

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER



John W. Gunn Middle School
351 Harold Ave W
Winnipeg, MB R2C 2C9

Phone (204) 958-6500 Fax (204) 222-4967
jwg@retsd.mb.ca

Your River East Transcona School Division Trustees

Ward 1

Colleen Carswell (chair)
204.222.1486
ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca

Sheri Irwin
204.223.5079
sirwin@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 2

Rod Giesbrecht
204.661.5984
rgiesbrecht@retsd.mb.ca

Sheri Hanson
204.915.7313
shanson2@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 3

Brianne Goertzen (vice-chair)
204.955.6782
bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca

Keith Morrison
204.795.3357
kmorrison@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 4

Susan Olynik
204.661.6440
solynik@retsd.mb.ca

Brenda Bage
204.221.2951
bbage@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 5

Shannon Hiebert
204.771.8435
shiebert@retsd.mb.ca



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January 2025

Winter Edition

Happy New Year to all our wonderful students, families, and staff! I hope that you had a restful holiday season, and that you are ready for the exciting opportunities that the new year brings.

As we step into 2025, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks for your continued support and collaboration throughout the school year. Your involvement plays a vital role in ensuring our students succeed. Together, we are creating an environment where everyone can grow academically, socially, and personally.

Looking ahead, we have many exciting plans at John W. Gunn in 2025. We are proud to offer a wide variety of programs, clubs, and extracurricular activities that will give students the opportunity to explore new interests, challenge themselves, and build lasting connections with their peers. Whether it's in the classroom, in the gym, or in creative endeavors, there are countless ways for students to thrive.

In addition, we are thrilled to welcome new staff and students to our school community. The energy, passion, and fresh perspectives they bring will undoubtedly enhance the experiences we share throughout the year.

Thank you once again for being an integral part of our school's success. We look forward to continuing to work together to support every student in reaching their fullest potential. Let's make 2025 a year full of growth, achievement, and lasting memories!

Warm Regards,

Ryan Francis

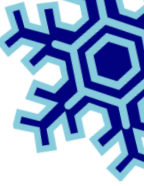
Principal

River East Transcona School Division: Administration Office

589 Roch Street, Winnipeg, MB R2K 2P7 Telephone: (204) 667-7130



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Moving? Already Moved?

If your contact information has changed, don't forget to let us know!

Sick? Late? Vacation?

If your student is sick, late or going to be away please notify the office by calling (204)958-6500. If there is no answer, please leave a voicemail with your students name, teacher and date.

Stay up to Date

Remember to check out the John W. Gunn website on a regular basis for updates and important school information.

ww.retsd.mb.ca/jwg

You can also follow us on



twitter.com/jwg_RETSD

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Middle School Sports Spotlight:

Celebrating Volleyball Success and Anticipating Basketball Greatness!

What an incredible volleyball season we've had at John W. Gunn! A huge congratulations to all of our players and coaches for their dedication, hard work, and teamwork throughout the season. From countless hours of practice to thrilling games, you've made us all proud. A special shoutout goes to our Tier One volleyball players, who went above and beyond by mentoring our Grade 6 players during their volleyball club season—an inspiring example of leadership and school spirit!

We also want to recognize everyone who helped make our home volleyball tournament a resounding success. The energy, organization, and support from our school community truly made it an event to remember.

As we transition into basketball season, the excitement continues to grow. Thank you to all the players who came out for our basketball ID camps—we had an amazing turnout! Practice schedules will be available soon, with the season officially kicking off in mid-January. Keep an eye on the **John W. Gunn school website** for updates and announcements.

Here's to another fantastic season of teamwork, growth, and school pride!

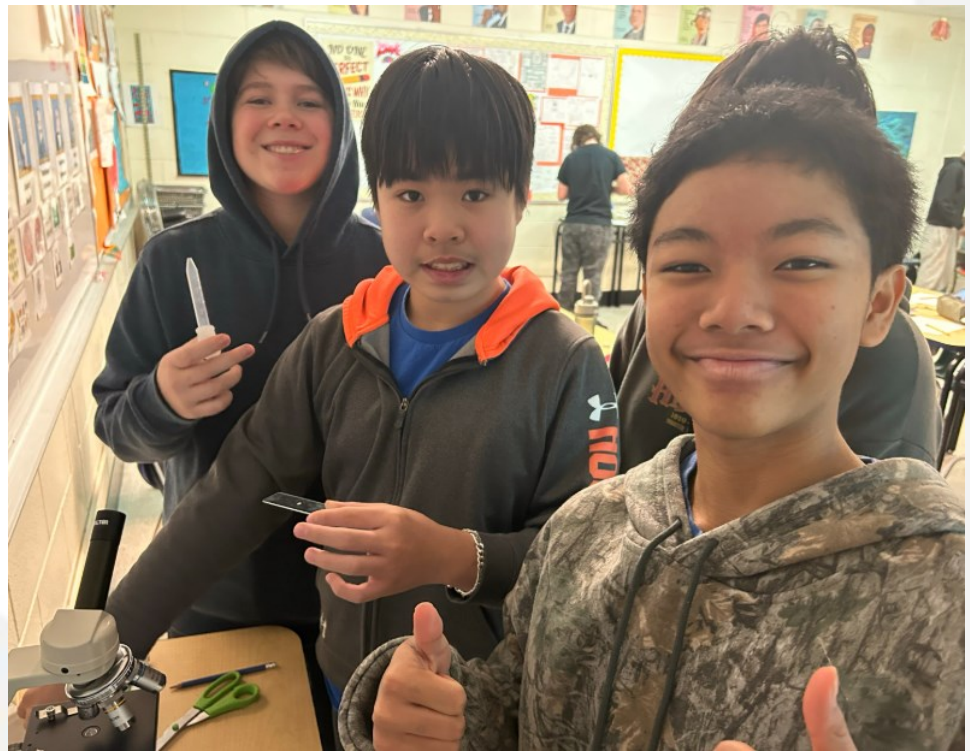
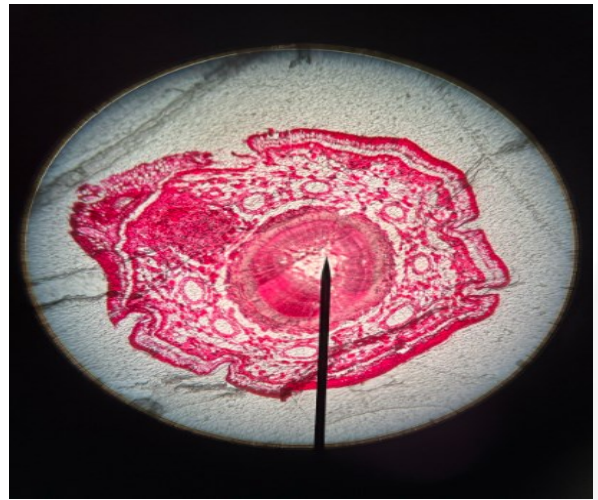


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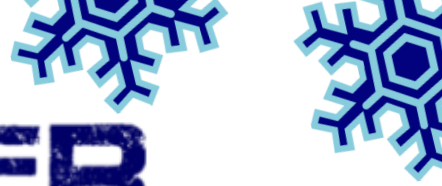
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8AB Working with MICROSCOPES





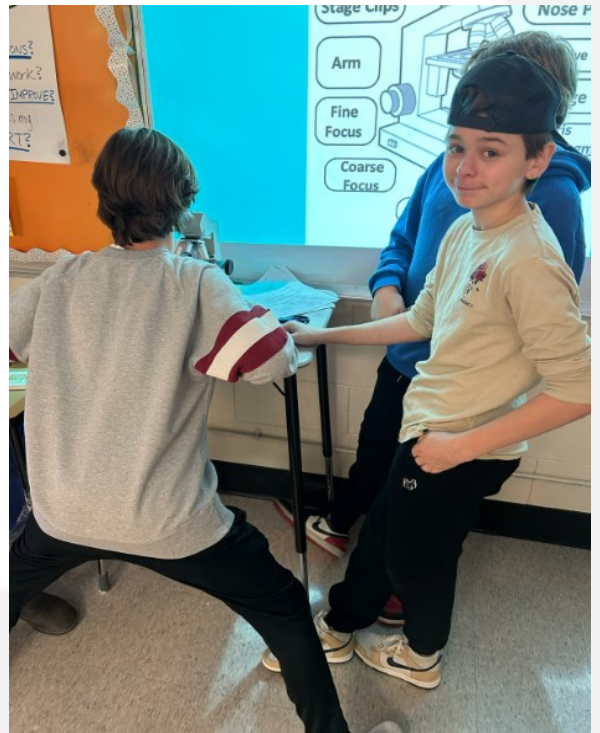
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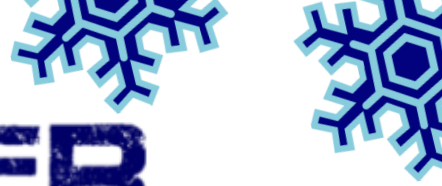
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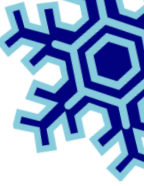
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The primary colours (red, yellow, blue), plus white and black—that's all that was used to create this painting. Can you believe it?! Artists in grade 6 looked at the work of the Group of Seven as inspiration to create their own Canadian landscapes. The limited palette made for fabulous colour mixing and truly one-of-a-kind pieces.



Aria Z

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Make it Mini!

Artists in grade 8 were asked to sculpt something miniature in clay. From earrings, ornaments, to figurines---these pieces could be as small as your fingernail and nothing larger than the palm of your hand. Students showed immense patience, creativity, and attention to detail.

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JWG ART Presents **ALEBRIJES**



Nate K



Brooke Y



Noa P

Alebrijes are brightly coloured Mexican folk-art sculptures of fantastical creatures. For weeks, artists in grade 7 have been making their own with papier mâché and paint. Although a lengthy process, the results speak for themselves!

SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE AND NEW
CLASSES ARE OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!

RETLIFE WINTER 2025 PROGRAMMING

IF YOU ARE STILL LOOKING FOR SOME EXCITING OPTIONS FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS, RETLIFE STILL HAS SPACES AVAILABLE FOR ITS WINTER PROGRAMMING! NEW CLASSES HAVE ALSO BEEN ADDED, SO BOOK EARLY!

NEW! Into to FPV Drone Technology

NEW! Indoor Soccer for Kids (8 – 10)

NEW! Parent and Child Taiko Drumming

NEW! Babysitting

Hula Hooping and Other Circus Skills with Sarah Teakle

Juggling and Other Circus Skills with Sarah Teakle

Plate Spinning and Other Circus Skills with Sarah Teakle

Basketball for Youth (ages 11 – 12)

Basketball for Youth (ages 13 – 14)

Mastering the Lightsaber!



VISIT RETLIFE TO REGISTER OR TO VIEW MORE
THAN 60 CLASSES AVAILABLE THIS WINTER!



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.

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 below -34°C , facial protection is essential, and it's recommended that children avoid going outdoors unaccompanied—skin will freeze in less than 10 minutes.

Busing

When the temperature is -35°C and/or wind chill is -45°C 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.

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 -35°C to -39°C , patrols will remain on post for five minutes. When it is -40°C and below, no patrols will be on duty.


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. **with the exception of Polar Bear Club students*

Polar Bear Club Recess

For schools participating in Polar Bear Club Recess:

- Participation is voluntary.
- Parental consent is required.
- Students who have consent can participate in all or none of the recess breaks.
- Students must be dressed appropriately, including a warm toque/hat; snow pants; face covering; warm, insulated jacket; mittens; and snow boots.
- Students can go back inside at any time.
- Staff supervision will be provided.

 **All students will remain inside when the temperature/ windchill is -40°C or below. If you have any questions not addressed by these guidelines, please contact your child's school.**

Take it Slow in Ice & Snow

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

They may be slippery, with ice hidden under the new snow. This can make it difficult to negotiate stops, intersections, and corners, so please be cautious when you see our school buses. We may be stopping at any moment for children... we're carrying precious cargo!

The piles of snow that line streets over the winter can make for tempting hills to climb, so please talk to your children about the danger of slipping into traffic and advise them to stay on the sidewalk. And be especially alert when driving near schools, because student safety is everyone's responsibility.

Take it slow and we'll all get where we need to be—safely.

