



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

NOTE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Thank you for your contributions towards another great year at John de Graff School!

Thank you Parents/Guardians for the many ways you have supported the positive John de Graff climate and learning.

We have celebrated accomplishments, participation and kindness throughout the year. Our students have been amazing learners.

On June 29th students met their next years teacher. Information about your child's classroom for next year, is also included in the report card.



New Kindergarten students will receive a letter during the summer to explain the September entry schedule for Kindergarten. We also welcomed them on May 25th for a visit.

Annually we do a **Report to the Community**. This report is included with this newsletter and is also on the John de Graff website.

A calendar of events for the 2023-24 school year is included.

- ◆ The School office will reopen on Monday, August 28th, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- ◆ The first day back for students in Grade 1 - 5 is Wednesday, September 6th. This is Day 2 on our school calendar. It is a full day of school, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- ◆ Students are to wait by their doors on the first day of school. Their teachers will greet them and bring them into the school. Signs will be posted on the doors.
- ◆ Money for classroom supplies can be given directly to your child's teacher as they will be the ones issuing the receipts for you. You will receive the supply list on June 30th from their classroom teacher.
- ◆ Registrations for the Lunch Programs will be going home with children when school resumes in the fall. Children will be able to stay for lunch starting Wednesday, September 6th. Please complete the registration form and return it to school along with the payment as soon as possible.
- ◆ Milk will be available for purchase starting Monday, September 11th.

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



Staff Retiring from John de Graff School



Mrs. Roberta Kula

After a wonderful music teaching career, Mrs. Kula is retiring!

She's a favourite teacher at John de Graff School.

We have appreciated:

- 1. Her love of Music and the Arts!*
- 2. Her creativity with songs and musical presentations!*
- 3. Her kindness to everyone!*
- 4. Her collection of musical instruments to create interesting songs, rhythms and patterns!*
- 5. Her ways of including different cultures, composers, art, writing and reading with Music!*
- 6. Her organized Christmas Concerts!*
- 7. Her help with Patrols...and many, many other tasks!*
- 8. Her leadership and brilliant ideas!*

Thank you! We'll miss you! Please come back to visit!



Mr. Dale Delorme

Mr. Delorme, or Mr. D, is a favourite Educational Assistant at John de Graff School.

He has worked in other schools as well, but we have been lucky to have had him here for 13 years. He really changes students' confidence, behaviour, learning success and enjoyment of school - always in a positive way. Many teachers at our school have had the opportunity to work with him in their classrooms - and he is appreciated so much!

Best wishes for the future - with time to enjoy the things you love Mr. D!

Please come back to see us!





GRADE 5 FAREWELL



On Friday, June 23rd, Grade 5 students celebrated their time at John de Graff School during our Grade 5 Farewell festivities. Students were treated to a delicious pizza lunch and had time to play outside with friends.

Following our lunch, students, families, and school staff gathered in the Gym to share fond memories and reminisce about students' time here while enjoying some refreshing lemonade and cookies.

A fun green screen feature was available for families to take pictures with their child as a special keepsake.

To end our farewell, students participated in a dance in the Gym. Everyone had a great time! The Grade 5 Team wants to thank families for their continued support over the years and wish you a safe and happy summer.

Have a great year in Grade 6!!

Our PAC gave each Grade 5 student a gift and contributed funds to the Grade 5 Celebration! Thank you PAC!



STAFF MOVING ON

We have a few staff members moving on from our school for new opportunities and adventures.

Best wishes to:

- ◆ Mr. Maclean
- ◆ Ms. Unger
- ◆ Ms. Schau
- ◆ Ms. Mariani
- ◆ Mrs. Ruprai and
- ◆ Mrs. Johnston
- ◆ Mr. Webb

Best wishes!



PHYS. ED

This month we were very lucky to have two interns from Golf Manitoba come to our school to work with our students. Students continued with a golf unit and softball unit for the remainder of the month.

On June 6th students participated in our annual Field Day event. The weather was amazing, and the stations were a huge hit! Thank you to our grade 5 leaders for helping run the stations.

We wish everyone a healthy and active summer. Enjoy playing outside and spending time with family and friends! Please remember when thinking about footwear for next school year, Velcro runners are strongly recommended for students that are unable to tie shoes independently.

See you in September!

Mrs. Madec de Bartolo & Mr. Feir



**FIELD
DAY**



JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH



June is Pride Month. To celebrate, the Grade 4's decided to put together a mural to show how we are all unique and we are all part of one community. We had conversations in our classes about how everyone deserves to be treated with kindness and respect no matter who they love or how they look. We are excited to get to share our art project with our community!

By the Grade 4s in Rooms 7, 8, 21, and 22

RELEASE OF REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be on the Parent Portal
Friday, June 30th.

You will need your email address to access the Parent Portal to view the report cards. User manuals are available by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE](#)

PLEASE NOTE FOR SEPTEMBER

All clothing and items need to be
labelled with students names.

SORA

Please see the following link with instructions of how to get started using Sora.

[GettingStartedwithSora-Students.pdf](#)



Blast Off!



with **FREE** ebooks & audiobooks through Sora and RETSD!

Open a world of reading with Sora

Sora, an online audio and ebook provider, has partnered with River East Transcona School Division, to bring FREE audio and ebooks to students and staff!

Download the app or visit soraapp.com, and log in using your RETSD credentials. You can even link up your Winnipeg Public Library card for more books!

Explore all that Sora has to offer, all FREE, through RETSD!



creating student success

RET LIFE

RETLife is thrilled to invite your child, ages 5 to 12, to join us for an unforgettable experience! The weeklong camps run from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM July 4th to August 4th, ensuring a fun-filled and engaging summer for all participants. Here's a glimpse of the incredible themes we have planned

July 4th – 7th Superheroes and Princesses Week

Channel your inner powers and unleash your imagination! Campers will engage in creative crafts and activities inspired by their beloved characters, with a special visit from some “real life” heroes.



July 10th- 14th The Olympics Week

Let the games begin! This week, we celebrate the spirit of athleticism and friendly competition as we dive into the world of the Olympics. From team sports and individual challenges to unique crafts and experiments, campers will experience the thrill of what being an Olympian is all about.



July 17th- 21st Science Week

Prepare for a week of scientific exploration and discovery! Campers will discover exciting experiments, hands-on games and activities, and interactive demonstrations. Your child will have the chance to explore the wonders of the scientific world as they become budding scientists.



July 24th- 28th Super Mario and Minecraft Week

Jump into the digital realm as we explore the worlds of Super Mario and Minecraft! Campers' creativity will be put to the test as we bring the digital world to life this week with Mario and Minecraft inspired experiments, crafts, and activities.



July 31st- August 4th Wilderness Adventure Week

It's time to venture into the great outdoors! This week, campers embark on a thrilling wilderness adventure. From nature walks and scavenger hunts to nature inspired crafts and team-building activities, as well as some special guests!



Camp counselors will ensure that each child receives the attention and support they need to make the most of their summer camp experience. Safety is our top priority!

Space is limited - so book early! Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity for your child to have a summer full of fun, learning, and new friendships.

Visit **Shop – RETLife** or contact our friendly **RETLife coordinator**. We look forward to welcoming your child to an amazing summer camp experience!



**Get Your
Summer
Read On**

**at Winnipeg
Public Library!**

**À vos
marques,
prêts, lisez**

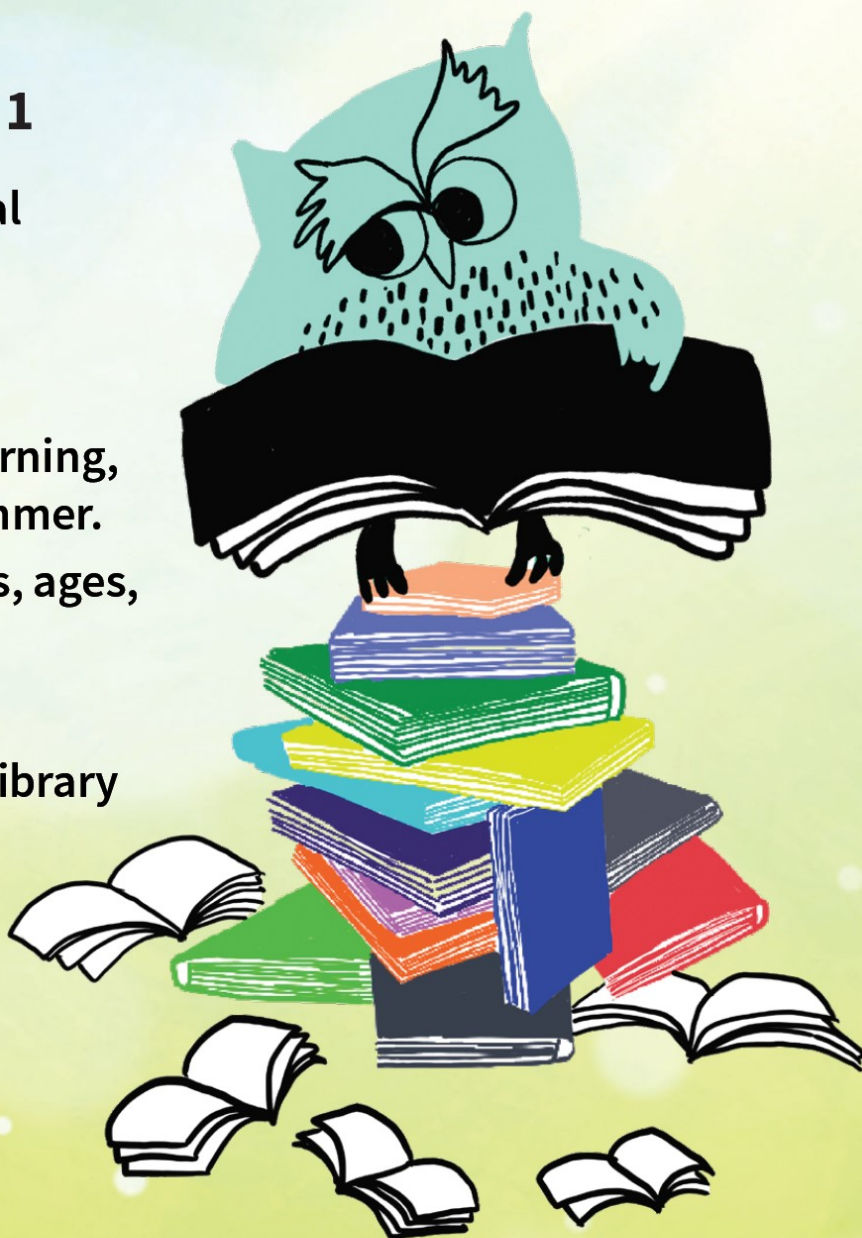


**à la Bibliothèque
publique de Winnipeg !**

June 12 to September 1

- Receive a free bilingual reading kit.
- Participate in library programs.
- Keep kids reading, learning, and having fun all summer.
- For kids of all interests, ages, and abilities.

For more information,
visit any Winnipeg Public Library
or go online at
winnipeg.ca/library



DISPOSAL OF MEDICATION GUIDELINES

To promote a safe school environment, the school will take any medication left at school to the nearest pharmacy that participates in the hazardous waste disposal program. This action will ensure that outdated medication is not administered to your child and eliminates storage of medication at the school over the summer.



To make certain that the school does not dispose of wanted medications, please pick up your child's medication on the last week of August. Please note that medication cannot be sent home with your child.

To ensure the school is using current information about your child's medication, new forms must be completed each year. A convenient time to receive these forms might be when you come to pick up your child's unused medication on the last week of August.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING

We would like to thank you for your help in reducing the risks at school for our students who have life-threatening food allergies. Your support of our request to refrain from sending peanuts and nuts and other classroom allergens is greatly appreciated. We realize this may have posed some inconvenience for you when preparing lunches and snacks for your child. However, eliminating these substances from the classroom is an important part of reducing the risk of a serious reaction occurring at school.

RECYCLING SUCCESS

Thank you to the students and families in our John de Graff community for helping reduce the amount of garbage we send to landfill. Outside of classes recycling paper, we have collected more batteries, pop tabs, and old markers than ever! These students along with Ms. Beamish and Ms. Cessford have spent many recesses sorting and boxing batteries, tabs and markers to send off for recycling. The Grade 4 students, with Miss Rennie's help also sort recycling and help keep this program possible.

A special thanks to Ms. Burla who had her cousin, Bonnie collect tabs in Flin Flon on behalf of John de Graff and were delivered to Winnipeg by Dodie from The Pas. This carload of tabs will be dropped off to support Kyrie's new wheelchair.

We are making a difference!



ROOM ADDITION

In September, our previous Staffroom will be a Grade 1 classroom (Room 23) and our previous Film Room will be a Staffroom.

We appreciate the additional classroom space and the quick work by the RETSD Maintenance Department for enhancing our space.

OUR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO)

Officer Kaitlyn Thiessen has been a helpful and kind support to our school. She discusses ideas with us, visits classrooms, comes to some special events such as our Patrol Recognition Day, and is a positive presence in our Community.

Thank you!

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Students:

The summer is a great time to have fun and also learn new things in different ways. Keep reading, practicing math in unique ways, appreciate and learn about nature, visit new places, talk to others and develop your vocabulary.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to our Superintendent, Ms. Sandra Herbst and the Assistant Superintendents for support of our school

Thank you to all our Parents/Guardians

Thank you Elizabeth Bourbonniere for the many classroom books she has donated to our school.

Thank you to our excellent staff of Teachers, Secretaries, Educational Assistants, Technicians, Clinicians and Custodial Staff. They create a very positive learning environment at our school.

Thank you to Dawn & Dusk for their programming for many of our students. They encourage play and appreciation of nature and support inquiries to expand children's learning! They also planted and are caring for the flowers in our outdoor pots.

Thank you PAC for all their work and support of all our students.

Thank you Susanne Kilbrei and our Lunch Supervisors

Thank you to the Transportation Department and RETSD Bus Drivers for school transportation and field trips

Thank you to our RETSD Maintenance Department for the upkeep of our building and grounds

Thank you to our RETSD IT Department for supporting our technology needs

CONFIRMED STAFFING 2023-24

Principal:	Mrs. Margaret Fair	Student Services:	Mrs. Haid
Vice-Principal:	Ms. Pam MacDonell		Miss Fraser
Kindergarten Even Days Rm 1:	Mr. Wryha		Mrs. Lachuta
Kindergarten Odd Days Rm 1:	Mr. Wryha		Mrs. Bullis
Kindergarten Even Days Rm 2:	Mrs. Houston		
Kindergarten Odd Days Rm 2:	Mrs. Meads	Secretaries:	Ms. Burla
Grade 1A Room 23:	Mrs. Kozoris-Mazur (a.m.)		Mrs. Friesen
	Ms. Gilfillan (p.m.)	Early Numeracy Facilitators:	
Grade 1B Room 19:	Ms. Ponce	Custodians:	Mr. Gasior
Grade 1C Room 18D:	Mrs. Spiers		TBA
Grade 1D Room 18:	Ms. Nelson	Custodial Aides:	Ms. Laserra Carceller
Grade 2A Room 14:	Ms. Beamish		Ms. Wilson
Grade 2B Room 15:	Mrs. Bargaen	Educational Assistants:	Mrs. Bird
Grade 2C Room 13:	Mrs. Rudd		Ms. Brar
Grade 2D Room 12:	Mrs. Wong		Mr. Delorme
Grade 3A Room 8:	Ms. Gilfillan (a.m.)		Mr. Desbois
	Mrs. Kaur (p.m.)		Mrs. Dhaliwal
Grade 3B Room 6:	Mrs. Dallmann		Ms. Evans
Grade 3C Room 5:	Ms. Busch		Mrs. Gill
Grade 3D Room 3:	Mr. Tuck		Ms. Graya
Grade 4A Room 17:	Ms. Boutang		Ms. Johnson
Grade 4B Room 22:	Miss Rennie		Ms. Joshi
Grade 4C Room 16:	Ms. Arnal		Ms. Katrensky
Grade 4D Room 7:	Mrs. Peltz		Ms. Mandair
Grade 5A Room 9:	Mrs. Korb		Ms. Mariani
Grade 5B Room 10:	Mr. Rofaeil		Mrs. McLeod
Grade 5C Room 21:	Ms. Buscemi		Mr. Mensah
Grade 5D Room 11:	Ms. VanAlstyne		Ms. Myskiw
Reading Recovery:	Ms. Kaur		Ms. Ocon
Music:	Mr. Schroeder		Ms. Orac
	TBA (Day 2,4 & 6 p.m.)		Ms. Poggemiller
Physical Education:	Mr. Feir		Mrs. Rostek
	Mrs. Madec Di Bartolo		Ms. Ruprai
Library:	Ms. Cessford		Mrs. Salh
Library Technician:	Mrs. Hunt (.75 time)		Mrs. St. Amand
			Ms. Sulak

PARKING AND TRAFFIC

We constantly endeavour to keep our parking lot and traffic around the school safe. Requests of careful driving, watching for and following patrol signals, not parking in the parking lot unless in an emergency and, not passing buses loading are important!

Over the summer, we anticipate that there will be some City of Winnipeg changes to the signage and parking and turning restrictions.

Please follow these signs for safety and to avoid tickets.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2023—2024

SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday, September 5 No School, Co-ordinated PD Day
Wednesday, September 6..... 1st Day of classes for students, Day 2
Tuesday, September 12 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 26 Cross Country Run at Birds Hill Park
(Possible Date)
Wednesday, September 27.. Cross Country Run at Birds Hill Park
(Possible Date)

OCTOBER

- Tuesday, October 3 No School, Co-ordinated PD Day
Tuesday, October 3 Manitoba General Election in Gym
Tuesday, October 3 JdG Open House, 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 4 Cross Country Run at Birds Hill Park
(Possible Alternate Date)
Friday, October 6 Cross Country Run at Birds Hill Park
(Possible Alternate Date)
Monday, October 9 No School, Thanksgiving Day
Tuesday, October 10 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Friday, October 13 Picture Day, 9:00 a.m. (KG (even days) -
..... Grade 5)
Tuesday, October 17 Earth Rangers Assembly,
9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
Friday, October 20 No School, Co-ordinated PD Day

NOVEMBER

- Friday, November 10 No School, School PD Day
Tuesday, November 14 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Monday, November 20 Report Cards Online
Thursday, November 23 Picture Day [p.m.] for KG (odd days)
& Retake Day for entire school
Thursday, November 23 Parent Teacher Student (PTS)
Conferences, evening 4:00-8:00 p.m.
Friday, November 24 Parent Teacher Student (PTS)
Conferences, a.m.
No School, Co-ordinated PD Day, p.m.

DECEMBER

- Wednesday, December 6..... Holiday Concert
Thursday, December 7 Holiday Concert
Tuesday, December 12 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Friday, December 22 LAST Day of classes before Christmas
Break, Early Dismissal at 2:30 p.m.

JANUARY

- Monday, January 8..... 1st Day of classes after break, Day 1
Tuesday, January 9..... PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- Friday, February 2 No School, Co-ordinated PD Day
Tuesday, February 13..... PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Monday, February 19..... No School, Louis Riel Day

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 1st Day of classes after break, Day 1
Tuesday, April 9 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
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.
Friday, May 31 KG Open House (10:30-11:30 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.
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>



*We wish you a safe and happy
summer with everyone close to
you well and staying connected!
We look forward to welcoming you back
in the fall.*



Dear Parents/Guardians of River East Transcona School Division,
Re: Transportation Application (Form A)

As we approach the upcoming school year, we would like to provide you with important information regarding busing for your children within the River East Transcona School Division.

If you are in any of the following situations, it is necessary to complete a **Transportation Application (Form A)** in order to ensure that your child receives bus transportation services:

New to the Division: If you are new to the River East Transcona School Division and qualify for busing.

Change of Residence: In the event of a change in your residential address, even if you have previously requested busing for your child. This will help us update our records and make necessary arrangements to accommodate your transportation needs.

Change in Childcare Location: Should your child's childcare location change, please fill out a Bus Application – Form A to inform us of the new address.

However, please note that if your child was assigned to a bus last year and none of the above situations apply, you are not required to fill out a “Bus Application – Form A” for the upcoming school year. Your child- will be automatically assigned to a bus route , assuming there have been no alterations to your address or childcare location. Also, applications are not required for change of school due to grade advancement.

To access the form, kindly visit the River East Transcona School Division website at [Transportation \(retsdb.ca\)](http://Transportation(retsdb.ca)) . The form is titled "Transportation Application(From A)". You can print, complete, and submit the form to our transportation email trans@retsdb.ca or return to your child’s school.

It is important to understand that if a **Transportation Application (Form A)** is not submitted for your child and none of the exceptions mentioned above apply, we will presume that busing services are not required.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our transportation department at 204.669.0202.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring a smooth and efficient transportation process for our students.

Warm regards,

River East Transcona School Division
Transportation Department

Six-Day Calendar • 2023–24

■ Denotes School Day
□ Denotes No School

▨ Co-ordinated Day
Students do not attend classes on this day. All schools are involved in either administration, professional development or parent-teacher reporting activities.



SEPTEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
				1	2/3
4 LABOUR DAY	5 Co-ordinated Day	6 FIRST DAY OF CLASSES	7	8	9/10
11	12	13	14	15	16/17
18	19	20	21	22	23/24
25	26	27	28	29	30/

OCTOBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
					/1
2	3 Co-ordinated Day	4	5	6	7/8
9 THANKSGIVING	10	11	12	13	14/15
16	17	18	19	20 Co-ordinated Day	21/22
23	24	25	26	27	28/29

NOVEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
		1	2	3	4/5
6	7	8	9	10 No School, JdG PD	11/12
13	14	15	16	17	18/19
20	21	22	23	24 Co-ordinated Day	25/26
27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
				1	2/3
4	5	6	7	8	9/10
11	12	13	14	15	16/17
18	19	20	21	22 Early Dismissal LAST DAY OF CLASSES BEFORE BREAK	23/24
25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 BOXING DAY	W·I·N·T·E·R·B·R·E·A·K			30/31

JANUARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
W·I·N·T·E·R·B·R·E·A·K					
1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3	4	5	6/7
8 FIRST DAY OF CLASSES AFTER BREAK SCHOOLS OPEN	9	10	11	12	13/14
15	16	17	18	19	20/21
22	23	24	25	26	27/28
29	30	31			



John de Graff School

Report to the Community

June 2023

LAND STATEMENT

River East Transcona School Division is located on the original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Anishiniwak, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Red River Métis.

We recognize our part of the Treaty relationship and, as an 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.

School Plan: 2022-2023

Our School Plan had 4 priorities this year. These priorities continued our work from the previous year. They were:

1. Student Agency in Literacy and Math
2. Critical Thinking in Literacy and Math
3. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math)
4. Positive Behaviour

Highlights of the Year

Literacy

This year John de Graff School has continued to take a particular focus on literacy. Students' reading ability has also been enhanced as they read in different genres and work on writing. Students discussed ideas, participated in Shared Writes, and individual writing. They read their own writing and their own books or classroom writing as well as writing displayed in the hallways. Students learned about the audience and purpose of writing, the importance of strong ideas and careful word selection to engage the reader, correct spelling to be respectful of the reader, and neatness and art have also been key parts of our writing. Daily writing and reading blocks of time were allocated and writing and reading was important in all subjects. Supporting students to develop self awareness and set goals along with critical thinking have been important.

We have continued to have a strong emphasis on excellent classroom and school libraries with a variety of books being added and read over the course of the year!

Technology

Students have used technology throughout the grades as a tool for their learning. Accessing information, developing photo stories and power points, using interactive websites for problem solving and math, developing charts and graphs for illustrating data, using apps for particular purposes, and using a green screen for photos to enhance students' work and projects are some of the IT things we have done. Students again participated in "Hour of Code" and other coding activities with Mrs. Cessford. Students loved doing this!!

Sustainable Development

Connecting with nature and having positive attitudes and actions are the areas that have been highlighted this year, as in past years. Taking a close look at how we can respect and admire the natural world around us is important.

In addition to learning in authentic ways about living things, natural geographic features, and facts about our world and beyond, being outdoors playing, and being in contact with the natural world is important and we have that as an ongoing goal for our students. We have also continued to encourage and model recycling particularly by collecting used batteries, old markers, and drink tabs. The STEAM challenges focused on reusing materials and students discussed the importance doing this as much as possible in many situations.

Students have gone on field trips to move learning out of the classroom, and many of these experiences have also been connected to Education for Sustainable Development.

Numeracy Development

In our teaching of Mathematics we worked to have students understand the value and meaning of numbers, develop flexible thinking, and see the relationships and connections with numbers. From Kindergarten to Grade 5, our students are learning to understand numeracy in increasingly sophisticated ways. Most of the work in math was done through problem solving, with problems that were relevant to the learning in the class and as authentic as possible.

Demonstration of the understanding of numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division occurred in concrete ways with objects, pictorially and symbolically. Students used personal strategies, estimating strategies, and standard algorithms (or standard ways of solving an addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division equation) to solve problems.

In Kindergarten and Grade 1 we have also had a Numeracy facilitator working in classrooms with students to enhance early numeracy development and confidence about math work.

Creating a Safe School Community:

Our Learning and Behaving Committee's work this year continued to focus student attention on expected behaviours and our school wide positive behaviour matrix. We continued our lunch expectations and worked on mini lessons with students to have safe, yet fun lunch periods. The Lunch Program, run by our Parent Advisory Committee and the Lunch Program staff kept students supervised over lunch.

Our Patrols were supported by the Grade 5 teachers, Mrs. Kula, Mrs. MacDonell, the RETSD Transportation Dept., and the Winnipeg Police Department. Patrols did a wonderful job throughout the year and one of our students received the Louise Staples Trophy for excellence in patrolling city wide. Thank you to all the patrols!

Our motto of "Go the Way, Know the Way, Show the Way" also continued. This was enhanced through our bullying awareness work with students and our focus on being kind to others and supporting others. The Winnipeg Police did two presentations on cyber safety that our Grade 4 and 5 students viewed. Additionally, Grade 5 students all have leadership roles in the school. This varied from taking responsibilities for activities, being visible mentors to younger students, being patrols, preparing and running technology presentations, demonstrating their excellence in learning, writing and problem solving. We participated in the "International Day of Pink". This drew focus to ways to raise awareness to stop bullying. We appreciate and celebrate the diversity of students and families at JdG!

We communicate with families about behaviours that occur and always want to work with families for positive outcomes for all students.

Some Interesting Facts about John de Graff School this Year:

We have 586 students in 23 classrooms attending the school. It is a busy and very fun place to be! A new classroom is now being created to accommodate our growing school!

Grade 4 and 5 students wrote about the meaning of Home and helped contribute to donations being made to habitat for Humanity and a Winnipeg build. One of our students also won a runner up prize award for his writing piece!

We celebrated different cultural events and added many books to our Library about different cultures and their celebrations!

We had fabulous hallway displays of student work connecting different learning, books, and art! We had a Math focus for part of the year to see how different grades solve problems!

Grade 5 students learned about robots, inventions and innovative ideas and had a visit from the Wpg. Police Department to demonstrate a robot that is used by them!

We collected many batteries, used markers and drink tabs for recycling... and won some prizes for our excellent efforts. This includes an Earth Rangers presentation for next year!

We welcomed many new students into our school, and also welcomed our new Kindergarten students to meet their teachers and see the Kindergarten rooms!

Grade 5's celebrated the end of their last year at JdG with class parties and celebration time with their families!

Many classes used outdoor space to learn in!

We have worked on the global competency of Critical Thinking for several years. Previous to that, we also worked on Creativity. Our next year's theme will be "Curiosity and Wonder"! We are excited to get started on ideas!

We had a week to explore many different types of play for all students!

STEAM activities were a fun learning experience in all classes!

Our Music Monday Assembly highlighted students' artistic and musical talents. This continued throughout the month of May with talents highlighted daily as we did announcements!

David Robertson, a famous author visited John de Graff, read his most recent book, and talked about his Indigenous family and life path that influences his writing!

We had an awesome Earth Rangers Assembly!

We had a fabulous Hallowe'en Costume Parade!

Students learned about Canada's history and the importance of Truth and Reconciliation actions. Part of this was participating in Orange Shirt Day, reading and writing, and tying orange ribbons on our school fence!

The Myra Book Club was an exciting reading time, followed by Battle of the Books!

The Fairy Tale ball for Grade 2 students transported us to the kingdoms of Kings and Queens and imagination!

Phys. Ed. Clubs got everyone active and having fun. The Tumbling Rally, Cross Country Run, Folk Dancing, Winter and Spring Field Days, a Volleyball Tournament for Grade 5 student, and Golf Manitoba giving Grade 5 students golf information and tips were all great!

Pizza Lunches, thanks to our Parent Advisory Committee, were enjoyed!

Two Book Fairs highlighted amazing books and literacy connected items. It inspired us all to read a new book!

Recess Times, a favourite for many students was a time to play and be with friends!

We invited in Guest Readers and Presentations for many classes about many interesting topics! Special Clubs also were fun!

We celebrate our students in many ways for many reasons! They are an amazing group of people!

Thank you to our group of dedicated parents that join us for PAC meetings and help with school events, organizing and running the Lunch Program, and fundraising for special purchases. You are appreciated!! Our current PAC Chair, Melissa Oertel has given many hours of her time to supporting JdG and we are grateful for her dedication!

Thank you to Susanne Kilbrei and our dedicated group of Lunch Supervisors for their work at John de Graff through our busy lunch times! You are appreciated!

John de Graff School's staff will continue with our commitment to an excellent, inclusive learning environment with the goals of nurturing motivation and perseverance, high achievement, healthy lifestyles, and enjoyment in learning. We are privileged to be able to work with our wonderful students and their families. We value the support from the community.

Some of our plans for 2023-24 include:

- The theme of *"Curiosity and Wonder"*
- Continuing our learning and actions towards Truth and Reconciliation
- Continuing our work on Justice, Equity, Inclusion and Diversity
- Continuing the expansion of our book collections in the school and classroom libraries
- Developing connections and knowledge through STEAM designs and problem solving
- Continuing work on the Global Competencies of Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, Citizenship, and Connection to Self
- Continuing work on developing student agency and their strengths in understanding what they need to do to progress in their learning
- Welcoming all students to John de Graff and continuing to support learning needs, confidence, and success with learning
- Continuing our support for students that are learning the language of English, as well as appreciating their family language and culture
- Working on developing excellence in all curriculum areas.
- Communicating with parents and guardians to provide a successful collaboration for each child's success.
- Continuing our focus on healthy lifestyles
- Appreciating nature and doing things to help our Earth

The John de Graff Staff, June 2023