

April 17
2014

GEORGE JAY BULLETIN

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“Learning to Care... Caring to Learn”



George Jay Elementary

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

Spring is finally in the air. The weather outside is improving and the children are certainly more energized. As we head towards the end of the school year, we encourage our children to keep focused, set goals and continue to do their best. Being well rested helps ensure student success.

Last Friday, George Jay had its first Trades Show to showcase a number of different careers. This was organized by Coast Capital youth leadership team who did a great job of providing a number of hands on activities for students. Vic High students and Camosun College was also in attendance. The students also received a barbecue lunch from Coast Capital. It is our last year for our partnership with this wonderful organization—they have provided numerous activities, presentations and funding to our school. We will miss them!

A record number of students are participating in X country and we are pleased with their positive attitude and commitment to participate. Soon it will be track and field and hope many will turn out as well. On Wednesdays, we have students enrolled in after school swimming at Crystal Pool. Thank you so much to all of our volunteers.

Next week, student led conferences occur and we hope you can make it. Be sure to have your time booked with their teacher. Your child will be showing you their progress this past year and are excited for you to come in and see!

Leslie Lee

Terri Smith

Dates to Remember

April 18th	Good Friday—School is not in session	
April 21st	Easter Monday—School is not in session	
April 22nd	Cross country meet	
April 22nd	Community Clean-up for Earth Day	
April 23rd	Parent/Teacher interviews—dismissal at noon	
April 24th	Parent/Teacher interviews—dismissal at noon	
April 25th	Annual School Lockdown drill practice with Cst. Gilbert at 2:15	
April 28th	9:00—9:45 Mark Kisler school assembly	
April 28th	Cross country meet	
May 2nd	Strongstart closed; SOAR assembly at 9 a.m	
May 9th	Class/Group/Whole School photos	
May 10th	Quadra Village Day	
May 20th	Welcome to Kindergarten—1:30—3:00	
May 20th	Track meet at UVic	

GVSD

Virtue of Helpfulness: Helpfulness is being of service to others, doing thoughtful things that make a difference in their lives. Offer your help without waiting to be asked. Ask for help when you need it. When we help each other, we get more done. We make our lives easier.

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.

Library News

Read for the Top is an annual event that began in 1984 to help celebrate National Book Week. We now celebrate reading at George Jay as a school-wide reading initiative. This reading competition is designed to celebrate Canadian authors and other literature. The students are reading the books now in preparation for the upcoming competition! Our annual Read for the Top takes place on May 27th from 1:00 to 2:15 pm. Students in grades 2 to 5 form teams to compete and answer questions about books that they all read. Several special guest authors will be attending including Raven Tales producer and artist, Simon James. Parents are welcome to attend.



Also just a reminder to return any overdue library books to the library.



Spring Cross Country

Our team will participate in some more races! The races will run from 3:15pm—5:00pm on the following days:

Monday, April 14th at Lambrick

Tuesday, April 22nd at Clover Point

Monday, April 28th at Lambrick

If your child is participating, we always are looking for drivers and supporters to cheer the students on.

Track

Beginning in May we will start practicing for our upcoming track meet at UVic. Track is for grades 3, 4 & 5. Mrs. Garat will be training the 800metre runners starting Wednesday, April 30th at 8:20 a.m. 800 metre practices will be on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:20. Meet Mrs. Garat on the basketball court on Wednesday, April 30th if you are interested. The meet will be on Tuesday, May 20th. We are looking for parent volunteers to chaperone the athletes to this event. Please contact Mrs. Lee or Mrs. Smith if you can help.

Jump Rope for Heart

Our annual Jump Rope for Heart Event happened today. Children helped raise awareness for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and, at the same time improved their fitness, at our day long jumping event. The gym was hopping from 9:30 -1:30. Thank you to all of our families who raised money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. A special recognition (pizza lunch) will go to the class that raises the most pledges on a per student basis. Please return all money and envelopes to the office by April 24th.

Welcome to Kindergarten and Open House

If you have a child coming to Kindergarten this September, please be sure to mark in your calendar our Open House. This will occur on Tuesday, May 20th from 1:30 to 3:00pm. It will provide you an opportunity to visit the school, be involved in some purposeful play at centers, meet community partners and parents of other students. Be sure to watch for the reminder in May. We hope you will come!!

Quadra Village Days

The 11th annual Quadra Village Days will take place on Saturday, May 10th 2014 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The day begins at 9:30 a.m. with a wonderful breakfast and continues with free, fun-filled activities for children and adults. There will be interesting community tables to visit and fantastic music and dance performances on the main stage. The event will wrap up at 1 pm

Class and Whole School Photo

On Friday, May 9th all classes will be having their class photos taken with their teacher (s). The Grade 5 photo and whole school photo will also be taken on that day.

Music



Ms. Shum our music teacher has a new website. Please have a look at: <http://scola.ca/msshum>

Coats for Kids

Is your child in need of a Spring jacket? If so, please contact Leila Durzi or Sue MacTavish at 250-385-3381.



Lockdown Drill

Once a year, the school is required to practice a lockdown drill with the police liaison in attendance. The purpose of the drill is to ensure the school community is able to follow procedures to ensure their safety in the event there is an incident that may pose a threat to the school environment. Students have reviewed the procedures and expected behavior with their teachers prior to this drill. Teachers will debrief with students, but they may still ask questions of you. This drill will take about 10 min. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Smith or Mrs. Lee.

GOOD FOOD BOX ORDERING

We are pleased to be able to offer Good Food Boxes for pick up from George Jay Elementary School every two weeks.

This is the only school in Victoria that offers this program!

Good Food Boxes feature high quality local, unsprayed, and/or organic sustainably grown produce for up to 50% less than market prices. Tastier produce with higher nutritional content for less cost!

To order your box: fill in the order form below and send it back to your child's classroom teacher with payment by the end of the day on **every other Thursday (April 17th, May 1st, May 15th, May 29th)**

Or: hand in your order and payment personally to Leila Durzi through the Parent Resource Room. Phone: 250-385-3381, Email: ldurzi@sd61.bc.ca.

ORDER FORM

Name _____ Student's name _____

Phone Number _____

Please check off the type and number of boxes ordered:

___ Large Fruit and Veggie \$18 ___ Medium Fruit and Veggie \$12 ___ Small Fruit and Veg. \$6

___ Snacking Box \$10 ___ All Fruit Box \$15 ___ All Organic Box \$18

Amount enclosed _____

(please pay in cash or check made out to the Fernwood NRG)



George Jay's April PAC Newsletter

"Learning to Care, Caring to Learn"

What's in a Name?

Over the past year, George Jay parents and staff have been looking at ways we can build an even more positive image of our school now and in the future. One idea out of this visioning work has been whether giving our school a new name might also help us tell our story better. We want to know what our students and families think about this idea.

Come have your say: From 11:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on April 23 and 24 (during the student-led conferences), the PAC will have an interactive display set up across from the office. On your way to or from the conferences, families and kids are encouraged to drop by, grab a lollipop, add your thoughts and "vote" with stickers on whether you think renaming is a good idea. Come let us know!

Garage Sale Cancelled

Our planned garage sale has been cancelled, but we will be having a car wash fundraiser in May. Stay tuned!

Coming Soon: Raven Tales!

Our *Raven Tales* play, *The Flood*, has started rehearsals! It's going very well and the kids are so excited about the project. A reminder to parents: if your child auditioned, they are automatically in the show. They've been handed permission forms and we need these back so we know you're informed about the play and the days & times they're expected to perform. Extra permission forms are in the office.

Also, we're looking for some props: do you have any old sheets in blue, green or grey? (They will be cut up, so don't expect them back!) Plain sheets or fabric (no patterns) can be left in the Parent Room with Leila. We're also looking for wooden folding clothes-drying racks, and First Nations drums with sticks—just for lending!

Finally, we need adult helpers for the final rehearsal on June 16 and for the two Belfry Theatre shows on June 17 (afternoon & evening). Thanks in advance!

Quadra Village Day!

Always a great day of free family fun, Quadra Village Day is coming up fast on Saturday, May 10—and George Jay will once again have a booth! Would you like to volunteer an hour of your time and meet the community by helping to make buttons with the kids? It's easy, and lots of fun! Watch for a sign-up sheet to be posted in the Parent Room.

PAC Meeting: April 30

Our April PAC meeting will be at 5:30pm on Wednesday, April 30. Please RSVP to georgejaypac@gmail.com with your name and if you are bringing children. Your RSVP will ensure that we have enough babysitters and food. Thanks for understanding!

PAC Elections

We'll be having our annual elections at our May 28 meeting. Interested in a taking on a bigger role within the PAC? Email Kate at georgejaypac@gmail.com and she can nominate you for any position: President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. You can also help out by being a Member at Large!

Serve the City!

Saturday, May 3, is your opportunity to give back to the community that helps our school so much! Organized by Central Baptist Church, Serve the City is a chance for us all to pitch in with all sorts of simple efforts. How can you help? There are forms printed in the office and in the Parent Room. Please sign up and lend a helping hand to those in need around our neighbourhood.

Find us online at www.georgetalypac.com or email us at georgetalypac@gmail.com

And we're now on Facebook—just go to www.georgetalypac.com then click the 'F' to join our group and receive instant email messages!