



Georgia Avenue News

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October 2020 Newsletter #2

Principal's Message:

I am feeling very thankful. I am thankful for the gift of being able to come to this location everyday and working with such passionate, dedicated staff members, supportive parents and enthusiastic students. It has been a busy few weeks getting settled. We have been able to accomplish so much already. Besides the learning underway in classes we; had a COVID photo day, begun our virtual formative assessment conferences, participated in Orange Shirt Day, completed two safety drills, got our Student Leadership group up and running and participated in a Terry Fox run (we raised \$165 for the Terry Fox Foundation). I would like to take this time to thank everyone – staff, students, parents, and the larger community for helping to make the transition back into school a positive, safe and successful one.

There is lots of positive energy and enthusiasm in the building and on the school grounds. We have lots of great things planned, both in individual classrooms and as a whole school, and are looking forward to a fabulous year.

Lisa Frey, Principal

HALLOWEEN AT GEORGIA AVENUE:

We will not be holding our annual costume parade this year but we will welcome costumes at school this coming Friday. If students do not want to wear a costume dressing in orange & black is encouraged. Regarding costumes, please refrain from excessive gore/blood (disturbing to some students) and replica weapons (guns, swords, daggers etc..). We prefer face make-up over masks as when we can't see faces, it is a security issue. If your child chooses to wear a costume, please make sure that they arrive wearing it and intending to keep it on all day. With washrooms being one at a time, we do not want to place extra demands on them if we have students changing here at school. Also just a reminder that our COVID Guidelines prohibit home-made items being sent to school as well as students sharing food items. Do not send packaged treats for student to distribute at school (COVID guidelines: results in increased multiple hand contacts)

HAVE A SAFE HALLOWEEN:

We would normally have a school assembly (supported by our Liaison officer), regarding Halloween safety. This year our staff will give some safety reminders that we hope you will be reinforcing at home.

- ◆ Be visible—carry a flashlight/glow stick don't dress in all black (consider some reflective wear). Stay on the sidewalk
- ◆ Choose a bright, comfortable costume you can see well in. Stay away from long trailing fabric.
- ◆ Only go to houses that have at least one light on.
- ◆ Have an adult inspect your candy prior to consuming. Don't eat unwrapped candy.
- ◆ Stay away from crowds and clustering—follow safe distance rules—Trick-or-treat locally
- ◆ Avoid indoor events.

BELL SCHEDULE:

Mondays-Fridays

8:45—10:15 Morning session
 10:15-10:30 Recess
 10:30-11:45 Morning session
 11:45-12:20 Noon Recess
 12:20-2:25 Afternoon Session

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER:

Our COVID guidelines call for more outside time for our staff and students. Please assist by making sure that your children are dressed for and prepared to be outside during inclement weather. Thank You

Important Dates:

October 30	Costume or Orange & Black day
November 2	Photo re-takes
November 3	PAC Meeting (on-line)
November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly (digital)
November 11	Remembrance Day—School Closed
December 18	Last Day before break
Dec. 21-Jan. 1	School closed (Winter Break)
January 4	First Day back after break
February 11 & 12	Pro-D Days—School Closed
February 15	Family Day Holiday—School Closed



COVID SAFETY REMINDERS: Student Drop-off and Pick-up

A reminder that students are encouraged to arrive at school as close to 8:45am as possible and to go directly to their class line-up areas. Parents who accompany their child onto the school grounds must keep walkways clear and maintain physical distance from other students. Please refrain from going close to classroom doors. If you need to talk with the teacher, please either write a note indicating this in the students planner or wait until the class has entered the classroom instead of crowding the exterior door. Thank you for your attention to this.

HOWARD AVE. SAFETY:

We would like to strongly encourage you to drop your children off on Georgia Ave. (front of school), instead of Howard Avenue. There have been many complaints from neighbours of parents blocking driveways. Additionally, parents are stopping in areas marked as no parking/stopping and their vehicles are obstructing pedestrian and other drivers' view of the crosswalk and areas our students need to be seen. Our Liaison officers and Nanaimo Bylaw inform us that there are fines for both stopping in a no stopping zone and for obstructing traffic. **An improvement in this area is much needed for the sake of our students' safety.** We have been working with the City of Nanaimo to study this area, it's issues and come up with some improvements/solutions. A local speed awareness group will be spending some time monitoring this area as well.

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS/CLASS CONSENT FORMS:

PLEASE RETURN THESE FORMS: If you have not received a copy please write a note in your child's planner. We need this important emergency contact information. Missing the consent forms is inhibiting us from carrying out some of the activities we would like to engage our students in (ie. Walking Consent form needed for off site outside trips). It is imperative that these forms be completed and returned.

OUR NEW PAC:

At our last PAC meeting, elections were held for our new executive. Huge thanks to the following individuals who stepped up into new roles—we look forward to working with you.

Chair: Barbara Ryper (new)

Vice: Melissa Stauffer (continuing)

Secretary: Sherry Turner (continuing)

Treasurer: Cheryl Smillie (new)



Many thanks to executive members who have stepped away from their previous roles: **Angel Jones** has been our PAC chair for many years, during that time she has lead our PAC by providing guidance, a vision and opportunities for discussion and improvement. She along with, **Corinna Watson** (exiting Treasurer's position) have been responsible for many initiatives that have greatly enhanced our school, such as Fun Fairs, new playground and Christmas Closet. Thank you for the countless hours you have given to making Georgia Avenue a great place to be.



What kind of City will Nanaimo be in 20+ years?

We want to hear from all ages! Let's REIMAGINE our future – together.

Our City, Our Voices.

REIMAGINE NANAIMO is our once-a-decade opportunity to create a collective vision and road map for our future City. As our population grows to 100,000 residents and beyond, we need to collectively imagine how we evolve and grow to better meet the needs of all in future.

Two key ways you can participate in Phase 1 REIMAGINE NANAIMO:

[Ideas Questionnaire](#) – If you do anything, do this! Great prizes available

[Creative Community Contest](#) – Anyone can participate (kids too!). Express your ideas for Nanaimo's future through photo, drawing, collage, poetry & more!

Phase 1 opportunities are **open until November 30th**. Please take a few minutes to participate in planning Nanaimo's future! Visit getinvolvednanaimo.ca/reimagine-nanaimo for full details.