

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER



John W. Gunn Middle School
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September 2024

Fall Edition

Principals Message

Welcome back to another exciting school year! We are thrilled to kick off the fall term with 585 eager students ready to dive into their learning adventures. This year, we are delighted to introduce our new Acting Vice Principals, Rick Pokrant and Matt Ramsay. Mr. Pokrant joins us from Robert Andrews School and will be supporting JWG in the absence of Mrs. Williment who is the acting Principal at Polson School. Mr. Ramsay is in the role of Vice Principal in the mornings and teaching in the afternoons. Their leadership and dedication will be invaluable as we navigate this busy year ahead.

As our student population continues to grow, we have welcomed many new teachers and staff members who are here to provide support and enhance the learning experience for all our students. Additionally, we have added a Safety/Security Monitor to ensure a safe and nurturing environment for everyone at John W. Gunn.

You may have noticed some exciting improvements to our school yard! We have installed new picnic tables, outdoor volleyball courts, and tetherball posts. These additions will provide our students with wonderful opportunities for outdoor play and socializing, enriching their time at school.

We are also gearing up for some thrilling adventures! John W. Gunn students will be participating in trips giving them opportunities to hike, ski, canoe and travel outside the province. We also look forward to several outings being planned for classes and grade level teams. Please be certain to check the school website often to stay up to date on all upcoming events at our school.

I am thrilled to embark on this journey with our students, staff, and families as we strive for excellence together. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our parents for your unwavering support and collaboration—your involvement plays a vital role in creating a nurturing environment for our students to thrive. Let's make this year one of growth, discovery, and success as we work to inspire and empower our young learners. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Warm regards,

Ryan Francis

Principal, John W. Gunn Middle School

River East Transcona School Division: Administration Office

589 Roch Street, Winnipeg, MB R2K 2P7 Telephone: (204) 667-7130



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Moving? Already Moved?

If your contact information has changed, don't forget to let us know!

Sick? Late? Vacation?

If your student is sick, late or going to be away please notify the office by calling (204)958-6500. If there is no answer, please leave a voicemail with your students name, teacher and date,

Stay up to Date

Remember to check out the John W. Gunn website on a regular basis for updates and important school information.

ww.retsd.mb.ca/jwg

You can also follow us on



twitter.com/jwg_RETSD

MEET OUR TEAM

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CHANGES TO OUR STUDENT SERVICES TEAM THIS YEAR , SO WE THOUGHT WE'D INTRODUCE OURSELVES!



CHERYL MARSH
LAR TEACHER



KELLY HADATH
RESOURCE



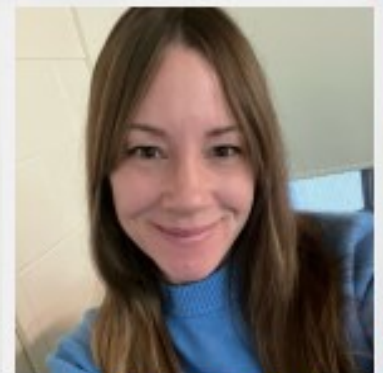
JORREL GAMUYONG
RESOURCE



BRONWYN BOGE
RESOURCE



DALE WANKLING
COUNSELLOR



NICOLE FISCHER
RESOURCE



MEGHAN MCOMBER
COUNSELLOR



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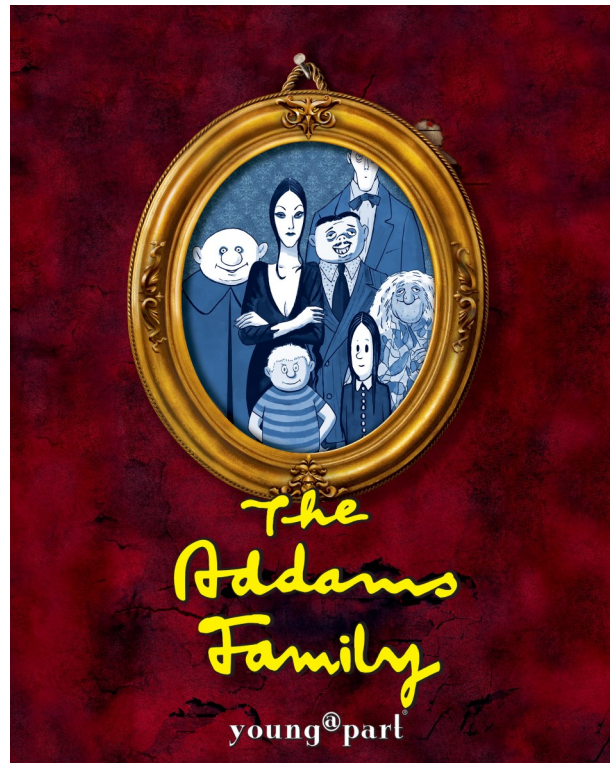
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JWG Proudly Presents...

The Addams Family

We are excited to announce that this year's school production is Younger@Part's adaptation of The Addams Family! The musical follows the dark but wacky Addams family of Gomez, Morticia, Wednesday, Pugsley, Uncle Fester, and their other relatives and ancestors. Wednesday falls in love with a "normal" young man named Lucas and must navigate keeping the secret from her family. Crazyness then ensues during a dinner party between the families. Will the Addams accept Wednesday's news and have "One Normal Night"? Information regarding auditions and casting will be shared with students soon.





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Every year, John W. Gunn strives to become more inclusive by celebrating and acknowledging our diverse community. In order to do this, we are hoping to collect information regarding the demographic of our school community. We are inviting parents and guardians to complete this short survey that asks about your family's ethnic background, what languages are spoken at home, as well as what cultural holidays your family celebrates. We are also asking for some feedback regarding your opinion on our school's ability to celebrate and acknowledge diversity as a whole. The survey takes about 5 minutes to complete and can be found by clicking the link or scanning the QR code below.

JWG Diversity Survey 2024-2025

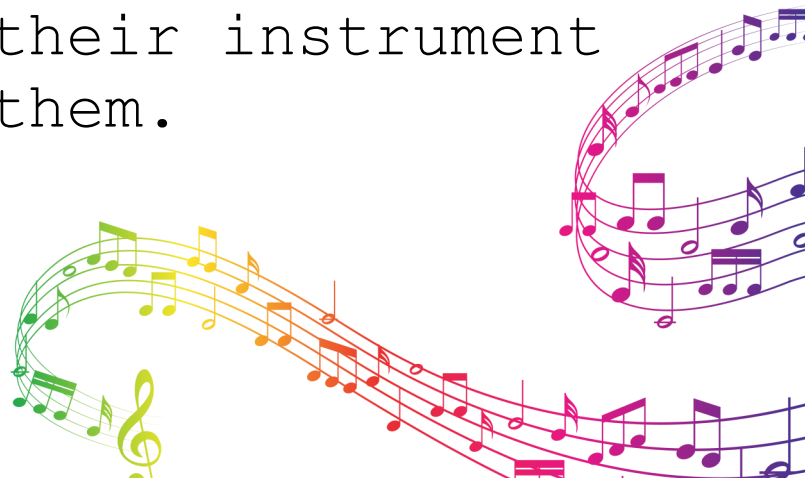




First Note Night



On Wednesday, October 2nd from 6-7pm
JWG is hosting First Note Night!
This is a band event for all grade 6
and 7 band students. Grade 8 band
students starting on a new instru-
ment are also encouraged to attend.
Students should arrive a few minutes
early and bring their instrument
with them.





PBIS

Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports is a school-wide approach to teaching and supporting behaviours and meeting the needs of all students. It is designed to enhance school culture and reinforce positive behaviour. PBIS is a proactive way to improve mental health, academic success, social-emotional competence, attendance, and overall well-being.

What does PBIS look like at John W. Gunn?

At JWG we value the importance of Responsibility, Respect, and being Ready. Our wish is to create an emotionally and physically, predictable, positive, and consistent learning environment for all our students.

During the months of September and October, the expectations are being reviewed in each classroom and displayed on a classroom matrix. There are several area specific matrices posted throughout our school (hallway, gym, bathroom, library, at lunch time, in the band or art room) that are used as teaching tools and as a reminder for students to follow school-wide expectations.

Gotcha Tickets

Acknowledging and reinforcing positive behaviour is one of the best ways to change inappropriate behaviour and encourage appropriate behaviour. At JWG, students will be recognized with a "Gotcha" ticket for meeting behaviour expectations. Throughout the year there will be draws for prizes using these tickets the students have earned.

How to be involved?

As a home-school team, we wish to work collaboratively to ensure each students' success and appropriate behaviour. Ask your student about these matrices and the expectations that we value at John W. Gunn.

- The PBIS Team



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Dates To Remember

September 30	Truth & Reconciliation Day (No classes)
October 1	Lifetouch Photo Day
October 2	First Note Night
October 7	Grade 6 Immunizations
October 14	Thanksgiving Day (No classes)
October 16	Subway Hot Lunch
October 25	Co-Ordinated Day (No classes)
October 28	Grade 8 Immunizations
November 4	No Stone Left Alone (Grade 6)
November 7	Student LED Conferences (Evening)
November 8	Administration Day (No classes) Student LED Conferences (AM)



**RETLife is still accepting registrations
for Fall 2024 Programming!**

RETLife is excited to announce that we still have space available for several of our programs for all ages in the community! The best part? You're always close to home!

A few of the classes which still have space available include:

Boys Volleyball (ages 12 – 15)

Engineering for Kids – Magical Potions and Brews

Engineering for Kids – Lego Robotics Level 1 and Level 2

Engineering for Kids – Car Joust!

Engineering for Kids – Archery!

Kids Can Draw (ages 6 – 8)

Mastering the Lightsaber

Creative Writing for Dungeons and Dragons

Creating a Mandala Dot Pumpkin

Gym Ringette

NEW - Kids Can Cook – Taking it to the Next Level

NEW - Martial Arts for Kids – Level 1 and Level 2

NEW – Parent and Child Taiko Drumming

And much more!

Explore RETLife to discover more and see the classes we can offer for you, your kids, and your friends and family to enjoy! Register soon to avoid disappointment!

PARENTING FOR PREVENTION:



Crash course for parents on youth substance use and how to best support your child during middle school.

An information session for parents interested in information about substance use and looking for tips to help their youth navigate choices and risks through their teen years.



Wednesday October 16, 2024

6:30- 8:00 p.m.

Robert Andrews Middle School

3230 Manlius St. East St. Paul

All parent/caregivers are welcome to attend.

No pre-registration required

Facilitator: Alana Sigurdson Youth Substance Use Counsellor



(204)- 260-9921



asigurdson@retsd.mb.ca

Class Is In Session

Practical Learning for Parents

Throughout the 2024–25 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



safeTALK: Suicide Alertness & Safety Connection



Parenting for Prevention: A Crash Course in Substance Use



Overcoming Anxiety



Youth & Parent Transition Sessions: Students with Additional Needs



The Seeds of Prevention Start Now: How to Talk to Your Child About Substance Use in Early Years

Keep your eyes peeled this year for more information about these practical parent learning sessions!

safeTALK: A Suicide Alertness Training Session for Parents

River East Transcona School Division is offering a session in safeTALK, a half-day training in how to prevent suicide by recognizing signs, engaging someone, and connecting them to an intervention resource for further support.

When:

Saturday, October 5, 2024
9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Where:

Polson School (Mini Gym)

Registration deadline:

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

To register, please contact
Samantha Fuellbrandt
at: sfuellbrandt@retsd.mb.ca

