

# École George Jay News

October 28, 2016

Dear Parents,

## A Special Place

Over the past six weeks, I have had the good fortune to act as tour guide to many people, including Superintendent of Schools, Piet Langstraat, district staff, Tiffany Poirier, and several families of potential George Jay students who have visited our school. Their reaction to our school was consistent through every visit, and I would like to share a sampling of the emails I've received.

"What a special place! We were so impressed with the diversity, community and programs at your school. How beautiful and inspiring to see children cared for in this way." - Parents of an 8 year old boy

"It was so great to see the awesome, creative features of this special place." - School District Staff



## Staffing

Part of the 'magic' happening at George Jay is due to the staff, and I am happy to report that our staffing is finally complete. Tania Singh and Jessica Leger are

excellent additions to our Learning Support, as are new education assistants, Reese Willis, and Emma Rauwerda.

## Safety

With the purpose of enhancing our community and providing a safer walk for our kids, families are advocating for having a crossing guard at Bay/Chambers during school drop-off/pick-up hours (See red dot on map).

If you live within the marked area (East of Cook St., North of Bay St., West of Fernwood Road, South of Kings), and your child(ren) currently use the Bay/Chambers crosswalk on the way to school, please



contact [valeria.cortes@gmail.com](mailto:valeria.cortes@gmail.com).

As well, please remember to leave the bike/stroller easement on the Princess side of the school free of parked cars, and safe for all of our families.

## 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

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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 Monday to Friday from 8:30-3:30. My office is located in the Parent Resource room at George Jay. I will also be available in the community to connect with parents. I can be contacted by calling the school at 250-385-3381 or 250-419-2977.



## 1000 x 5

As you prepare for the end of the month celebrations with fun costumes and food, can you find a minute to locate 3 gently used books for babies and toddlers and drop them off in the pink bin in the



office? These books will entertain and enrich wee ones long after the October fun has ended.

## Growth Mindset

Please help us help your children develop a growth mindset (the belief that with effort and hard work, they can succeed and learn new things), versus a fixed mindset (believing they can't do it and therefore avoid challenge, or give up easily). Help us by encouraging your children using phrases like:

- You worked hard to learn that,
- I can see a lot of effort in your work,
- Look how much you've improved, or
- You solved that problem using different strategies.

As well, add the word 'yet', or 'not yet' when your child claims, I can't do it, or I don't know how. Adding yet to I don't how to read chapter books, for example, shows your child that you believe in his/her ability to learn new things. Finally, help your children recognize that failure is an essential part of learning and encourage them to learn from their mistakes (How will you do this differently next time, or what part of this problem do you understand?).

Have a terrific weekend, and if you do celebrate Hallowe'en, be safe and have fun.

Terri and Sunny