

October 9th,
2014

GEORGE JAY BULLETIN

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"Learning to Care... Caring to Learn"



Virtue of Excellence: Excellence is doing your best, giving careful attention to every task and every relationship.

GVSD

Dear Families, Friends and Guardians of George Jay School students:

Welcome back to our 2014-15 school year. We are looking forward to another exciting year of learning and laughter with your children. The transition of moving a whole school to another building is finally complete and the bussing of students to and from the two locations is getting less complicated daily. Parents and families are always welcomed to George Jay and we hope you feel that we offer a positive and caring school environment. It is important that we foster positive relationships with all our families, so if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please pass them to any members of our staff, come into the office to chat, or leave a note.

Currently, we have 258 students from K-5 in 13 divisions. Students began their first day in their new, permanent classes which allowed for an easy transition for all. We also welcomed our first French Immersion class at the K level. Our staff has some new faces. We welcome the addition of Ms. Beattie (gr. 4/5), Ms. MacDonald (special education ELL), Ms. Bathurst-Hunt (French Immersion K), Ms. Gronotte (temporary K teacher for Ms. Moore), Ms. Waldron (gr. 1), Ms. Jun (computers, P.E.)

A large number of forms have gone home recently. Please return them quickly as there is important contact information that we depend on for emergencies. Next week, there are parent-teacher interviews: we hope that many of you will come to meet your child's teacher. If you are unable to attend, please contact the teacher at any time to discuss your child's progress. It has been a quick and relatively smooth start to the school year.

Mrs. Leslie Lee (Principal)

Mrs. Terri Smith (Vice-principal)



Dates to Remember

Oct. 16	PAC Meeting at Quadra Village Community Centre—6:30 Childcare provided
Oct. 16	Parent/Teacher interviews—early dismissal at 12:00
Oct. 23	Photo day (envelopes home on the 16th)
Oct. 23	Halloween dance party at Fernwood Community Centre 6—8 p.m.
Oct. 24	Pro D day—school not in session
Nov. 10	School Pro D day—school not in session
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day—school closed
Nov. 14	Photo retakes

Bussing

Whew! What an adventure bussing has been in the first two weeks of school. Students are now settled into bussing routines and are adapting quite well to our seismic adventure. Please remind your children to:

- Practice safe bus behaviour
- Demonstrate good manners
- Check for backpacks, coats, etc. before leaving the bus
- Be aware of younger, smaller children when loading (unloading) the bus.



Parents, thank you picking your children up after school on time. Remember, after school supervision is offered only until 3:25. Thank you to bus supervisors for ensuring the safety of our children.

Newsletter Email List

School newsletters are sent home by email the third Thursday of every month. **If you have not provided the school with your current email please do so by calling the school office at 250-385-3381 or by sending us an email with your child's name attached to georgejay@sd61.bc.ca.** Our goal to try and get everyone's email to keep our school green by using less paper.

Newsletters and other important information regarding events going on at the school can also be found on our school website: <http://school.sd61.bc.ca/georgejay/Home.aspx>

Valuables at School

We request that students do not bring any valuables or electronic devices to school such as ipods or cell phones. Students are devastated when these items are broken or parts go missing and we cannot be responsible for damage, theft or loss. Please keep these items at home. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. In addition, Pokemon cards or other trading cards should remain at home as well.

Attendance/Safety Arrival

We request that if your child arrives late to school that they please sign into the office for a late slip. If you are leaving with your child during the day for any reason please come to the office and sign your child out. If your child will be away for any reason please call the school at 250-385-3381 to let us know. You will receive an automated call if your child is away and has not arrived by 9:30am without notifying the school.

Breakfast to Beethoven Club

We are pleased to let you know that our Breakfast program has begun. There is no charge for this program but we do need your signature on the permission form sent home on Friday. Breakfast club runs from 8:40—8:55. Breakfast will consist of food options from at least three food groups.

Canadian Parents for French Victoria Chapter

Bonjour and bienvenue to another exciting school year! CPF is a national network of volunteers with Chapters across Canada. The local Victoria Chapter promotes French language learning by providing opportunities for students to experience French in and out of the classroom.

Highlights of the activities planned this year include, hosting French story times, library information sessions, a local French public speaking competition and our inaugural "Fête Française" on Saturday, November 15th. This event will feature bilingual children's entertainer, Charlotte Diamond as well as a French book fair, face painting and more. Stay tuned!

At the provincial level, CPF BC organizes or works with partner groups to offer a parent conference, BC Family French camp, and the Provincial French public speaking finals, *Concours D'Art Oratoire*.

The provincial website (bc-yk.cpf.ca) and member newsletters have information helpful in supporting your child's French education. To find out more, email the Victoria chapter at cpf.victoria.bc@gmail.com. We hold monthly meetings (in English) and encourage you to become involved. À Bientôt.

Cross Country



Although we had only short notice (two days), we managed to field a team of 15 runners for our first event at Topaz Park on Monday. It was an amazingly beautiful fall day for our grade 3 runners to begin their running careers and for many others to race to their personal best finishes. Congratulations to all who participated and thank you to staff that helped drive runners to the park. Our next run is at Clover Point on October 14th. If your child would like to participate, please get a permission notice from the office. As always, we are looking for parent drivers to help transport children to events.

Swimming

Our swim club is for George Jay students of all ages! It will run from Oct. 15th—Dec. 10th (all Wednesdays) at the Crystal Pool. Many thanks to Kate Wallace, PAC president, who helped organize this on behalf of the school.

Music Makers

Music Makers Program will be providing deserving students at George Jay School with free music lessons from a trained Music Mentor. Music lessons are offered to children based on the following: 1) financial need 2) social need 3) musical need. All of the volunteers will be screened and receive mentorship training. This program has been available for the last three years. Up to 10 students will receive lessons. Priority is based on those who have not been involved in the program before and if there is space, children from the previous year may be accommodated. Information to be coming soon.

Greetings from the music room!

The year has started off well, with everyone learning lots of new songs and musical games. In the coming month, we will be learning some fun October-themed songs, and the intermediate students will learn a Remembrance Day song. The Gr. 4/5s will start ukulele after Thanksgiving. If you are interested in purchasing your own ukulele, Larsen Music has a good selection. Please ask them to change to D6 tuning if possible. For more information about all things music, please check out my blog: www.scola.ca/msshum. Happy singing! - Ms. Shum

Welcome to Ms. Sunny's computer class and gym class

This month in the computer classes, the *primary students* will be focusing on the following learning outcomes:

- ◆ demonstrate a willingness to work cooperatively when using information technology tools
- ◆ follow a sequence of steps to perform a task using information technology tools
- ◆ use appropriate terminology to describe the parts of a computer system
- ◆ demonstrate a proper care and safe use of equipment
- ◆ identify occupations in their community that involve the use of information technology
- ◆ enter, save, and retrieve information using a computer

The *intermediate students* will be focusing on the following learning outcomes:

- ◆ work cooperatively using information technology tools
 - ◆ use a variety of information technology tools to create, modify, explore and present electronic documents that express ideas or concepts
 - ◆ practice the socially responsible use of electronic information
 - ◆ demonstrate an awareness of the impact of information technology on society
 - ◆ Here are some websites we have been exploring in class together. Please feel free to explore them with your child at home. www.abcya.com
 - ◆ <http://home.disney.com.au/activities/surfswellisland/>
 - ◆ In gym class, we are learning our gym routines through warm up laps and cool down stretches. This month, we will be focusing on cooperative games and learning to display good sportsmanship. I encourage all students to wear comfortable running shoes and appropriate gym clothes. Boots, flip flops, sandals, skirts, dresses, necklaces, big dangly earrings are not appropriate for gym. Bringing a water bottle is a great idea too.
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School Lunch Program

- ◆ Your School Lunch Program is supported through CommunityLINK. LINK stands for: Learning Includes Nutrition and Knowledge. This program is administered through the Ministry of Education.
 - ◆ TRUFFLES CATERING is the dedicated caterer for the School Meal Program in both Victoria and Sooke School Districts. They deliver 750 hot meals and 360 cold meals to 24 different schools.
 - ◆ The School Meal Program is a Universal Program which means all students are welcome to register no matter what their financial circumstances might be. Families who need the program are asked to contribute what they are able. Families who wish to use the program as a convenience can purchase the service and say it simplifies their day and they know their children are receiving a healthy, well balanced lunch.
 - ◆ The School District contracts with a Registered Dietitian who visits schools and reviews menus with the caterer to ensure that your school lunch program meets the Province wide "Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools" set out by the Ministry of Health.
 - ◆ You can get more information at healthlinkbc.ca/ or healthyschools.bc.ca
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Hello From the Family Liaison Worker

Hello, my name is Leila Durzi. I am the Family Liaison Worker at George Jay Elementary. I am here to support families in a variety of different ways. Some of the things I do include coordinating the In-School Mentor Program which matches community volunteers with students; coordinate a Holiday Hamper Program which provides gifts and food to families in need during the holiday season; the Good Food Box which provides local and sustainable produce to families at a reasonable price; the Happy Healthy Kids Program which provides hygiene products for families on a monthly basis. I also help families access services and community resources; act as an advocate for families; provide counselling and support services; work closely with PAC to provide activities for parents and students. I work on Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30-3:30. My office is located in the Richmond building in room 112A. I will also be available in the community to connect with parents. On Wednesdays I will be at Quadra Village Community Centre from 2:30-3:30 and on Thursdays I will be at Fernwood Community Centre in the morning right after bus drop off from 8:45 until 9:30. I am excited about the year ahead of us and looking forward to meeting you all! I can be contacted by calling the school at 250-385-3381 or 250-419-2977.

MedicAlert's No Child Without Program is at Our School

The **No Child Without** program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program. MedicAlert is your child's voice in an emergency,

MedicAlert membership;

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to a your child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline**.
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**

Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed

MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information come to the office for a brochure or go to www.nochildwithout.ca.

To register your child you will need a **No Child Without** brochure from the office.

If your child is already part of the **No Child Without** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1-866-679-3220 to update your child's file.



Hi! My name is Hershey and I am a 5 year old Cairn terrier. My human's name is Sue MacTavish, she is the Youth & Family Counsellor here at George Jay. I am

certified as a therapy dog with the P.A.T.S. (Pacific Animal Therapy Society). Please check out their website <http://patspets.ca/wordpress/>

I have been coming to work Sue since January 2013. I have passed a behaviour assessment with the vet to show that I am a gentle dog and not aggressive; even if someone pulls my tail. Sue is my handler and I will always be on my leash and under her control when I am at the school. All of my vaccinations are up to date and I am on a flea treatment program.

I am a pretty small dog (17 lbs.) and I really enjoy being around people, especially small ones! They tell me that I am clean and well groomed. I hardly shed at all because I have hair on top of my fur. Sue says that she will make sure that she checks with teachers about allergies before she introduces me to the students.

I am looking forward to the students reading to me, teaching them about dogs and having them talk to me. Sue tells me that animals can be very therapeutic for people! If you have any questions or concerns about me please feel free to call Sue at (250) 385-3381. I am excited to be coming to the Richmond Road site of George Jay this year!



Important notice regarding Volunteer Drivers

Volunteers are an important part of our school community. By generously donating their time and expertise to our school, volunteers support the learning environment for our students.

Our school is committed to ensuring student safety. **With this in mind, drivers who are volunteering to drive any child other than their own will be required to complete a Criminal Record Check (CRC) and Driver's Abstract beginning in September 2014.**

Please do the following:

- ◆ Complete our school's "Volunteer Driver Form" and provide a copy of your Driver's License and insurance.
- ◆ Phone ICBC to get a copy of your Driver's Abstract. Go to the following link to get the phone number for the ICBC office near you: <http://icbc.com/driver-licensing/driving-record>.
- ◆ Once you receive your Driver's Abstract in the mail, please bring it to the school office.
- ◆ Apply online for a Criminal Record Check at <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/home.htm>. Use our school's access code: SX3ZFMZP2S Your Criminal Record Check will be sent directly to the school.

Criminal Record Check applicants who do not have a credit history of at least six months or have not been living in Canada for at least two years will need to get a Volunteer Driver Letter from the school office to take it to your municipal police department.

We greatly appreciate all of our volunteer drivers taking the time to complete this process. For further information, please contact the school office.

*The Criminal Record Review Program verifies identities through an Electronic Identity Verification (EIV) process. It is important to know that the Criminal Records Review Program is not running a credit report; it is only using the EIV to verify the applicant's identity and to make sure the personal information contained in the criminal record check form is accurate. No information from this process is retained or stored by the Criminal Record Check Program.

Trick Or Teeth!

When it comes to Halloween candy and tooth health, the "all or nothing" approach is best. Giving children their Halloween candy over days or weeks is not the best choice. The risk of tooth decay increases with the amount of sugar and the number of times teeth are exposed to it.

Tooth safe suggestions for enjoying Halloween treats are:

Serve a healthy dinner (or snack) before trick-or-treating. You will know your child has eaten **something** nutritious on this exciting night.

Limit the number of times teeth are exposed to sugar by encouraging children to eat treats at one sitting. Then, be sure to brush their teeth afterwards.

Cut down on the number of sugary treats children receive by handing out "tooth-friendly" options like stickers, temporary tattoos, fancy pens and pencils, or toothbrushes!

And of course, remember to floss and brush with fluoride toothpaste before going to bed, or there could be some very *scary* results!

For more information contact:

VIHA Child, Youth and Family Community Health Dental:

Victoria 250-519-5100

Esquimalt 250-519-5349



Keeping Your Child Safe – Have a Happy Halloween

With Halloween fast approaching, we want to think of ways to keep our children safe while trick or treating. Up to about 9 years of age, children do not have the skills to be safe in traffic. Many children have difficulty judging speed and distance and concentrate for only short periods of time. This will be especially true with the added excitement of Halloween. In addition, there will be many strangers on the street on Halloween night. Here are some tips to help keep your child safe:

Teach your child road safety rules and to look, listen and think about traffic

Know where they are

Know what they are doing

Know who they are with

Teach your child about personal safety and the danger of talking to strangers. Teach them never to go with or accept anything from someone they do not know.

When children understand how to be safe, parents can be more relaxed about their children being out for Halloween.

Health Units:

Esquimalt	250-519-5311	Salt Spring Island	250-538-4880
Outer Gulf Islands	250-539-3099	Sooke	250-642-5464
Peninsula	250-544-2400	Victoria	250-388-2200
Saanich	250-519-5100	West Shore	250-519-3490

September 29th, 2014

Dear School Administrators and Educators,

Re: Appropriate Halloween Costumes:

Halloween is fast approaching and once again Children of the Street Society is raising awareness about inappropriate Halloween costumes which sexualize children and youth, and glamorize sexual exploitation, pimping, and gang lifestyles. Costumes geared towards children and youth have become increasingly sexualized. Costumes such as “prisoner of love,” and “pimp and ho,” create false perceptions of the perpetrators and victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

Sexual exploitation of children and youth is a devastating form of human trafficking. The average age of entry into the sex trade in Canada is 12-14 years old. Sexual exploitation involves the exchange of a sexual act for **any** consideration such as drugs and alcohol, a place to stay, popularity, or acceptance. This is illegal and child abuse and it is not the youth’s fault.

Young people are recruited into exploitive situations for a variety of reasons, from false promises, gifts, addiction, coercion or control. Recruitment happens everywhere, including school grounds, shopping malls, transit, and particularly online through social networking sites and chat rooms. Sexual exploitation also includes the issue of child sexual abuse images. Due to the prevalence of online activity, image sharing and online facilitated sexual exploitation has significantly increased. In fact, Cybertip.ca recently issued a warning about sextortion: a crime where the perpetrator threatens to distribute images that the victim provided them unless more photos are sent or money is paid.

Victims of sexual exploitation face significant barriers and long term effects including homelessness, violence, mental illness, drug and/or alcohol addiction, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and AIDS, drug affected babies, post-traumatic stress syndrome from physical, emotional and sexual abuse, social stigma, barriers to future employment and premature death. Dressing up in costumes that glamorize sexual exploitation or sexualizes young people only creates social acceptability and desensitization of this disturbing issue.

Dressing up as a “pimp” or a “gangster” also glamorizes the perpetrators of sexual exploitation, further normalizing this issue in the public eye. Many young men are lured into a gang or pimping lifestyle through false promises of money, power, respect, a sense of family, and protection – promises which lead to violence, criminal activity, and the risk of death. Earning a profit off of the buying and selling of children and youth, is sexual exploitation, and is illegal.

As a society, we have the unique opportunity to recognize that these costumes are not socially responsible, and instead encourage youth to emulate positive role models through what costumes they choose to wear. **This year, we are asking the community to be socially responsible by choosing Halloween costumes that do not glamorize either the perpetrators or the victims of child and youth sexual exploitation. We are also encouraging the community to avoid costumes that glamourize gang or pimping lifestyles.** Instead, please encourage children and youth to choose appropriate costumes that represent their own individuality and creativity.

Children of the Street Society is a provincial non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and youth since 1995. The Society’s mission is to take a proactive approach through public awareness, education and early intervention strategies to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and youth while offering support to families.. For more information visit childrenofthestreet.com. Please also Like us on Facebook and Twitter @ChildrenoftheSt. We wish your students a safe and fun Halloween. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at 604-777-7510 or at info@childrenofthestreet.com.

On Behalf of Children of the Street Society,



Diane Sowden, Executive Director