



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
 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**

Colleen Carswell (Chair) Ward 1
ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-222-1486

Sheri Irwin Ward 1
sirwin@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-223-5079

Rod Giesbrecht Ward 2
rgiesbrecht@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-661-5984

Sheri Hanson Ward 2
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 Phone: 204-915-7313

Brianne Goertzen (Vice-Chair) Ward 3
bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-955-6782

Keith Morrison Ward 3
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 Phone: 204-795-3357

Brenda Bage Ward 4
bbage@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-221-2951

Susan Olynik Ward 4
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 Phone: 204-661-6440

Shannon Hiebert Ward 5
shiebert@retsd.mb.ca
 Phone: 204-771-8435



ADMINISTRATION’S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year. We have had an excellent start—with over 500 children attending John de Graff from Kindergarten to Grade 5.

John de Graff has an outstanding staff that provide excellent care and learning for all our students. We are pleased to introduce them:

Principal:	Mrs. Margaret Fair	Physical Education:	Mrs. Madec-Di Bartolo
Vice-Principal:	Mrs. Pam MacDonell		Mr. Feir
KG (even days) Room 1:	Mr. Wyrha	Student Services:	Mrs. Haid
KG (even days) Room 2:	Mrs. Houston		Miss Fraser
KG (odd days) Room 1:	Mr. Wyrha		Mrs. Lachuta
KG (odd days) Room 2:	Mrs. Meads		Mrs. Bullis
Grade 1A Room 23:	Mrs. Kozoris-Mazur (a.m.)	Secretaries:	Ms. Burla
	Ms. Gilfillan (p.m.)		Mrs. Friesen
Grade 1B Room 19:	Ms. Ponce	Custodians:	Mr. Gasior
Grade 1C Room 18D:	Mrs. Spiers		Mr. Dinh
Grade 1D Room 18:	Ms. Nelson	Custodial Aides:	Ms. Wilson
Grade 2A Room 14:	Ms. Beamish		Ms. Lazerra Carceller
Grade 2B Room 15:	Mrs. Bargaen	Education Assistants:	Mrs. Bird
Grade 2C Room 13:	Mrs. Rudd		Ms. Brar
Grade 2D Room 12:	Ms. Wong		Mr. Desbois
Grade 3A Room 8:	Ms. Gilfillan (a.m.)		Mrs. Dhaliwal
	Mrs. Kaur (p.m.)		Ms. Evans
Grade 3B Room 6:	Mrs. Dallmann		Mrs. Gill
Grade 3C Room 5:	Ms. Busch		MS. Graya
Grade 3D Room 3:	Mr. Tuck		Ms. Johnson
Grade 4A Room 17:	Ms. Boutang		Ms. Joshi
Grade 4B Room 22:	Miss Rennie		Ms. Komal
Grade 4C Room 16:	Ms. Arnal		Mrs. Katrensky
Grade 4D Room 7:	Mrs. Peltz		Mrs. McLeod
Grade 5A Room 9:	Mrs. Korb		Mr. Mensah
Grade 5B Room 10:	Mr. Rofaeil		Mrs. Myskiw
Grade 5C Room 21:	Ms. Buscemi		Ms. Ocon
Grade 5D Room 11:	Ms. Vanalstyne		Ms. Orac
Reading Recovery:	Ms. Kaur (a.m.)		Ms. Poggemiller
			Ms. Raji
Library:	Ms. Cessford (Day 1,3,5)		Mrs. Rostek
Library Technician:	Mrs. Hunt (.75 time)		Mrs. Salh
Music:	Mr. Schroeder		Mrs. St. Amand
	Ms. Davidson		Ms. Sulak

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



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WEEK

This is Truth and Reconciliation Week, as September 30 marks the annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We are recognizing this day on Friday, September 29. Students are learning about honouring Orange Shirt Day and the intent of the day.

The Survivor's Flag - at the entrance to the school represents thoughts, emotions, experiences and hopes expressed by survivors who have shared their truths about residential schools. The flag affirms commitment to the remembrance of lives lost through and lives affected by residential schools.

RETSD has provided our teachers with many ideas and resources to work on with students to learn about the ideas and importance of truth and reconciliation.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS



We are so happy to have students back at school! Thanks to our families for getting your children prepared for school and excited about learning!

“The River East Transcona School Division will be forward-looking, innovative and service-oriented, offering superior, comprehensive programming to meet the emerging needs of our students and community”.

WE BELIEVE

- ◆ We exist to serve our students and community
- ◆ Everyone should be treated with respect and dignity
- ◆ Everyone is unique and can learn
- ◆ People thrive in safe and caring environments

WE VALUE IMPORTANT THINGS AT JOHN de GRAFF:

- ◆ Play.
- ◆ Sustainable Development—through our actions and voice. Connecting/protecting nature.
- ◆ The partnership between our students, John de Graff School and our parents is immensely important to the development of each child’s learning, confidence and character. We invite parents to talk with us about their child or children and their learning. Extra things that parents continue to do at home with reading, writing, spelling, math problems and math facts, science, sports, music and the arts, nutrition, community learning etc., are all extremely important.
- ◆ Our exemplary staff are proud of their innovation and excellence in teaching and service to our school community and continually work on ideas and learning strategies for all students. We have continued priorities this year in the areas of:
 - ◇ Indigenous Academic Achievement
 - ◇ Student self assessment, goal setting & growth in literacy and math
 - ◇ Curiosity and Wonder
 - ◇ Learning Positive Behaviour
 - ◇ STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math)
 - ◇ English as an Additional Language
 - ◇ Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion
- ◆ We have high expectations for all students! We work with students on perseverance and build stamina.
- ◆ Students’ interests and strengths and planning towards goals of respect, perseverance, creativity, critical thinking, celebrating strengths and diversity, team work and good citizenship, making our world a better place. These are overarching guides to classroom work.
- ◆ Kind and safe behaviour and decision making is an important expectation at John de Graff School. We have a school wide matrix of expected behaviours, voice level expectations for different activities, anti-bullying and “paying it forward” with kindness discussions and lessons for all students.
- ◆ Mental Health & Student Wellbeing
- ◆ Safety - we have 10 Fire Drills, 2 Lockdown practises and 2 Hold & Secure practises throughout the year to prepare for emergencies. If necessary, our school evacuation site is Bertrun E. Glavin School, 166 Antrim Road. Our Code of Conduct and Emergency response plan is reviewed annually.
- ◆ We value our earth and work with students to appreciate and protect nature and our environment. This is part of our work with students for sustainable development.

RETSD has a Concern Protocol and in case you have any concerns—please refer to this process:

1. Contact the teacher directly involved and ask to speak to them. The person may not be available and a message may have to be taken. The teacher will call you back as soon as possible.
2. If you continue to have concerns, please contact the Principal or Vice-Principal.

The RETSD Concern Protocol is available for further reference on the RETSD website under policies.

<https://www.retsd.mb.ca/yourretsd/Policies/Documents/KE.pdf> (Policy KE-Concern Protocol)

<https://www.retsd.mb.ca/yourretsd/Policies/Documents/KE-R.pdf> (Policy KE-R Concerns & Complaints Procedures)

The Divisional Code of Conduct is followed at John de Graff. The Divisional Code of Conduct also serves as fair notice that:

*“Incidents of threat to self-harm or harm to others will be actively investigated.
Because of the serious nature of such incidents, the investigation will continue
even if the parent/guardian cannot immediately be contacted. Continued efforts
will be made to contact the parent/guardian”.*

Our John de Graff families are extremely supportive of positive student behaviours and plans that may be necessary for students to learn appropriate behaviours. We greatly appreciate this support and the impact it has on each child’s decision making and success.

Thank-you!!

FAIR NOTICE

Please note **Policy JICH**—Alcohol and Other Drug Use by Students (sec 4) and Policy JIH-R-Search Procedures (sec 1) is in effect for all RETSD schools including John de Graff School.

SCHOOL WIDE BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

The school has expectations at all times to:

- Speak and act respectfully to others
- Solve problems peacefully
- Walk quietly in the hallways
- Keep hands and feet to self
- Show kindness
- Put forth your best effort and persevere with tasks

John de Graff is a very quiet and positive school. Our motto is:

KNOW THE WAY, GO THE WAY, SHOW THE WAY

Additional information about John de Graff is available in student agenda books and from class websites and letters sent home. We are looking forward to a wonderful year!

SAFETY TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Please remind your son/daughter and anyone picking them up from school or dropping them off that traffic signs must be followed, and for drivers to please not stop/turn around in middle of the street or in people's driveways. We would never want an accident to occur! Students should stay on the sidewalks and follow patrol instructions.

The outside front door of the school is left open after school. If your child has any concern after they leave the building – please remind them that they can come back into the school.

Students are to go directly home or to their caregiver's home after school.

The parking lot is for the school bus, RETSD Maintenance vehicles, delivery trucks and staff parking. Parents and community members are **not** to be parking in the parking lot, stopping or driving through the parking lot. Students are not to be walking in the parking lot at any time for safety reasons.

Please observe the signs posted.

Most of our families are helping us with this and we thank-you! We are really hoping for 100% support.

TRAFFIC RULES:

- ◆ Please, at all times, give the buses the right of way, and do not block their entrance off of Louelda, their exit into the back lane or their drop off area in front of the school. Passing a school bus that is stopped with the flashing lights on can cause you to receive a large fine.
- ◆ The speed zone in front of the school is 30 km/hr. from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. Stopping/parking areas are clearly marked by signs on the street. Please follow these directions.

We ask drivers to always use extreme caution and care when parking, driving and backing up. We also require that all language around the school be respectful.

CALL BACK AND ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES DURING THE DAY



Parents and Guardians,

- ◆ If your child is leaving the school at times other than regular dismissal, you are requested to please send a note to the teacher. Please contact the office when you arrive at the school to sign your child out..
- ◆ If your child will be away from school due to illness or appointments, please call and leave a message on our 24 hour call back line at 204-669-1280 **prior to 9:00 am.**
- ◆ If your child is arriving late, please call the office at 204-669-1280 when you and your child are at the front of the school. We will meet your child at the front doors and will be given a **"Late Slip"** to give to their teacher.

ALLERGIES

There are some students with life threatening allergies in the school. Specific information has been sent home with the appropriate classes. It is very important to not send any nuts or nut products to school in snacks or lunches. If your child has a life threatening allergy, please contact Mrs. MacDonell and complete the Health Care Forms.

MEDICAL CONCERNS

Thank you to all the families who submitted student information about a student medical concern. Your immediate attention to these forms allows us to provide staff members with important health and safety information for your child.

Parents are reminded that according to divisional policy, prescription medication cannot be administered by school staff without forms being completed by the parent. Medication needs to be brought in to school by the parent, labelled with the specific dosage. When filling any prescriptions please request that the label be placed on the medication container that you send to school. Mrs. MacDonell is the staff member who coordinates this.



"We Are Thankful"
JOHN DE GRAFF SCHOOL
FALL OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
6-7PM

FAMILIES ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE
SCHOOL AND CLASSROOMS, MEET OUR
AMAZING TEACHERS AND SEE WHAT WE'VE
BEEN WORKING ON!

LUNCH PROGRAM AND MILK PROGRAM

Welcome back to our Lunch Coordinator, Mrs. Susanne Kilbrei.

Our lunch program began September 6th. Students must register for the Lunch Program yearly. Registration information and link to register has been emailed out. The Lunch Program is run by our Parent Advisory Council.

Please submit your registration and payment by Tuesday, October 10th.

Lunch behaviour expectations are reviewed with students and posted in the classrooms. Students may stay for lunch if they follow behaviour expectations, complete the lunch registration and have payment handed into the lunch program.

- ◆ Wash hands carefully before lunch (sanitizing hands is an alternative)
- ◆ Stay seated during the lunch eating period and enjoy your lunch
- ◆ Never share food or drinks
- ◆ Play safely and follow our Behaviour Matrix expectations
- ◆ Cooperate with the Lunch Supervisors

STAYING HEALTHY

The fall typically brings some flus and virus infections as well as current COVID concerns. We encourage students to:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water
- Cough or sneeze into the inside of the elbow
- Stay home if you are sick

If your child is sick, please let the office know (204-669-1280) that they will be home getting well.

We collect money from families to purchase each student's classroom supplies. These fees are due.

Please refer to your child's supply list (located on the John de Graff webpage) for the amount due.

This money should be given to classroom teachers and you will get a receipt.

Thank you!



INTERNATIONAL TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY

Our Phys.Ed Team had fun dressing and creating a fun and exciting space in the gym for students to enjoy a Pirate Themed class.

Thank you Mr. Feir and Mrs. Madec Di Bartolo for creating a fun and active space for students to enjoy!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Cross Country Club for Grades 3-5 started on September 8th and ran on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

An event at Bird's Hill Park was held on September 27th. It was a very sunny day and all the runners had fun. Thank you to our families that came out to cheer on our runners.

TERRY FOX

John de Graff is proud to take part in Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope.

Students will participate October 5th at 1:15 p.m. Classes will walk around the path of the school yard for the annual Terry Fox Walk.

We will be accepting cash donation to Cancer Research as well as online at <https://schools.terryfox.ca/JohndeGraff>

Please be sure to dress for the weather!



MUSICAL TYMES

Welcome back everyone!! John de Graff is filled with the sounds of clapping, humming and the playing of instruments. We look forward to performing for our school community!!

Happy music-making everyone, Mr. Schroeder and Ms. Davidson

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

We are excited to welcome all of our John de Graff students back to the library! It has been wonderful having students browse the books and enjoy the library again. There are many new titles in our collections and Mrs. Hunt and I will be book shopping in the next few weeks. We are so lucky at John de Graff to have such a wonderful collection of books. Please have your child write us a note if there is a book or author they would like us to add to our shelves. We love hearing about great books!

If you come across books that were taken out last year, please have your child return them to their classroom bin.

Ms. Cessford

COMING SOON:

- ◆ Terry Fox Walk Thursday, October 5
- ◆ JdG Open House Thursday, October 5
- ◆ Jet’s Day. Wear your gear! Wednesday, October 11
- ◆ Picture Day (KG Even Days-Gr.5). Friday, October 13
- ◆ Earth Rangers Assembly Tuesday, October 17
- ◆ Hot Lunch..... Friday, October 27
- ◆ Volleyball Club (Gr.3-5)..... Will being in the month of October



SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Please note that our school office is open daily from 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

If you are calling outside of these times, please leave a message on our 24 hour answering machine.

Thank you.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

You will be receiving (via email from our school) information regarding Student Accident Information. Please review this information and if you choose to purchase it, there is a link to the MSBA insurance website for you to make your purchase. This link is also on the [RETSD website under Parents/Student Safety](#).

TECHNOLOGY OPT IN/OPT OUT FORMS & CHANGES TO PARENT PORTAL ACCESS

Please refer to the following forms:

- ◆ **Technology Opt In/Opt Out Forms:** Please note if you opted out of technology last year, you will need to do it again this year as the form is only valid for the school year in which you signed the form. If you choose to opt out this year, please click the links for technology use [Policy IJND](#), and [Policy Form IJND-E1](#), as well as the updated media release [Policy Kddb](#) and [Policy Form Kddb-E1](#) form and return it to your child’s teacher. If you wish to opt in, no action is required.
- ◆ **Parent Portal Access:** If you wish to make changes to who you want to assign access to the Parent Portal, please complete the form below and return it to your child’s teacher. If there are no changes, no action is required.

CHANGE TO PARENT PORTAL ACCESS



Student:	School:
Student:	School:
Student:	School:
Student:	School:
Student:	School:
Student:	School:

PRIMARY CONTACT

Name:

Email:

I give permission for the following person to have access to the parent portal for the students named above:

Name:

Relationship:

Email:

I would like access removed for the following person in regard to the students named above:

Name:

Relationship:

Email:

Documents reviewed

Signature

Date

September 19, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

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."

To maintain its excellent safety record, the RETSD transportation department carries out bus evacuation drills in all our schools in the early fall and late spring of each school year in accordance with The Public Schools Act.

These practice drills are carried out so that, in the event of an emergency, students can evacuate the bus as quickly and safely as possible. The safety of our students is of the utmost importance and is always given first consideration.

Thank you for your co-operation,

Danielle Erickson
Acting Director of Transportation

Class Is In Session

Practical Learning for Parents

Throughout the 2023–24 school year, River East Transcona will be providing a variety of FREE learning sessions and resources for parents, some virtual and some in person. Topics will include:



Online Safety



Bullying Behaviour



Overcoming Anxiety



safeTALK: Suicide Alertness & Safety Connection



Launch Into Life: Students with Additional Needs



Parenting for Prevention: A Crash Course in Substance Use

Registration will not be required. Keep your eyes peeled this year for more information about these practical parent learning sessions!

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MATRIX

Environment	Be Safe	Be Respectful	Be Responsible
School Entry	Line up with your class when the bell rings.	Take boots/outdoor shoes off at the mat. Quickly and quietly meet up with your class.	Put your belongings neatly in your space. If late, report to the office first before going to your class.
Moving through the building	Walk on the right hand side of the hallway. Walk one behind the other.	Walk silently.	Watch out for others.
Washrooms	Wash hands with soap and water. Use the hand dryer. Keep the area clean.	Wait your turn. Give others their privacy.	Flush the toilet. Tell an adult if something is needed in the washroom.
Indoor Recess	Stay in the classroom. Ask the on duty teacher if you need to leave. If there is a problem, tell the on duty teacher. Washroom/water breaks only 1 person out at a time per class. Walk & move calmly.	Listen to the on duty teacher. Use the appropriate level of inside voice. Keep out of other people's belongings or spaces.	Choose an activity (from your class choices) within 2 minutes and begin. Be responsible with equipment/toys. When the bell rings, <u>everyone</u> cleans up.
Swings & Play Structures	Stay off of the gravel if you are not using the swings. Get off of the swings safely. Avoid zigzagging or unsafe play on the swings. One at a time down the slide. Move away from the bottom of the slide. Keep hands + feet to yourself.	Share and take turns. No saving SWINGS for others. Don't push or block others.	Count to 100, and then take a turn. Never jump off of the play structures.
Soccer Rules	In Grade 3, 4, 5 – you must attend a soccer meeting & sign your contract. Play in designated area. No body contact: kicking, pushing, tripping, grabbing, hitting. Hands off of the ball (except when throwing from out of bounds).	Include everyone who wants to play. Teams are equal and fair. BE A GOOD SPORT!!! Follow the rules of Fair Play.	Take turns at playing goal – only 1 goalie. Pass and share the ball. When a player with the ball is down, stop the play. HAVE FUN!!! When the bell rings – the game is OVER. It is time to come inside.