



Georgia Avenue News

Principal: Mr. Larry Dean
Website: <http://ge.schools.sd68.bc.ca/>

Phone: 250-753-1044

Secretary: Mrs. Lori Currell
Mrs. M. Warriner

February 16, 2017

Georgia Avenue Community School

Issue 6

School Goals:

1. To implement a school-wide system (PBIS) of support that includes proactive strategies of defining, teaching and supporting appropriate student behaviours to create a positive school culture.
2. To improve students' literacy skills (reading, writing and oral language.)

FROM THE OFFICE

Dear Parents,

How quick the time flies! It seemed like just yesterday we came back from summer holidays and here we are at over 50% done this school year. I would like to thank our teachers, educational assistants and other support staff for their excellent work this school year. I would like to welcome Ms. Beerman our new Speech and Language Teacher as well as Mrs. James who was added to the Georgia teaching team to support classroom learning, as a couple of new staff members joining us until the end of June.

I would like to extend a thank you to those staff, parents and volunteers for helping out with various activities either before school, on field trips, during long recess or after school. The activities further enhance the overall experience of the children.

Thank you to members of our PAC for your continued contributions to the school. These members work tirelessly at the school to aid in your child's day to day school life. Your help and assistance is appreciated by the staff, students and Georgia Avenue Community.

Yours truly,
Mr. Larry Dean
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Mon, Feb 20.....Pro-D (School Closed)
- Tue, Feb 21.....Pro-D (School Closed)
- Fri, Mar 17.....Last Day of School before Spring Break
- Mon, Apr 3.....First Day Back
- Fri, Apr 14.....Good Friday (School Closed)
- Mon, Apr 17.....Easter Monday (School Closed)
- Fri, May 12.....Pro-D (School Closed)
- Tue, May 16.....School Track Meet at Rotary Bowl
- Mon, May 22.....Victoria Day (School Closed)
- Thu, May 25.....Zone Track Meet at Rotary Bowl
- Thu, Jun 29.....Last Day of School

ANTI BULLYING DAY (PINK DAY) WED FEB 22

On Wednesday, February 22 we would like to encourage students and parents to wear pink to school for anti-bullying day. The Ministry of Education has a guide developed to assist parents regarding bullying behaviour and other safety issues with the E.R.A.S.E. program. The guide can be found at www.erasebullying.ca/



What is Bullying Versus Conflict?

Building respectful and safe schools proactively address bullying and all forms of unacceptable behaviour including harassment, discrimination or violence. The definitions below are adapted from various Canadian safe schools' networks including: The National Crime Preventions Strategy.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is when someone, or a group of people, deliberately upset or hurt another person or damage their property, reputation or social acceptance on more than one occasion. There is an imbalance of power in incidents of bullying with the bully or bullies having more power at the time due to age, size, status, or other reasons.

Bullying may occur because of perceived differences, such as, culture, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability or disability, religion, body size and physical appearance, age or economic status. Bullying may be motivated by jealousy, distrust, fear, misunderstanding, or lack of knowledge. It can continue over time, is often hidden from adults, and will probably continue if no action is taken.

Types of Bullying

There are four broad types of bullying:

- **Direct physical bullying:** includes hitting, kicking, tripping, pinching, and pushing or damaging property.
- **Direct verbal bullying:** includes name calling, insults, teasing, intimidation, homophobic or racist remarks, or verbal abuse.
- **Indirect bullying:** is often harder to recognize and can be carried out behind the bullied person's back. It is designed to harm someone's social reputation and/or cause humiliation. Indirect bullying includes: lying, and spreading rumours, playing nasty jokes to embarrass and humiliate, mimicking, encouraging others to socially exclude someone, or damaging someone's reputation or social acceptance.
- **Cyber bullying:** is direct verbal or indirect bullying behaviours using digital technologies. Some examples include: harassment via cell phone/texting, setting up a web-bashing site or deliberately excluding someone and/or attacking them via social media sites like Facebook.

What Bullying is Not

Many distressing behaviours are not examples of bullying even though they are unpleasant and often require teacher intervention and management.

- **Mutual conflict:** involves an argument or disagreement between people but not an imbalance of power. Both parties are upset and usually both want a resolution. Unresolved mutual conflict can develop into bullying if one of the parties targets the other repeatedly in retaliation.
- **Social rejection or dislike:** is not bullying unless it involves deliberate and repeated attempts to cause distress, exclude or create dislike by others.
- **Single episode acts:** of nastiness or physical aggression are not the same as bullying. If someone is verbally abused or pushed on one occasion they are not being bullied. Nastiness or physical aggression that is directed towards many different people is not the same as bullying. However, this does not mean that single episodes of nastiness or physical aggression should be ignored or condoned as these are unacceptable behaviours.

It is important that all students recognize that they are each responsible for helping to create a safe, caring, and respectful environment at Georgia Avenue.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2017-2018

A new, convenient and streamlined process to register our child in Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public School began on January 11, 2017.

The following information will help determine if this process will apply to you. If your answer is yes to any of the following questions, you will register through the new online registration process:

- Is my child new to Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public Schools?
- Do I have a child that will be turning five years old on or before December 31, 2017? (ie new Kindergarten in September)
- Do I want to register my child in French Immersion?
- Do I want to register my child in Late French Immersion?
- Do I want to register my child at Departure Bay Eco-School?
- Do I want to register my child in secondary academies? (Hockey, Soccer, Beach Volleyball, Lacrosse, Baseball, Performing Arts or Jazz)
- Do I want to apply for a school transfer request (out-of-catchment)?

Before you begin, you will need the following:

- 1) A valid email address
- 2) Photo or scan showing proof of citizenship (ie. Birth certificate)
- 3) Photo or scan showing proof of Canadian residency (ie. Mortgage or bank statement, utility bill, driver's license, etc.)

Online registration has now started.

New Academy, Out-of-Catchment and Out of District student registrations will be prioritized by date and time submitted online. Deadline is March 31, 2017.

For more information please visit the district website or by emailing ereg@sd68.bc.ca

A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADE 7-8 REGISTRATION

Our Grade 7 students are automatically registered and scheduled at John Barsby Secondary for Grade 8, as John Barsby is our catchment high school. There is no need to apply to John Barsby Secondary as this is automatically taken care of for your child. Students wanting to transfer to a secondary school other than our catchment area high school, should notify their Principal and Grade 7 Teacher and apply online at <http://bit.ly/eregk12>. Registration is already open. Out of catchment applications will be prioritized based on time and date stamp of the application as per Administrative Procedure 303 <http://bit.ly/studreg303>

If you currently live in the catchment area of another high school and your child plans to attend that high school (ie: not John Barsby) please ensure the student registration process is completed ASAP.

INTERNET SAFETY -KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE

Internet safety for children is an important subject and something many parents are concerned about. The internet does have many good points, but there are dangers, and parents and children should be particularly cautious.



So, what can you do to protect your children when they are online?

Use A Child Safe Browser

These are browsers that block websites with content that is not appropriate for children to view. Although you can never be completely sure it will block everything, it will at least go some way to protect children from content that is not child friendly.

Observe Children When They Are Using The Internet

It may not always be possible, but where it is, you should observe what your children are looking at, or at least be in the same room as them.

Limit Internet Usage

There are many reasons to limit the time your children spend on the internet. Spending too much time on the computer is not healthy, and the less time they spend online the less chance of them coming across something they shouldn't.

Stay In Touch

Parents should keep abreast of the latest online threats, so they know the dangers their children could face. It is a good idea to read up on the subject occasionally. If you are educated on these matters, you can educate your children, thus protecting them from internet dangers.

The better placed you are to protect your children the better, but children themselves also need to be aware. So, what should parents tell their children to do and not to do when using the internet?

Don't Give Away Personal Information

Parents should tell their children not to give information such as their telephone number, their address or their age to people online. There are times when they cannot be sure who they are talking to and who will see this information.

Don't Meet Up With Online "Friends"

Children should not meet up with someone they have met online. The problem here is that it is easy to hide your identity online, so you never know who you will really be meeting.

Don't Give Information About You Away

Any information children would not be comfortable with everyone knowing should not be shared online. Whether true or not, this could be seen by anyone and may not disappear in a hurry. If there is something they wouldn't share with their entire school it should not be revealed online, because all of their friends (and even people they don't know) may be privy to this information.

Don't Post Pictures Of Yourself Online

Any pictures posted online have the potential to get anywhere. They can even be manipulated. For obvious reasons children

posting pictures of themselves online could lead to problems.

Don't Tell People Your Plans

Again, this could be seen by anyone. If people know where children will be and when, then they will easily be able to find them. This means they could be tracked down by anyone, from school bullies to child predators.

Don't Respond To Messages If Not Comfortable Doing So

If a child is sent a message online they should not respond unless they feel comfortable. All they have to do is ignore it or delete it or turn their computer off.

A SUCCESSFUL VOLLEYBALL SEASON

We are very proud of all the girls and boys who played on the bantam and peewee volleyball teams this season. They showed great improvement through the season and should be proud of their efforts.



Bantam Girls: Megan Atchison, Selina Billy, Svea De Bruin-Davis, Emma Jeanes, Isabel Johnnie, Brooke-Lynn Laity, Seasha Larabee, Hannah McCormick, Haylie Munro, Breanna Smith
Coaches: Mr Johnson, Mrs. Wicks

Bantam Boys: Evan Aten, Jefferson Debruin-Davis, Josh Dean, Dakota Hummel, Miriani Iremadze, David Little, Justice McLaurie, Griffin Metz, Logan Udle, Zach Yateman
Coach: Mrs. Chesher

Peewee Girls: Jada Atleo, Maddy Billy, Tyanna Currell, Taryn Curtis, Brooke Hall, Julie Jensen, Keanna Johnson, Ryleigh Simpson
Coaches: Ms. Booth, Mrs. Galloway

Peewee Boys: Preston Carlston, Seth Courtney, Franco Creus, Jefferson Debruin-Davis, Tobias Gillman, Jayde Johnson, Max Tyre, Logan Udle
Coach: Mr. Dean



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

On March 8th, from 7- 8 pm, Randerson Ridge PAC are hosting a district-wide emergency preparedness event at our school.

Chad McGilvray, owner of Get My Kit will speak for approximately 20-25 minutes on the need for emergency planning and what should be part of a good home based emergency preparedness plan.

Karen Lindsay, from the City of Nanaimo will speak for approximately 20 minutes about the city's plans for when a catastrophic event happens.

Then there will be 10-15 minutes for questions and answers.

Admission is free. Invite your friends and neighbors.

If you plan to attend, can you please contact Mr. Brick at dbrick@sd68.bc.ca

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY



Hello Parents!

Right now we are working on diversifying our library collection. We now have age appropriate books (both non-fiction and fiction) in the library on the following topics:

- Body health and development
- Positive self-image
- Immigrant experiences
- Different ethnic communities
- LGBTQ

A friendly reminder that as a community school, all Georgia Ave parents and guardians are welcome to browse and borrow from our library. We are also developing a parent resources section – more details to come on this. Mrs. Stewart is in the library Monday through Wednesday. Happy reading!

BELL SCHEDULE

Morning Session	8:45
Short Recess	10:15 – 10:30
Long Recess	11:45 – 12:20
Eat Lunch	12:20 – 12:35
Dismissal Tuesday to Friday	2:37
Early Dismissal MONDAY's only	1:37