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Mrs. Sonja Bodnarchuk, Principal
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September 5, 2023

Mrs. Kim Kirk Vice Principal
Waatebagaa-giizis

Greetings from Mrs. Bodnarchuk

Welcome back to school! I hope everyone was able to take some time to enjoy the summer break. The staff have been working hard to prepare for the upcoming school year and we are excited to welcome all returning and brand new students to J. W. Walker School. We have some new faces in our office this year. Mrs. Fowler is our new secretary and Mrs. Kirk is our new VP. I would also like to welcome Miss Busch back as our Grade 1 Teacher. We are looking forward to a wonderful year! If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

No Citrus Fruit/No Peanuts & All Nut Products



J. W. Walker School is a citrus fruit, nut and peanut-restricted school due to severe allergies. Please do not send citrus fruit, peanut butter or any other nut products to school with your child. Check labels of all food items.



Student Attendance / Safe Arrivals

When your child is absent from school, please call 274-3616 and press 1 or text (only) 271-6793. Leave a message indicating the student's first and last name and the reason for their late or absence. If you do not call or text and your child has been marked absent, you will be called at your contact phone numbers in order to ensure your child is safe.

Kiss & Ride



Parents and guardians will use the Kiss & Ride loop in front of the school as in previous years with the same times:

- 8:20 to 8:40 am and 3:15 to 3:30 pm.
- Staff will assist the student with exiting or entering the vehicle.
- Students will go directly to the area of the playground designated for their class.
- At the end of the day, students will be lined up by grade while waiting to be picked up.

Bus Pick Up & Drop Off

Upon exiting the bus, students will proceed directly to the area of the playground that has been designated for their class.

Students that Walk/Bike to School

In the morning, students that walk to school will go directly onto the playground and proceed to their designated area. Supervision begins at 8:20 am. At the end of the school day, students that walk to school will be dismissed at 3:15 pm.

September's Character Trait Respect

I will treat myself and others with consideration, high regard, courtesy and dignity.

What Is Respect?

We respect ourselves and treat others with courtesy, dignity, and positive regard. We honor the rights of others. We respect their belongings, the environment and the world around us. Respect can be shown in many little ways and, if we want our children to be respectful, the best way to achieve that is to model respectful behaviour for them.

Nutrition Breaks

First Nutrition Break

10:25-10:45 am outside

10:45-11:10 am inside students eating

Second Nutrition Break

12:50-1:10 pm outside

1:10 - 1:35 pm inside students eating

Hot Lunch Program

At this time J. W. Walker does not have a hot lunch program. More information will be coming out soon.

Nutrition Break Procedures Respectful, Responsible & Safe

1. Please be sure that students are well equipped for lunch (main meal, snacks, spoons, forks, condiments).
2. **Please note that microwaves are not available** because of the potential of hot spots causing severe burns.
3. Students are expected to remain on the school site for both nutrition breaks.
4. Students may go home for lunch on the first break if it is a regular pattern for the school year. Parents must make arrangements through the office.



Late Arrivals

After 8:45 am, the Kiss & Ride loop can be used to drop off late students. Please use the intercom at the front door and a staff member will meet your child and ensure they get to their classroom.

Year Books

If you ordered a 2022-2023 Yearbook last year, they will be delivered to the school by the end of September. We will then distribute them to the students who ordered them next year.

Student Accident Insurance

Rainy River District School Board has purchased accident insurance for all full-time students. This insurance covers all school sanctioned events. This insurance covers the requirement under the Field Trip Policy for student accident insurance and is effective September 6, 2022 to June 30, 2023 for all school-sanctioned activities. The information is posted on the Board's website under Parents, with a link to the insurance company on How To Make A Claim.



School Picture Days

JK - Grade 3
Tuesday, September 19

Grades 4 - 6
Wednesday, September 20

School Council Elections

School Councils play an important role in student success. We encourage a strong partnership between the school and your family. School Councils help parents become actively involved in the education of their children. School Councils help good schools become better.

School Council meetings will be held in the JWW library with the option to attend virtually. If you require a link, please email Mrs.

Bodnarchuk at sonja.bodnarchuk@rrdsb.com

The first J.W. Walker School Council meeting/elections will be held on



Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m.

School Supplies

**The school will always provide all educational supplies that students need. Parents are asked to provide:*

- Backpacks and lunch containers.
- Non-scutting, indoor shoes appropriate for gym.
- A reusable water bottle.



"Together, we empower all students to believe in themselves, to achieve, and to dream."



Medication Information Change

The school cannot administer medication to a student without a signed authorization from parents/guardians and the prescribing doctor. If your child needs to be given medication during the school day contact the school to access the necessary forms. A reminder that staff members cannot administer any medication that is not prescribed by a medical practitioner.

School/Home Communication

We believe that communication between home and school is critical to children's success. Phone calls, school work samples, school website (<http://jws.rrdsb.com>), report cards, meetings and newsletters are important to understanding your children's education. The school newsletter will be posted on the school website(<http://jws.rrdsb.com>) on the first Tuesday of each month. Keeping an eye on the school and classroom newsletters will keep you current with any additional information and school happenings. Please note that all school information and communication will be posted on the school webpage while classroom communication will be via See-Saw or board email. Please follow on our J. W. Walker Facebook Page as well.

RRDSB Transportation Policy

Please review the following guidelines from the RRDSB Transportation Policy:

- 1. For elementary students with a minimum of 3 days notice, one alternative caregiver address may be substituted within home school zone only if it:
 - Is a regular pattern for the school year
 - Is for five consecutive school days, or
 - Is in an emergency (3 days notice not required); and if
 - It results in no new or additional stop or route extension
- 2. **Courtesy Transportation** - May be provided to students for medical or program reasons if:
 - No additional pickup or drop off is required
 - There is room on the bus
 - No route extension is required

When eligible students require transportation, those courtesy riders will be first to relinquish their occupancy. Parents who choose to have their children attend a school outside of their home school area must assume responsibility for transportation to their chosen school.



Mental Health Memo
Coping With Back to School Anxiety



Anxious feelings are normal and expected in children and teens when returning to school, changing schools, or for those starting Kindergarten. Transition back to school can be stressful and disruptive for the entire family.

Common things that anxious children and teens worry about related to school include, teachers, friends, fitting in, and/or being away from their parents.

Consider these 5 steps to deal with back-to-school worries:

- Take care of the basics- ensure your child gets enough sleep, eats healthy foods, and exercises regularly.
- Provide empathy- listen to their worries and why they expect these things to happen.
- Problem solve- help them to plan how they can cope with difficult situations.
- Focus on the positive- re-direct your child to those things they are looking forward to about school.
- Pay attention to your own behaviour- model calm and confidence.

While worrying about back-to-school is normal, it is important to ensure your child attends regularly. Skipping school will actually increase their fears because they miss the opportunities to dispel their worries and the chance for success and mastery of academic and social skills.

Check out the 12-step back to school checklist for parents from Anxiety Canada:
<https://www.anxietycanada.com/articles/our-12-step-back-to-school-checklist-for-parents/>

For more information, please contact the RRDSB Mental Health Leader: tracey.idle@rrdsb.com

J. W. Walker Staff

Office: S. Bodnarchuk, K. Kirk and B. Fowler
Custodians: T. Ellman and D. Johnson
Teachers: C. Bailey, H.Eldridge, A.Hill, C. Busch, J. Georgeson, S. Botsford, S. Andy, L. Toriseva, N. Evans, T. Tucker, L. Wilson, I. Carlson, J. Easton, N. Renberg, M. Spooner and J. Sweigard
Early Childhood Educators: H. Robinson and A. Pierce
Educational Assistants: J. Berti, B. Guenette, T. Gustafson, M. McMahon, C. Morrison, T. Ronmark, G. Smith, N. Tomar, M. Wilson, R. Wilson, M. Johnson
Communication Assistants: L. Clendenning and J. Monahan
Librarian Assistant: C. Tysz
Autism Support Worker: N. Strachan

Calendar of Events

School Council Election	September 12
Terry Fox Run	September 22
Picture Day JK-3	September 19
Picture Day Gr 4-6	September 20
Orange Shirt Day	September 29
Thanksgiving	October 9
Picture Retake Day	October 24
PD Day	October 27

Ahamadou Idrissou is our Child and Youth Mental Health Clinician from Family and Children Services who will be at J. W. Walker on Thursdays. If students require his services, please speak with the classroom teacher and we can set it up.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to sign up for a PowerSchool parent account for students that are in both elementary and secondary school. The Parent Portal allows parents/guardians to view student grades and attendance. In addition, forms, such as the Student Verification Form, can be completed quickly and easily through the Parent Portal, rather than filling out paper copies.

Parents/guardians will receive an Access ID and an Access Password to help you link each student to your account. If you have not received your access credentials, please contact the school office. <https://rrdsb.powerschool.com/>
PowerSchool mobile app is available for both IOS and Android. Our District code is LPZT.

