

JOHN W. GUNN WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

Phone: (204) 958-6500
Fax: (204) 222-4967
Email: jwg@retsd.mb.ca
Website: www.retsd.mb.ca/jwg

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

REMINDERS

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 on our 24 hour answering machine. Please include the students name, teacher and date.

Stay Up to Date

Remember to check out the JWG website on a regular basis for updates and important information. You can also check out our weekly update email sent to the community every Friday.

River East Transcona School Division
Administration Office
589 Roch Street
Winnipeg, MB R2K 2P7

Phone: (204)-667-7130
Fax: (204) 661-5618
Website: www.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

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

As we are well into the winter season, I find myself writing this message with a full heart and a deep sense of gratitude. This winter also marks an important transition for me, as I prepare to say goodbye to my role as principal of John W. Gunn and move into a new position at the administrative office as Assistant Superintendent in the new year.

This has been my fifth year serving as principal in this building, and I can honestly say that I have loved my time at John W. Gunn. From the very beginning, this school has felt like home. I have had the privilege of working alongside an incredible staff, learning with and from our students, and building strong relationships with families and community partners. Together, we have created a school environment grounded in care, collaboration, and a shared commitment to learning and well-being.

One of the greatest joys of my time here has been witnessing the growth and progress of both staff and students. I have been inspired daily by the dedication, creativity, and professionalism of our staff, and by the resilience, curiosity, and kindness of our students. The learning that takes place at JWG extends far beyond the curriculum, and I am incredibly proud of the community we have built together.

It is a wonderful time to reflect on the many successes of the past few months. Our students have shown tremendous growth academically, socially, and emotionally. It has been exciting to see their confidence, skills, and perseverance continue to develop. This progress is a direct result of their hard work, the dedication of our staff, and the strong support of families. As we look ahead to the second half of the year, I encourage students to take pride in how far they have come and to carry that momentum forward. With continued effort, curiosity, and commitment, there is so much more learning and growth still to come.

As we look ahead, I am thrilled to welcome our new principal, Mr. Scott Harmacy. Congratulations and all the very best as he steps into this role. JWG is in excellent hands, and I know the school will continue to thrive under his leadership. Warmest wishes for a wonderful winter season and a joyful start to the new year. Thank you, JWG community, for four and a half unforgettable years. Go Wildcats!!!

PRINCIPALS
Message

—Mr. Francis



WINTER EDITION
DECEMBER 2025

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

JOHN W. GUNN

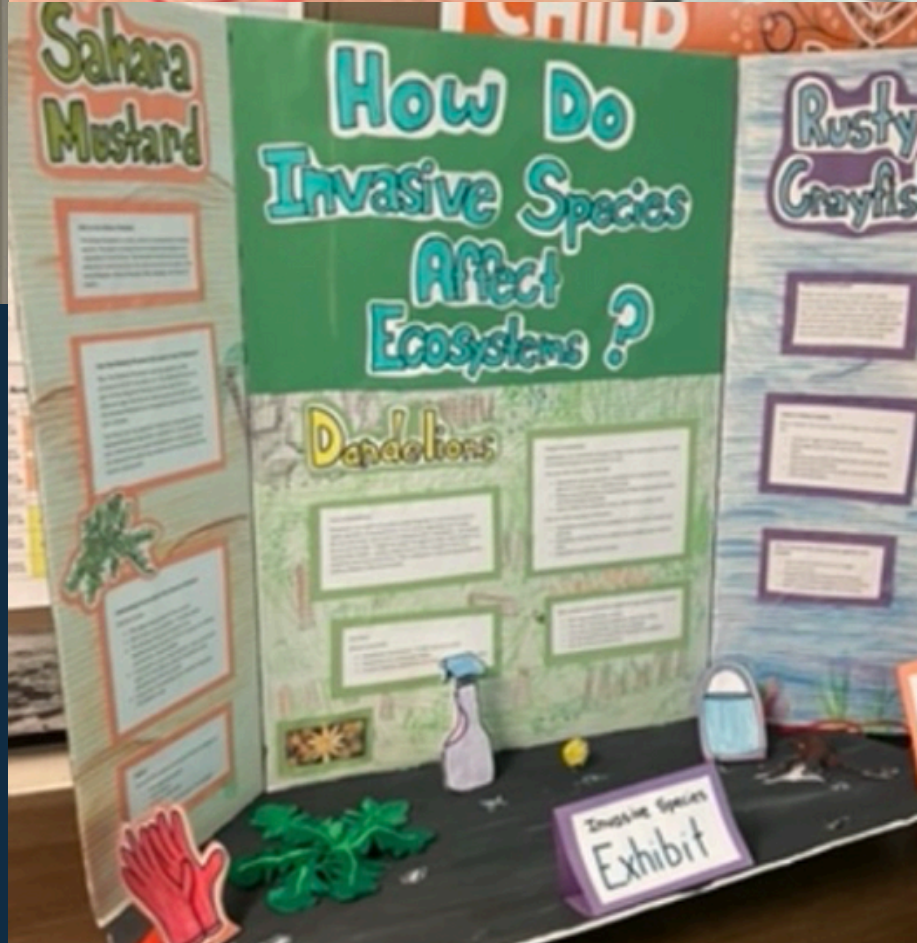
PHYS ED Updates

Congratulations Wildcats! What an incredible volleyball season we had. Your hard work and spirit made us proud. Now, we're counting down the days until basketball tips off. Let's keep the momentum going and show our Wildcat pride all season long!



WINTER EDITION
DECEMBER 2025

JOHN W. GUNN WILDCATS NEWSLETTER



What an incredible display of learning John W. Gunn students demonstrated at our Student LED Conferences. Well done!

WINTER EDITION
DECEMBER 2025

JOHN W. GUNN

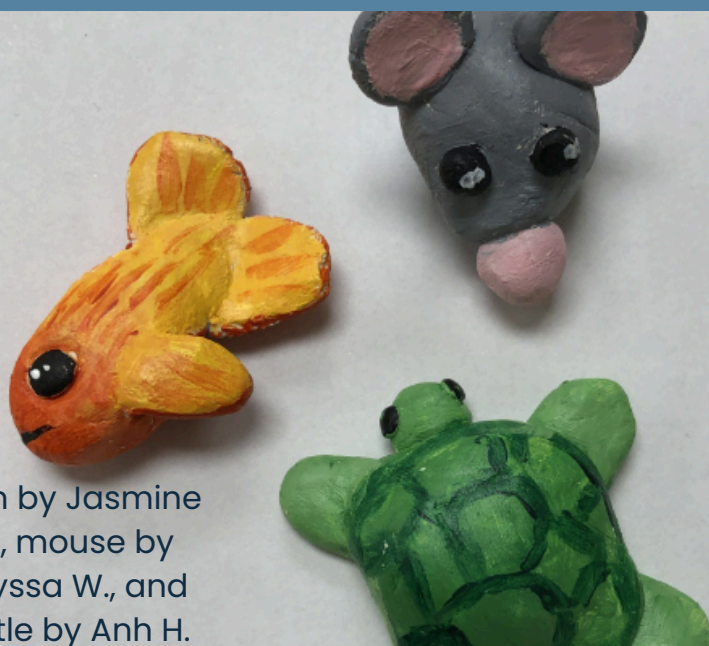
WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

**Can you believe these
clay miniature sculptures
are no bigger than a
loonie?!**

Miniature
swimmer by
Sofia P.



Fish by Jasmine
S., mouse by
Alyssa W., and
turtle by Anh H.



**What are we making in Art Club? Come
on down and find out! It's always a
seasonal make and take type of craft
and changes week to week. All grade 6
students are welcome every day 4
second half of lunch in room 102. See
you there!**

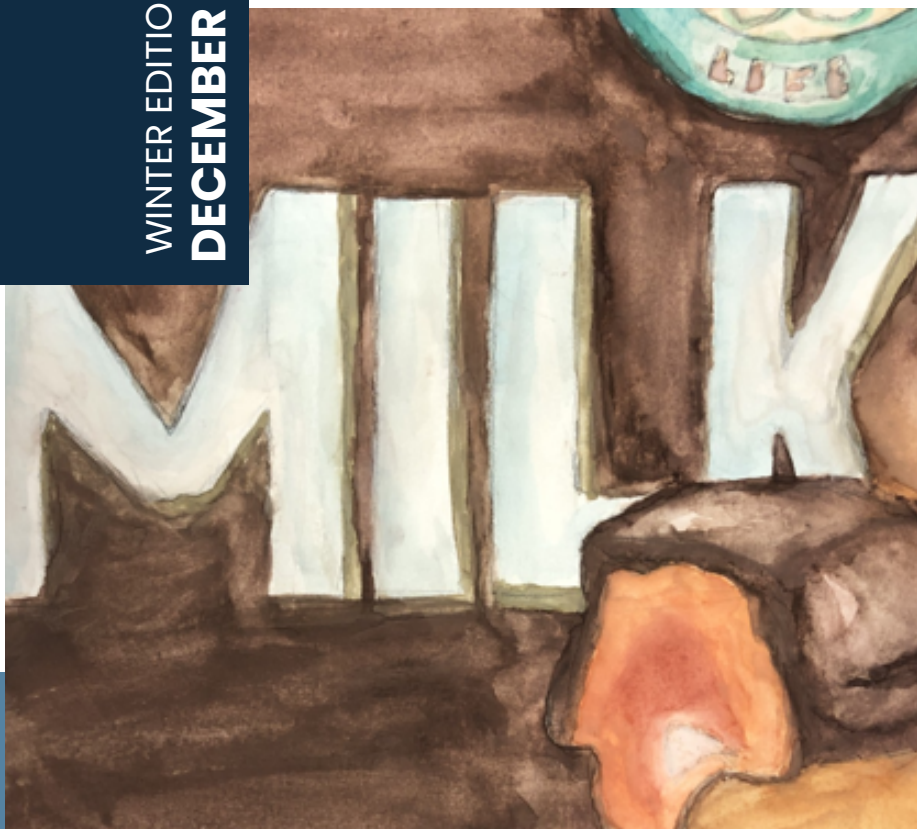
Art News



WINTER EDITION
DECEMBER 2025

JOHN W. GUNN

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER



Can you
guess the
candy
wrapper?
Watercolour
paintings by
artists in
grade 8.

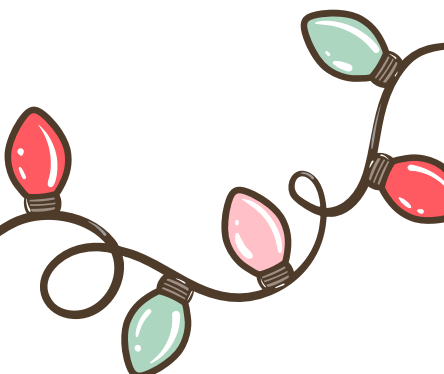
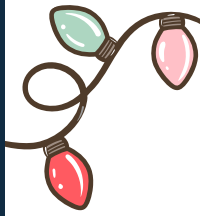


WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

JOHN W. GUNN

Holiday Bag Decorating

This holiday season, students at JWG had a wonderful opportunity to spread joy and kindness throughout the community through our "Holiday Kindness" campaign. This initiative invited students to use their creativity to decorate paper grocery bags with colourful artwork, winter scenes, and positive holiday messages. The project blended artistic expression with community service, reminding students that small acts of kindness can have a meaningful impact. Our hope is that these one-of-a-kind bags will bring a little extra holiday spirit to shoppers as they carry home their groceries in something made with care. In total, more than 150 decorated bags were delivered to the Sobeys on Plessis Road, where staff were excited and grateful to receive them. We are proud of our students' efforts and the joy they helped share this season!



WINTER EDITION
DECEMBER 2025

JOHN W. GUNN WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

JWG Therapy Dogs

We are pleased to share that JWG is able to offer dog therapy to identified students within our school community. This supportive program is made possible through our partnership with Andrea Gladu and her therapy dogs, Phoeby and Zoey, in collaboration with The Winnipeg Humane Society.



Dog therapy can provide students with additional emotional support, help reduce stress, and promote a sense of calm and connection while at school. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to reach out to Ms. Sands at dsands@retsd.mb.ca.

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

BLITZES



Lunch Matrix



	Respectful	Responsible	Ready
Inside the School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use appropriate volume • Hands and feet to yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay in the classroom unless you have permission • Clean up your area when done eating • Stay seated while eating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use your time wisely (Eat lunch, use the washroom, fill up water bottles) • Follow the bells
Outside the School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the community clean and property undamaged • Hands and feet to yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay in your grade's area • Return on time when leaving school grounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress appropriately for the weather • Take/borrow equipment before exiting the building and bring it back • Follow the bells

In the beginning of the school year, our wildcats participated in a number of Blitzes to review the matrices that help guide us to follow Classroom and Lunch expectations throughout our school. Any students who were caught following the expectations received a "Gotcha!" Ticket and were entered into a draw for some awesome prizes! Students had the chance to win fidgets, pencils, and JWG gear, just to name a few.

Next month, we will be revisiting the Lunch time expectations with another Blitz to reinforce making positive choices during the lunch hour. The chart above is what our Lunch Matrix looks like.

WINTER EDITION
DECEMBER 2025

JOHN W. GUNN

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

WRAP YOURSELF IN
KINDNESS

A form for the 'Wrap Yourself in Kindness' promotion. The form has a white background with a dark blue border. At the top, it says 'WRAP YOURSELF in Kindness' in a mix of bold and cursive fonts. Below this, there are two horizontal lines for 'STUDENT' and 'TEACHER'. To the right of these lines, there is a section titled 'SHOWED KINDNESS BY' with a blank space for writing. The form also features the 'WILDCATS' logo and 'JWVG' text on the sides.

After the Winter Break, we will be kicking off our Wrap Yourself in Kindness promotion which is an exciting opportunity to celebrate and encourage acts of kindness throughout our school. Staff members will be on the look out for students showing kindness to others throughout each week. A ballot will then be filled out for a draw, giving those nominated and the staff member who submitted the ballot the chance to win an official John W Gunn scarf! This promotion will run from January to February. What are some ways that our wildcats can spread kindness?

WINTER EDITION
DECEMBER 2025

JOHN W. GUNN

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

Band UPDATE

CONCERT

On Dec. 2 our band students along with choir, jazz band, and our drummers performed at our Winter Concert!

Congrats to all performers on all your hard work and a great show. Thank you to all who came out to watch and support our music programming! Our next concert will be on May 26th!



WINTER EDITION
DECEMBER 2025

JOHN W. GUNN

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

News from the John W. Gunn Library



We have been very busy so far this school year!

We have ordered many new books for our library, and we have more coming soon! We are very proud to purchase the books students request. Many of our students have excellent book recommendations and we always encourage them to put a suggestion in our suggestion box.

We had our first Scholastic Book Fair at John W. Gunn in over 10 years, and it was a big success! We look forward to hosting another Book Fair next fall. It was so nice seeing families come to visit the library and shop for new books, pens and posters. Teachers were able to shop for their classroom libraries as well. We were able to buy over 200 new books with our Scholastic Book Fair dollars earned. Thank you!

-Mrs. Cole and Mr. Armstrong

WINTER EDITION
DECEMBER 2025

JOHN W. GUNN WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

How old were you in the year 2000? Well back twenty-five years ago, a time capsule at JWG was sealed and placed behind the brick that marks the year the school was built. With help from the maintenance department, the brick was cut out, and the capsule was located. It was quite the process, with multiple different saws and other tools used to get the brick out. When it was removed from the wall, there was a surprise second box! We look forward to opening both the time capsules up and seeing what is inside.



Time
Capsule

RET LIFE WINTER PROGRAMS

RETLife programming is now open for registration

We're excited to announce that RETLife programming is now online and open for registration! We have more than 80 programs in art, sport, science and technology, and more! And best of all, it's for all ages and close to home (or work)!

Visit the website to see the variety of programs available and make sure to tell your friends and family!

<https://retlife.ca/shop/>



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.



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 info@retsd.mb.ca.

3



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



Unpacking School Options When Moving

Planning a Move?



If your family is planning a move to a new home, there are a few things to keep in mind when it comes to school.



Moving Within the Division?



Find your child's designated school by using our School Locator, found at the top of the Schools page at retsdb.ca. A student's designated school is based on the address of their custodial parent/legal guardian and the student's chosen program (e.g., language program, vocational program).

Moving Outside Your Current School's Catchment Area?



If your child wants to continue attending their current school, you can apply under **Schools of Choice**. Pick up an "In Division/Out of Designated School Boundary" application from their current RETSD school.



Moving Outside the Division – But Want Your Child to Attend an RETSD School?



You can also apply under **Schools of Choice**. Pick up an "Out of Division" application from an RETSD school.

Just remember: Students applying under **Schools of Choice** are considered for acceptance based on available space, the ability of the school to provide appropriate support/programming, and a number of applicant criteria listed online at retsdb.ca.
Transportation is not provided to Schools of Choice students.