



# 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 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

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Winter weather means fun in the snow! Please ensure your son or daughter wears warm clothing, boots, hats, mitts for outdoor play and activities.

\*\*\*

Hallowe'en parties - tomorrow will include wearing costumes (if you would like your child to do this), a costume parade at 1:00 p.m., and your child can bring a special snack he/she can enjoy!

**Please do not send treats to share with the class or others.**

Families are welcome at the costume parade!

\*\*\*




Our Remembrance Day Assembly is on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 10:30 am. It is being led by our Grade 5 students. Our theme this year is Thankfulness for what others have done for peace and how we can all create peace.



Families are welcome!

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Picture retake day is being held on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you wish for your child to get a retake, please remember to send the retake request form to school for the photographer to easily match your child to their retake.

Kindergarten (odd days) will be having their pictures taken on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> as well.

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



**SOCKTOBER HAS ARRIVED!**

Tomorrow is the last day we are collecting socks for The Main Street Project! Students from Ms. Nelson's Grade 1 class and Ms. Boutang's Grade 4 class are hosting this project. Please bring your new or gently used socks to school. Teachers have donation boxes available for your child to place them in.

Thank you for your generosity.

# SOCKTOBER

October 1st to 31st

Help us to warm hearts  
and feet in our  
community





**CROSS COUNTRY RUN**

On September 27<sup>th</sup> we participated in a Divisional Cross Country run at Bird’s Hill Park with Grade 3, 4 and 5 students. The students had a full day outside enjoying the fresh air and scenery. All students made a great effort in the run! We are proud of how well they performed and how they cheered on their fellow teammates at the finish line. A big thank you to Mr. Feir, Mrs. Di Bartolo, and all the staff who helped coach during our lunch hour practices.

**TERRY FOX WALK**

On October 5<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. classes walked around the path of the school yard for the annual Terry Fox Walk.

Donations are accepted at school or online at

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/JohndeGraff>.

Thank you for your donations!



**VOLLEYBALL CLUB**

Students enjoyed an extensive unit on volleyball last month and we had a very large turnout for volleyball club at lunch for grade 3-5 students.

The Grade 5 students that participated in our club will have a chance to play in a developmental Triple Ball Tournament mid-November at Emerson School. The grade 5’s will continue to practice at lunch hour in November to prepare for the tournament. Details about this event will be sent home with students.

**VOLLEYBALL LUNCH CLUBS**

**MONDAY      WEDNESDAY      THURSDAY**

**Grade 5’s      Grade 4’s      Grade 3’s**

## JETS DAY



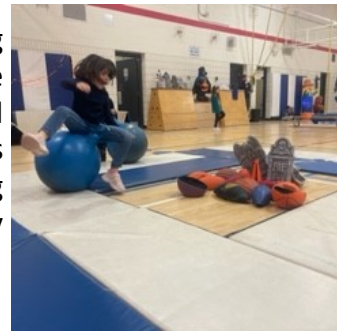
The last couple of weeks have been fun and exciting in the gym! Students celebrated Jets Day where they took the seat of a pilot or passenger and travelled around a scooter circuit in the gym wearing Jets colours or their favourite Jets clothing.



## HALLOWEEN GYM



Students also enjoyed Halloween gym and had many exciting Halloween activities to participate in. Students sliced the pumpkins at the basketball and frisbee station, fed Frankenstein moon cookies, stepped over Halloween obstacles on the balance beam, jumped through the graveyard, swung across the swamp and of course, tried to find their way through a giant mat maze.



## ALL LUNCH PROGRAM REGISTRATIONS AND LUNCH PAYMENTS SHOULD NOW BE COMPLETED.

### LUNCH EXPECTATIONS

We want students to enjoy their lunches, visit with their friends and have fun at recess. We also expect them to wash their hands before eating, use calm voices, eat their lunches, tidy up their desk areas, play kindly and safely. Lunchtime is a great relaxation time to enjoy!

BE SAFE	BE RESPECTFUL	BE RESPONSIBLE
Wash your hands. Eat your own food. Stay seated. Keep hands and feet to yourself.	Listen to adults. Use your manners. Use an indoor voice.	Raise your hand if you have a question or need to leave. Bring allergy safe food. Keep your area clean.



**RECORDER**

The Grade 4 & 5 students are beginning to play their soprano recorders in their Music classes. Just a friendly reminder to please bring a recorder from home or you can purchase a soprano recorder at John de Graff for \$9.00.

If you send a cheque please make it payable to John de Graff School and hand it in to Mr. Schroeder.



**HOLIDAY CONCERTS**

We are celebrating the Holiday season with music & joy!

Our John de Graff Holiday Concerts will be held at 1:00 p.m. on:

- ◆ December 5<sup>th</sup> for Kindergarten (odd days) & Grade 3
- ◆ December 6<sup>th</sup> for Kindergarten (even days), Grade 1 & Grade 4
- ◆ December 7<sup>th</sup> for Grade 2 & Grade 5

We look forward to sharing the season with our community!!!

Families are invited!

Mr. Schroeder and Ms. Davidson



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





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October 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your son/daughter's safety is very important to us. We have policies and procedures in place at both the divisional and school level to support their safety. In the past our school division has been working with the Winnipeg Police Service, (as well as referencing materials from the RCMP and Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning), in order to review and strengthen the procedures we have in place to protect students and staff in the event of a safety threat at school. We would like to share details of these procedures with you now.

Safety procedures now fall into two categories: **Hold and Secure**, and **Lockdown**.

**Hold and Secure** will be activated if there is a *potential threat outside the school*. In these situations, the police typically contact the school and direct the school to go into Hold and Secure. When there is no longer a threat outside the school building, the police inform us that we can resume regular activities.

If our school is in Hold and Secure, the following procedures will apply:

All exterior doors will be locked.

NO ENTRY signs will be placed on each door.

No one will be permitted to leave or enter the school until school administration announces that Hold and Secure is over.

**Lockdown** will be activated if there is a *potential threat inside the school building*. If the school is in Lockdown, the following procedures will apply:

All students and staff will proceed to the nearest classroom or office.

All doors to classrooms and offices will be locked and/or barricaded by the supervising adult.

Students will be kept away from windows and doors and instructed to remain silent and still.

No one will be permitted to leave their room until the Lockdown is over, unless there is a safe exit from the school that is possible.



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**All schools in RETSD are required to hold at least two Lockdown and one Hold and Secure practice drills each school year. The purpose of the drills is to provide training for staff and students, so everyone knows what to do in the event of a safety threat. Everyone in the school building will participate in these drills. Students, staff, and parents will be informed in advance of these practice drills.**

If your son/daughter arrives at school during a Hold and Secure or Lockdown procedure, he or she must proceed to the student evacuation site, sign in and remain there until directed otherwise by administration or police. **The student evacuation site for your son/daughter's school is: Bertrun E. Glavin School, 166 Antrim Road, Phone: 204-669-1277.**

If you arrive at the school during a Hold and Secure or Lockdown, **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ENTER THE SCHOOL.** For serious situations, please proceed to the parent/guardian information site where divisional personnel will arrive as soon as possible to assist you. **The parent information site for your son/daughter's school is: Valley Gardens School, 220 Antrim Road, Phone: 204-668-6249.**

If you hear about a serious emergency at your son/daughter's school through media reports or other means, **DO NOT PROCEED TO THE SCHOOL.** Instead, proceed to the parent information site identified above.

Please **DO NOT CALL YOUR SON/DAUGHTER'S CELL PHONE** during an emergency, particularly in a Lockdown situation where it is critical to remain silent and still and not draw attention from any threat makers that may be in the building.

In closing, our purpose in sending this letter is to reassure you that we regularly review our divisional safety procedures to ensure that we are doing our best to maintain the safety of your son/daughter's learning environment. We do this through proactive planning and practise of emergency procedures in all our schools.

If you would like to read more information about safety policies in RETSD, please visit [www.retsd.mb.ca/YourRETSd/Policies](http://www.retsd.mb.ca/YourRETSd/Policies) and scroll to Section E: Support Services.

If you have any questions about the procedures described above, please feel free to contact me or Mrs. Pam MacDonell, Vice Principal.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Margaret Fair, Principal

## LOCKDOWN PRACTISE

We will have a Lockdown practise & a Hold & Secure practice on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon.

Teachers will talk to their students before and after the practise about what we are doing and the expectations for safety.

## FIRE DRILLS

We have started practising our fire drills and will complete 10 in total over the course of the year. Students practise moving quickly and quietly to their outside class area. Our evacuation site, if we need to leave the John de Graff School area is Bertrun E. Glavin School located at 166 Antrim Road. The parent meeting area, if needed, would be Valley Gardens Middle School, 220 Antrim Road.

## PATROL PROGRAM

Congratulations to our John de Graff Bus and Street Patrol team!! You are positive and responsible citizens who carry your duties in a caring and thoughtful manner. Bravo Team!!

As the temperature is beginning to cool off it's important to dress for the changing weather.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR SAFETY PATROLS:

Welcome back, family and friends of John de Graff School. We are the Grade 5 School Safety Patrol team and we have a special message to deliver to you today.

Crossing the street can be very dangerous at times. We are here to help make sure you get to and from school safely every day.

Here are a few quick safety tips:

### Students

- \* Stop behind the patrols
- \* Walk your bike across the street
- \* Cross only when the patrol says it is safe
- \* Make sure all cars have stopped before crossing if the patrols are not on duty yet
- \* Always listen to the school patrols
- \* Be respectful of everybody on the bus and listen to the bus patrols



### Family and Friends

- \* Drivers need to obey the 30km/hr speed zone
- \* Parked cars need to be at least 10 meters from the patrol crossings
- \* Please do not drive through the bus loop when patrols are on duty

We have all been trained to be reliable and hardworking safety patrols. We are here to be responsible for the safe crossing of all students and families. Let's work together to make this a successful and safe community.

Please remember that it is important that all of us attend to the "No Parking" and "No Stopping" zones to keep John de Graff students safe. If you are able to park on a side street and walk to meet your child it would help keep our students safe. Thank you!





**BOOKS, BOOKS, SO MANY AMAZING BOOKS**

We have purchased close to \$2000 of incredible books to add to our school library. We are so excited to add many new picture books, chapter books, graphic novels and non-fiction books to our shelves soon. We bought books requested by students, teachers and titles that needed to be replaced or were continuations in book series that we love. Watch the new book shelves to check them out!

**DOT DAY**

September 15<sup>th</sup> was International Dot Day. This day is Inspired by the book, The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds. International Dot Day was started to inspire learners of all ages to ‘make their mark’. Many art pieces are found around our school celebrating our students making their own unique and wonderful marks!



**EARTH RANGERS VISITED JOHN de GRAFF**



On Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, we had a special Assembly for all students at our school. The Assembly connected ideas about the importance of protecting biodiversity and highlighting real conservation initiatives across Canada. It included live animal Ambassadors, demonstrations, current and relevant topics and a multimedia experience for our students.

One of our Sustainable Development goals at John de Graff is focused on the importance of protecting animals and empowering our students to take action.

**Recycling- We are Making a Difference**

Please continue sending old markers, pop tabs and batteries for us to recycle. We are working hard to keep items that can recycled out of landfill.

We appreciate your support!

**NO BOOK FAIR THIS NOVEMBER.**

**PLEASE LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION COMING THIS SPRING 2024 FOR THE NEXT JOHN de GRAFF BOOK FAIR**



## PARENT-TEACHER-STUDENT CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences will be held on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. In-Person.

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences will be held on Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. In-Person.

Parents will use the Conference Manager program to choose a conference time.

Conference Manager will open on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 a.m.

and will close on Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 a.m.

Please click [here](#) to view the Conference Manager Parent Guide.

Please be reminded if you are a parent with an existing account, but are new to John de Graff School, check page 4 of the guide to adjust your school link.

Thank you!



**Koats for Kids information is available  
through our  
school Counsellor.**

**Please contact Mrs. Haid for more  
information.**



### TABS FOR WHEELCHAIRS

It is overwhelming to see the number of tabs that have come in so far this year! We have filled over 3 large reusable water jugs (20 litre). They are currently displayed around the library. I wonder how many we will fill this year? Thank you. This year's tabs are being collected for Kyrie. See the information below.

## TABS FOR WHEELCHAIRS

### KYRIE



Kyrie is 7 years old and in grade 2 at Happy Thoughts School in East Selkirk. She has an older brother, Everett, who is 14 years old, and a puppy named Noni.

She was born prematurely at 30 weeks gestation and was 3 lbs 9oz. Kyrie suffered a brain injury at birth, which led to a cerebral palsy diagnosis, when she was about 15 months old. She spent the first 8 weeks of life in the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit), where she had the best care while they waited for her to be strong enough to go home.

Kyrie's cerebral palsy affects all four of her limbs. She does not sit, stand or walk independently and very much enjoys her time spent in her stander and walker.

Her speech is also affected and she uses a combination of words, signs and an iPad to chat with her family and peers. She also loves driving her adapted power wheels car.

Kyrie's other loves are school, music, playing with bubbles, and playing with Noni, the family dog. She also enjoys swimming and watching her favourite show, Daniel Tiger and Bluey.

It will be our great pleasure to present Kyrie with her very specialized wheelchair in 2024!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023—2024

### NOVEMBER

- Friday, November 3 ..... Hot Lunch
- Thursday, November 9 ..... Remembrance Day Assembly, 10:30 a.m.  
Families welcome
- Friday, November 10 ..... No School, School PD Day
- Tuesday, November 14 ..... PAC Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, November 16 ..... Gr.5 Volleyball Tournament at Emerson School
- Monday, November 20 ..... Report Cards Online
- Thursday, November 23 ..... Picture Day [p.m.] for KG (odd days) & Retake Day for entire school
- Thursday, November 23 ..... Parent Teacher Student (PTS) Conferences, evening 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 24 ..... Parent Teacher Student (PTS) Conferences, a.m.  
No School, Co-ordinated PD Day, p.m.

### 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 ..... LAST Day of classes before Winter Break, Early Dismissal at 2:30 p.m.

### JANUARY

- Monday, January 8 ..... 1<sup>st</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> 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 28 ..... LAST 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>