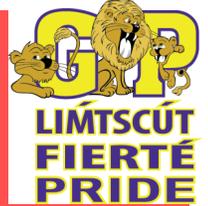


January 4, 2019



# NEWS FROM THE DEN



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year, and welcome back! We hope that everyone had a most enjoyable holiday, even with the additional snow!

The time period between now and Spring Break is a critical time to consolidate the learning that occurred this fall and to build on the acquisition of new knowledge and skills. It is an ideal time to focus on your child's study skills and reading activities. Proper sleep, nourishment and exercise will help support your child's learning and health. Our staff thank you for the work you do at home to ensure your child is healthy, prepared for school, and ready to learn. As we are at the start of our second term, we are focussed again on helping students do their very best work and finding success in their studies, each day, and every day.

We ask for your **continued support** in the following ways:

- ☺ Please get your child to school on time every day!
- ☺ Please read your child's planner every day. Check that the homework assigned has been completed. Also, please respond to any notes or requests from the teacher for information or meetings. This communication tool is one of the most effective ways for parents, students, and teachers to stay "on the same page" related to your child's progress at school.
- ☺ Please contact your child's teacher right away if your child is experiencing difficulty in any way. Don't hesitate. The partnership between home and school is very important and helps teachers, parents and students understand how to help each other.
- ☺ Please continue reading to your children. A parent can make reading so enjoyable that their child will want to read his/her whole life. When reading is a warm, shared experience that connects love with learning, there is a benefit that lasts a lifetime.

Yours in education, Janet Williams

[www.gpe.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.gpe.sd23.bc.ca)

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Read to  
Someone



### DATES TO NOTE:

- **Jan. 18th**— Family Movie Night in our gym @ 6:00 pm
- **Jan. 23rd**—Spirit Day "Crazy Hair Day"
- **Jan. 24th**—French Immersion information session for new registrations
- **Jan. 24th**—PAC Meeting
- **Jan. 25th**—ReconciliACTION Family Assembly @ 9:00 am
- **Feb. 4th**—kindergarten registration opens
- **Feb. 14th & 15th** — Parent-teacher-student conferences and early dismissal days





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## Next Meeting:

Thursday, January  
24th @ 6:30 pm at  
the House



Everyone is  
welcome!

All parents &  
guardians welcome  
to attend!

1) **Hot Lunch Orders** for Jan., Feb. and March hot lunch menus are now open. Please ensure your accounts are up to date. You can order online at <https://gpe.hotlunches.net/admin/?sid=&un=0> or, paper orders are found at the office.

2) **A huge thank you** to all the parents and volunteers who helped our classes during the holiday season with an 'extra set of hands' during craft time.



3) **Next Fundraiser** will be the "Family Movie Night" in our school gym on Friday, January 18th. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Concessions will be available. (Movie title will be announced soon on website!)



**VACATIONS AND EXTENDED ABSENCES**— Each year we are approached by an increasing number of parents who wish to take their child out of school for extended periods, usually for family plans or family business. We do not have a "leave of absence" policy. Rather, it is assumed that parents will make decisions in the best interests of their child.

We are respectful that many families have family members far away, and spending time with them is important. Difficulties arise when parents wish to have reassurances that their child will not be behind in their work when they return. When your child misses school for extended periods, he or she will be behind in classroom work. Missed instruction time cannot be made up because complete lessons cannot be retaught. Students may have cultural and travel experiences which contribute to their development, but, please understand, the varied daily classroom activities they miss cannot be duplicated through worksheets or workbooks.

Check out our website at <http://www.gpe.sd23.bc.ca/weblinks/longterm/Pages/default.aspx> for a printable workbook that you can use to keep learning moving forward during long absences.

Did You  
**KNOW?**...

## BE ON TIME....

☺ A New Year resolution.... it's a good time to refocus on arriving at school on time. We continue to have a significant number of students arrive late. Even a few minutes a day, adds up to substantial class time being missed over the year as well as additional teaching time lost for all students in the classroom while the teacher re-explains what is happening that morning. When students miss the beginning of the day in class they miss important information about the day and sometimes very critical academic instruction. I have watched the effect of students arriving late in classrooms and have noticed how disorientating it seems to be for the student who comes in part way through a lesson in progress. Avoid the undue anxiety that being late can cause... school starts at 8:25 am!



**Kindergarten Registration for the upcoming school year opens on February 4, 2019 @ 7:00 am**

- Students must be turning 5 before Dec. 31, 2019 to be eligible.
- Birth certificate and proof of residency required.

Complete the [online registration](#) form

Interested in the French Immersion Program for your kindergarten aged child? There will be an information night on January 24th @ 5:15 pm in our library to learn more about the program. Hope to see you there!

## Electronic devices ...

After the holidays, we often see students coming to school with a variety of new electronic devices. Entertainment-type electronic devices are not recommended at school or at school sponsored activities. And **the school will not be held responsible for the loss of personal items brought to school** such as : iPads, Nintendo DS, Gameboys, etc. Cell phones are allowed at school, but must only be turned on before or after school. We recognize that having a cell phone is a great way for families to communicate with other by voice or text; however, the temptation to 'text' between students is just too great for some students and so we ask that all **phones be completely turned off and kept tucked away during the school day**. Please remember that if you need to get a message to your child during the school day, please call the office and we will make sure the message is relayed.

# S.T.E.A.M.—ITEMS SOUGHT

Each Friday in our library, students have been enjoying Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math activities. Bins have been created to encourage 'thinkering' with our learners, innovators, and collaborators.



SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY  
ENGINEERING • ART • MATHEMATICS

**Big Idea:** We are a consumer society who buys what others produce. A consumer is not a creator. We have to allow our students to be creative producers—to make meaning from their own thinking, their own trial and errors, and their own assessments.

In order for our Makerspaces at GPE to get off the ground, be maintained, and be successful, we need some help from parent/relatives/community members so we are **asking for donations** of any kind. These could be items that you no longer use, recycled items, or items you purchase (new or used).

The list below is the "more common" items and are merely suggestions. They are definitely things that we would like, but please do not limit yourself to only items on this list. **(All items need to be safe, clean, and appropriate for elementary-aged students. Items like hand-tools, sewing needles, etc. will be only be used with adult supervision.)**

- Sewing supplies (Needles, thread, scissors, fabric)
- Ribbon, yarn, string
- Crochet hooks, knitting needles
- Legos, K'nex, Blocks
- All types of paper (Wrapping paper, card stock, origami, scrapbook)
- Clean cardboard of any kind, ranging from boxes like cereal or shoe boxes, to egg cartons
- Cardboard tubes and Styrofoam meat trays
- Play-Doh (store bought, or home made)
- Craft supplies (cotton balls, popsicle sticks, duct tape, low temp glue gun, glue gun sticks, regular glue/sticks, toothpicks)
- Canvas, art supplies
- Things we can take apart (Old or broken electronics, small devices)
- Hammers, Screwdrivers, pliers
- Nails, Screws, Bolts
- Storage Containers - tubs, baskets
- Dominos, marbles



**Thank you in advance for all of your help and support.  
Items will be accepted by January 25th.**

**IN-DAYS:** Please be aware that the school will call an 'in-day', particularly a morning 'in-day' when we know that the wind and the cold temperatures are well below  $-15$  degrees. On such an occasion, students must remain in the hallways, and not in their unsupervised classrooms, unless their teacher is present. Please understand, it is critical that students arrive at school each day prepared for cold weather. Parents should check the local forecast for up-to-date weather information. Students must be dressed appropriately so that they remain safe and comfortable during outside time.



**Did you know?** At anytime during the school year, families can make a donation to the school to help support our continued technology upgrade purchases, student field trip outings, and our library revamp to name a few.

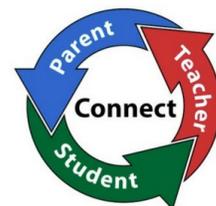
**Please make your cheques payable to 'School District #23'.**

The funds will go directly to George Pringle Elementary. Donations of \$20.00 or more will be issued **a tax receipt issued** from SD#23. Any donation amount is welcome. (Easier option—Online donations.)

### **PARENT-TEACHER-STUDENT CONFERENCES:**

These will take place on Thursday, February 14th and Friday, February 15th. Students will

have an early dismissal on these two days at 12:30 pm. Students will



bring home information from their teacher regarding specific information concerning your conference time. If you do not receive this information by February 8th please contact the school office for details.



### **CLUBS, CLUBS, CLUBS!**

'Tis the season when our school staff opens their classrooms and volunteer their time to sponsor a 'lunchtime' activity. These activities are arranged to provide an alternate choice for students who may wish to stay inside — particularly on those colder winter days. Our staff often look to our students' voices to help direct our activities—so if your child has an idea,

please encourage them to bring them to our staff (eg. drawing, coding, Lego, Stop-Motion, origami, floor hockey, etc. ).

**Listen to the announcements for more information.**