

John de Graff 2023—2024 November Edition

ADMINISTRATION MESSAGE

We are getting organized for a busy December...

• Students (with teacher support) are reflecting on Term 1 learning and setting goals to stretch learning in Term 2.

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- Reading about and discussing Holidays and celebrations in many cultures
- Holiday ConcertsDecember 5, 6 & 7th
- Outdoor Phys. EdDecember 4—8th, dress to be outside
- Computer Coding Week......December 11–15th
- Holiday Spirit WeekDecember 18–22nd
 - MondayPlaid day
 - TuesdayRed day
 - WednesdayGreen day
 - Thursday.....Snow/White/Sparkly day
 - Friday.....Christmas Theme day
- Holiday Party......December 22nd in the classrooms (p.m.)
- Early DismissalDecember 22nd at 2:30 p.m.
- Winter Break......December 25—January 7th
- First Day of ClassesJanuary 8th

HARVEST MANITOBA

The Grade 3 students from Room 6 are collecting non-perishable food items for Harvest Manitoba.



The collection bins/boxes arrived on Monday, November 27th and the food drive will continue until Thursday, December 7th.

Please look through your cupboards or the next time you are shopping, consider picking up an extra item for Harvest Manitoba.

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity!



Ward 5

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



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 or STOPPING

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

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MR. SCHROEDER & MS. DAVIDSON

November is flying by as we have been preparing for our upcoming Holiday Concerts.

The Holiday concert will follow the story of "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats.



The concerts will be held:

MUSICAL NOTES

- Tuesday, December 5
- Wednesday, December 6
- KG (odd days) & Grade 3
- KG (even days), Grade 1 & Grade 4
- Grade 2 & Grade 5 Thursday, December 7

All concerts will begin at 1:00 p.m. each day.

We look forward to seeing families joining us for these special events.









A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Every year on November 11, Canadians observe a memorial day in honour of members of the Armed Forces who have served our country. Their service & courage should always be remembered. This remembrance occasion also honours and thanks those who have sacrificed their lives to protect the freedom we have today.

Our Remembrance Day Assembly was on Thursday, November 9th at 10:30 a.m. presented by the Grade 5 students.

The pictures are from our Assembly.



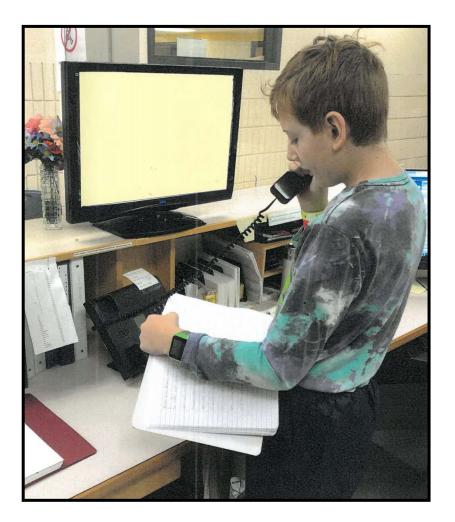




WHAT MAKES A GOOD FRIEND

We love to hear student voices on our morning announcements! Each day we welcome special guest readers to share their writing. Students are proud to share what they have been working on in class with our John de Graff community, and happy to listen to the excellent work of their peers.

Here is Noah from Room 9 sharing his piece entitled "What Makes A Good Friend?".



WHAT A GOOD FRIEND IS TO ME

Have you ever wondered what a good friend really is?

For me, a good friend is honest. They do not lie or hide secrets. Instead they are honest.

A good friend is fun! They make you laugh and keep you entertained. If you want to play a game, they play.

If you are sad, they play a joke and make you laugh.

In a conversation, they listen to what you are saying and respond to what you said.

That's what I think a best friend/good friend is.

They are honest, funny and like to listen .

By Noah, Room 9

WHAT IS A FRIEND?

A friend is someone who turns your day around,

Who goes with you through all your ups and downs.

A friend is there when you're feeling blue,

A special someone you can talk to.

A friend isn't just someone you play with,

Or someone you spend every day with..

If you ever want to try to make a friend sometime,

You're welcome to check out a few of these rhymes.

Remember a friend can be old or new,

It just has to be the right friend for you.

By Stella, Room 9

FRIENDS

Friends are really important and they always have your back and you have theirs.

There are ways to know if you have

Real friends.

If someone from your friend group is being mean to you, they are not a real friend.

Entering a friend group is hard at first as you have to see if you think others are being nice to you or using you.

Nothing can stop you from having friends.

Don't have fake friends, even if they were your best friend since you were little.

Support your friends when they need you so they know you are a good friend.

Remember to have a kind heart even if you're new and don't know anyone. Try to ask people to play.

By Anmolpreet, Room 9

FRIENDS

Today I will tell you good stuff friends do for each other. I hope you enjoy.

Let's Roll!

Good friends are smart and fearless and brave. I think you should do the same.

Good friends look out for each other all the time. All through the day and night.

Good friends will never let you down, especially not in this town.

Good friends don't bully .

Good friends don't lie.

All these things good friends do every day. They do it in their good unique way.

By David, Room 9

WHAT YOUR FRIEND SHOULD BE

Friends are always there for you. Friends are Respectful.

Independent some times.

Excited to see you all the time.

Never let you down.

Do listen to you when you have ideas.

Say kind words and keep you safe.

Help you when you feel blue.

I want a friend to be kind.

Playful, silly and makes you happy.

Support you no matter what.

That is what a true friend is.

By Addy, Room 9



FRIENDS!

Friends are there for you whenever you need them.

Running and playing with your friends is so much fun!

I love to have friends who care.

Even if you feel left out, you shouldn't because that's not what real friends do.

Never let your friends down!

Do you have a friend who's trustworthy? **S**ay sorry and nice words.

By Makena, Room 9

As part of our discussions and responses to Remembrance Day, our classes created shared writes about peace. Here are their ideas:

PEACE COMMITMENTS

The Kindergartens' peace commitment is to use kind words.

The Grade 1's peace commitments are to use kind words and helping hands.

The Grade 2's peace commitments are to make peace with people, animals and nature. The Grade 2s promise to be kind and respectful every day to everyone and everything!

The Grade 3s commit to working together to take care of the Earth, meditate to clear our minds, celebrate to keep everyone together, share our cultures with our friends and to respect everybody's thoughts and beliefs. We promise to be leaders in the school and in the community. The Grade 3s commit to being kind to all! The Grade 3s treat others as if they are family, respect nature and its animals, and value our differences and our cultural differences. Respect others!

The Grade 4's peace commitments are to be a true friend and be there for them. The Grade 4s commit to being kind, helpful and respectful students to everyone! The Grade 4s commit to accepting people for who they are and working together for positive change. The Grade 4s want everyone to live in harmony. Peace begins with us. The choices we make can threaten peace or protect peace. The Grade 4s commit to helping others, being inclusive, and taking care of the earth. We need to stand up for what we believe in and STAND UP FOR PEACE!

The Grade 5's peace commitments are to be leaders of John de Graff. We treat everyone with respect and kindness. We come to school each day ready to learn and always do our best. The Grade 5s commit to keeping our hands and feet to ourselves. We will be the best role models of the school. We know the way, show the way, go the way. We are all peacemakers at John de Graff. We commit to being peacemakers not just today, but every day that we come to school.



HAPPY DIWALI!

Community member teacher and Babaldeep Malhi kindly created 2 rangolis in our school at the front entrance and in our Grade 2 entrance area. Rangoli is an art form in which patterns are created on the floor or a tabletop using materials such as powdered lime stone, red ochre, dry rice flour, coloured sand, flower petals, and coloured rocks. It is an everyday practice in many Hindu households, however making it is mostly reserved for festivals and other important celebrations as it is time consuming. Designs are passed from one generation to the next, keeping both the art form and the tradition alive. Our students enjoyed observing the creations from Mrs. Malhi, and engaging in sharing around Diwali celebrations at school.



MR. ROFAEIL-ROOM 10

DIWALI WAS CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023





CURIOSITY AND WONDER



MR. TUCK-ROOM 3

MS. GILFILLAN/MRS. KAUR-ROOM 8

A focus of our learning at John de Graff this year is Curiosity and Wonder. Teachers are using this focus in their planning, thinking, and questioning with students. This encourages students to deepen their thinking about the



MRS. HOUSTON-ROOM 2

world around us, recognize what they are geniuses at, and use these strengths to lean into stretches in their learning. We are so excited about the many directions that our curiosities and wonders are leading us to explore!



MR. TUTKALUK-ROOM 13



MISS RENNIE—ROOM 22





MRS. SPIERS-ROOM 18D



" Curiosity is the engine of achievement".

– Sir Ken Robinson



MS. VANALSTYNE-ROOM 11



MS. BOUTANG-ROOM 17 & MS. NELSON-ROOM 18

This last month students participated in fitness activities.

We had various workout stations set up in the gymnasium where students tried out student-sized kettle bells, barbells, slam balls and agility ladders.

Students participated in a fitness test in the following days where they completed jumping jacks, curl ups, step ups, and shoulder touches.

With the data they collected they learned about goal setting and set goals for March.

At the end of the month, the grade 5 Volleyball Club participated in a Triple Ball tournament at Emerson School. They had a lot of fun and did an exceptional job!

As we head into December there will be some Phys. Ed. classes outside. Please ensure children are dressed for the weather.









WORDS FROM THE LIBRARY

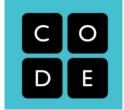


STOP MOTION VIDEOS

The students in Mrs. Peltz class showcased their learning about animals and their habitats by creating Stop Motion videos. They used the app on our school iPads and learned how to create their own short animation to share with parents during their interview. What a fun way to share what they had learned about their animal.

HOUR OF CODE

With technology changing every industry on the planet, computing knowledge has become part of a well-rounded skill set. But just half of all schools offer computer science! The good news is, we're on our way to change this. If you've heard about the Hour of Code, you might know that it has made history. More than 100 million students have now discovered how accessible and fun computer science can be by doing just one Hour of Code.



"The Hour of Code is designed to demystify code and show that computer science is not rocket science—anybody can learn the basics," said Hadi Partovi, founder and CEO of Code.org. "Over 100 million students worldwide have tried an Hour of Code. The demand for relevant 21st-century computer science education crosses all borders and knows no boundaries."

The Hour of Code is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics. Our John de Graff Hour of Code event is taking place the week of December 11-15th. Learn more at <u>http://HourOfCode.com</u>





PATROL NEWS

Hello family and friends,

As the cold weather approaches, we as a community need to work together to ensure our patrols are kept safe on the streets. As the snow falls and the roads get icy, it will take longer for cars to stop and vehicles may even skid past a crossing or stop sign. Please adjust your speed to match the conditions and take in to account the extra space needed to stop. Snow banks will also accumulate as the snow falls and could block the view of the patrols. It may become difficult to see the patrols and extra caution should be given when driving through our school zone.

For our patrols, appropriate clothing is required to go out on post. As the temperature drops, patrols are required to wear: jackets, ski pants, toques, gloves, neck warmers or scarves and boots. Patrols will not be allowed out on post if they are not dressed according to the weather. Post times will be shortened in the event of extreme weather.



We know that stopping for patrols and slowing down for our students' safety slows down your day. We sincerely appreciate your care and adherence to safety!

Please remember not to park in the back lane by the school.

Please do not stop in the back lane and let your child run across the lane or into the parking lot.

This is a very important safety rule and will hopefully prevent accidents, including students being hit by a vehicle.





Winnipeg Police Service | Service de police de Winnipeg "A Culture of Safety for All" « Cultiver la sécurité pour tous »

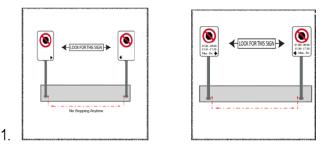
"SAFETY OVER CONVENIENCE"

The Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) is often apprised of traffic and parking concerns related to schools and their immediate surroundings. Issues are brought to our attention when there is an increase in driving complaints and traffic violations. Fortunately, most drivers exercise safety & caution when travelling to, through and from schools.

Traffics concerns are not only isolated to your child's school as many others throughout the City of Winnipeg also experience similar issues despite ongoing efforts made by the school division and staff. The School Engagement Section of the Winnipeg Police Service strive to ensure road safety through education and communication.

Please take time to review the following 9 points which have been identified as common traffic related concerns:

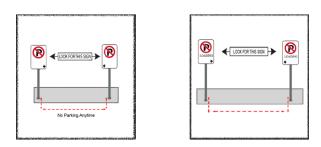
 <u>"No Stopping" zones</u>: In these areas, stopping or parking is strictly <u>prohibited</u>. They are not considered loading zones and must remain clear at all times. (If there are no specifics such as dates and in-between times then the zone is enforceable 24hrs a day - 7 days a week).



2. <u>"No Parking" zones</u>: No vehicle may be parked in these areas however you are allowed to stop (pick up/drop off passengers). The vehicle is considered parked when the driver's seat is unoccupied, or the vehicle is stationary beyond the loading or unloading process. "No Parking" zones are not Loading Zones.

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- a. If parents/guardians chose to park and walk, the preferred and recommended option is to park legally in the vicinity of the school.
- b. The consideration of a Loading area is to pick up / drop off and is intended for a very brief stop & go (this gives equal access to all parties and promotes safe traffic flow).



- 3. <u>"Loading/Unloading while in roadway</u>": It is unsafe and illegal to stop your vehicle while in the roadway in non-designated safe loading zones for loading/unloading purposes. This has been identified as one of the most dangerous practices and is considered a serious safety concern.
- 4. <u>"U-turns"</u>: U-Turns on a two-way street continue to be a safety hazard for all. These risky and ill-advised turns also negatively affect the flow of traffic. It is imperative that you find alternate means such as: going around the block, conducting a safe three-point turn or proceeding to the next intersection.
- <u>"Bus Loops</u>": These loops, whether located at the front, side or back of schools are primarily intended for buses. Drivers should not be utilizing the loop during the posted in-between times unless permission has been granted by the school.
- 6. <u>"Drop off/Pick up loops</u>": These loops (if applicable) are in place to allow drivers to safely and conveniently drop off/pick up children. It is not recommended to leave your vehicle unattended as this hinders traffic flow as well as potentially creating unnecessary frustration for other drivers.
- 7. "<u>Pedestrian Crossing</u>": Utilizing marked and posted pedestrian crossings are the safest way for children and adults to cross the street. Crossing in the middle of the street or at uncontrolled areas are considered high risk and dangerous. Pedestrian Crossings are often serviced by school patrols (students) or crossing guards (Adults) to assist with safe passage. Please be patient and give them a "brake".
- 8. <u>"Distance Ruling"</u>: Adhering to the following parking distances ensures a better line of sight and ensures overall safety for all those who share the roadway and sidewalks. The distance ruling are as follows:
 - ➤ 3 Meters from any intersection, crosswalk and fire hydrants
 - > 9 Meters from any posted traffic control device (i.e. stop signs/traffic signal)
- 9. "<u>Respecting Community Residents</u>": If you feel the need to accompany your child(ren) to school, we encourage parents/guardians to locate a safe and legal parking zone. Please be mindful not to block back lanes, driveways and roadways as it's all of our responsibility to be mindful and respectful. Staff member parking lots, unless advised otherwise are not alternate means to safe and legal parking.

It is the responsibility of all drivers and pedestrians to ensure a safe and respectful environment which sets a good example for our children and our communities.

The aforementioned points are all subject to enforcement by both Winnipeg Parking Authority and Winnipeg Police Service. Please refer to the Winnipeg Parking Authority website for additional information.

On behalf of the Community Relations Division - School Engagement Section, I respectfully appreciate your attention and courtesy.

School Engagement Section Community Relations Division Winnipeg Police Service

REPORT CARDS

Our first term report cards were posted on the Parent Portal on November 20nd, and can still be viewed.

Our Parent-Teacher-Student conferences were held November 23rd & 24th.

Thank you for participating in this and celebrating your child's successes with learning.

PAC

Our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is a very important part of our school. PAC organizes and runs our Lunch Program. PAC does fundraising to provide extra activities and learning items for our students. PAC also is a support for some school projects.

The PAC board is:

Susanne Kilbrei – Chair & Lunch Program Coordinator Melanie Bartelings—Vice Chair Tod Allen—Vice Chair Candace Loewen – PAC Treasurer Melissa Lucking – Secretary Trisha Hill – Lunch Program Treasurer

MESSAGE FROM OUR LUNCH COORDINATOR

Just a reminder, if you have children staying for lunch, lunch fees are now past due. We ask that payments still outstanding to please be submitted.

As of December 1st, students who have not registered and arranged payment, will not be able to stay at school for lunch. Payment can be either cash or cheque payable to John de Graff Lunch Program.

Our next PAC meeting is:

Tuesday, December 12th at 6:00 p.m. at John de Graff School

(all parents/guardians welcome!)

RETLIFE WINTER PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Space is still available to register for RETLife classes starting this Winter!

Here are just a few of the classes for <u>children and youth</u> which still have space available!

Babysitting Stay Safe Recreational Dancing for Pre-Teens and Teens Little Kids Can Dance

Volleyball for Kids Indoor Soccer for Kids

Kids Can Draw programs for ages 8 - 12 and 6 - 8.

Lego Robotics classes at Ecole Regent Park and Valley Gardens Middle School.

Engineering for Kids programs, such as Making a Marshmallow Bridge (ages 8 – 12),

Making a Marble Run (ages 4 – 7)!

Visit **<u>RETLife</u>** to view all of programs available in the River East Transcona School Division this winter!

RETLife is dedicated to helping people connect to living The Good Life by making connections and providing opportunities for people to share their passion with other people. We value growth-based learning at all levels for all community members, instructors, and administrators.





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.

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.



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 communications@retsd.mb.ca.

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If talking to the teacher

talk to the principal.

doesn't resolve the issue,

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



For more information: Policy KE – Concern Protocol Policy KE-R – Concerns and Complaints Process retsd.mb.ca





Do not Walk, Skate, or Play on Frozen Retention Ponds

Retention ponds are never safe to use for winter recreation activities. Ice conditions can change quickly without warning, and falling through the ice can be deadly. Remind your children to stay away from frozen retention ponds. Keep dogs on leashes when walking near a retention pond so they don't run onto the ice.



Do not walk, skate, or play on frozen retention ponds. Talk to your children about staying away from the ice.



Do not place hockey nets, benches, light structures, or any other items on a frozen retention pond. To report a structure or item on a retention pond, contact 311.



If you see someone on a retention pond, call 911.

Water from snowmelt or nearby water main breaks can drain into retention ponds. This water is often mixed with street salts, which can cause ice to melt and thin unevenly. This water enters retention ponds from underneath the ice, resulting in thinning of ice that can't be seen from the surface.

winnipeg.ca/retentionponds

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.

Busing

When the temperature or wind chill is -45C 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.

Indoor 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.

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 -34°C and below, patrols will remain on post for five minutes. At -40°C and below, no patrols will be on duty.

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 -34°C and below, facial protection is essential, and it's recommended that children avoid going outdoors unaccompanied—skin will freeze in less than 10 minutes.

If you have any questions not addressed by these guidelines, please contact your child's school.

River East Transcona creating student success



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2023-2024

DECEMBER

Tuesday, December 5 Holiday Concert, KG (odd days) & Gr. 3
At 1:00 p.m., families welcome
Wednesday, December 6 Holiday Concert, KG (even days) &
Gr. 1 & Gr. 4 at 1:00 p.m., families
welcome
Thursday, December 7 Holiday Concert, Gr. 2 & Gr. 5 at
1:00 p.m., families welcome
Tuesday, December 12 PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Friday, December 22 Subway Lunch for students who place
an order—Organized by PAC
Friday, December 22 LAST Day of classes before Winter
Break, Early Dismissal at 2:30 p.m.
JANUARY
Monday, January 8 1 st Day of classes after break, Day 1

Monday, January 8 1 st 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	.1 st Day of classes after break, Day 1
Tuesday, April 9	.PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10	Bus Evacuation Drills (KG - Grade 5)
Thursday, April 11	Bus Evacuation Drill (KG only)
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 28LAST 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

Winter break begins Monday, December 25, 2023 1st Day Back to School Monday, January 8, 2024