



The Wildcat News June 2019



John W. Gunn Middle School

351 Harold Ave. W.
Winnipeg, MB R2C 2C9
Phone: (204)958-6500
Fax: (204)222-4967
Web Address: jwg@retsd.mb.ca

Principal: D. Finlay
Vice Principal: T. Pennell

School Hours

AM entry bell 8:30
Announcements 8:40 - 8:49
Lunch 11:20 -12:15
Agenda 3:00 -3:10
PM dismissal 3:10

Early Dismissal

Wednesdays - 2:25pm

October 2
November 13
January 15
February 12
April 15
May 6

In Service Days - No Classes

September 3 (Tuesday)
October 4 (Friday)
October 25 (Friday)
November 8 (Friday)
November 29 (Friday)
January 31 (Friday)
March 13 (Friday)
April 17 (Friday)
June 29 (Monday)

A message from Administration

As we approach the end of another busy and fulfilling year here at John Gunn, it is worth looking back on some of the highlights.

Our Athletic program has been pumping along energetically from the very beginning of the year. Cross- country kicked off the athletic season, followed by the volleyball, basketball and badminton seasons. Ms. Ritlbauer and Mr. Tratch continue to run JWG's intramural program every lunch hour. Their dedication to the student athletes in the school is nothing short of remarkable.

Our Outdoor Ed program has continued to offer students numerous opportunities to get involved in activities that take them outside of the building. We have cycled, hiked and skied, both cross country and downhill, in an effort to expose the students to potential lifelong physical activities. Most recently, our Grade 8 students headed out to Nopiming Park on a canoe trip in the beginning of June.

Our CAT club students have worked with purpose throughout the year, to support those less fortunate through a number of wonderful projects. Our SEC Student Leaders worked tirelessly to organize events that would help boost our student school spirit.

All 3 Grades have been working diligently on their year-end integrated projects. Staff at all three levels prepared the students to embark on an activity that would require the students to access skills used across the curriculum. These integrated projects are an excellent opportunity for students to combine many of the learning strategies acquired during the year in a culminating activity.

Your River East Transcona School Division Trustees

Ward 1

Colleen Carswell (chair)
204.222.1486
ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca
Jerry Sodomlak (vice-chair)
204.999.1409
jsodomlak@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 2

John Toews
204.663.0475
jtoews@retsd.mb.ca
Rod Giesbrecht
204.661.5984
rgiesbrecht@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 3

Keith Morrison
204.795.3357
kmorrison@retsd.mb.ca
Brienne Goertzen
204.955.6782
bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 4

Susan Olynik
204.661.6440
solynik@retsd.mb.ca
Peter Kotyk
204.668.4181
pkotyky@retsd.mb.ca

Ward 5

Michael West
204.990.3228
mwest@retsd.mb.ca

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

Principal's Message Continued

The Creative Arts students worked to develop their skills throughout the year. The Art students had the opportunity to display their art work for the public to view at Kildonan Place. The culmination of hours of practise and preparation occurred at the annual Spring Concert held on May 29th. Musicians from all 3 grade levels were highlighted during the concert portion of the evening. Our Jazz Cats Ensemble also showcased their talents as a part of the evening. The talents of these young students, both musically and artistically is wonderful to witness.

Once again, I marvel at the support provided for the kids of John Gunn by our talented staff. The staff is committed to not only providing an excellent academic program, but a varied and exciting extra-curricular program as well. The majority of the students do participate in the programs offered outside of the regular school day and it is these programs that make John Gunn an exciting and rewarding place to be.

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.



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



Communicate.

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.

Please remember to keep your phone numbers current with the office so that we can contact you in case of an emergency.



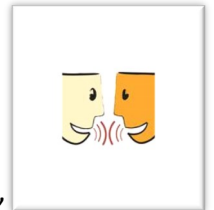
Teacher Communications

Communication with the teacher and staff at John W. Gunn can happen in a variety of ways.

You can:

Phone—(204) 958-6500

Email a teacher—the email address follows a formula—the initial of the teacher's first name, followed directly by their last name, then @retsd.mb.ca.



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

Opening Day Procedures

Grade 6 - School begins at 8:30 AM on Wednesday, September 4th, 2019. Class lists will be posted at the front entrance doors at 8:30 AM, at which time students will be permitted to enter the building. A welcome hot dog lunch will be provided to all Grade 6 students.

Grade 7 & 8 - School begins at 12:15 PM on Wednesday, September 4th, 2019. Class lists will be posted at the front entrance doors at 12:15 PM, at which time students will be permitted to enter the building.

Student Fees

Due to increased costs, our 2019-2020 student fees have increased to \$50.00. Current Grade 6 and 7 student fees are due by Friday, June 14th. New this year is the option to pay student fees online through the Fees & Billing tile on the Parent Portal. Please note that there is a service charge from PayPal for this option. Thank you for your assistance.

Change of Address and/or Phone Number

Please let the office know if you have moved and/or have had a change to your phone numbers (home, cell, work, etc). This information is important if we need to contact you in the case of an emergency.

Do We Have Your Email Address?

In our continued effort to communicate effectively and be environmentally responsible, we increasingly communicate with our families via email. Please be sure to let the office if there is any change to your email information.

End of Day Arrangements

In the interest of maximizing learning time and keeping interruptions to a minimum, please make arrangements for appointments, pick-up times and other messages with your child(ren) before they leave for school in the morning, if possible. The school office is a very busy place and it is sometimes difficult to get information to students, especially as it gets closer to dismissal time.

Lost and Found

We have a number of items in our lost and found. Items not claimed will be donated to a charity.

Grade 7 News

Can You Slay the Wildcats!?!

Have you always had a great idea in the back of your head and were not quite sure how to make it a reality? That is the task that this year's Grade 7 students were given to finish out the school year. Wildcat Den, similar to CBC's show Dragon's Den, has the students working in groups to create their very own invention. As part of the project, teams have to create a print ad to advertise their product, build the product from provided and brought in supplies, calculate the cost of materials and selling price and write and star in their very own infomercial about their product. Students came up with ideas such as jewelry lines, specialized beach blankets and even binder bags! The Wildcats are looking forward to hearing all the pitches on June 21 and declaring a winner.

Exploring Canada's Indigenous Culture

During the last week of May the grade 7 team explored and celebrated Canada's Indigenous Culture. Students learned about Aboriginal beliefs and perspectives, hardships and reconciliation. During that time the grade 7 Team of students and several staff members headed to the Assiniboine Park Zoo to learn about the Seven Sacred Teachings, their associated animals and much more. They then spent another day exploring Canada's Indigenous culture through different modes of art. This included sculpting animals, creating pastel art that was similar to Ted Harrison's representations of the Yukon, and creating a quilt of belonging in the form of a medicine wheel.



Grade 8 Canoe Trip!

John Gunn has a history of offering two backcountry field trips every year. We offer a 3-day hiking trip for grade 7 students and a 3-day canoe trip for our grade 8 students. During these trips, students learn how to live safely outdoors and enjoy the natural resources in our beautiful province. Students will experience many “firsts” such as first time setting up and sleeping in a tent, first time catching a fish, first time cooking over a fire or camp stove, and for some it’s even the first time they hand wash their own dishes!! Best of all, students will have fun educational days exploring the natural habitat that encompasses the parklands of Manitoba. Keep a look out for these excellent opportunities to "break away from the traditional classroom and experience the wilderness" in the upcoming 2019-2020 school year with your fellow classmates and teachers.



Mindfulness and Mental Health

Mental health awareness and mindfulness are things John W Gunn students have been proudly participating in over the last few months. Mental health awareness is very important to River East Transcona School Division to help empower students that may be struggling in silence to find their voice. It helps to end the stigma around mental health in youth and starts the conversations that may not have been had otherwise. Bell Let's Talk Day was on January 31st, and students were invited down to an assembly to learn more about mental health, and strategies, to help recognize it in themselves and their peers.

Some grade 6 and 7 classes have been working on Project 11 which is a program inspired and created in honour of #11, Rick Rypien, former player of the Winnipeg Jets and Manitoba Moose. It is available to support students in grades 5 to 8 with virtual tutorials educating students about Mental Wellness. The students were then invited to the Bell MTS Center to participate in a Project 11 Summit where thousands of kids from all over Manitoba heard athletes and local celebrities speak about mental health. Again, they were given real life strategies to help them cope with mental health or help others cope.

To support all these great things happening in January and February, the student body participated in Green Shirt Day which was on May 7th. This day was chosen by 2 moms in BC to help end the stigma around mental health and spread awareness. RETSD supported this cause by providing green bracelets to all students in the division that said, "Let's Band Together for Student Well Being". Students wore them proudly to support the cause.

In addition to all this, the grade 6's and 7's participated in a Mindfulness afternoon. Mindfulness means being fully engaged in the present moment, paying careful attention to our experience (our feelings, sensations in the body, emotions, surroundings) without judgement, but with kindness and curiosity.

Research shows that there are many benefits to practicing mindfulness. Mindfulness can help with feelings of worry, anxiousness, and stress. By participating in different activities, all centered around teaching mindfulness, students walked away with a toolkit of strategies. The afternoon was such a success, students were asking for more! So, then a group of teachers got together to run a mindfulness club before school at 8:00am during the month of May. Many students came out to practice mindfulness to start their day!



SEC News

The SEC has had a wonderful year and have been kept very busy planning fun activities to promote our Wildcat Spirit. The Grade Wars challenge was won by our grade 8's and the March dance was well attended. The SEC students have also been busy assisting staff and community whenever needed. Several of our students helped with fundraising, immunizations and track and field day at our neighbouring school; Radisson Elementary.

As the year winds down John W. Gunn would like to thank our 19 wonderful SEC students. All your hard work and positivity has truly helped to make our school a wonderful place to be.

Our SEC team has been chosen for next year and we are looking forward to the energy and ideas that our new team of 20 will have to offer.



**STUDENT
COUNCIL**

News from the Art Room

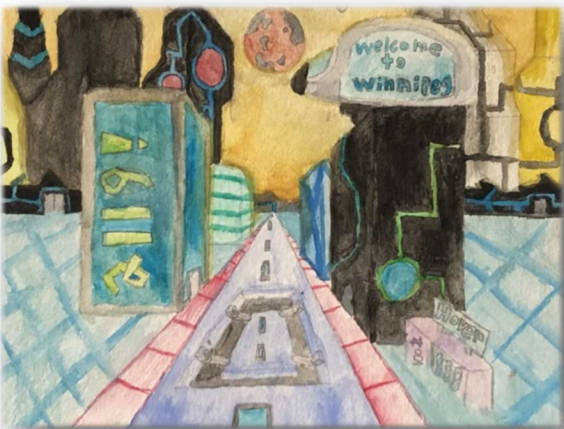
Grade 6 Art

What will you “sea” in the water?! All the artists in grade 6 brainstormed, observed, and created different creatures and objects that can be found in our oceans. Put together, this picture spans two bulletin boards.

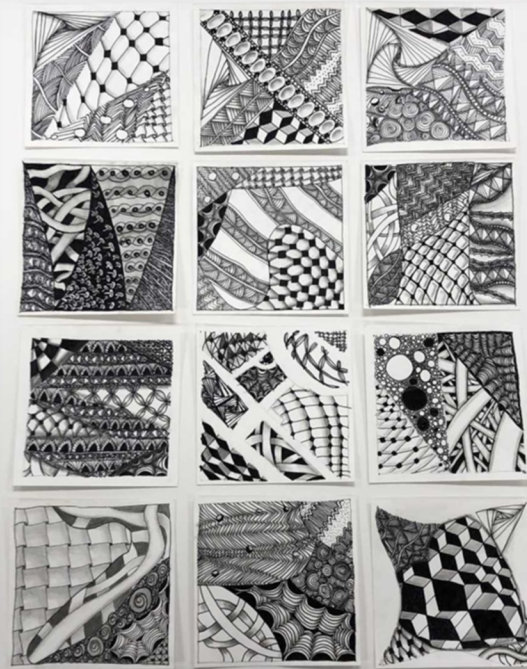


Grade 7 Art

What will Winnipeg look like 100 years from now? No one can say for sure but the artists in grade 7 had a chance to show what they thought might happen. After learning how to draw 3D buildings in either single- or double-point perspective, they had to paint a paper the size of a postcard. That’s a lot of detail for such a small space!



Artist: Tim C.



Artists: various grade 7 students

Grade 8 Art

Artists in grade 8 have wrapped up the year with some very interesting projects! Using everything they know about oil pastel, chalk pastel, watercolours, acrylic paints, and pencil crayons, students made multi-media pictures, some of which were on display at Kildonan Place Mall and around the school. The trickiest part? Colour matching all those different art media!



Artist: Nieve W.

During the printmaking unit, students were given the opportunity to stencil on fabrics and made art on t-shirts, shoes, and sweaters.



Artist: Celeen M.

Nothing says “summer” like Tiki Art!

Scratch art is done by removing the top ink layer to reveal the gold or silver underneath. Although all the artists started with the same base, every piece was completely unique!



Artist: Kaylee I.



Chloe N.

Library News

As our year comes to a close, the JWG library would like to congratulate all of our staff and students for their continued love of reading. Once again our circulation numbers indicate that Wildcats are readers. Awesome job Wildcats and good effort!

We would also like to congratulate the following MYRCA nominees who were voted as the 2019 winners and runners up: Brave was declared the winner in the Sundog category and The Way Back Home won the Northern Lights category. Both Restart and The Winnowing were the runners up. Thanks to all students who read the required numbers and voted for this year's winners.

The end of the school year is fast approaching, and Mrs. Desrosiers will begin inventory soon. All Library books need to be returned by Monday, June 17th.

We are very excited to present our staff and students with a wonderful new opportunity. Returning students are invited to choose up to 10 books to check out over the summer so they can continue their love of reading. From June 21-28, returning students can come visit us and select their materials. All books borrowed for the summer break will be due back the first week of school upon students' return. We hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Happy Reading!



News from the Gym

Our **Badminton** teams had a great season, with the grade 8 team having an extended season with an additional tournament! A huge THANKS goes to our coaches for preparing our athletes for the divisional tournaments and other competitions!

Grade 6 Club -

Coaches – Mr. Miller & Ms. Kryschuk

Grade 7 –

Coaches – Ms. Hanuschuk & Mr. Wankling

Grade 8 –

Coaches – Mr. Yong

Next we moved into **Track & Field**! JWG hosted their track meet on Friday, May 17 and we had a wonderful day with a lot of students participating. From this meet, approximately 60 students from grade 6, 7 & 8 qualified for the RETSD Divisional Track and Field meet. This was the first RETSD Middle Years Track Meet that included all grades. JWG was well represented!

After the RETSD divisional meet, 16 students went to the Provincial Track and Field Meet on June 4 at the University of Manitoba. JWG athletes finished in the Top 10!



Intramurals

Our intramural **Dodgeball** league had many, many students participating! Congrats to all the students who got involved in and played!

The following were the champions of their category:

Division III – (Grade 6) – Tie between Flashy Goats & Ka-Knives

Division II – (Grade 7) – Kool Kids

Division I – (Grade 8 or higher level Grade 7) – Clams R Us



Our intramural **GAGA BALL** league had nearly 80 students participating each day! Congrats to all the students who got involved in and played!
Are winner this year was: Kaylee!



We then went into our intramural **TAKE 3** league that prepared our students for track and field, as this game focuses on explosive starts and sprinting. Congrats to all the students who got involved in and played!
The following were the champions: The Crew

