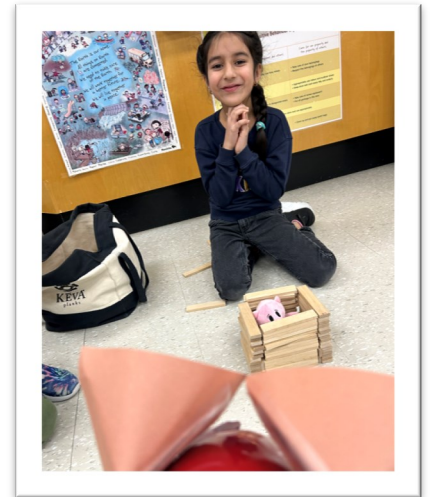
More information about the pick-up times and location will be emailed to you closer to when they will be available. Please watch your email for pick-up details.

Thank you for supporting the fundraiser, it is greatly appreciated.

PAC



# GRADE 2 FAIRYTALE BALL



The Annual Grade 2 Fairytale Ball took place on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. It was a magical day in our Kingdom. The students have been learning about the genre of fairytales, comparing different versions of the same story from around the world.

They completed STEAM challenges, played games about elements of the stories, did coding, and more. The Fairytale Ball was a fun event to celebrate all that we had learned over the past few months.



HUFF & PUFF CHALLENGE

# GRADE 2 FAIRYTALE BALL



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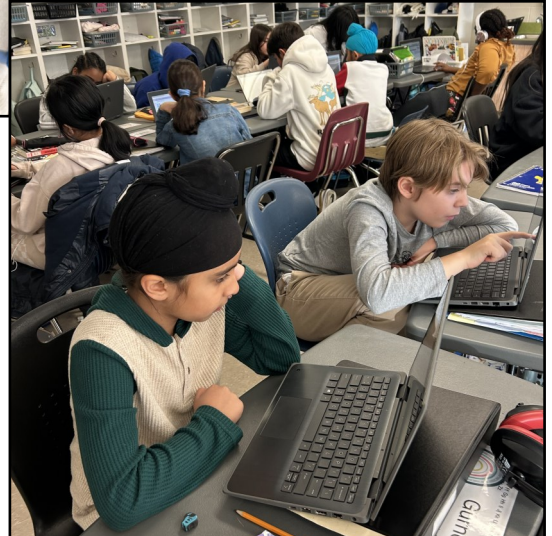
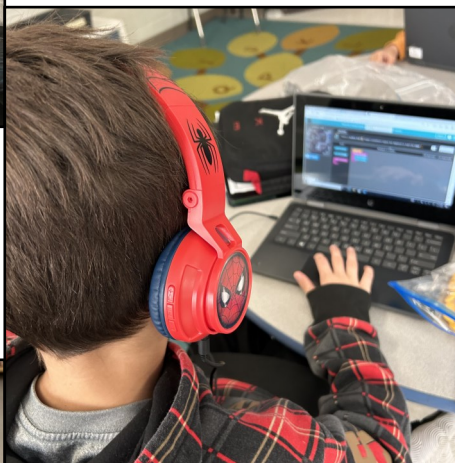
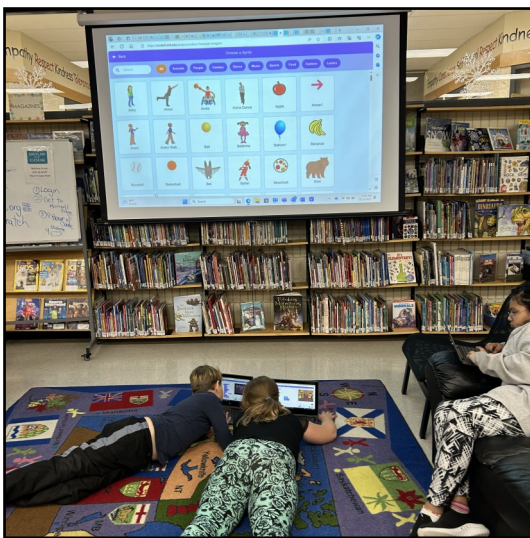


Our Grade 1 - 5 students were part of the International Hour of Code event in December. We know the importance of computer science skills and are proud to introduce computer coding to our students from the beginning of their educational journey.

Our Grade 1 and 2 classes had a guest come from the University of Manitoba WISE program to teach them how to use directionality arrows to code mice moving through a maze. The students were amazing coders and had a lot of fun.

Our Grade 3 - 5 classes logged into Hour of Code activities and further developed their block coding skills. The skill development and positive attitudes towards the challenge were incredible.

Congratulations to our incredible students here at John de Graff!



## 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 will start on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> **by appointment only**.

Kindergarten registration forms will be available on our school webpage on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. You will need to bring the completed registration form(s) to the registration appointment. If you prefer, you can complete the Registration form(s) 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.





# 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](mailto: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](http://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.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023—2024

### FEBRUARY

- Friday, February 2 ..... No School, Co-ordinated PD Day  
Monday, February 5 ..... PAC Pizza Fundraiser Orders Due  
Wednesday, February 7 ..... Gr. 4 “Meaning of Home” Assembly,  
1:00 p.m., Families are welcome  
Friday, February 9 ..... JdG Snow Day. Dress Warm. Events will  
be outdoors  
Tuesday, February 13 ..... PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, February 15 ..... Valley Gardens Open House, Come & Go  
6:00—7:30 p.m. for Gr.6 in the fall  
Friday, February 16 ..... JdG Snow Day (alternate date). Dress  
warm. Events will be outdoors  
Monday, February 19 ..... No School, Louis Riel Day  
Thursday, February 22 ..... PAC Pizza Fundraiser Order Pick-Up Day  
Tuesday, February 27 ..... Lockdown & Hold & Secure Practises ,  
in the morning

### MARCH

- Monday, March 4 ..... KG Registration begins, born 2019  
Monday, March 11 ..... Report Cards Online  
Tuesday, March 12 ..... PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, March 14 ..... Parent Teacher Student (PTS)  
Conferences, evening 4:00-8:00 p.m.  
Friday, March 15 ..... Parent Teacher Student (PTS)  
Conferences, a.m.  
No School, Co-ordinated PD Day, p.m.  
Friday, March 22 ..... LAST Day of classes before Spring Break  
Regular Dismissal

### APRIL

- Monday, April 1 ..... 1<sup>st</sup> Day of classes after break, Day 1  
Earth Rangers Assembly, 9:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, April 9 ..... PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 10 ..... Bus Evacuation Drills (KG - Grade 5)  
Thursday, April 11 ..... Bus Evacuation Drill (KG only)  
Monday, April 22 ..... No School, Co-ordinated PD Day

### MAY

- Monday, May 6 ..... Music Monday  
Tuesday, May 14 ..... PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Monday, May 20 ..... No School, Victoria Day  
Thursday, May 30 ..... KG Open House (6:00-7:00 p.m.). More  
Information will be provided to KG  
Families.

### JUNE

- Friday, June 7 ..... No School, Co-ordinated PD Day  
Tuesday, June 11 ..... PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Friday, June 21 ..... Grade 5 Farewell  
Monday, June 24 ..... No School, School PD Day  
Friday, June 28 ..... LAST Day of classes 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>

### 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, it is important to 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.