

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER



John W. Gunn Middle School
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WILDCATS NEWSLETTER



March 2024

Spring Edition

To the John W. Gunn Community,

As we transition into the spring season, I am delighted to reflect on the achievements and successes we've witnessed within our school community. It's truly inspiring to see our students excel academically, demonstrating their commitment to learning and their passion for knowledge. From presentations to innovative projects, each achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of both our students and educators.

In addition to academic accomplishments, I would like to highlight the achievements of our basketball teams and the remarkable growth of our music program. Throughout the season, our basketball players have exhibited remarkable skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship, representing our school with pride. Simultaneously, our music program has flourished, with students showcasing their talents and dedication through rehearsals and performances. As we eagerly anticipate our Spring musical, we recognize the hard work and dedication of our students and staff, both on the court and on the stage.

Looking ahead, I am eagerly anticipating the highlights that await us in the remaining months of the school year. There is much to be excited about. As we embark on this journey together, let us embrace the opportunities for collaboration and reflection, recognizing the value of working as a team to achieve our collective goals.

In closing, I want to extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you for a joyful and productive spring season. Let us continue to support one another, and embrace the opportunities for growth that lie ahead. Together, we will make the remainder of this school year truly exceptional. Happy spring!

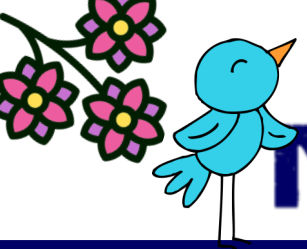
Sincerely,

Ryan Francis

Principal

River East Transcona School Division: Administration Office

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



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Attendance

If your child will be away from school, please call the office at 204-958-6500 (you can leave a voicemail) or email us at jwg@retsd.mb.ca

Contact Info

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

Stay up to Date

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

ww.retsd.mb.ca/jwg

You can also follow us on



twitter.com/jwg_RETSD

JOHN W GUNN

presents

Disney • PIXAR

FINDING NEMO



KIDS

©Disney/Pixar

RADISSON THEATRE

APRIL 17 @ 7:00

APRIL 18 @ 1:30

APRIL 18 @ 7:00

TICKETS \$10 AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE



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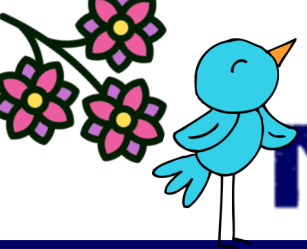
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Making Space for Makerspace!

This month, students have had a chance to come down to the learning commons with their class to learn about Makerspace! A Makerspace is a **collaborative** workspace inside a school or library for **making, learning, exploring,** and **sharing** that uses high tech to no tech tools. This may range from building and designing a locker organizer with popsicle sticks and cardboard to building and designing elaborate code to direct robots through mazes. Makerspace is a place for kids to trying something new, learn **problem solving skills,** make mistakes and **challenge themselves** to find solutions. Building makes ideas hands on and come to life! When students design and build something, they learn to work through challenges, be a problem solver and **get creative** to make something work! Building with LEGO and other materials promotes fine motor skills, improves creativity, develops problem solving, **mathematical thinking** and planning skills. Coding robots and Micro-bits promotes problem solving skills, systematic thinking, and **logical reasoning.** Coding allows students to bring ideas to life while learning to analyze potential problems and trouble shoot. Along with many other activities makerspace offers, coding promotes creativity and opens doors to students finding a new interest or passion. Once every class has had a chance to come to the learning commons to try it out, makerspace will become a lunch club that students can drop in and explore their creativity!





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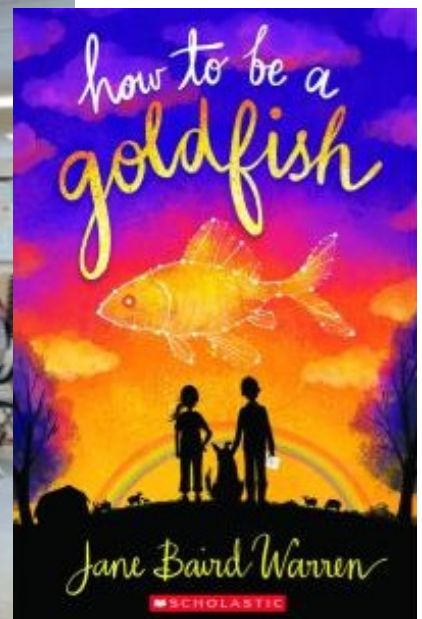




Virtual MYRCA Author Visit

At lunch on February 27, we were very lucky to virtually host Jane Baird Warren, author of *How to be a Goldfish*. Ms. Warren's book is a 2024 MYRCA nominee in the Northern Lights category. As winners of her Instagram contest, Ms. Warren donated a copy of her book to each of our grade 7 and 8 classroom libraries, as well as a few signed copies and a stack of bookmarks to give away during her virtual visit.

Ms. Smolinski and Ms. Hanuschuk were joined by the grade 7 and 8 MYRCA club students, as well as any other student who had read the book and wanted to join in. Ms. Warren told our students about the real-life events her story was based on, talked about the publishing process and then took questions from students. Many of the students were interested in learning more about the writing and publishing processes and it was a great opportunity for them to learn from expert. Ms. Warren's presentation was informative and engaging and she did a wonderful job of connecting with our students, which can be challenging to do when presenting virtually. Everyone really enjoyed their lunch hour discussing the novel *How to be a Goldfish*.



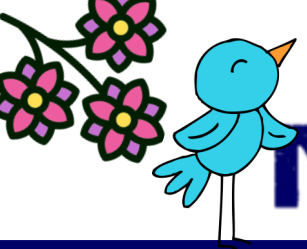


Basketball News



With basketball season coming to an end we would like to thank all students that participated on our teams! What a great season 2024 was. We had multiple athletes win player of the game, with some even winning tournament MVP's. A big thanks goes out to our coaches and parents for putting in countless hours with our athletes in the evenings and over weekends. If your son or daughter is looking to continue participating in basketball over the coming months, please look into registration for spring league basketball outside of school through the WMBA. Information can be found online through their website. We look forward to seeing what our athletes can do on the court next year!





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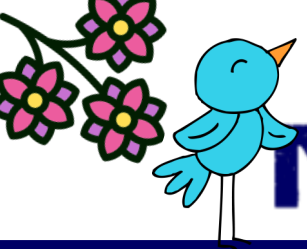
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Art

If you could make *anything* with air-dry clay, what would you make? Artists in grade 8 tackled this inquiry-based project by creating figurines, keychains, magnets, and more!





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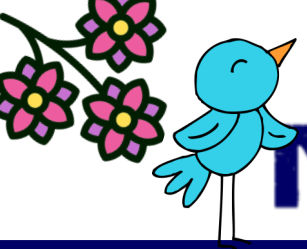
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Art.

Clay tiles made by artists in grade 7.





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February was 'I Love to Read Month,' so the entire school was invited to make miniature books! Students made sketchbooks with sketches, journals and diaries with entries, cookbooks with recipes, a music book with music notes drawn inside, magazines, Manga books, MYRCA books, a computer manual, a scroll, and so much more.





Acrylic painting by Vanessa P.



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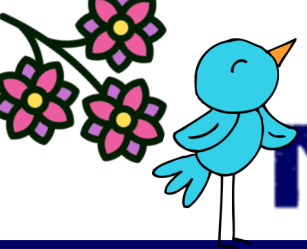


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What better way to spend the chilly winter months than doing watercolour paintings of beautiful birch forests?!



NOTICE TO GRADE 6 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 Grade 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 2024-25 form. Forms are available from the school office or on the Transportation icon located on divisional home page at

www.retsd.mb.ca.

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

*NOTICE - FEE-FOR-SERVICE BUSING



If Fee-For-Service transportation is required again for your student(s) for the upcoming school year, a 2024-25 application form must be submitted to the Transportation Department. Transportation Application – Fee-For-Service 2024-2025 forms are available from the school office or on the Transportation icon located on the divisional home page at www.retsd.mb.ca.

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

7C and 7D Shelter Project

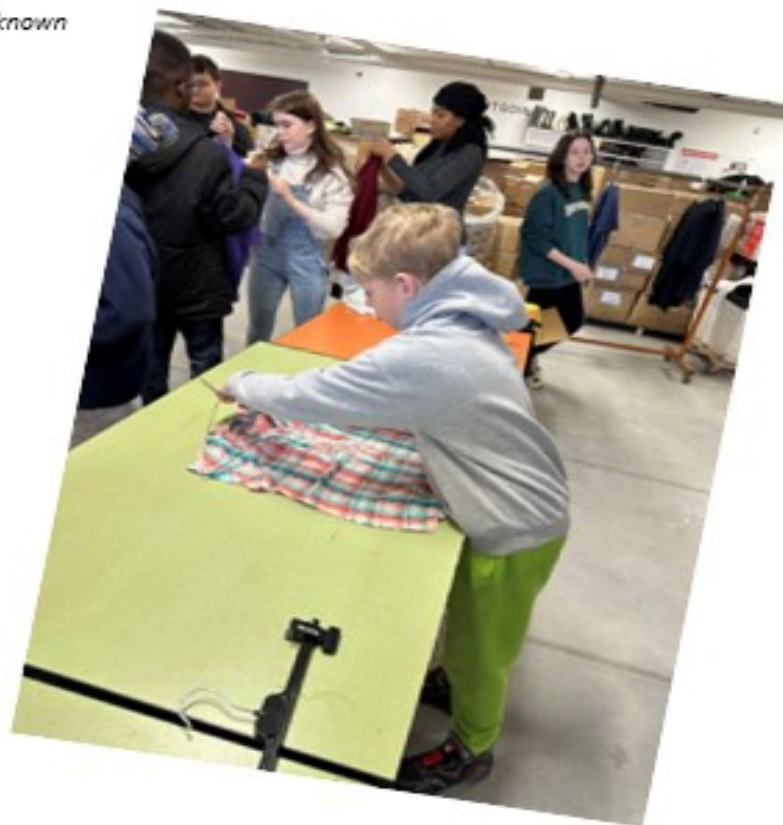
Two grade 7 classes embark on a new challenge, wondering how they can have a positive impact on the unhoused citizens of Winnipeg. This 6 week long project began with a presentation from Siloam Mission and Main Street Project. Students learned what the needs of this community are and what is already been done to help meet some of these needs. Students investigated how other cities are providing temporary shelter in the winter or building tiny home communities. They were tasked with designing a pop-up shelter that would help support the unhoused community during the harsh Winnipeg Winters. In small groups, students created blueprints, planned, and designed with the needs of the community in mind and began building prototypes for their shelters. They had a special guest, a structural engineer, meet with their group to provide feedback on their design and ask questions that lead them to making adjustments and improvements to their design. Finally, students had the opportunity to go to Siloam Mission to learn more and volunteer in the clothing donation process. After having participated in these many experiences throughout the project, students put together a final presentation where they proposed their shelter solutions to a panel. They shared what was challenging for them, what they had found success in and proudly explained the choices they made on their design and build of their pop-up shelter. This was a great celebration of learning. Students and teachers felt equally proud of the major accomplishments, insights and learning that had been shared. Through this 6 week long project, students learned about homelessness, advocacy, identity and the value in empathy and understanding.

We are so proud of you all!

— Mr. Boyd, Mrs. Allford and Ms. Doerksen

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."

— Unknown





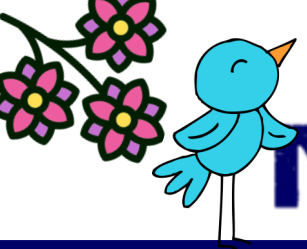
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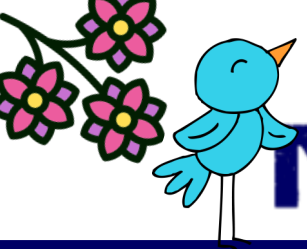
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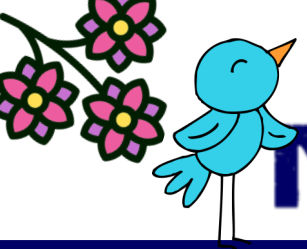
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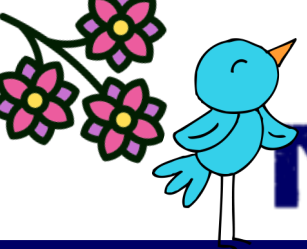
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International Women's Day - Make Your Movement Event

What a great experience for our JWG students who had the opportunity to attend the International Women's Day-Make your Move Event at U of M on Saturday. Thanks to Ms. Huang for supervising them on Saturday.





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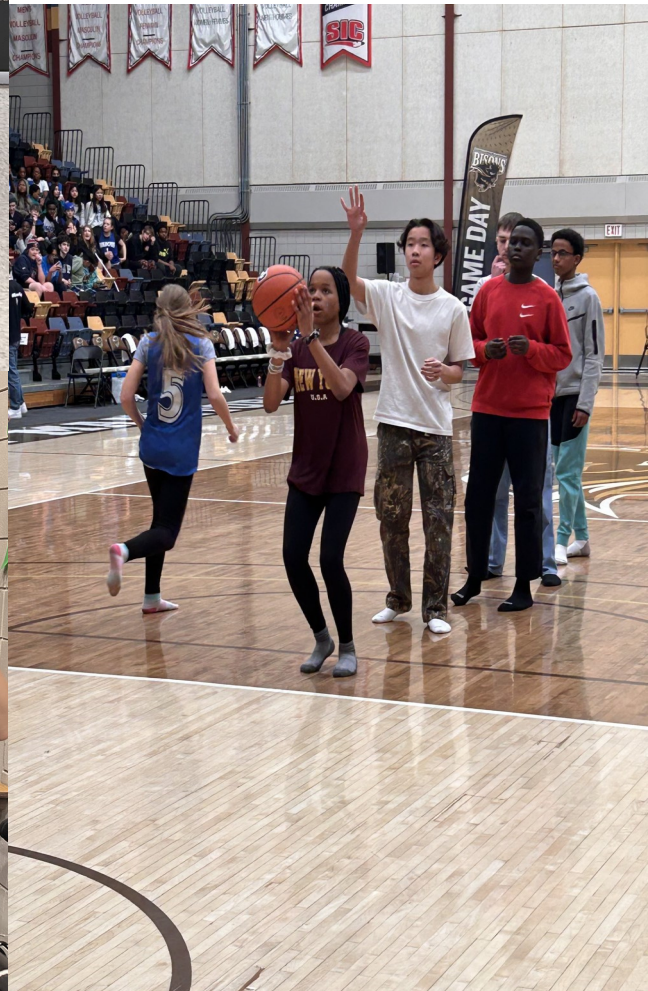
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Canada West Basketball Game

A couple buses headed over to U of M today for about 80 of our students to take in a Canada West Mens Basketball game! What an exciting afternoon. Thanks to Coach Boyd and Coach Ritz for organizing this wonderful opportunity.





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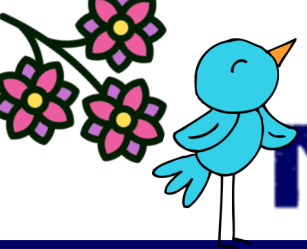
Spring Edition

Asessippi



What a fantastic opportunity for our JWG students to experience Asessippi ski hill.

The weather was beautiful and the company was awesome.



Level One Band Festival

Our Grade 7 & 8 band is performing in the Level One Band Festival at My Church Winnipeg (955 Wilkes Ave) on April 17th, 2024.

Their performances are as follows:

Grade 7 Performance - 12:20pm

Grade 8 Performance - 2:20pm



JWVG SPIRIT WEAR

2023-2024

Wildcats

Est. 1966

John W. Gunn



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colours!



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<https://www.promoplace.com/JWGSchool>

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.



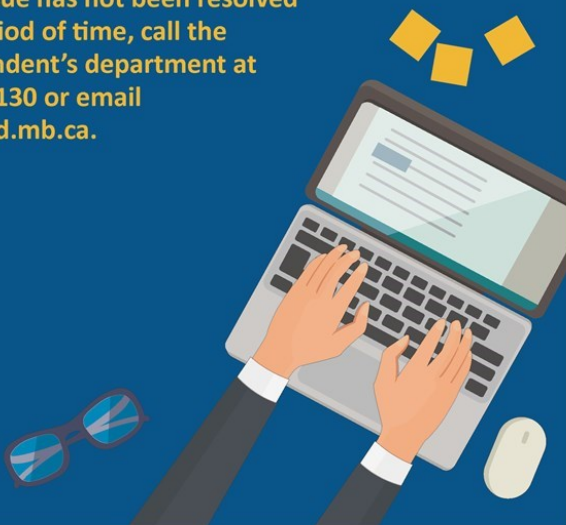
2

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.

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.





Classes are now available for Spring Registration with RETLife!

RETLife is excited to announce its lineup for Spring 2024!

Some of our offerings include:

Basic Robot Training With LEGO® – Joining the BOT Squad! (ages 8 – 12) – Saturday, April 20 – College Miles Macdonell Collegiate – RETLife

Choreography Workshop for Youth (ages 8 – 15) – Friday, May 3, 2024- College Miles Macdonnell Collegiate – RETLife

Embroidery Workshop for Beginners (ages 12 and up) – Thursday, April 4, 2024 – Radisson School – RETLife

Hooked on Turtles – Creative Crochet for Beginners (ages 12 and up) – Wednesdays, April 24 – May 29, 2024 at McLeod Education Centre – RETLife

Kids Can Build Bottle Rockets for Apprentice Engineers (ages 8 – 12) – Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – College Miles Macdonell Collegiate – RETLife

Kids Can Dance (ages 8 – 12) – Thursdays, April 11 – May 2, 2024 – College Miles Macdonell Collegiate – RETLife

Kids' Badminton – An Introduction to the Game of Badminton (ages 10 – 13) – Wednesdays, April 3 – May 29, 2024 (No Class on May 15)- Radisson School – RETLife

Mandala Dot Painting for Beginners – (ages 12 and up) – Thursday, April 4, 2024 – John W. Gunn School – RETLife

Stay Safe! (ages 9 – 13) – Saturday, April 27, 2024 – College Miles Macdonell Collegiate – RETLife

Visit **RETLife** for more information and to register.

www.retlife.ca