

November 21,
2013



GEORGE JAY BULLETIN

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"Learning to Care... Caring to Learn"

Dear Families,

The lovely fall weather this past month has allowed us to keep the children outside and be active. As rainy weather begins, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather so they will stay warm and dry outside and comfortable when back in the classroom. We believe it's important that children go outside during their breaks whenever possible, as the fresh air and exercise is most beneficial to learning, so unless it is pouring rain, out they go! In addition, as flu season approaches, we are asking that your child remains home if they are not feeling well. Keeping everyone healthy is important!

As we approach the end of the first school term, if you have any questions about your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher at any time. Continue to help support your child at home with reading and checking in with them on how they are doing. It's important that they get proper nutrition and enough sleep to be able to be at their best for school. Good communication between school and home is always important to us.

On Friday, November 8th, we held our Remembrance Day assembly. Thank you to all the participants in this year's event: Gunner Gan, Mrs. Higginbotham and Ms. Lepitre's Kindergarten classes, Division Two under the direction of Ms. Sunny Jun, the George Jay Choir led by Julia Dawson and accompanied by Corrine MacDonald, and the many volunteers who helped throughout the morning.

Fantastic news for George Jay – French immersion will start at George Jay next year with the introduction of a French Kindergarten class. What a wonderful opportunity for our community to embrace diversity and choice for our students. George Jay is now the French Immersion catchment school for all George Jay families newly registering for French Immersion Kindergarten. Please visit our website for more info <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/school/georgejay>

Dates to Remember

Nov. 22	Pro D day—students not in attendance
Nov. 27	PAC meeting 5:30—6:30 p.m. in the parent room
Dec. 6	Reports home; 1:00 SOAR assembly
Dec. 13	Pancake Breakfast—starts at 7:45—8:50
Dec. 17	Coast Capital Christmas Stocking for students
Dec. 19	Emporium—9:00—2:30
Dec. 20	Last Day - Winter break
Jan. 6	First day of school 2014

Virtue of Integrity: Integrity is living by your highest values. It is being honest and sincere. Integrity helps you to listen to your conscience, and to tell the truth.

GVSD

Happy, Healthy Kids Program



This is a community funded hygiene program for students of George Jay Elementary, which provides hygiene supplies free of charge. Please contact Leila Durzi, Family Liaison Worker or Sue MacTavish, Youth & Family Counsellor for more information at 250 385-3381.

Flu Season

Remember that the best prevention for all season flus and colds is by taking the following steps:

Students should not be exchanging/sharing makeup, lip gloss, bottled water, food etc.

Wash hands frequently. Proper hand washing should take 20 plus seconds and should include soap and water or hand sanitizer. It may be helpful to encourage younger students to wash their hands until they have finished singing happy birthday or their ABC's in order to promote proper hand washing.

When a tissue is not available, please cough or sneeze into the elbow of your sleeve.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Stay home if you are sick.



1000X5 Children's Book Recycling Project

Since January 2011, you, the families of Greater Victoria School District, have contributed an amazing number of books to babies and preschoolers. On October 23, volunteers counted the 50,000th book - an amazing gift that you continue to share with those who have few books. Check under your child's bed and send a few more! Our Christmas demand swells and has already begun.

Attendance

Please note that if your child arrives to school after 11:00 a.m. they will be marked absent for the morning. If they arrive before 11:00 they will be marked late. For the afternoon attendance, students who leave before 1:30 will be marked absent for the afternoon.

Kindergarten parents: Making Literacy a Part of your Day

To encourage awareness of letters and words:

Find various letters and words on containers, labels, signs, newspapers and magazines (e.g. find the "m" on the milk carton)

Play rhyming games (e.g., "Can you think of a word that rhymes with house?" and I'm thinking of something that is black and furry and rhymes with bat.")

Make a shopping list together

Talk about symbols that represent words, (e.g wheelchair symbol, washroom signs)

Cut out pictures and words from advertisements, newspapers and magazines

Make a book by slipping familiar signs and labels into an inexpensive photo album

See you reading and writing every day

Label photos of family members and attach to the fridge

School Closure for Inclement Weather

We are now approaching the season when inclement weather may affect the safety and welfare of students. In particular, snowy weather has the potential to cause school closure or some School District 61 services to be suspended.



During inclement weather, information about schools will be updated continuously on the Greater Victoria School District 61 website at <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/>.

Within the Greater Victoria School District, the Superintendent of Schools will provide media outlets with information about the status of our facilities and transportation service by 6:30am. We will also send out a synrevoice notification.

Library News

Students at George Jay love to visit the library and borrow books! Please be sure to check with your child's teacher about their library book exchange time so that books may be returned on time. There is also a Library Schedule in the school office.





George Jay “Coats for Students”

If your child is in need of a winter coat, please fill out the information below and return this form to the school A.S.A.P. Thank-you to the Coats for Kid’s campaign for donating coats to us this year.

Please get your request in soon as sizes and styles are limited.

Child’s name _____ Teacher _____

Size: ___Small ___Medium ___Large

Teachers: please place completed forms in Leila or Sue’s mailbox.

We will come and get students from your class to choose a coat. Thank-you!



Message from Edge Imaging

Edge Imaging will be having a studio retake day for anybody that was missed when they were at the school on re-take day.

Date: Sunday, November 24th

Time: 9 am to 1 pm

Location: Central Saanich Cultural Centre – Room B

Address: 1209 Clarke Road, Brentwood Bay

No appointment necessary – first come/ first served.

Any questions please email: mmcmullen@edgeimaging.ca

Potential Daycare at Crystal Recreation Centre

Ryan Lance, Child and Youth Programmer with Victoria Recreation, would like your input on the following question:

Would you be interested in an after school daycare program at the recreation centre? Please contact Terri Smith, 250 385-3381, if you would like input.

HOLIDAY HAMPERS

Dear Parent/Guardian,

At George Jay School, we want every child to have the opportunity to enjoy the upcoming holiday season. To this end, we try to support families in need whenever possible. This year we have the ability to provide Holiday Hampers to some of our George Jay families. Hampers consist of gifts for children and food. Please be aware that you should not be applying for a hamper if you have family support or have applied to another agency for a hamper, or have your own resources. Sponsors are told that their hampers will be the main source of gifts and food for that family. The hampers are generously provided by private individuals and groups in our community who want to support families in need.



Please note that the hampers are only available on a first-come first-serve basis.

If you have any questions, please contact me in the Parent Resource Room or by calling the school at 250-385-3381

Leila Durzi, Family Liaison Worker

Fill out the form below and return to office or Family Liaison Worker by Nov. 26th

Name of Parents or Guardians:

Address:

Phone number:

Children:

Name _____ Gender ___ Age ___ Clothing/Shoe size _____

Gift wish/interests _____

Name _____ Gender ___ Age ___ Clothing/Shoe size _____

Gift wish/interests _____

Name _____ Gender ___ Age ___ Clothing/shoe size _____

Gift wish/interests _____

Parent/guardian gift ideas _____

Special needs/requests/allergies _____

Preferred grocery store _____

Journeys of the Heart is a “free-of-charge” 10 month (30 week) cultural early learning program for Aboriginal children ages 2-5 years and their families. Program structure and delivery is designed to provide opportunities to empower and contribute to positive cultural identity within Aboriginal children and their families.

To find out more about the program or to register please contact: Hulitan Family & Community Services

Phone: 250-384-9466 www.hulitan.ca



Research Study:

Action, Language, and Thinking

Dear Students and Parents:

We would like to invite you to consider participating in a research study that takes place at the University of Victoria, Child Development Lab and is conducted by Dr. Ulrich Mueller (Dept. of Psychology; umueller@uvic.ca). The study involves 7- to 12-year-old children. We conduct this study to learn more about how the way in which children act is related to how they comprehend and think about objects and events.

What is required: If you are interested in participating in this study, you need to email Dr. Mueller’s research Assistant, Sharon Chan (sharonc@uvic.ca). Sharon will schedule an appointment at the Child Development Lab at the University of Victoria. Children will participate in one experiment that will take about 45 minutes.

What will happen in the study: Children will be presented with a computerized task that cues them to make grasping actions toward particular objects. Cues will be presented either in the visual modality (pictures on the computer screen) or auditory modality (spoken object names). We examine how these cues influence children’s actions toward objects. As compensation for their time, children will receive 15 dollars and parents will be reimbursed for parking expenses.

MEND: A FREE Healthy Lifestyle program in Saanich!

The MEND program empowers children and families to become fitter and healthier. This free program is fun and interactive and supports 7-13 year old children and their families to adopt a healthy lifestyle. It is a 10 week family-based education program that facilitates safe, effective and lasting lifestyle changes by improving children's physical activity levels, nutrition and self-esteem.

What happens at the MEND program?

Parents/caregivers join their children in each session to learn about how to choose and spend more time being physically active.

Twice-weekly sessions are a mix of family activities where we show you how small changes can make a big difference.

Practical demonstrations, games, tips about healthy foods, label reading and portion sizes.

Fun physical activity sessions for the kids in a non-judgmental environment.

In addition to the FREE 10 week program, participants will receive a set of family drop-in passes to Saanich Recreation Centres!

Who can participate?

MEND 7-13 is for children 7-13 years old who are above a healthy weight.

When and Where:

Colquitz Middle School

505 Dumeresq St.

Victoria, BC

Days and Times:

Mondays 6:00 pm to 8:00pm and Saturdays 9:30am to 11:30am

Program is running:

January 11th to March 31st, 2014

(Cancelled Feb. 8th & 10th and Mar. 8th, 15th, and 22nd)

AND

April 5th to June 16th, 2014

(Cancelled on Apr. 19th & 21st and May 17th & 19th)

For more information contact or to register:

Email Janine Drummond (Program Manager) at janined@uvic.ca or call 250-475-5412.

PISE's new Adapted Physical Literacy programs

There has been keen interest in **PISE's new Adapted Physical Literacy programs**. Some people would like to learn more about the program and see what it looks like. Therefore we will be running **two free sample classes in December 2013**:

Adapt It – Teens (Age 13-18)

Monday

December 2, 2013

3:30-4:15pm

Adapt It – Kids (Age 6-12)

Thursday

December 5, 2013

3:30-4:15pm

Both classes will be at the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence (4371 Interurban Road, Victoria) in the gymnasium on Level 1. There are accessible parking spots in the roundabout in front of the PISE main entry. As long as people put up their disability parking pass they will not have to pay. However, if they park in the main parking lot for PISE (if they do not have a disability parking pass) the cost is \$2 for 2 hours to park.

Please remember that these sessions are for children/teens with *physical disabilities and mobility limitations*. However, if you are unsure whether someone would be right for this program you can contact Sarah Black (the class instructor) at sblack@piseworld.com or myself (Physical Literacy Coordinator) at kgraham@piseworld.com.