



# 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**

**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 (Vice-Chair) 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 Olynik 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

**NOTE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

We are so happy to have spring weather on its way! In spring our playground is usually wet with melting snow piles and puddles. We have been reminding students not to go in the wet areas and snow hills and to wear waterproof boots.

We are hoping for warm sun to let us get outside more after Spring Break.

We have started planning for next year already and this includes our priorities in our School Plans. We are going to have the areas of:

- |                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| * Math               | * Indigenous Academic Achievements  |
| * Literacy           | * English as an Additional Language |
| * STEAM              | * Curiosity and Wonder              |
| * Positive Behaviour |                                     |

Parent/Guardian questions or input is welcome. Please contact Mrs. M. Fair, Principal at [mfair@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:mfair@retsd.mb.ca).

**NO SCHOOL**

March 27-31.....Spring Break  
 Friday, April 7.....Good Friday  
 Friday, April 14.....Coordinated Day

**REPORT CARDS AND PARENT-TEACHER-STUDENT CONFERENCES**

Report cards were available to view on the Parent Portal as of March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to our families for participating in our celebrations of students' learning at our conferences. These conversations are so important!

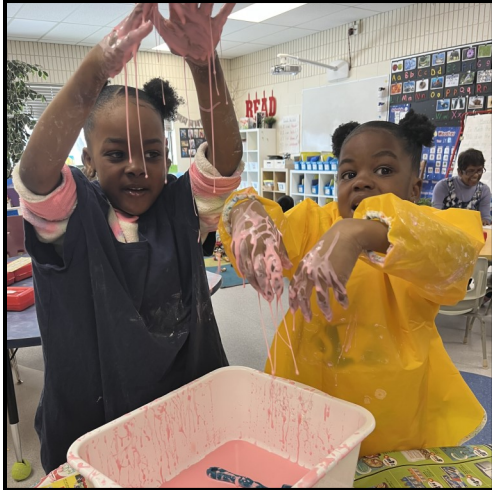
As we move into Term 3, students will continue to work on curriculum outcomes and big ideas that connect learning, set goals for their own learning, and practice new skills.

We celebrate all their accomplishments.



# WEEK OF PLAY

March 20-24, 2023



Play based learning is beneficial for learning, especially in early childhood.

It can stimulate cognitive, social, physical and emotional development.

Children are doing different types of play this week. The teachers are providing different play materials, provocations and questions, and freedom and choices for the students to direct their own play ideas.

Teachers are also observing students to further support their play and learning and take note of their language and ideas.

Here are some examples from the students in Mrs. Meads Kindergarten class showing how they play.

This has been a very exciting week for everyone!

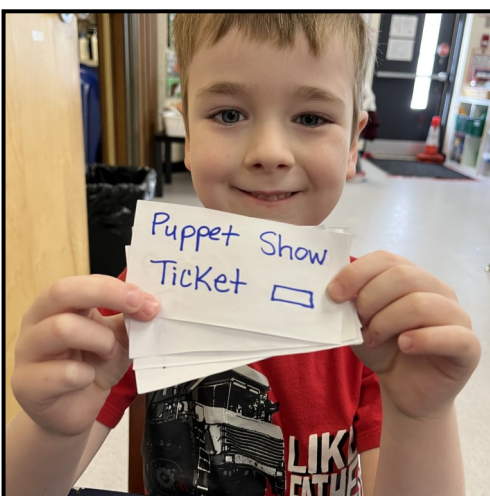
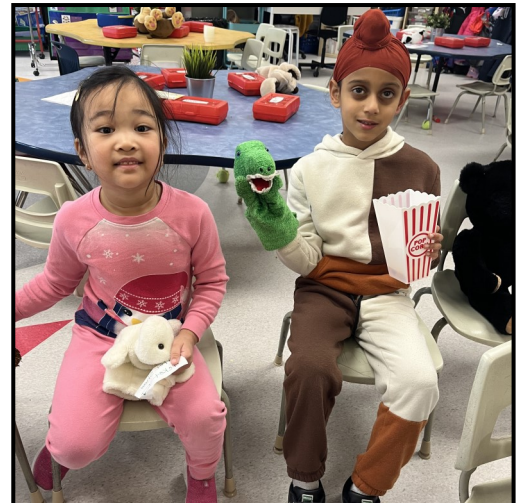




Some of the play we did were:

- ◆ Imaginative Play
- ◆ Language Play
- ◆ Musical Play
- ◆ Symbolic Play
- ◆ Onlooker Play
- ◆ Parallel Play
- ◆ Outdoor Play

We had a lot of fun!  
We learned a lot!



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration is open for all children born in 2018 in our John de Graff school catchment. This means that your child must have had their fifth birthday on or before December 31, 2023.



John de Graff School is **closed** to “School of Choice” for the 2023-24 school year.

Registration started on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> **by appointment only**.

Kindergarten registration forms are available on our school webpage. You will need to bring the completed registration forms to the registration appointment.

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 of parent/guardian (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.

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.

### PAC MEETING

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Everyone welcome.



**PAC FUNDRAISER  
KERNELS POPCORN**



**Order forms will go home the week after Spring  
Break and are due April 13<sup>th</sup>.**

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PINK

**International Day of Pink** celebrated on April 12, 2023 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.

Important conversations around themes of kindness, courage and inclusivity will be had.

This year the grade 5 students in room #10 Ms. Vanalstyne's class are taking charge of promoting kindness in the school for this special day.

Everyone is encouraged to **wear pink!**

## CLASS LISTS

After spring break we will be starting to look at class lists for next year. If you have an educational request for your child's class placement please send it to Mrs. Fair in writing. The last date for consideration of requests is Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Classes are made up based on several factors. While we will consider your request carefully, we cannot guarantee that it can be accommodated.



## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

As we continue to learn and grow on our reconciliation journey, our Land Acknowledgment Statement is:

"RETSD is located on the original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Anishininiwak, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Red River Metis.

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."



## NOTICE REGARDING: FEE-FOR-SERVICE BUSING



If you are requiring Fee-For-Service transportation, the application form must be submitted to the Transportation Dept. **each school year**. Transportation Application – Fee-For-Service 2023-2024 forms are available from the school office or follow the Quick Link "Busing Information" on the RETSD website at [www.retsd.mb.ca](http://www.retsd.mb.ca)

Fee-For-Service applications must be submitted to the Transportation Department by **June 30<sup>th</sup>** of each school year. Applications received after June 30<sup>th</sup> will be reviewed on an individual basis.



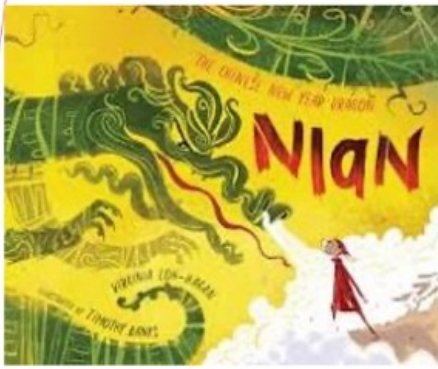
2023 GRADE 3 BATTLE OF THE BOOKS WINNERS

The results have been tabulated and the grade 3's at John de Graff have spoken!

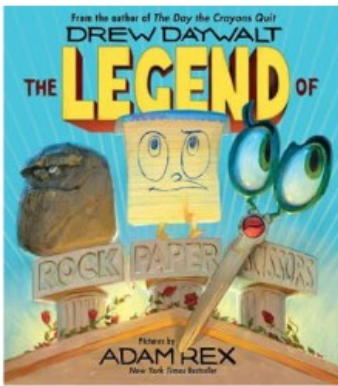
Here are the 2023 winners of our Annual Battle of the Books:

We are hoping to add each of these books to our John de Graff Library soon!

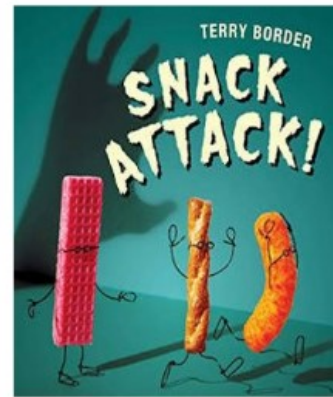
2023  
*BATTLE OF THE BOOKS WINNERS*



1st – 90 points

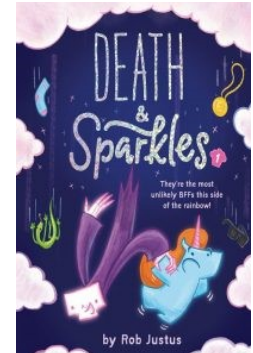
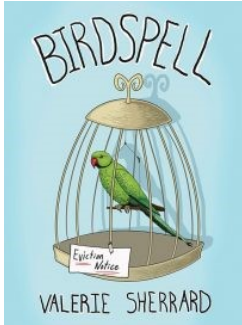


2nd – 87 points



3rd – 81 points





### MYRCA 2023 SUNDOG NOMINEES

MYRCA for grade 4-5 students

Voting will take place from  
April 20 to April 29, 2023.

Students who have read 3 books  
get 1 vote.

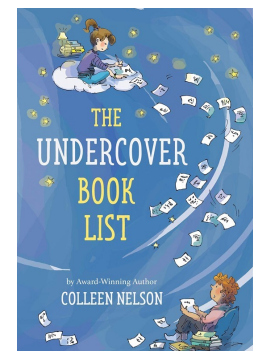
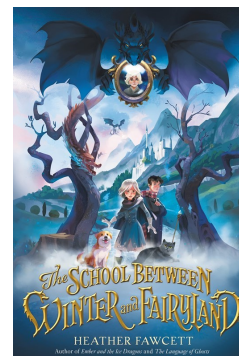
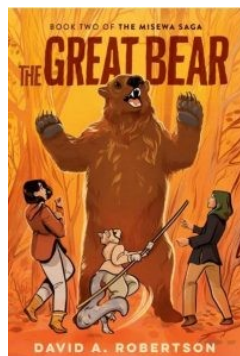
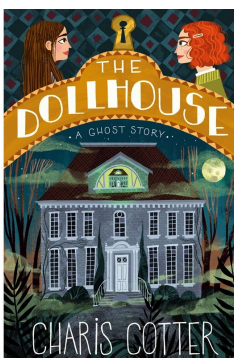
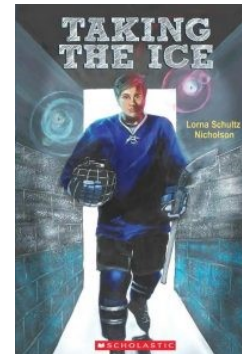
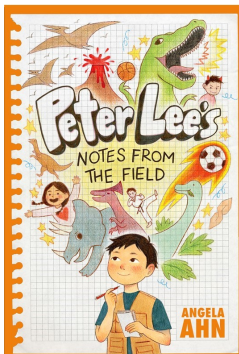
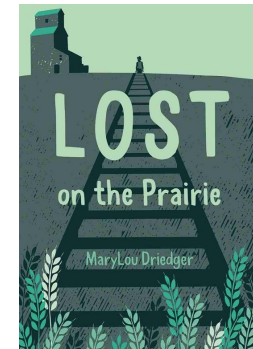
Students who have read 4-6 books  
get 2 votes.

Many students in grade 5 have  
already read at least 3 of the titles  
displayed here and have picked a  
favourite.

There is still time over Spring  
Break to read another book.

Titles are available in the  
classroom libraries, public library  
and on SORA (our online library  
accessed through Office 365).

For more information on MYRCA,  
please see their website.  
([www.myrca.ca](http://www.myrca.ca))





## RETLIFE PROGRAMMING

[RETLife](#) provides exciting opportunities for community members to participate in leisure and recreational programming at schools throughout the RETSD division.

All activities allow **you** to stay close to home!

New classes have been added to our list for the spring – and even more are in the process of being added shortly!

### ***New RETLife classes include:***



***Kids Can Draw (6 – 8 years)***  
***Kids Can Draw (8 – 12 years)***



***Sketching and Drawing***



***Yoga***



***Mental Health First Aid for  
Adults Interacting with Youth***

### ***Coming soon to RETLife!***

- ◆ Parent and Child – Learn to Jig Together
- ◆ WHMIS
- ◆ Flag Person Training
- ◆ Basic Life Support (for medical professionals)
- ◆ Food Handlers
- ◆ Parent and Child Yoga



# River East Transcona School Division TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Curtis Basso  
Director of Transportation

2057 Camsell Avenue  
East St. Paul, Manitoba  
R2E 1G2  
Telephone: 669-0202

Jeff Baldauf  
A/Assistant Director

## NOTE TO ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS IN THE RIVER EAST TRANSCONA SCHOOL DIVISION

### BUS EVACUATION DRILLS

The Public Schools Act, P250-R.M. 465/88 R - Pupil Instruction, states the following:

*"The school board shall ensure that at least twice in each school year each pupil is instructed in safe school bus riding practices and participates in emergency school bus evacuation drills which shall be conducted at least once during the fall term and at least once during the spring term of each school year."*

The River East Transcona Transportation Department has an excellent safety record. In maintaining this record, we carry out Bus Evacuation programs in all of our schools in the early fall and late spring of each school year.

These practice drills are carried out so that in the event of an emergency, our students can evacuate the bus as quickly and safely as possible.

The safety of our children is of the utmost importance and must be given first consideration.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Curtis Basso  
Director of Transportation

#### **BUS EVACUATION DATES**

Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> ..... KG to Grade 5  
Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> ..... KG only

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022—2023

### MARCH

Friday, March 24..... LAST Day of classes before Spring Break, **Regular Dismissal**

### APRIL

Monday, April 3 ..... 1<sup>st</sup> Day of classes after break, Day 5  
Friday, April 7..... No School, Good Friday  
Tuesday, April 11 ..... PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, April 13..... “Kernels” Orders are due  
Friday, April 14..... No School, Co-ordinated PD Day  
Thursday, April 20..... Grade 5 Basketball Tournament  
Tuesday, April 25 ..... Bus Evacuation Drills (KG to Grade 5)  
Wednesday, April 26 ..... Bus Evacuation Drills (KG only)

### MAY

Monday, May 1..... Music Monday Assembly at 1:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 9..... PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Monday, May 22..... No School, Victoria Day  
Thursday, May 25 ..... KG Open House (6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.). More information will be provided to KG families  
Friday, May, 26..... KG Open House (10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.). More information will be provided to KG families  
Monday, May 29..... No School, Co-ordinated PD Day

### JUNE

Tuesday, June 13 ..... PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Monday, June 26 ..... No School, School PD Day  
Friday, June 30..... LAST Day of School before Summer, **Early Dismissal 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>

Many students at John de Graff School are observing Ramadan.

They will also be celebrating Eide on April. 21<sup>st</sup>.

We wish them a happy holiday!



If you need to get in touch with Dawn & Dusk or Kindercare, you can reach the coordinator, Deborah at  
204.654.1594