

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER



John W. Gunn Middle School
351 Harold Ave W
Winnipeg, MB R2C 2C9

Phone (204) 958-6500 Fax (204) 222-4967
jwg@retsd.mb.ca

Your River East Transcona School Division Trustees

Ward 1

Colleen Carswell (chair)
204.222.1486
ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca

Sheri Irwin
204.223.5079
sirwin@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 2

Rod Giesbrecht
204.661.5984
rgiesbrecht@retsd.mb.ca

Sheri Hanson
204.915.7313
shanson2@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 3

Brianne Goertzen (vice-chair)
204.955.6782
bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca

Keith Morrison
204.795.3357
kmorrison@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 4

Susan Olynik
204.661.6440
solynik@retsd.mb.ca

Brenda Bage
204.221.2951
bbage@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 5

Shannon Hiebert
204.771.8435
shiebert@retsd.mb.ca

Principal's Message

Dear Students, Staff, and Parents of John W. Gunn Middle School,

I hope this message finds you well as we transition into the vibrant and colorful season of fall. It is with great pleasure that I bring you our fall newsletter, packed with updates, highlights, and exciting news from John W. Gunn.

As we move forward into the fall season, our calendar is filled with a multitude of exciting events and opportunities for our students to grow, learn, and create lasting memories. Please stay tuned to our school website and communication channels for updates on these events.

Our school thrives because of the active involvement and support of our community. I encourage parents, guardians, and community members to stay engaged with our school by attending meetings and participating in school events. Your presence and contributions are invaluable to our continued success.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to our incredible team of educators and support staff who work tirelessly to provide the best educational experience for our students. Your dedication does not go unnoticed, and it is the foundation of our school's success.

I am excited about the journey that lies ahead for our school community, and I look forward to seeing all that we will achieve together this fall.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Wishing you a joyful and productive fall season!

Ryan Francis



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.



3

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.



4

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


River East Transcona
creating student success

Contact Info

Please inform the office if you have moved, had a change to any of your telephone numbers, your e-mail address or if any of your emergency contacts' information has changed.

This information is important if we need to contact you in the case of an emergency!

Stay Up To Date

Remember to check the John W Gunn School website for updates and important information!

www.retsd.mb.ca/jwg

Online Safety

RETSd annually provides information to parents on the topic of online safety. Many parents have questions about their children's online behaviors.

- What are my children doing online? Are there risks?
- How do I keep up to date on online issues?
- Is my child safe online?

Information to help parents protect their children on the internet can be found at :

ProtectKidsOnline.ca



school breakfast program

Thanks to grants from Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba and President's Choice Children's Charity, we are able to offer students at John W. Gunn breakfast choices like toast, fruit, oatmeal, yogurt and milk. Breakfast Program starts at 8:10 a.m. and ends at 8:35 a.m.

Students can enter the building when they arrive to come get what they need in the HUB. We have teacher volunteers who help make, set out food and welcome students first thing in the morning. We are so happy to be able to provide this great start to the day. On a final note, our students who partake in this program are so thankful and display excellent manners in the morning.



This September, a dedicated group of students have been running at lunch to prepare for the two divisional Cross Country Meets. The Cross Country Run Club meets everyday giving students lots of opportunity to participate in at least three runs each week and qualify to represent John W. Gunn at meets on September 28 and October 5. We have been enjoying the nice weather while getting some exercise and improving our running ability.

Library News

MYRCA: Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Awards

This year's MYRCA books have been flying off the shelves! Students wishing to read a book that is already signed-out are encouraged to have it put on hold for them in the library.



Interested in learning more about MYRCA and this year's books? Check out their website: myrca.ca

Interested in reading books from previous years? You can see those lists on the MYRCA website as well.

If you're struggling to help your child find something engaging to read, there are lots of great suggestions on the MYRCA site.

Sora



All students in RETSD have access to the free Sora app which allows them to borrow ebooks and audiobooks. Students sign in using their RETSD email address (username@retsdstudent.ca) and their regular RETSD password. You can download Sora wherever you download apps, or you can access it from a computer at soraapp.com. There are

lots of titles to choose from, including audiobook versions of some of this year's MYRCA books.

Lunch in the library

Students are welcome to spend part of their lunch hour in the library. The library at lunch is a quiet space where students can exchange books, read, do homework or research, draw, or use a personal device quietly. The library can only accommodate 40 students at a time during the lunch hour and it is a popular choice for many students when the weather gets cooler. Students should sign-up in the library before morning announcements to secure their spot for the day. The grade 6s can visit during the first half of lunch and the 7s and 8s are welcome during the second half. We look forward to seeing you!



PBIS Update

What is PBIS?

- PBIS stands for *Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports*. PBIS focuses on promoting, modelling and reinforcing positive and appropriate student behaviours, which in turn creates a positive school environment. Each school in RETSD has a school based PBIS team. The team is supported by a Divisional PBIS teacher, meets monthly, and is responsible for managing schoolwide implementation of PBIS.

Our First PBIS BLITZ

- PBIS hosted a BLITZ for students the 2nd week of school which involved reviewing the classroom matrices and handing out Gotcha tickets to students who were being Respectful, Responsible and Ready. Those students that received tickets then qualified for daily prize draws – many tickets were handed out and multiple students received JWG swag. Way to go JWG students!

In addition, we are sending home the digital citizenship matrix for you to review with your child. Teachers have gone over it in classrooms, and we welcome a review of it at home.

Digital Citizenship Matrix



	Respectful	Responsible	Ready
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep apps & programs in the same spot• Clean devices after you're done• Plug the device in its spot	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be careful with equipment• Devices away until instructed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make sure your device is charged• Bring your own accessories when needed if you can
Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be on appropriate apps/programs/websites• Be respectful of each other during online meetings (muting, cameras, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be honest about what you're doing• Before you post, THINK (Is it True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary, Kind?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Screens down during instructions• Have all other materials ready• Make good use of your time
Privacy & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be respectful of other people's privacy• Have permission from a teacher to take photos and videos• If someone else is logged in, log them out and let them know	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remember to log out of devices & apps when you are done• Keep personal information private	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make sure passwords are unique



You're a big part of your child's life.

Helping them to achieve their goals and dreams, and understand they can succeed. This is enhanced when they actively and regularly participate in the classroom.

Ensuring your child is in school and on time matters.

It's for their future.

Did you know?—Regular school attendance means that by Grade 3, a student is 64% more likely to be reading at grade level.



*Statistic provided by
Manitoba Education and
Early Childhood Learning*


River East Transcona
SCHOOL DIVISION
creating student success



NAVIGATING STUDENT ATTENDANCE





SHOW & SAVE

COUPON BOOK



Includes **2 FREE TICKETS** to a
Select Manitoba Moose game
(No purchase necessary)

JOHN W. GUNN SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Dear Parents/Guardians:

To help raise money for our School, the students will be selling the **SHOW & SAVE COUPON BOOK** again this year. Please consider selling them to your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Orders and money are taken in advance to help ensure you receive a coupon book.

COUPON BOOK OF SAVINGS

The Coupon Book features one-time use and reusable coupons. One-time use coupons may only be used once, while the reusable coupons may be used as many times as you want. Featured discounts include restaurants, golf, entertainment, merchandise, services, grocery and more. All coupons expire October 31, 2024.

COST

The **SHOW & SAVE COUPON BOOK**, which is valid until October 31, 2024, is only **\$25.00**.

IMPORTANT

- **SHOW & SAVE** is easy to sell; after all, everyone likes to save money!!!
- The more **SHOW & SAVE** books sold, the more money this is for special events for our students.
- **Orders will be filled at the end of the fundraiser.** **Orders for our coupon books will be taken from September 25th, 2023 - October 13th, 2023.**
- If paying by cheque, please make it payable to: John W. Gunn Middle School

Thank you for your support,
John W. Gunn Staff

Attention: Parents of Grade 7 Students!

JWG Vision Screening 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A vision screening will be carried out at John W. Gunn on Friday November 17, 2023. We are asking families to complete this e-form before **November 1, 2023** so that we have time to plan the day accordingly.

The vision screening program we conducted with students in grades K, 3, 5, 7, and 9, is designed to detect signs of possible vision difficulties which may interfere with your child's learning and school progress. It is not intended to be a substitute for the vision examination performed by an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist (eye doctor) and glasses will not be prescribed at this time. Students wearing prescription glasses will not be screened. Following the initial screening, you may receive a letter from the school division recommending that your child see an eye doctor for further assessment.

PLEASE NOTE: Because the screenings take place only once per year at each school, parents of children who are absent at the time of the vision screening will also receive a letter recommending follow-up, as no further school screening will occur.

JWG Vision Screening 2023



*Please complete the JWG Vision Screening form by November 1, 2023.

*Grade 7's only.

* Form can be filled out using the QR Code or by clicking the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/gd6812uc0d>



Important Dates

October 3	Co-ordinated Day
October 4	Immunization Clinic
October 6	Lifetouch Photos
October 20	Co-ordinated Day
November 1	Photo Retakes
November 2	Student Led Conferences
November 3	Admin Day
November 24	Co-ordinated Day
December 1	Report Cards
December 22	Early Dismissal
	Last Day of Classes
December 23 - January 7	Winter Break



We're on Twitter!

Follow us to stay up-to-date
on what's happening
in our school.

JWVG SPIRIT WEAR

2023-2024

Wildcats

Est. 1966
John W. Gunn



Available in
all house
colours!



Visit website to order!



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

Class Is In Session

Practical Learning for Parents

Throughout the 2023–24 school year, River East Transcona is pleased to offer a variety of **FREE** learning sessions for parents, some virtual and some in person. Topics include:



Online Safety



My Tween & Me



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 is not required. Visit us at retsdb.mb.ca for more information, including session descriptions, dates, and times, as well as contact information if you have any questions.

The background of the top section is a dark, semi-transparent collage of digital devices. It includes a hand holding a tablet displaying a document, a laptop with a 'Discussion Outline' on its screen, and another tablet showing a percentage '85.00%'. The ICDTA logo is centered in the upper part of this collage.

ICDTA®

Raising Digitally Responsible Youth

Safer Schools Together is providing complimentary access to download this guide for parents.

This Parent's Guide to Raising Digitally Responsible Youth will equip you with the knowledge you need to stay in the loop about the most popular applications and trends. Correspondingly, this guide will give you a better understanding of your child or teen's internet usage so you can relate to the digital world they live in.

For more information:

<https://icdta.org/raising-digitally-responsible-youth>

Stranger Things Escape Room

Vecna is hunting one of your classmates through the Upside Down. Complete the challenges in this escape room to save them! (No knowledge of Stranger Things required to solve the challenges.) Grades 7-12.

Transcona Library

1 Transcona Blvd.

Saturday, October 14 : 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Free. Phone 204-986-3956, visit or go online at winnipeg.ca/library to register.

Page Turners Tween Book Club

Have fun, meet new friends, and talk about some awesome books! Ages 9-12.

Transcona Library

1 Transcona Blvd.

Monday, October 16: 6:30 p.m.

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Monday, November 20: 6:30 p.m.

The Dragonet Prophecy by Tui T. Sutherland

Monday, December 18: 6:30 p.m.

Monday, January 15: 6:30 p.m.

Monday, February 19: 6:30 p.m.

Monday, March 18: 6:30 p.m.

Monday, April 15: 6:30 p.m.

Monday, May 27: 6:30 p.m.

Monday, June 17: 6:30 p.m.

Free. Go to winnipeg.ca/library or contact any branch to register.

Bad Art Bonanza!

Unleash your creativity and attempt to create the worst piece of art possible.

No judgement, just tons of fun!

Grades 7 – 12.

Transcona Library

1 Transcona Blvd.

Monday, October 23 : 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Drop in. For more information, phone 204-986-3956.