



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

Ms. Christi Qua

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.**



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Dear John de Graff Community,

As I reflect on my first term at John de Graff, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for all that we have accomplished together so far. It has been such a pleasure to witness the dedication and passion of our teachers, and I have been so impressed by the rich learning experiences our students have engaged in. Whether it's through innovative projects, exciting extracurricular activities, or day-to-day classroom experiences, it's clear that our students are thriving and reaching new heights.

One of the highlights of my term has been the opportunity to meet so many of our wonderful families. I truly value the connections we are building, and I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming months. Your support and involvement are integral to our success as a school, and I am excited for the continued partnership we share.

As we move forward, I want to let you know about some changes to our newsletter format. Going forward, our newsletter will be sent out at the end of each term, and it will serve as a celebration of the events and activities that have taken place throughout the term. Instead of focusing on updates and information, the newsletter will highlight the fantastic things that have occurred in our school community.

Our weekly Friday EMEMO will continue to provide you with important information and updates, ensuring you stay connected with any upcoming events or reminders. The newsletter will no longer include these details, but instead, it will become a vibrant collection of celebrations—showcasing the many milestones, achievements, and special moments that make John de Graff such a wonderful place to learn and grow.

Thank you once again for your continued support, and I look forward to the exciting year ahead.

Warm regards,

Christi Qua

Your River East Transcona School Division Trustees

Ward 1

Colleen Carswell (board 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
204.955.6782
bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca

Keith Morrison
204.795.3357
kmorrison@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 4

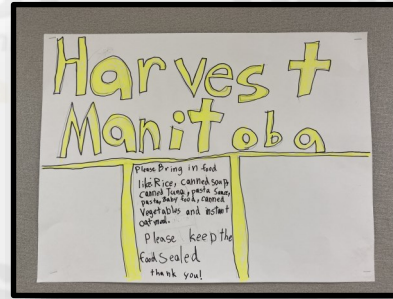
Susan Olynik (board vice-chair)
204.661.6440
solynik@retsd.mb.ca

Brenda Bage
204.221.2951
bbage@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 5

Shannon Hiebert
204.771.8435
shiebert@retsd.mb.ca

For more information about the Board of Trustees, visit: www.retsd.mb.ca > Your RETSD > Board of Trustees
Scroll down to *What it means to be a trustee* to watch an informative video



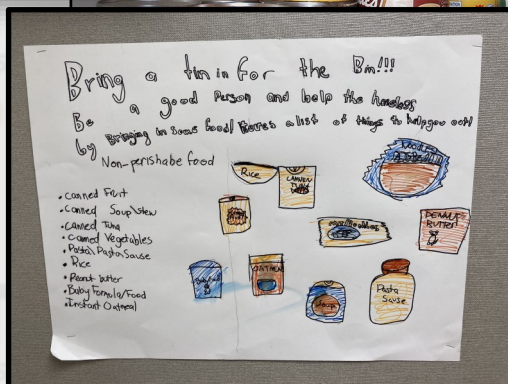
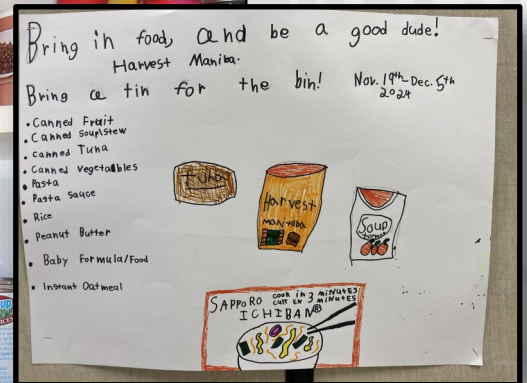
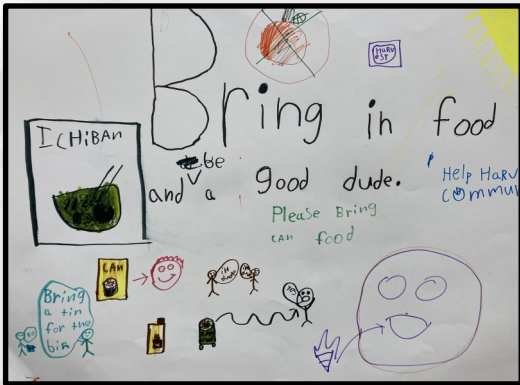
Are you feeling generous?

John de Graff School is once again collecting non-perishable food for Harvest Manitoba. Last year the school raised 5 bins and 3 boxes of food!

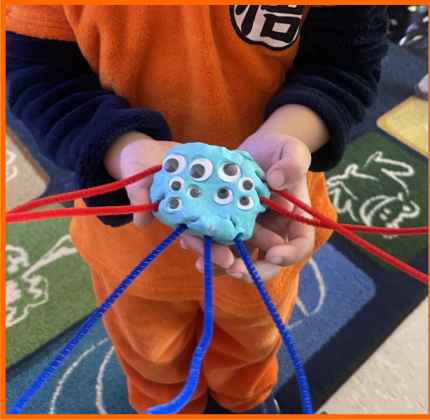
Harvest Manitoba began as Winnipeg Harvest 35 years ago! Harvest Manitoba collects 13 billion pounds of food for hungry Manitobans every year.

Please check your cupboards, or grab something to donate next time you are at the store. Consider donating canned tuna/soup/stew, pasta and sauce, rice and baby formula as these are the most needed items.

The yellow bins are now all around the school and are ready to be filled! The harvest Manitoba campaign runs from November 19th- December 5th. The grade 3's in room 18D encourage you to please bring a "tin for the bin!"



Halloween at J.D.G



Diwali Club event held on October 28th and 29th.

Grade 2 Diwali Celebration

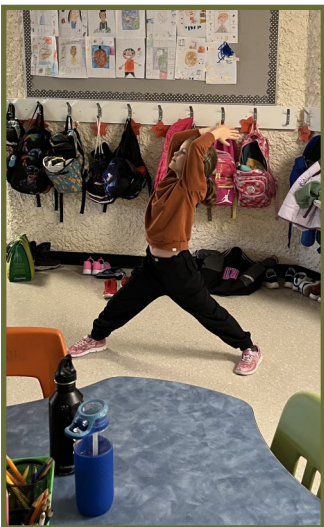
Our Grade 2 students had a special two-day celebration of Diwali on October 28th and 29th. The Diwali Club was filled with creativity as students made vibrant rangolis, painted paper diyas, and learned about the significance of the festival. They also had fun learning the importance of light, love, and togetherness. It was a joyful way for students to experience the traditions of Diwali!



It was a wonderful celebration filled with colorful decorations and fun activities!

Yoga Club

Grade 2 students gather for Yoga Club to explore fun poses and mindfulness. This half an hour-long class is all about fun, flexibility, and mindfulness. The class helps them improve balance, strength, and focus while also learning relaxation techniques. Students enjoy playful activities and practicing deep breathing to stay calm and focused. Yoga Club has quickly become a favorite part of the week, offering kids a peaceful break and helping them build confidence and concentration.



Every Thursday in grade 2 class with grade 2 students!

Exciting Times in Phys. Ed at John de Graff School!

This fall, our physical education program has been packed with exciting events and activities that kept our students active, engaged, and having fun. Here's a recap of all the fantastic happenings in our gym and beyond!

Cross-Country Club

In September, our students laced up their running shoes and joined the cross-country club, practicing three times a week to build endurance and stamina. Their hard work paid off at the divisional cross-country meet at Birds Hill Park, where they proudly represented John de Graff School. The students performed brilliantly and had a wonderful time at the event.



Terry Fox Event

In October, our school honored Terry Fox and his dream of a world without cancer. Students learned about Terry's remarkable courage, humility, determination, and perseverance. Mrs. Korb's class stepped up as student leaders, helping make this event a meaningful experience for everyone.

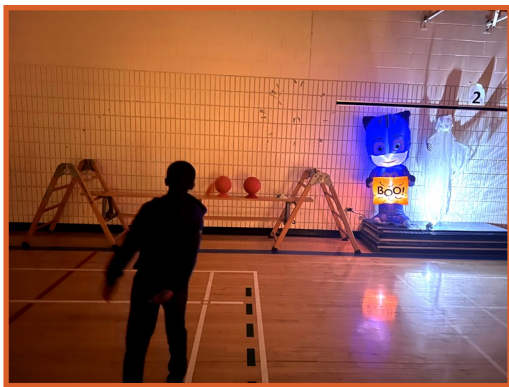


Volleyball Club

In October and November, our grades 3–5 students enjoyed volleyball club over the lunch hour. Younger students focused on serving, passing, and volleying skills, while the grade 5s honed their volleyball techniques and learned the basics of a Triple Ball game. The club concluded with an exciting Triple Ball event at Emerson School on November 16th, where the grade 5 students showcased their skills and had an unforgettable day of fun and competition.

Halloween in the Gym

The final week of October brought spooky fun to our gym! Students participated in a variety of Halloween-themed stations, practicing Frisbee throws to slice pumpkins and feed Frankenstein moon cookies, bouncing through graveyards, and climbing over giant spider webs. They also tested their strength to swing over swamps and navigate the witch's tunnel, finishing with some ghost-bowling. It was a frightfully fun time for all!



Jets Day Celebration

October 9th marked Jets Day, where students celebrated the Winnipeg Jets' season opener by wearing their Jets colors and participating in a special scooter circuit event. The gym became an Air Force base, with students taking turns piloting their "jet fighter planes" around the gym. The energy and excitement in the gym were sky-high! Go Jet's Go!



Pirate Day Adventures

On September 19th, Captain Feir and Captain Di Bartolo transformed the gym into a massive pirate ship to celebrate International Speak Like a Pirate Day. Students tested their pirate skills in an array of thrilling stations: climbing the Jolly Roger, swinging from ship to ship, pulling the lifeboat, and tossing cannonballs at the crow's nest. From balancing on the island to swimming with the fishes, every activity put their pirate prowess to the test. It was a swash-buckling adventure filled with fun and laughter!



It's been an incredible fall for our Phys. Ed program at John de Graff School, and we look forward to more exciting activities and events in the months ahead!

Tara Di Bartolo

Soccer Club



Soccer, or football as some call it, is a game that transcends borders and brings people together from all over the world. This is evident on the playgrounds of John de Graff as students from all grades enjoy playing the beautiful game.

The students of grade 5, have a strong love for the sport and have participated in a lunch time soccer club this fall.

Before participating, the grade five players signed a contract. This contract serves as a reminder and commitment to the ideals of John de Graff school. Sportsmanship, safety, inclusivity, and respect are the priorities of the agreement. Players are held accountable to their word, while also developing their skills and most importantly, having fun! They attended a team meeting, where these expectations were explained and agreed upon by all involved, before finally heading out, on to the pitch

Teams are created based on each players individual skill level and familiarity with the sport. This results in competitive games that are enjoyable, safe, and allow for players to develop their skills in a calm environment and at their own pace.

The grade 5 players have eagerly demonstrated their skills and athleticism. They have showcased an incredible sense of sportsmanship along the way. Students have uplifted each other, using positive words, showing and teaching each other new moves, and demonstrating respect to the teachers supervising their games.

These soccer stars have not only shown growth in their skills but also in their ability to work as a team. Demonstrating clear communication with one another, they share the ball, pass, create plays, makes outstanding saves, score wonderfully crafted team goals, and craft entertaining goal celebrations. Their spirit and enthusiasm are infectious and inspires the younger grades. Great work grade 5!

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

At John de Graff, our staff and students spent time learning and talking about the importance of our role in reconciliation. We focused on the message that Every Child Matters and the importance of acknowledging mistakes of the past and how we can shape our future. As September 30 marks the annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we recognized this day on Friday, September 27. Students are learning about honouring Orange Shirt Day and the intent of the day. Classes took time to look closely at the Survivor's Flag - at the entrance to the school which represents thoughts, emotions, experiences and hopes expressed by survivors who have shared their truths about residential schools. The flag affirms our commitment to the remembrance of lives lost through and lives affected by residential schools. The different symbols of the Survivor's flag were highlighted and hung in the trees in our forest behind the school and provocations were written beside the description. Students were asked to think about questions like: *What is something that makes you feel special?*, *Where do you feel at home?*, *Where do you feel safe?*, and *Who helps you feel loved and protected?* RETSD has provided our teachers with many ideas and resources to work on with students to learn about the ideas and importance of truth and reconciliation.



Southern Chie
Celebrating

John de Graff MUSIC

October music classes at John de Graff have been filled with singing and...Animals?

Students are using a wide variety of animals to help learn the sounds we use in rhythms. Students are using the animal sounds to perform and create their own rhythms and songs. finished songs are performed verbally and on provided instruments.

Students worked hard to prepare music for our Remembrance Day assembly. Students are learning proper performance skills and working to develop their singing voices. They are learning about the importance of reasonable citizenship and working together to maintain peace and respect in our school. Students are excited to share their songs with the John de Graff community!

Mr. Schroeder



REMEMBRANCE DAY AT JOHN DE GRAFF



We held our Remembrance Day service at school on November 7th in the morning. The grade 5 cohort hosted the service and did an excellent job sharing their perspective writing, highlighting Indigenous veterans, and shared writing. We were honoured to hear from Mr. Joe Reidy who spoke of his experience in the army and shared some photos of his time there. Our ceremony featured live music from both the Grade 5 and Grade 1 choirs plus a live trumpeter, Luca Kennedy, performed our reveille. Many staff and students worked hard to make the service a success.

Dot Art—Inspired by Metis Art

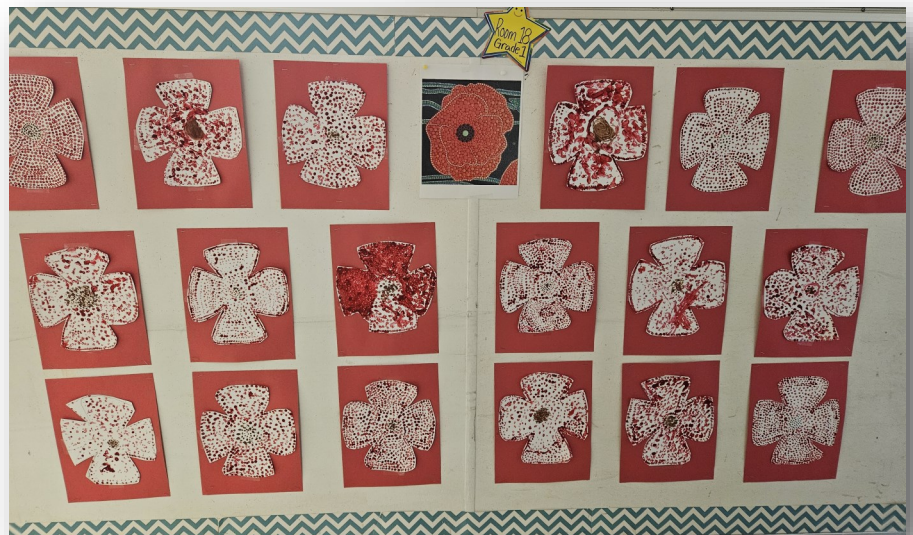
The poppy is about the people that went to war

We should be happy and nice to everyone in honour of those that died

We used q-tips to make a dot to paint our art

The dots represent beadwork done by Metis artists

It took a long time and patience to make our poppies



Dear John de Graff families,

We are pleased to announce that through the hard work and dedication of the students in Mrs. Bargen's, Mr. Willms and Ms. Nelson's classes, and your generosity, we were able to collect 418 pairs of socks! The students made posters, morning announcements and a Chatter Pix video to get information to students and motivate each other to help community members in need. The children's socks will soon be dropped off at Acorn Family Place and the men's and women's socks have been donated to RAY Center.

Thank you again for making a difference in our community and warming the toes of many Winnipeggers this winter season!



Much appreciated!

The Grade 2 Team





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.**

Christmas Wonders

Celebrate the holiday season with a Christmas craft and story time!
Share stories and songs before creating your own bell ornament.
Ages 3-5 with a caregiver. 45 mins.

Transcona Library

1 Transcona Blvd

Thursday, December 19: 2:30 p.m.

Free. Phone, visit or go online at winnipeg.ca/library to register.



Making with Magformers

Play with Magformers® magnetic construction sets and build 3D creatures, cars, castles, or anything you can imagine! Ages 6-12. 60 minutes.

Transcona Library

1 Transcona Blvd

Monday, December 23: 6:30 p.m.

Free. To register, phone, visit, or go online at winnipeg.ca/library



Tea Light Lanterns

Looking to bring some light to your life? Get creative and crafty and make a Tea Light Lantern. Ages 13-17. 60 mins.

Transcona Library

1 Transcona Blvd

Thursday, December 19: 6:30 p.m.

Free. Phone, visit or go online at winnipeg.ca/library to register.



Teen Book Club

Are you a teen who loves to read? Join us for fun activities and discussions about your favourite books!

Transcona Library

1 Transcona Blvd

Monday, October 7: 6:30 p.m.

Monday, November 4: 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 2: 6:30 p.m.

Monday, January 6: 6:30 p.m.

Monday, February 3: 6:30 p.m.

Monday, March 3: 6:30 p.m.

Free. Go to winnipeg.ca/library or contact any branch to register.



Winter Family Story Time

Join us for a fun winter celebration with snowy stories, songs, and rhymes.

For children ages 0-12 and their families.

Drop in.

Transcona Library

1 Transcona Blvd

Saturday, December 7 at 2:00 p.m.

The Art of Leisure

RETLife offers a palette of playful programs for people of every age!

- Providing opportunities for learning
- Making connections with community
- Growth-based learning for all ages

For more information about our community leisure programming, please contact RETLife at 204.667.6193.

www.retlife.ca

RETLife Winter 2025 Programming is now open for registration!

[RETLife](#) is pleased to announce the launch of its Winter 2025 Programming lineup! With more than 50 new and returning programs to choose from, there's something for everyone!

Just a small sample of some of the programs being offered this winter include:

[Engineering for Kids – Mission to Mars](#)

[Parent and Child Cooking Together – Lunches Made Easy](#)

[Martial Arts for Kids](#)

[Parent and Child Yoga](#)

[Introduction to GymTASTICS](#)

- And much more!

Visit [RETLife](#) for more information and to register! Book early to avoid disappointment!

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.



River East Transcona School Division is located on the original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Anishininiwak, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Red River Métis. We recognize our part of the Treaty relationship and, as acknowledgement of the harms done, we commit to collaborating with Indigenous communities in the shared spirit of Truth and Reconciliation for the healing and inclusion of all who share this Land.



DECEMBER

- Wednesday, December 3Holiday Concert, 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 4Holiday Concert, 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 5Holiday Concert, 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 10.....PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- Friday, December 20LAST Day of classes before Christmas Break, Early Dismissal at 2:30 p.m.

JANUARY

- Monday, January 61st Day of classes after break, Day 5
- Tuesday, January 14PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- Friday, January 31No School, Co-ordinated PD Day

FEBRUARY

- Monday, February 3No School, Co-ordinated PD Day
- Tuesday, February 11PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- Monday, February 17No School, Louis Riel Day

MARCH

- Monday, March 10Report Cards Online
- Tuesday, March 11PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 13Parent Teacher Student (PTS) Conferences, evening 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 14Parent Teacher Student (PTS) Conferences, a.m.
No School, Co-ordinated PD Day, p.m.
- Friday, March 28LAST Day of classes before Spring Break
Regular Dismissal

APRIL

- Monday, April 7 1st Day of classes after break, Day 4
- Tuesday, April 8 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- Friday, April 11 No School, Co-ordinated PD Day
- Friday, April 18 No School, Good Friday

MAY

- Monday, May 5 Music Monday
 - Tuesday, May 13 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
 - Monday, May 19 No School, Victoria Day
 - Thursday, May 29 KG Open House, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- More information will be provided to KG families.

JUNE

- Monday, June 2 No School, Co-ordinated PD Day
- Tuesday, June 10 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- Friday, June 20..... Grade 5 Farewell
- Monday, June 23 No School, School PD Day
- Friday, June 27..... LAST Day of classes before Summer,
Early Dismissal at 2:30 p.m.



*RETSD is on Facebook and X (Twitter)!
Follow us to stay up to date on what's
happening in the division.*

