



Georgia Avenue News

Principal: Mrs. Lisa Frey Vice-Principal: Mrs. Kirstin Funke Robinson

Secretaries: Mrs. Lori Currell & Ms. Pam Dawson

Website: <http://ge.schools.sd68.bc.ca/> Phone: 250-753-1044

Principal's Message:

We are excited to start a new year! Our staff is keen to provide diverse learning opportunities for our students and we look forward to continuing to connect with our families to establish a positive community of learners amidst a new communicable disease prevention plan.

Thank you to our custodian, Greg for our bright, clean school to start the new school year. Thank you to Mrs. Lori Currell and Ms. Pam Dawson for their cheerful welcomes in the front office and their ongoing organization.

Thank you and welcome (and a huge welcome back to Georgia Ave.!) to our Vice Principal, Mrs. Kirstin Funke Robinson, as she assisted in school set up organization and ongoing planning to keep our school community safe.

We encourage you to support your child's learning by reinforcing that:

- ◆ Each new year brings a new class, new teacher, and new learning opportunities.
- ◆ Change is part of life and allows our brains to respond and grow more neural pathways.
- ◆ New classes mean new relationships, new friends, and new challenges.
- ◆ Blended or combined classes are a reality in all school organizations and have far smaller impact on learning than the expertise of our staff in providing positive and appropriate learning experiences for their students.
- ◆ The staff at Georgia Avenue work very hard to provide a calm and stimulating opportunity to learn.
- ◆ Being positive and working together makes a huge difference!

Our enrolment is at 361 students.

We are grateful for your efforts in keeping our school a safe place to learn and working with us in following the protocols in place. We are committed to providing a safe, caring school environment.

Lisa Frey, Principal

NEW STAFF:

We welcome the following new staff members: Our Vice-Principal, Mrs. Kirstin Funke Robinson, Ms. Morgan Spry (K/1), Mrs. Stacey Brown (Grade 1), Mrs. Meagan Hulme (Grade 2/3), Mrs. Lindsey Kiernan (Grade 3), Mr. Neil Varner (Grade 6/7), Ms. Michelle Fournier (EA) and Ms. Malaya Labbe (CYFSW). We are also very pleased that our literacy coordinator, Mrs. Kelly Inglis will be joining us full time this year.

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 communicable disease prevention plan suggests 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:

September 21	PAC Meeting 6:30pm
September 27	Week of Virtual Open House
September 29	Individual Photo Day
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation —School Closed
October 11	Thanksgiving Holiday
October 18-21	Parent Teacher conference week 1:25pm Dismissal
October 21	ShakeOut BC District wide EQ drill
October 22	Non-Instructional Day—School closed
October 25	Non-Instructional Day—School closed
October 27	Photo re-takes
November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly 10:45am
November 11	Remembrance Day—School Closed
December 17	Last Day before break

First Week:

We are back to going with a temporary arrangement for this first week due to our numbers. We are close to full and may be required to make changes to our staffing. Therefore, we are planning to get into classes by Monday, September 13th. Students will be spending this week in grade groupings and spending time with potential teachers. Our planned activities will focus on re-connecting and community building as well as orienting students to behaviour and safety expectations and structures in place to help ensure a safe and caring school. We will also be teaching about our 7 Sacred Teachings theme (Month of September = Humility).

Safety Information & Reminders– Re: Communicable Diseases Prevention:

- ◆ When dropping off or picking up students from the outside paved area, parents are asked to wait along the perimeter of the pavement (to reduce crowding).
- ◆ Students in Grades 4-7 are required to wear a non-medical face mask while indoors, including at their desk. Students in K-3 are strongly encouraged to wear masks while indoors.
- ◆ Students will not be organized into cohorts.
- ◆ Parents and visitors are only permitted in the building with an appointment. All visitors must check in at the office and wear a mask/complete a health check.
- ◆ Please keep your child home if they are feeling unwell. Perform a health check daily before sending your child to school.
- ◆ BC CDC Public Health Guidelines: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-

School Volunteers:

The involvement of authorized community volunteers (including parents) with school activities is an excellent support to enhance our school. All volunteers of any type must complete a criminal record check (Administrative Procedure 310) Criminal record checks are good for 5 years.

If you wish to volunteer, please obtain a Criminal Record check using the following information.

Online application: <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/home.htm>

Access Code/ID Number: UQ4T7XXBHE

Keep Country Grocer Receipts

Please bring in all your Country Grocer receipts (originals only) and drop them off at the office! The school receives 1 cent for every dollar spent.

**Cobbs Bread:**

Mention our school's name when you or your family/friends purchase items as Cobbs and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to our school. THANKS!!

Georgia Avenue PAC (Parent Advisory Council) - All parents are part of are PAC and welcome to attend meetings

PAC Purpose: to support, encourage and improve the quality of education and well being of the students at Georgia Avenue.

- ◆ To advise the principal and staff on parents' views on matters pertaining to the school.
- ◆ To communicate with parents to promote cooperation between home and school in providing for the education of children.
- ◆ To assist parents in accessing the system and to provide advocacy support for individual children and their parents.
- ◆ To organize and assist with school community activities and events.
- ◆ To contribute to the effectiveness of the school by promoting the involvement of parents and other community members.

School Supplies:

This year our school has put a bulk order in for student school supplies. There may be some personal and class specific items teachers may request. The fee for supplies is \$37.00 per student. This is payable by cheque (made out payable to sd68) or using our cash online service. If you have already used this platform (last year), your user profile will still be connected to your child's registration. For those needing financial assistance, please contact the office or inform us by email info.GE@sd68.bc.ca

For those new to the school district or who would like to create a profile, paying online is fast and easy and can be done from any computer or smartphone.

Get setup in three simple steps:

1. **Create Your Profile:** Go to <https://nlps.schoolcashionline.com> and click on "Register" and fill in all appropriate fields.
2. **Confirm Your Email:** Check your inbox for the email confirmation and click on the link inside. Sign in with your new login details.
3. **Add a Student:** Click "Add Student" and fill in the required fields with your child's details.

More information and instructions on how to sign up and use School Cash Online are available here <https://www.sd68.bc.ca/schoolcashionline/>.

ABSENTEE INFORMATION:

If your child is going to be away, please call the school before school begins. If it is before school hours or in the evening, the answering machine is on, please leave a message stating your child's full name, grade and teacher's name and reason for the absence.

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS:

The "Student Information Forms" have been sent home. It is imperative that this form be completed accurately and signed by an adult as it ensures our ability to contact parents in case of an emergency. If, during the school year, any of the information should change, please contact the school secretary to update the information. Please remember to fill out and sign the back page as well! Thank you for returning the form.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION/NEWSLETTERS:

Please ensure that your email addresses are up to date and on the new student verification form. A monthly newsletter and other notices will be emailed out. Newsletters will also be posted on our school website at: <https://ge.schools.sd68.bc.ca/>

STUDENT FORMS/PAYING FEES ONLINE:

For those who have not yet signed up, please register for a School Cash Online account. This account includes the ability to pay for school items, fees, online and includes very important documents that you are now able to sign online. Below is important information on how you can register for the School Cash Online platform where you will be able to pay for your child's school fees and electronically sign consent forms.

Consent forms include: Student Google Suite for Education (this will allow a student to access Google and use Google Classroom), Media Releases, Technology & Internet Use, Walking Field trip consent.

Paying and Signing Forms Online is Fast and Easy

Paying school fees and signing school forms online is fast and easy and can be done from any computer or smartphone. Get setup in three simple steps:

1. Create your Profile: Go to <https://nlps.schoolcashionline.com> and click "Register" and fill in all appropriate fields.
2. Confirm your email: check your inbox for the email confirmation and click on the link inside. Sign in with your new login details.
3. Add a Student: Click "Add Student" and fill in the required fields with your child's details.

More information and instructions on how to sign up and use School cash Online are available here: <https://www.sd68.bc.ca/schoolcashionline/>

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones and electronic devices must be kept in backpacks or given to classroom teacher for safekeeping throughout the day and may be used only with permission of teacher during school hours. The school will not be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged electronic devices.

Traffic Safety

We ask parents and other drivers to use extreme caution when operating vehicles in the school vicinity.

Children by their nature are impulsive and do not always remember safe pedestrian practices.

PLEASE do not leave your vehicle unattended in the roundabout parking. This is a Kiss and Go Zone.

Students are to stay within our school boundaries and are to use sidewalks.

We expect students who bring bicycles, skateboards and/or scooters to school to observe all the rules of the road while coming to and going from school, **including wearing helmets. The school cannot take responsibility for lost, stolen or vandalized bicycles.** Students are not to ride bicycles, skateboards, scooters and roller blades on the school grounds during, and 30 minutes before/after, school hours.

NUT AND SCENT AWARE:

This year at Georgia Avenue, we have several students and staff members who are allergic to peanuts and other nuts. They may experience anaphylactic reactions. As well we have some that have reactions to strong scents. We strongly advise students to learn to be nut and scent aware. The students in classrooms with students with specific allergies will have a notice sent home regarding the classroom being a specific peanut/nut free zone. It is important to us at Georgia Avenue School that all our staff and students remain safe and healthy, so please take the time to speak with your student about the seriousness of anaphylaxis.

GEORGIA AVENUE SAFETY PLAN:

As part of our safety plan, Elementary schools are required to conduct fire drills, earthquake drills, lockdown drills (and we are adding “hold and secure” drills) at various times throughout the school year. These planned drills are important in ensuring that staff and students are aware of how to appropriately respond in the event of a real emergency. If any deficiencies or problems are noted, then changes are made to the plan.

SAFETY
PLAN

We would like to share information on the following drills so that you are informed of what we are teaching your children. We are due to have our first Earthquake and Fire Drills in the next couple of weeks.

Drill snapshots:

FIRE DRILL: fire alarm is pulled and students exit the building to meet in classes on the basketball court. Attendance is taken and when the “all clear” is given, children return into the school. We are required to conduct 6 fire drills per year.

EARTHQUAKE DRILL: earthquake sounds come on the PA system, students duck and cover, count for 60 seconds, and another 60 seconds (in case of aftershocks), then exit the building to marshal on the field. Attendance is taken and when everyone is accounted for and the “all clear” is given, children return back to the school. We are required to conduct 3 EQ drills per year.

HOLD AND SECURE/SHELTER IN PLACE: PA announcement, students remain in the school, instruction continues, exterior doors are locked, and no one is permitted to leave or enter the school until the “all clear” is given.

LOCK DOWN: (potential threat within the school) PA announcement, all students and staff proceed to nearest classroom or office, classroom doors are locked (as are exterior doors), blinds lowered and everyone is instructed to stay away from doors and windows and to be silent. Instruction resumes when the “all clear” is given. We are required to conduct 2 lock down drills per year.

In addition to the information about our drills, these are the procedures we have in place in the event of a real situation regarding potential threats to schools.

Hold and Secure will be activated if there is a **potential threat/security concern outside the school** (such as a police incident in proximity of the school). **Shelter in Place** will be activated if there is a potential environmental concern outside the school (such as bear, cougar, gas leak in area). In these situations, the police/conservation officers typically contact the school and direct the school to go into Hold and Secure/Stay in Place. When there is no longer a threat outside the school building, the police/conservation inform us that we can resume regular activities. If our school is in Hold and Secure, the following procedures will apply:

- All exterior doors will be locked.
- NO ENTRY signs will be placed on each door.
- No one will be permitted to leave or enter the school until school administration announces that Hold and Secure is over.

Lockdown will be activated if there is a **potential threat inside the school building**. Again, this procedure is typically by initiated by the RCMP. If the school is in Lockdown, the following procedures will apply:

Exterior doors are locked

- All students and staff will proceed to the nearest classroom or office.
- All doors to classrooms and offices will be locked and/or barricaded by the supervising adult.
- Students will be kept away from windows and doors and instructed to remain silent and still.
- No one will be permitted to leave their room until the Lockdown is over.

If you hear about a serious emergency at your son/daughter’s school through media reports or other means, **DO NOT PROCEED TO THE SCHOOL. Please DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL OR YOUR SON/DAUGHTER’S CELL PHONE during an emergency**, particularly in a Lockdown situation where it is critical to remain silent and still and not draw attention from any threat makers that may be in the building or distract staff from their priority of keeping students safe.

We will communicate with families once we have the all clear from the RCMP and the school district in both instances. Thank you for understanding and assisting us in keeping your children safe at school.

