

# JOHN W. GUNN WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

Phone: (204) 958-6500  
Fax: (204) 222-4967  
Email: [jwg@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:jwg@retsd.mb.ca)  
Website: [www.retsd.mb.ca/jwg](http://www.retsd.mb.ca/jwg)

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

## REMINDERS

### 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 on our 24 hour answering machine. Please include the students name, teacher and date.

### Stay Up to Date

Remember to check out the JWG website on a regular basis for updates and important information. You can also check out our weekly update email sent to the community every Friday.

River East Transcona School Division  
Administration Office  
589 Roch Street  
Winnipeg, MB R2K 2P7

Phone: (204)-667-7130  
Fax: (204) 661-5618  
Website: [www.retsd.mb.ca](http://www.retsd.mb.ca)



## Your River East Transcona School Division Trustees

### Ward 1

Colleen Carswell (chair)  
204.222.1486  
[ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca)

Sheri Irwin  
204.223.5079  
[sirwin@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:sirwin@retsd.mb.ca)

### Ward 2

Rod Giesbrecht  
204.661.5984  
[rgiesbrecht@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:rgiesbrecht@retsd.mb.ca)

Sheri Hanson  
204.915.7313  
[shanson2@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:shanson2@retsd.mb.ca)

### Ward 3

Brianne Goertzen (vice-chair)  
204.955.6782  
[bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca)

Keith Morrison  
204.795.3357  
[kmorrison@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:kmorrison@retsd.mb.ca)

### Ward 4

Susan Olynik  
204.661.6440  
[solynik@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:solynik@retsd.mb.ca)

Brenda Bage  
204.221.2951  
[bbage@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:bbage@retsd.mb.ca)

### Ward 5

Shannon Hiebert  
204.771.8435  
[shiebert@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:shiebert@retsd.mb.ca)

# WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

## Welcoming Noodweweshi to Our School Community

This June, our John Gunn community was honoured to welcome our divisional Grandmother Drum, Noodweweshi, meaning Howling Wind.

Noodweweshi travels between schools in our division, offering students opportunities to gather, learn, and connect. Many keepers and Elders have helped create and care for the drum, along with the skirt she wears and the bag for her drumsticks.

During her time with us, students were grateful to learn songs and teachings from Auntie Yvette and Auntie Charity, cultural educators, and to welcome Amy from Joseph Teres School, who helped introduce Noodweweshi during her visit.

Students shared these learnings during our recent Culturama celebration, where they had the opportunity to drum and sing together as a community.

We are very thankful to have spent this time with Noodweweshi and for the teachings that continue to guide our students in learning, respect, and connection.

Miigwech! Thank you for supporting this learning in our school.

## Community Smudge Gathering

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the families and community members who joined us for our community smudge following our Culturama presentation.

A smudge is a traditional Indigenous practice that involves burning sacred medicines, such as sage, to help cleanse a space and ourselves. It is a way to feel grounded, calm, and connected, and to come together in a good way with respect and intention.

It was meaningful to gather as a community in this way and to share in a moment of reflection and connection together. We are grateful to everyone who participated and to those who chose to observe and learn alongside us. Miigwech! Thank you for being part of this special experience with our school community.

JOHN W. GUNN

# WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SSUMER EDITION  
JUNE 2026



SSUMER EDITION  
JUNE 2026

# WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

JOHN W. GUNN

## Student SUCCESSES



**LAGANJOT SINGH SANDHU**  
COMPOUND U15 MEN | ARC À POULIES, HOMMES U15

PAN AMERICAN YOUTH AND MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026  
CHAMPIONNATS PANAMÉRICAINS JUNIORS ET MASTERS



### National & International Achievement

We are especially excited to celebrate the accomplishments of Laganjot Sandhu (Grade 6), who represented Canada at the Pan American Youth Archery Championship in Medellín, Colombia (May 23–28).

Laganjot competed in the U15 category and delivered an exceptional performance, earning a silver medal on the international stage. This achievement is even more impressive considering his continued success at the provincial and national levels, where he has already captured multiple championship titles.

We extend a huge congratulations to Laganjot and his family on this incredible accomplishment. We look forward to sharing tournament photographs and celebrating his success within our school community!

JOHN W. GUNN

# WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SSUMER EDITION  
JUNE 2026

## Student SUCCESSES

### Outstanding Filipino Athlete

Jhyanna & Ms. Singcay were invited by MLA Jelynn dela Cruz to be recognized in her member statement today at the Legislative building in commemoration of Filipino Heritage Month! Jhyanna was recognized as an outstanding Filipino athlete in the Radisson community.

Happy Filipino Heritage Month



# WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

## BE PART OF TRANSCONA HISTORY BY NAMING OUR NEW SCHOOL

In partnership with the Province of Manitoba, RETSD is building a new Kindergarten to Grade 8 school in the Devonshire area of Transcona.

As construction begins, we are inviting members of the community to become part of Transcona history by helping to come up with an original name for the new school.

The Board of Trustees has formed a Naming Ad-Hoc Committee that is tasked with reviewing submissions and making a recommendation to the Board based on Policy FFA-R1.

### Three ways to make a submission:

- Fill out the online form at the following link [Become Part of Transcona History: Help Name Our New School](#)
- Pick up a form at the RETSD Administration Offices located at 589 Roch St. Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Download a form below, print, fill out, and return to RETSD Administration Offices.

Submissions can be sent to [communications@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:communications@retsd.mb.ca)

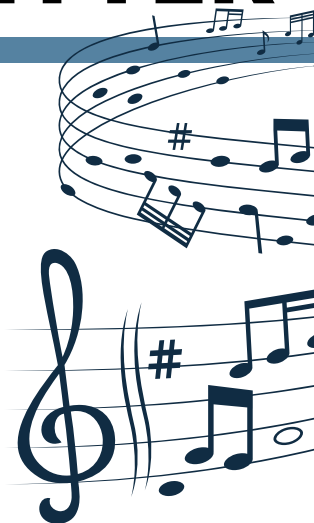
**Deadline: July 3, 2026, at 4 p.m.**

**[Click here for more information](#)**



# WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

## Band Update



The JWG band program had a busy spring season!

It began with the "Level One Band Festival" back in April, where both our grade 6 and 7 bands performed. They both got great feedback and learned so much from the adjudicators!

Next was the grade 8 band trip in early May - they went on a Manitoba tour! We got to work with award-winning music education professor Dr. Wendy Zander at Brandon University, performed in three locations across the province (Brandon, Dauphin, and right across the field at Transcona Collegiate), and had a lot of fun, too!

The last big event of the season was of course our spring concert, at which all band students and drummers performed. It was a wonderful evening of music, and a great celebration of the learning they've done all year.

There was one more performance last week - our JWG Jazz Band travelled to Joseph Teres Elementary School to perform a concert for the entire student body! They got rave reviews and even had some students get up and dance! Congrats to all band students on a wonderful year! Looking forward to making more music with you next fall, and all the best to our musicians headed off to high school!



JOHN W. GUNN

# WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SSUMER EDITION  
JUNE 2026



**MBA** manitoba band association

Level One Band  
Festival 2026

*J.W.G.*  
john.gunn@wgc.ca

JOHN W. GUNN

# WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SSUMER EDITION  
JUNE 2026



**MBA** manitoba band association

*Level One Band  
Festival 2026*

*J.W. Gunn*

## Celebrating an Outstanding Year for Wildcat Athletics!

As we wrap up another incredible school year, we are proud to celebrate the many achievements, milestones, and unforgettable moments that made this year one of the best yet for Wildcat Athletics!

Our student-athletes demonstrated exceptional dedication, sportsmanship, and school spirit across all events. From daily practices to high-level competitions, their commitment truly paid off and helped build a culture of excellence within our athletic programs.

### Track & Field Success

This year's track and field season was nothing short of extraordinary. At the divisional track meet, John Gunn delivered an outstanding performance, earning 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishes across an incredible 49 events!! This is a remarkable accomplishment that highlights both our athletic versatility and determination as a school! .

We were also proud to send a strong group of students to the provincial championships, where our Wildcats continued to shine on a larger stage:

**Zoran V.** earned **1st place in the province in Grade 8 Boys Long Jump**, showcasing exceptional athletic ability.

**Emily B.** achieved **3rd place in the province in Grade 7 Girls Shot Put**, demonstrating strength and consistency under pressure.

As we reflect on this year, we are incredibly proud of all our Wildcat athletes. Your hard work, resilience, and passion have made this a year to remember. We can't wait to see what next year brings—Go Wildcats!



# **Bike & Scooter Reminder**

Do you ride a bike or scooter to school? Maybe you know someone who does. We love to see students be active. We also love to see students be safe.

A wonderful opportunity came up where artists were able to create a path as a visual reminder to students to dismount and walk their bike or scooter to the racks.

First, artists in grade 8s were asked to come up with a design and 50ish submissions were puzzled together to create this rainbow path. Then, grade 6s and 7s helped with the rainbow stripes before 8s finished it with the interesting flourishes. Tanya and Kate even stayed after school to add highlights and details to the bike and scooter! The physical painting of a project this size was done in a day and a half and the only reason we were able to do it in record speed is because it was all hands on deck! Now we have 130 students that can proudly say they participated in this amazing community project that we hope will last a few years. Thank you to all those that got involved!

JOHN W. GUNN

# WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SSUMER EDITION  
JUNE 2026



# WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SSUMER EDITION  
JUNE 2026

The full update can be found on the provinces website at: The Highway Traffic Amendment and Drivers and Vehicles Amendment Act

**Did  
you  
KNOW?**

On June 1st this year, the provincial government passed legislation to update the rules around E-Scooters and other personal electric vehicles?

E-Scooters now need to follow the same rules as bicycles with a few additions.

- Minimum age of 14 for e-bikes and 16 for electric scooters.
- All E-Scooters and bikes are not to be ridden on sidewalks and must use roads or multi use pathways (like the Transcona trail).
- Helmets are required.
- Riders must follow all rules of the road including stop signs.
- Riders must not wear headphones or earbuds.
- Additional passengers are not permitted on E-Scooters.

We encourage all students to travel to school safely no matter what method of travel they choose.

JOHN W. GUNN

# WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SSUMER EDITION  
JUNE 2026



Pictures on the fence? Yes! Grade 8s were asked to make connections to community and then visually represent that with paint on a wood board. These pieces have been attached to the chain link fence between JWG and Radisson, creating a visual bridge. This project was started last year and continues to grow with every board that goes up. Thank you to all that participated!



JOHN W. GUNN

# WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SSUMER EDITION  
JUNE 2026

If you were at the divisional Pow Wow May 20th, you may have seen the art gallery where our grade 6s represented JWG with spirit animals collages.



Sidra (bird), Julien (spider), and Polina (owl).



JOHN W. GUNN

# WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SSUMER EDITION  
JUNE 2026



Pencil portrait by Aubrey R.



Emma A.



Brooke Y.

JOHN W. GUNN

# WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SSUMER EDITION  
JUNE 2026



*Divisional Adapted Track & Field*

JOHN W. GUNN

# WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SSUMER EDITION  
JUNE 2026

# Important

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, September 8 – School Year's Eve

Thursday, September 17 – First Note Night (Band)

Monday, September 28 – Grade 6 Immunizations

Tuesday, October 6 – Lifetouch Photo Day

Monday, October 26 – Grade 8 Immunizations

Thursday, November 5 – Lifetouch  
Photo Retakes

Tuesday, December 1 – Vision/Hearing Screening

# John W. Gunn's SCHOOL YEAR'S EVE

SAVE THE DATE

We would like to invite any 2026-2027 John W. Gunn students and their parent/guardians to drop in for our "School Year's Eve" open house on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> between 4:00pm and 6:00pm

## This open house will address the following:

- Any potential student anxiety around the first day of classes.
- An opportunity to meet the classroom teachers, as well as other specialist teachers and administration before the school year begins.
- A chance for parents to walk into the building with their student to become familiar with the new classroom and other students.
- The opportunity for parents to pay student fees during the visit and handle other administrative tasks.

It is our hope that we will have a chance to see many of our families. Our early time for this visit was chosen to accommodate a good night's rest for our students and staff for the following first day of classes.

We look forward to having you join us!

---

## Schedule for the first day of classes on Wednesday, September 9th

**Grade 6 Students:** Attend a full day of school between 8:30am and 3:10pm (enter through the front doors on Harold Ave).

There will be a welcome BBQ provided for our new Grade 6 students during the lunch hour! Vegetarian and Halal options will be available. BBQ will include a hot dog, chips and juice box.

**Grade 7 & 8 Students:** Attend school from 12:25pm to 3:10pm.

\*Grade 7 students enter at the back of the school by the staff parking lot.

\*Grade 8 Students enter at the Madeline St. doors.

\*Please contact the school office at 204-958-6500 if your student will not be attending.

On Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> we will ask all students to attend during our regularly scheduled school day.



## **NOTICE TO GRADE 6 AND FEE FOR SERVICE STUDENTS RE: BUSING**



**Grade 6 students currently being transported by a RETSD school bus will not be eligible for free busing in Grade 7. According to the Manitoba Education Public Schools Act Regulation (M.R. 259/2006). Grade 7 to 12 students living within the city limits are not eligible for school bus transportation. Fee-for-Service may be available. If you are considering this option, please submit a Transportation Application – Fee-For-Service 2026-27 Form B. Forms are available from the school office or on the Transportation section located on divisional home page at [www.retsd.mb.ca](http://www.retsd.mb.ca). Applications are not rolled over therefore, you must (re)-apply every year.**

**Fee-For-Service applications must be submitted to the Transportation Department by June 30th of each school year and will be reviewed on an individual basis.**





# Unpacking School Options When Moving

## Planning a Move?



If your family is planning a move to a new home, there are a few things to keep in mind when it comes to school.



## Moving Within the Division?



Find your child's designated school by using our School Locator, found at the top of the Schools page at [retsdb.ca](https://retsdb.ca). A student's designated school is based on the address of their custodial parent/legal guardian and the student's chosen program (e.g., language program, vocational program).

## Moving Outside Your Current School's Catchment Area?



If your child wants to continue attending their current school, you can apply under **Schools of Choice**. Pick up an "In Division/Out of Designated School Boundary" application from their current RETSD school.



## Moving Outside the Division – But Want Your Child to Attend an RETSD School?



You can also apply under **Schools of Choice**. Pick up an "Out of Division" application from an RETSD school.

**Just remember:** Students applying under **Schools of Choice** are considered for acceptance based on available space, the ability of the school to provide appropriate support/programming, and a number of applicant criteria listed online at [retsdb.ca](https://retsdb.ca).  
*Transportation is not provided to Schools of Choice students.*

# 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.



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 [info@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:info@retsd.mb.ca).

# 3



# 4

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

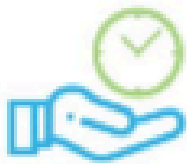


# Pay for school fees online!

[retsd.schoolcashonline.com](https://retsd.schoolcashonline.com)



**Free, secure, and easy to use**



**24/7 Convenience: Manage all of your children's fees from a single account, from elementary through secondary**



**Receive emails about new fees and deadlines, even if you pay in cash**



**View and print receipts at any time**



**If you pay online, your child doesn't need to carry cash to school**

[retsd.schoolcashonline.com](https://retsd.schoolcashonline.com)