



Donwood School Newsletter

December 16, 2022

Important Dates:

Dec 21: Last Day of Classes before Winter Break (**Early Dismissal @ 2:30pm**)
Dec 22 - Jan 4: Winter Break - **No Classes**
Jan 5: First day of classes after break (Day 3)
Jan 10: Virtual PAC meeting @ 6:30pm

Dress Warm

We hope that you are all staying warm this winter! We ask that students come dressed appropriately for the weather. A warm toque/hat, mittens, snow pants, face covering, warm insulated jacket, and boots as needed when it's cold.



Polar Bear Recess

During winter, cold weather has traditionally meant that students have even less opportunity to move and be active due to indoor recess for temperatures lower than -27 C. Active play outdoors is so important to healthy child development and to ensuring that students are focussed for their learning.

Parental consent is required for students to participate. Permission forms have been sent home with students. If you have any questions, please contact the school at 204-668-9438.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Stephen and Peter from Stephen's No Frills for their ongoing support for Donwood School. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!!!

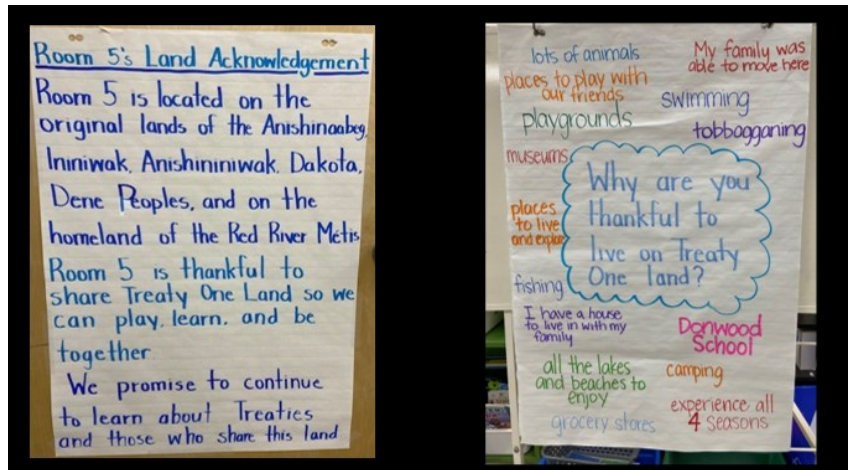


Staff Retirement

Donwood School would like to thank and celebrate Shelley Kile, one of our Educational Assistants, who will be retiring on December 21st. Ms. Kile has been an EA in our building for the past 19 years. Her love of our school community and her commitment to supporting the students, their families and the staff in our building has been so appreciated. We wish her all the best as she begins this next chapter in her journey. ***We will miss you, Ms. Kile!***

Land Acknowledgement

On December 12th, Donwood School had a "Land Acknowledgement" Assembly. Grade 1 and 2 students in Ms. Feuer's class and Grade 5 students in Frau Wurmman's class shared their learning about Land Statements and some reasons why they are grateful to live on Treaty One Territory.



Room 19 acknowledges we live, learn, grow, and play on Treaty 1 Land, the original lands of the Anishnaabeg, Ininiwak, Anishiniwak, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and on the homeland of the Red River Métis. We recognize our part in the treaty relationship

and that we are all treaty people. We promise to be protectors of the Land by picking up garbage, leaving grass and plants in the ground, using only what we need (offer Nature tobacco), plant trees, try to encourage our families to have NO CAR DAYS, find ways to support and even create protected areas. Gidinawendimin, we are all related.



Thank you to Ava and Nora who read the Land Acknowledgement at the beginning of our assembly. We talked about why Land Acknowledgements are an important part of Truth and Reconciliation and the importance of recognizing that Indigenous peoples called this land home before the arrival of settlers. Acknowledging that promises were broken is an important step towards healing hearts.

Mrs. Martineau presented a "Land Acknowledgement" plaque that was unveiled by Owen and Cohen. This plaque will be displayed at Donwood school to remind us of the importance of Land Acknowledgements and our commitment to reconciling relationships.

Construction Update



Construction on the approved upgrades for Donwood School continues to run smoothly. The roof work has been completed and the last of the windows have been installed, including the beautiful windows in our school library. The exterior brick work is nearing completion with a portion of the south and east side left to complete.

As previously mentioned, given the scope of the mechanical work taking place, temporary ventilation systems are in place. These systems meet the required ventilation standards, and the maintenance department has complimented this with portable air cleaners.

The construction crew will be working hard over the winter break on interior finishes including window casing, painting, and ceiling tiles as well as beginning the work on the installation of the new ventilation system.

We appreciate everyone's continued understanding particularly around adjustments that have been made to family events to support evening construction work. Construction is expected to continue into February/March.

We look forward to welcoming our families into the building this spring. In the end, Donwood will be a "new" school with a vastly improved exterior, roof, mechanical systems, millwork, and windows/skylights.



Donwood's Stay and Play

Donwood's Stay and Play will resume on January 18th. Stay tuned for more information, or email Doreen Ogungbemi at dogungbemi@retsd.mb.ca



Check out more of the exciting events, celebrations and learning taking place at Donwood School by following our Twitter account [@don_RETSD](https://twitter.com/don_RETSD).

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact the school at 204-668-9438 or email us at don@retsd.mb.ca



We appreciate the continued collaboration and support! We hope you and your family have a safe, healthy, and happy winter break. Please see the community support information below.

Donwood School Staff

Winter Preschool Programs

Little Food Explorers

Calling all Explorers!! Let's explore food in a fun and positive way! This program includes preparing simple recipes and encourages children to have fun exploring a variety of foods

**Mondays, 10:00 - 11:00
January 23 - March 6**

**Hampstead School
920 Hampstead Ave.**

Stay and Plays In-person Drop-In

Hampstead School

920 Hampstead Ave.
Tuesdays 9:15-11:00

Contact: Colette at cmolloy@retsd.mb.ca
if interested.

Donwood School

400 Donwood Dr.
Wednesdays 9:00-11:00

Contact: Doreen at dogungbemi@retsd.mb.ca
if interested.

**** For Children ages
ages birth to 5.****

Shape Your World

****VIRTUAL****

Discover the world of shapes! We will learn all about shapes through stories, crafts and songs.

**Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:00
January 25 - March 1**

*This program will take place
virtually over TEAMS*

Tic Tac Toe Away We Go

This program is filled with fun games and activities to make and do with your busy preschoolers!

**Thursdays, 10:00 - 11:00
January 26 - March 2**

**Hampstead School
920 Hampstead Ave.**

Click [HERE](#) to register.

For more information Contact Katie Patteson at 204- 669-9412 or kpatteson@retsd.mb.ca



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.**

Take it Slow in Ice & Snow

A Message from Curtis Basso, Director of Transportation



Winter driving conditions are here, and roads are not always clear!

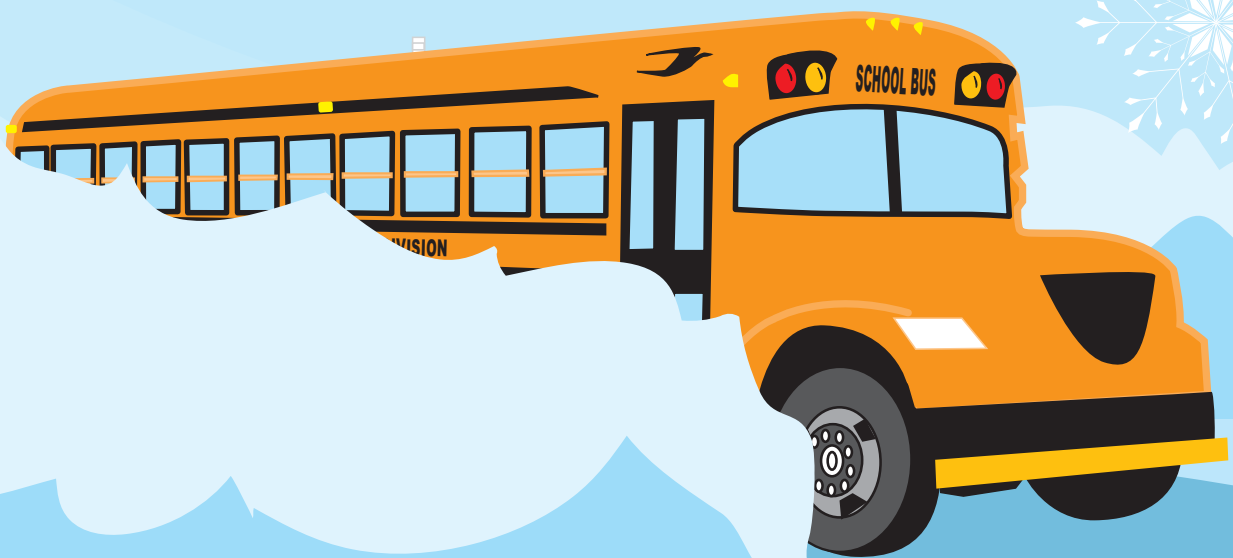
The snow looks like it's here to stay. Remember roads may be slippery with ice hidden under the new snow. These conditions can make stopping or turning difficult at stops, intersections, and corners, so please be cautious when you see our school buses.

We may be stopping at any moment for children!

Remember—we are carrying precious cargo.

So, please adjust your driving to suit the conditions, especially when you see one of our many buses on your commute—keep your eyes peeled for their stop signs and our students. The piles of snow that line streets can make for tempting hills to climb, so parents, please talk to your children about the danger of slipping into traffic and advise them to stay on the sidewalk.

And drivers, be especially alert when driving near schools. Student safety is all our responsibility. Take it slow, and we will all get to where we need to be, safely.



Follow us on Twitter

 @RETSDtransport

How to Talk to your Youth about Substance Use

An information session for parents/caregivers

Monday January 9, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Chief Peguis Middle School



Some topics that will be covered:

- What substances youth are using
- Keys to building resilient youth
- Substance specific information
 - Signs that a youth is using
 - Resources available to help

Information session provided by:

Alana Sigurdson

Youth Substance Use Counsellor

Shared Health in partnership with RETSD

All parents and caregivers are welcome!

Substance Use Services offered in River East Transcona School Division



RETSD Substance Use Counsellors:

Alana Sigurdson

Providing support to College Miles Macdonell Collegiate, River East Collegiate, John G Stewart School and feeder middle schools.

(204) 260-9921

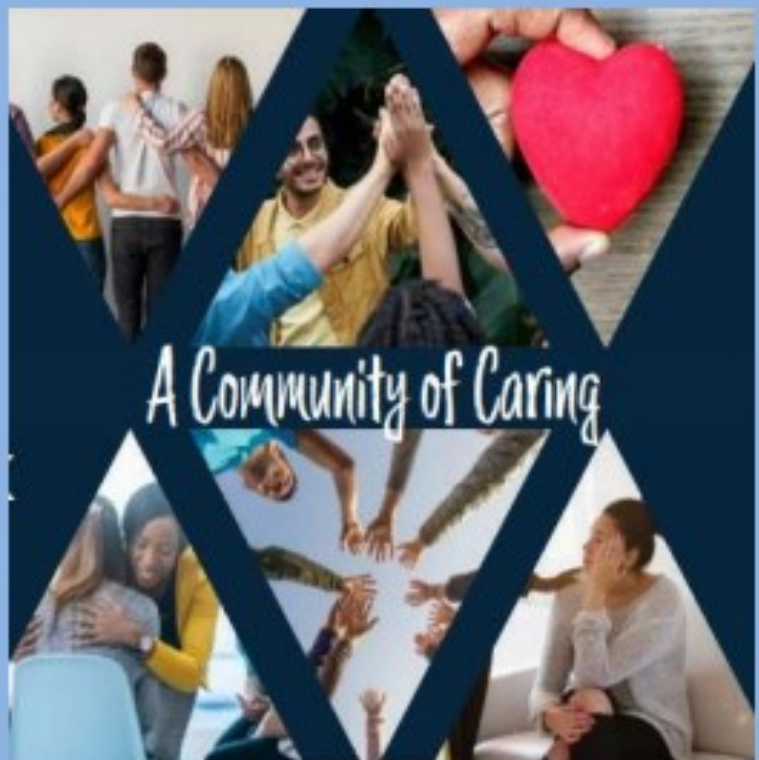
asigurdson@retsd.mb.ca

Candy Burke

Providing support to Kildonan East Collegiate, Transcona Collegiate, Murdoch MacKay Collegiate, College Pierre Elliot Trudeau and feeder middle schools.

(204) 260-9388

cburke@retsd.mb.ca



Christmas Cheer Board Hamper

Anyone in need living in Winnipeg and St. Norbert may apply for a hamper.
All hamper applications are taken by phone at Hamper Application Call Centres.

2022 Christmas Hamper applications **start November 7**. See call centre phone numbers below.

Christmas hampers include:

- traditional Christmas packaged foods
- an appropriate sized turkey based on the household size (individuals receive a chicken)
- a gift for children 14 and under

Hamper pickup starts Saturday, December 7 at the Christmas Cheer Board warehouse.

Volunteers deliver hampers between December 7 and December 21. As they rely on volunteer drivers, delivery date and time cannot be provided. Hamper delivery is attempted two times, on the second unsuccessful attempt an information sheet is left explaining you must go to the warehouse to pick up your hamper.

If your hamper is sponsored, the sponsor will contact you directly for delivery date/time.

Hamper Application Call Centres are extremely busy; please have patience when calling, thanks.

Employment Income Assistance (EIA) applicants:

Please call **204-948-2022** to apply. Please have your EIA case number ready.

The Christmas Cheer Board has volunteers located at the EIA office taking applications by phone.

EIA hamper application hours: Monday – Friday 9am - 4pm

Low income, pensioners, students, new Canadian applicants:

Please call **204-989-5683** to apply. Please have your Manitoba Health card information available for all adults in the household.

It is important that you provide current complete information for each adult and child in your household when applying for a hamper. Personal household contact information and income and expense information is required. All children 18 and under are recorded as well.

Christmas Cheer Board application phone lines are open when the *Office/Warehouse is open*. Please see the following link for details: <https://www.christmascheerboard.ca/how-to-apply>

