

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

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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
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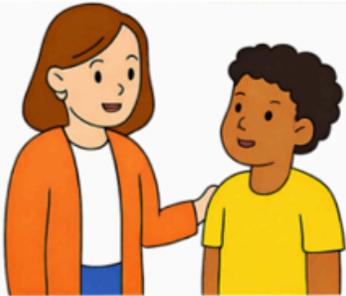
SPRING EDITION
MARCH 2025

JWG LUNCH PROGRAM

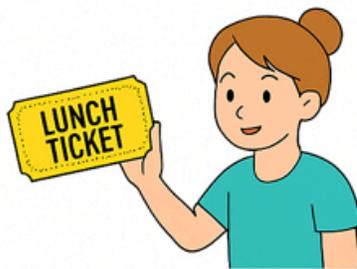
At John W. Gunn, our goal is to ensure every student has access to something nutritious so they stay focused, comfortable and ready to learn. This program is designed to support students who may occasionally forget their lunch at home or who may not have enough food available on a given day.

NEED A LUNCH?

IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE:



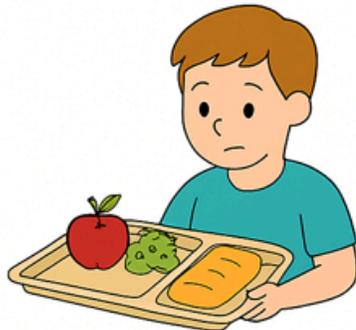
STEP 1: Tell your teacher you need a lunch BEFORE 11:00am



STEP 2: Ask your teacher for a lunch ticket



STEP 3: Line up QUIETLY outside the LAR when it is your time to eat lunch



STEP 4: Only take what you are going to eat. Please do not waste food

How it works:

- Students should ask their teacher for a lunch ticket before 11:00 a.m.
- Students must bring the lunch ticket with them in order to receive food
- Lunch will be picked up in the LAR.

What's available:

- Sandwiches
- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Milk

This lunch support is intended for occasional use, whether a lunch was accidentally left at home or extra support is needed on a particular day.

We appreciate families continuing to send lunches whenever possible and thank you for helping us support students' well-being.

If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to reach out to the school. We're happy to help and appreciate your continued partnership.



Wrap Yourself in Kindness: A School Success

During January and February, John W. Gunn Middle school was buzzing with positivity as students and staff took part in the Wrap Yourself in Kindness campaign—and what an incredible experience it was! From small, thoughtful gestures to big-hearted acts, kindness was truly everywhere you looked.

Throughout the campaign, staff members kept a close eye out for moments of kindness happening around the school. When one was spotted, a ballot was filled out and shared, celebrating the act and the student behind it. Each week, one student and one staff member were recognized and proudly received a JWG school scarf as a symbol of the warmth and care they bring to our community.

One of the highlights of the campaign was hearing about these acts of kindness shared each morning. These stories reminded us that kindness can be as simple as helping a friend, offering encouragement, or doing something nice just because.

Congratulations to all of our winners—and to every student and staff member who contributed to making our school such a welcoming, caring place. This campaign may be over, but the kindness it inspired continues to ripple through our hallways every day. Thank you for wrapping our school in kindness!



WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION
MARCH 2025



Yes I Can! Awards

We are very proud to announce 3 students from JWG and 1 staff member were honoured by the Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children by receiving Yes I Can! Awards! The awards ceremony took place on February 26, 2026 to recognize students with exceptionalities and staff members across Manitoba for their accomplishments and successes! We are incredibly proud of all our JWG recipients and wish them continued success in everything they do!



Jaxson Carnegie and Kaylee Duncum, both Grade 7 students received awards in Self Advocacy to recognize their growth in assuming responsibility and increasing their self-advocacy.



JWG grade 7 student, Tayla Baxter received an award for her growth and success in Academics.



Cristina Babashko, a JWG Educational Assistant also received a Certificate of Recognition for her outstanding work and dedication supporting students with exceptionalities.

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

7 E/F

CLASS NEWS

This term, classes 7E and 7F have been engaged in an inquiry project focused on understanding the challenges faced by individuals experiencing homelessness and learning about the support and services available within our community.

As part of this learning, students visited Harvest Manitoba, where they volunteered their time sorting food donations.

During their visit, students sorted an impressive 400 bags of pasta, which will be distributed to families in need throughout the community.



Students went to Siloam Mission, gaining first-hand insight into the essential services provided there. Through pizza sales held in February, we raised \$170 to support Siloam Mission's work. During our visit, students went on a tour, volunteered in the clothing sorting facility, and learned more about how the organization responds to needs in the community.

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION
MARCH 2025



In addition, funds raised through our Valentine's Day Candy Gram initiative and an additional pizza sale allowed us to donate \$300 to United Way of Winnipeg. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, students also assembled hygiene kits to support families in need.



WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION
MARCH 2025

We are incredibly proud of our students for their leadership, compassion, and commitment to recognizing the importance of helping others in the community. Thank you to our families and school community for your continued support! Your contributions have made a meaningful impact!



Hygiene Kits
made by 7 E/F
to support
families in
need.



WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

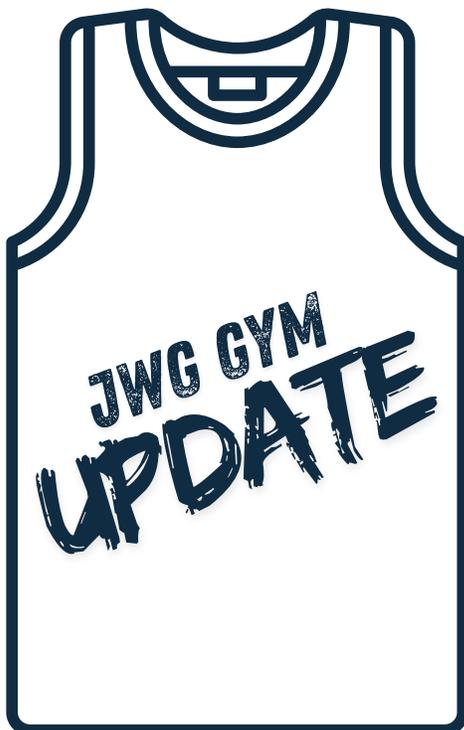
What a Basketball Season!

This year's basketball season was truly one to celebrate! All of our teams showed incredible growth, dedication, and sportsmanship from start to finish. From early morning practices to nail-biting games, our athletes represented our school with pride and determination.

A special shoutout goes to our T3 team, who had an outstanding performance at their tournament. Their teamwork, hustle, and heart were on full display, and they made our whole school community proud. We also saw huge success with our Grade 6 Basketball League, which was a massive hit this year! Thank you to all players, families, and supporters for an amazing season. We can't wait to see what next year brings!

18th Annual Grade 6 Dance Competition!

Get ready for the spotlight—our 18th Annual Grade 6 Dance Competition is just around the corner, and the excitement is building! This beloved tradition continues to be one of the most anticipated events of the year, and our Grade 6 students have truly risen to the occasion.



All Grade 6 classes—and their amazing teachers—have been working incredibly hard. From brainstorming creative themes to practicing their routines day after day, the effort and imagination poured into this year's performances are nothing short of inspiring. The energy in the gym has been electric as students refine their choreography, build teamwork, and cheer one another on.

It's been such a joy to see this tradition continue, bringing our school community together in celebration of creativity, confidence, and fun. With so much talent and enthusiasm, we can't wait to see each class shine on stage.

Who will take home the prize this year? We'll find out soon—good luck to all our dancers!

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

Band Updates

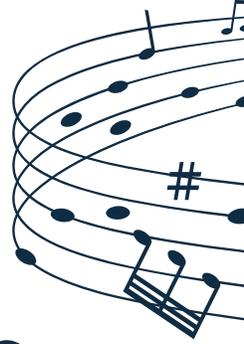
We have a musical spring season ahead of us! Read about our spring band performances below:

On Friday, April 24th the JWG Grade 6 Band and JWG Grade 7 Band will both be performing at Manitoba's "Level One Band Festival" here in Winnipeg! They have already been working hard to prepare for this. Field trip details and permission forms will come out in early April. Good luck to all performers!

In May, the JWG Grade 8 Band is going on a Manitoba Tour! They will be performing in Brandon on May 5th, in Dauphin on May 6th, and back here in Winnipeg at Transcona Collegiate on May 7th! Those attending the overnight trip are getting really excited about our travels, and we are thrilled the whole band will get to perform together at TC to finish off this exciting week of music.

On May 26th will be our Spring Concert here at JWG! This will be an evening of performances by the Grade 6, 7, and 8 Bands, as well as Jazz Band, Choir, and our Drummers. Mark the calendar and come out to hear our students display all their hard work!

Lastly, on June 17th our JWG Jazz Band will be headed to Joseph Teres School to perform a concert for their students in the gym! This will be a special way for us to wrap up the 2025-2026 year together for a full audience. Details regarding this field trip will be sent home to parents via email later in the year.



WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION
MARCH 2025

ART NEWS

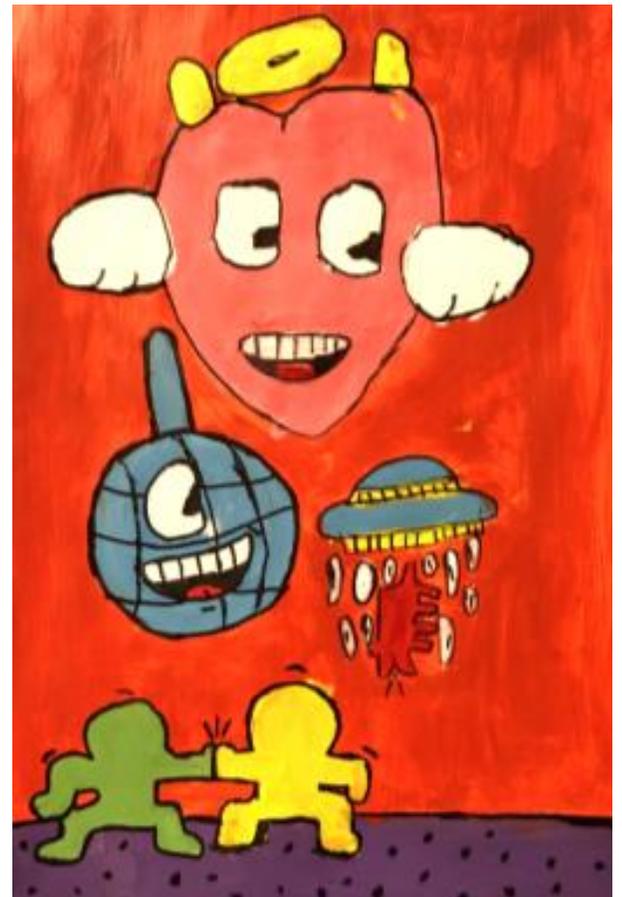


Keith Haring (1958-1990) was an American pop artist whose art and fame took off in the 1980s. Some of his drawings might look familiar like his radiant baby or barking dog.

Artists in grade 6 took inspiration from Haring's work and created their own painted pieces. Each piece includes at least 2 figures, one animal, bright colours, and thick outlines. How the characters interacted with each other, the colour choices themselves, and any other visual information was chosen by the artist.



Linh N.



Reese F.



WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION
MARCH 2025



These chalk pastel animal pictures are done by artists in grade 8.

Levi W.



Kate K.



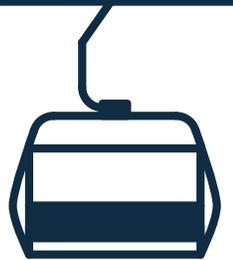
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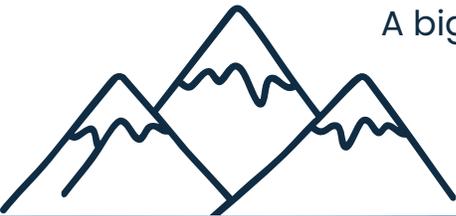
SPRING EDITION
MARCH 2025



In early March, our students had an incredible opportunity to hit the slopes at Aseissippi Ski Area for our annual ski and snowboard trip. With perfect snow conditions and plenty of sunshine, students of all experience levels challenged themselves, built new skills, and supported one another both on and off the slopes. It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm and growth as students learned and shared in this lifelong sport.



A big thank you goes out to our staff for helping make the trip safe, fun, and memorable for everyone involved.



JWG 2026 ASESSIPPI SKI TRIP



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WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION
MARCH 2025



I Love to *everything* Month

February is traditionally known as I Love To Read month. However, at John W. Gunn it is beginning to be known as *I Love to Everything Month!* The month of February has us celebrating local history, cultural history, a love of literacy, a love of community and as always, a love of Kindness.

I Love to Read Month



Book Tastings!!!

Book tastings you say? That's right, students got to participate in a book tasting for I Love to Read Month. Students experienced a variety of books sorted by theme and genre for their tasting and selection. See Mr. Armstrong enthusiastically sharing about the books in the picture to the left.

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER



Dotted Lines Book Store Owner

Another awesome opportunity for our students last month. Organized together by Mr. Camuyong through making connections with the community! He invited in Andrea who is a co-owner of a new and local Manga shop - Dotted Lines Manga, located at 2nd Floor - 680 Watt St.

Andrea Shares a little bit of a history of Manga, shares some great titles, and chats about co-owning a bookstore! Our JWG students have a great love of Manga and this was a real treat.

Manitoba Young Readers Choice Award Nominated Author



Students got to participate in a live interview with John W. Gunn's own Jen Storm. Jen Storm is a JWG parent as well as a published author of a Manitoba Young Readers Choice Award (MYRCA) nominated book. Jen discussed her path to becoming a writer at a young age, connecting her culture to the texts she creates, the importance of representation, how graphic novel actually gets made, and took many more questions.



Lunar New Year!

Lunar New Year was celebrated on February 17th. Look at this book display in our school library.

Lunar New Year, also called the **Spring Festival**, is a holiday that celebrates the start of a new year

based on the **lunar calendar**, which follows the cycles of the moon rather than the sun. The date changes every year, usually falling between **January 21 and February 20**.

The celebration lasts for **15 days**, ending with the **Lantern Festival** when colorful lanterns light up homes and street



Interview with Ralph Bryant from the Rainbow Resource Centre

Last month our Solace group was fortunate enough to have a guest from the Rainbow Resource Centre named Ralph Bryant join us. He is an incredible member of our Winnipeg community supporting people in the 2SLGBTQI+ community, supporting representation and celebration of people of colour, and a strong advocate for individual and collective mental health and well being. The students had an opportunity to listen to him share his thoughts and experiences and Ms. Singcay did a fantastic job of interviewing him!



After the interview, students had an opportunity to chat with him and work through a "Love Notes" activity. "Love Notes" is a Winnipeg based mental health advocacy project that spreads positive, handwritten affirmations across the city to reduce stigma and encourage connection. Our students helped create new "Love Notes" to be spread through this campaign. More information about "Love Notes" can be found here: <https://www.lovenotesmb.com/>

Ramadan



Beginning February 18, 2026 students of JWG started celebrating Ramadan. The holy month of Ramadan is one of the most sacred and spiritually significant periods in the Islamic calendar. Throughout the month numerous learning opportunities were featured in classrooms. Ramadan is expected to end March 19th.



Black History Month

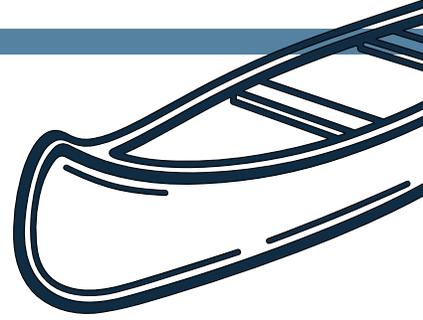


Students participated in numerous learning experiences throughout the month. Besides the huge display of available books in the library, students learned about the history of our Black community through classroom based lessons and even on John Gunn TV. See the image above as students taught students about Viola Desmond, the image on the Canadian ten dollar bill.

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WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION
MARCH 2025



Festival du Voyageur



Grade 7 Students participated in a local Festival du Voyageur celebration. This day included numerous traditional games, and activities of Manitoba's Voyageur past.



WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

The Olympic Games-Milano Cortina 2026

Beyond the continuous streaming of all Olympic sports from the most obscure Ski Mountaineering to Women's and Men's hockey the Grade 6 team had a blast creating their own Olympic Venues and learning about each of the winter sports. Go Canada Go!



Lunar New Year was celebrated on February 17th. Look at this book display in our school library.

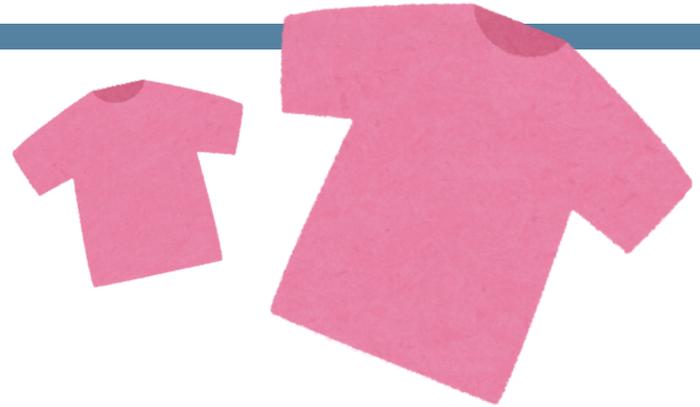
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WILDCATS NEWSLETTER



Pink Shirt Day



At John Gunn we celebrate Pink Shirt Day as well as the International Day of Pink. Pink Shirt Day started almost 20 years ago in Nova Scotia... it started when a boy came to school wearing a pink shirt and got bullied. A couple of students witnessed this and decided to stand up and do something about it. They bought some pink shirts and used social media to convince others to participate in an anti-Bullying movement. Since 2007, over 180 counties now

recognize and participate by wearing PINK shirts.

All staff and students were invited to wear anything PINK on WEDNESDAY, February 25th to stand up against bullying. Classrooms received mini pink paper t-shirts to create positive anti-bullying messages for the kindness tree.



Wrapped in Kindness



For the month of January and February JWG ran a Wrapped in Kindness draw. During the week JWG staff would celebrate and acknowledge students random Acts of Kindness. Staff would complete a draw ticket and submit it to Ms. March in the LAR. Every Friday, student names would be drawn and the student and nominating staff would win an official JWG School Scarf. What an amazing prize.

WILDCATS NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION
MARCH 2025

Important Dates

Monday, April 6

Tuesday, April 7

Friday, April 10

Thursday, April 23

Monday, April 27 - Thursday, April 30

Monday, May 4 - Wednesday, May 6

Monday, May 4

Wednesday, May 13

Monday, May 18

Friday, May 22

Monday, May 26

Friday, May 29

First Day of classes

Orange Shirt Day

Co-Ordintated Day

RETSO Career Fair

Frozen Musical

Grade 8 Band Trip

Grade 6 Immunizations

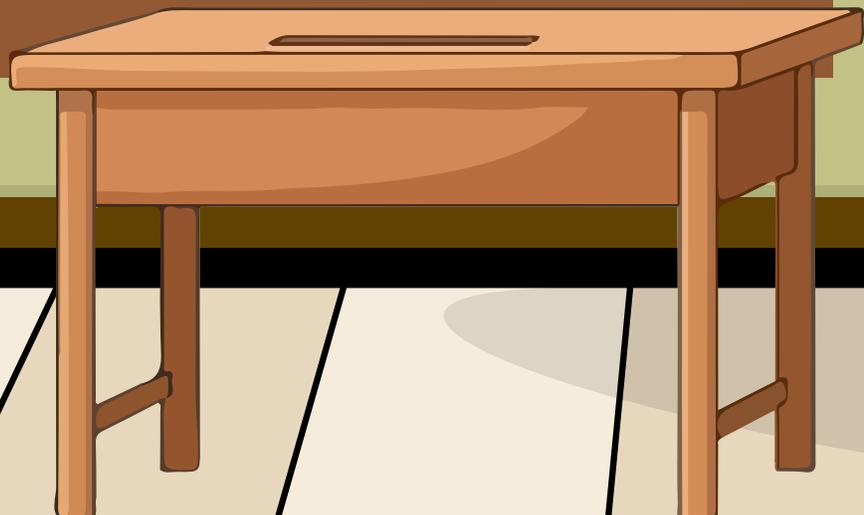
PAC Meeting

Victoria Day

Track & Field Day

Spring Band Concert

Orange Shirt Day



JOHN W GUNN

presents



Disney
FROZEN
KIDS

Radisson Theatre

April 29 & 30

6:30 pm



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.



NOTICE TO GRADE 6 AND FEE FOR SERVICE STUDENTS RE: BUSING



Grade 6 students currently being transported by a RETSD school bus will not be eligible for free busing in Grade 7. According to the Manitoba Education Public Schools Act Regulation (M.R. 259/2006). Grade 7 to 12 students living within the city limits are not eligible for school bus transportation. Fee-for-Service may be available. If you are considering this option, please submit a Transportation Application – Fee-For-Service 2026-27 Form B. Forms are available from the school office or on the Transportation section located on divisional home page at www.retsd.mb.ca. Applications are not rolled over therefore, you must (re)-apply every year.

Fee-For-Service applications must be submitted to the Transportation Department by June 30th of each school year and will be reviewed on an individual basis.





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.