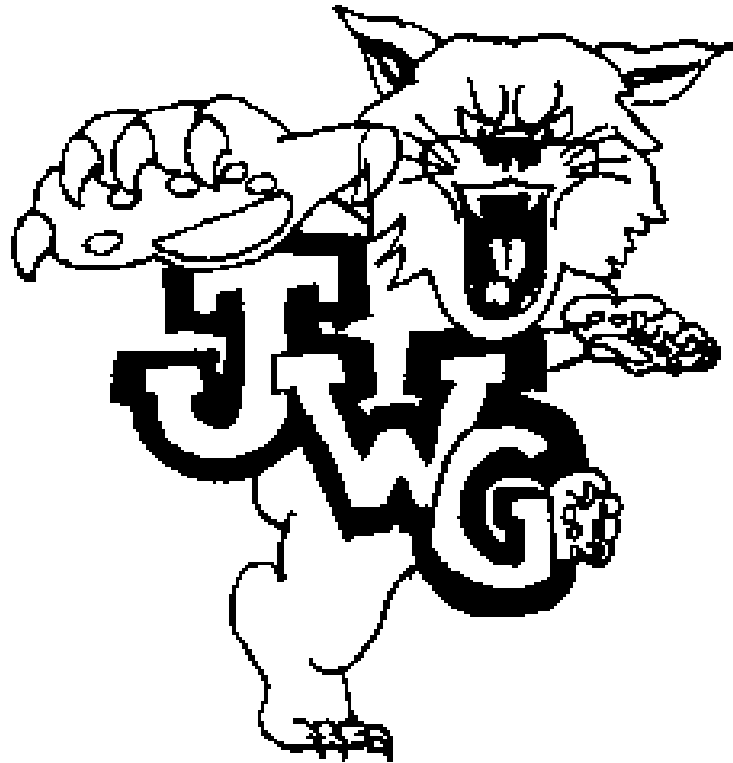


THE WILDCAT NEWS



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For more information about the board of trustees, visit: www.retsd.mb.ca/BoardofTrustees

Administrator's Message – June 2021 Newsletter

As we approach the end the most challenging year ever, here at John Gunn, it is worth looking back to try to capture some of the highlights.

We started out back in September, looking forward to the return of our students after almost 5 months of little personal contact. Staff were excited for the return of the energy and enthusiasm that 425 Middle School students can provide. Paying attention to the constant changes around public health orders became normal. I was amazed by the flexibility of the staff to roll up their sleeves and make the necessary adjustments to their teaching spaces and routines to keep the student learning environment safe.

Students showed a remarkable ability to adjust as well. Cohorts were established and students adjusted to arriving through separate entrances at different times. Masking, social distancing, hand hygiene all became a part of everyday activities. Student movement was limited and the extra-curricular activities that are so impactful on the lives of both students and staff were stopped all together.

In my 40 years as an educator, I have never experienced such a tumultuous set of circumstances under which we were to deliver a learning experience tailored to meet the needs of the collection of students that we are so fortunate to work with every day. Staff and students were stretched almost beyond reason to make one adjustment after another, often with very little notice. It was with a great deal of pride that I watched the staff absorb each new order and work together to figure out a way to make it work. Students showed trust and respect for their teachers in their willingness to follow the many changes that came their way.

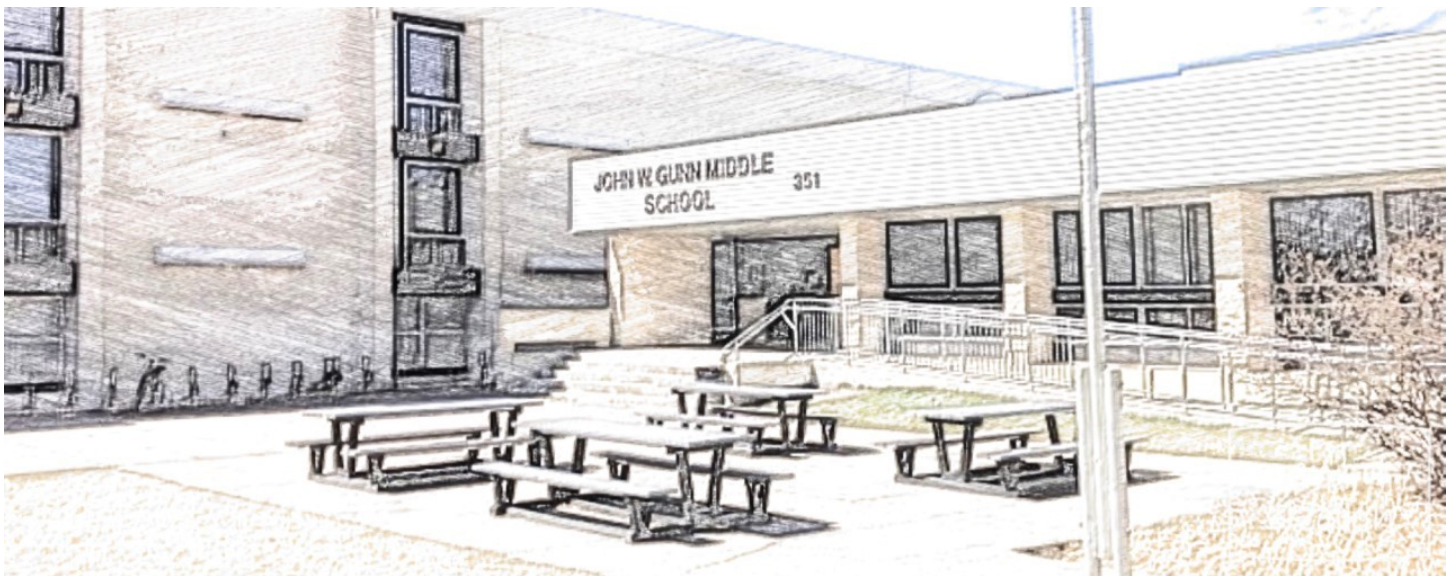
We worked to maintain connected to the students who made the difficult decision to move to either home schooling, medical remote learning or temporary remote learning. Programming was delivered in a wide variety of ways and teachers moved from face-to-face instruction to remote instruction, often within the same day. Our Creative Arts teachers delivered a rich and varied program without having access to their normal teaching spaces. Our Applied Arts teachers were faced with the same challenges and managed to support student learning in a number of creative and engaging ways.

As we approach the end of a year like no other, it is safe to say that we are all exhausted. Students, staff and the entire learning community are tapped out. We have all given everything we have. We have worked with a common purpose, to try to make the best of an incredibly difficult situation.

Administrative Message Continued

I want to take this opportunity to thank the John Gunn community for the support provided to the staff and students here at John Gunn. The learning partnership between school and home is a critical one that contributes greatly to the successes experienced by the students here at John Gunn. Please congratulate your kids on their efforts throughout the year. As we all moved through our personal journey with COVID, I want everyone to believe in their hearts, that everyone has given the best that they could and that is all anyone could ask.

I will be ending my time at John Gunn at the end of this month. This is not the way that I would have chosen for my career to end, but I am buoyed by the fact that I was able to finish my career working with a wonderful collection of dedicated staff. But more importantly, I witnessed incredible growth for so many of our students, and for that I will be eternally grateful. I wish everyone in our community a safe and restful summer. We certainly deserve no less. Take care.



River East Transcona School Division: Administration Office
589 Roch Street, Winnipeg, MB R2K 2P7 Telephone: (204) 667-7130

If you have a concern....

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.

The RETSD Board of Trustees stresses the steps shown below must be followed if concerns are to be properly addressed. The trustees' role is to hear all sides of the concern before making a decision on any appeal, to be the link between parents and the Division, and to help with divisional processes and policies (such as this concern protocol). They realize that there is no greater advocate for your child than you, the parent.

Here are the steps to follow if you have a concern:

Talk to the person most directly involved—your child's teacher. If you must leave a message, please be sure to provide a day and evening phone number where you can be reached.

If talking to the teacher doesn't resolve the issue, talk to the principal.

(The majority of parental concerns are resolved at either of the first two steps)

If you've talked to the principal and, over a period of time, the issue still has not been resolved, call the Superintendent's Department.

If your concern is not resolved by the Superintendents Department, you can make an appeal in writing to the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees will hear your appeal either in person or in writing, whichever you prefer.

For more information, visit: www.retsd.mb.ca > Your RETSD > Policies > Policy KE—Concern Protocol; Policy KE-R—Concerns and Complaints Procedures



Absent Students

John W. Gunn has a call back system for students who are absent in the morning and afternoon. We ask you to call the school at (204) 958-6500 (please leave a message on our 24 hour answering service)

or

email jwg@retsd.mb.ca to inform us of your son/daughter's absence in order to avoid us contacting you at home or at work.

Contact Information

Please inform the office if you have moved, had a change to any of your telephone numbers (home, work, cell), 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.

Online Safety

RETSD annually provides information to parents on the topic of online safety.

Many parents have questions about their children's online behaviours.

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

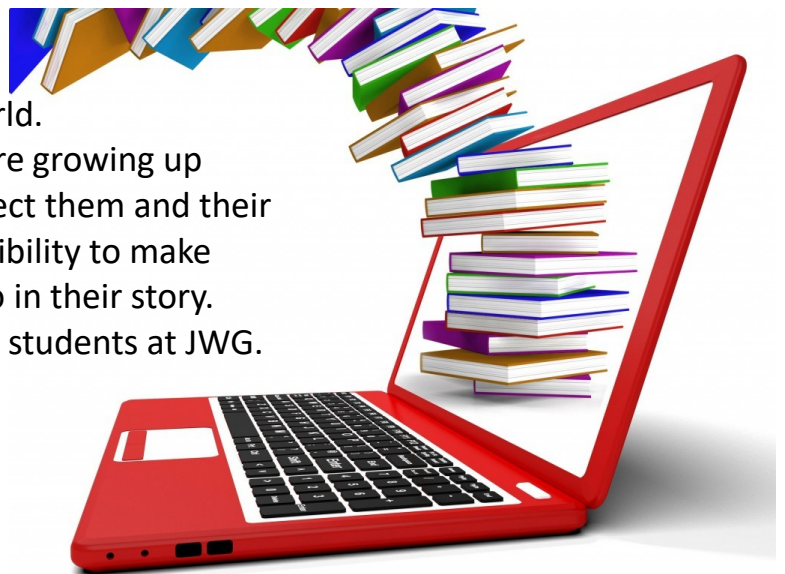
Library News

This year the library was used as a classroom however that did not stop our students from taking out books. Students were able to search the library catalog online and put books on hold. Once Ms. Desrosiers checked them out, they would be delivered right to the students by the library's special helpers. Book talks in classrooms from books in the library were a hit among teachers and students. Often the stack of books would vanish after a book talk. We were so happy to keep the library going all year despite the limitations we had. We encourage kids to keep taking books out, including books for the summer! Just go on the library website and put them on hold. Once ready you can pick them up from the front of the school!

In addition, this year the library was fortunate to spend some money on bringing in diverse literature with diverse characters for students to enjoy. This included picture books that can be used by teachers and students in classrooms when exploring a topic, and many novels too. We live in a diverse world.

We have a diverse pool of readers who are growing up right now and looking for books that reflect them and their experiences. As a school it is our responsibility to make sure everyone can say that they're a hero in their story.

We were so happy to provide this for our students at JWG.



Physical Education

This year in Physical Education has been different than any other year. Normally we would have participated in many different sports and intramural activities and celebrated student success in all aspects. However, in the current state of our education system while living through Covid, we have experienced very little of this. Despite all our challenges this year we were able to still have fun and even brought back many activities from our Outdoor Environmental Education Program.

It is our hope that we can resume our “normal” practises of sports and leisure in our upcoming school year. In the meantime, we encourage students and their families, to live their lives in a safe manner that includes regular physical exercise, good dietary meals and perhaps most importantly, work at keeping your mental health strong. Stay connected and stay healthy and enjoy this time away from school during our summer break.

Ms. Ritlbauer & Mr. Tratch – Physical Education Specialists



Creative Arts

What a year! We asked so much from students and they took every change in stride, proving yet again that our WILDCATS are amazingly resilient, on top of being creative! It's easy to find the difficulties that COVID-19 has put us up against, and a little harder to see the good, but one major positive was the opportunity that students had experiencing both Art and Music/Band this year. Whether doing hands-on work on showing their techniques through digital media, artists all over the school produced one incredible piece after another. Creative Arts is not just a way to develop some mad skills, but also an outlet, and if there ever was a year to express ourselves, it was the 2020-2021 year. Well done artists! We cannot wait to see what you create next year!



Mikko D. C.



Erin K.



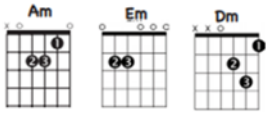
Farrell M.

Music/Band

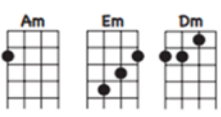
Guitar Ukulele

58. Sakura

Am Em Dm



Am Em Dm



Am Em Am Em Am Dm Japan

Sa - ku - ra, Sa - ku - ra, No - ya - ma mo sa - to - mo.

Am Em Am Dm Am

Mi - wa - ta - su ka - gi - ri. Ka - su - mi ka Ku - mo - ka. A - sa - hi ni

Em Am Em Am Em Am Dm Am

ni - o - u. Sa - ku - ra, Sa - ku - ra, Ha - na za - ka - ri.



Chrome Music Lab - Song made Jun 01, 2021
Check out this song created with Song Maker.

musiclab.chromeexperiments.com



The 2020-21 grade 8 year saw many trials and tribulations as we adapted to health restrictions, but more importantly it was filled with growth, resiliency, and fun! The grade 8 Wildcats showed their true colours and were able to adapt seamlessly through constant change. A few highlights for the grade 8 students were the virtual house challenge, the Halloween dance-off and the hybrid grade 8 farewell. Although it was a difficult year, the grade 8s have risen to the occasion and have developed some essential skills that have prepared them well for their transition to high school and beyond. We are so very proud of each and everyone of the grade 8 Wildcats and wish them all the best in high school.

2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Opening Day Procedures

Grade 6, 7, & 8 - As we await the provincial directives around applicable health restrictions, we are asking that all parents check the school website for the opening day procedures. We are all hopeful that our return to school on September 8th, 2021 will resemble what we are more accustomed to. Stay tuned!!!

Student Fees

Student Fees for the 2021-2022 School year are due on the first day of school. Online payments are available through the Fees & Billing tile on the Parent Portal or you can visit the office and pay by cash or cheque.

