



GISCOME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 57 (PRINCE GEORGE)

PO Box 40, Willow River, BC V0J3C0

Phone (250) 568-2204

December 16, 2019

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we approach the upcoming winter holiday break we would like to both take time and wish you a very festive, safe and restful holiday with your family and friends. School will be closed from December 23, 2019 to January 3, 2020. Students will return to school on Monday January 6, 2020.

Communicating Student Learning reports were distributed to students on December 10. Please take time and read over the documents that came home with your child and ask questions of the teacher(s) should you need clarification.

The Leadership Group enjoyed a very successful "Library Day" that was held on December 9. There was almost a 100% participation in students wearing their pj's to school, bringing a stuffed animal or pillow. A huge thank you to staff who stepped up and participated in reading winter themed stories to the students and making popcorn for everyone to enjoy! Amazing school spirit!

And, on December 13 both classes enjoyed what will be an annual Holiday Dance at Giscome Elementary. Students were definitely demonstrating their holiday spirit while dancing in the gymnasium!

The annual holiday PAC fundraiser now comes to a close. Thanks for all who participated in supporting Giscome by purchasing or having friends/family/colleagues purchase Purdy's chocolates!

On December 20 the PAC will be offering a FREE pizza lunch to students. There will be a maximum of 2 slices available per student. Students should still bring snacks and a juice box from home to supplement their meal that day.

A special THANK YOU to the PAC members for everything they do to make our students experience at school a more enjoyable one! Their hard work and dedication has made this school year one to remember!

Please join us on December 20 at 12:30 p.m. in the gymnasium for the annual Christmas Concert. Your children have been hard at work and would be so happy to have family support in the audience to showcase their talents. Thank you to Mr. Hooker and the rest of the staff for their help leading up to this magical event!

Yours truly,

Jason Schwartz, Vice Principal
Sarah Petrisor, Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec 18 – PAC White Elephant Sale

Dec 20 – PAC Free Pizza Lunch for Students

Dec 20 – Christmas Concert: 12:30 pm

Dec 23 – Jan 3 – Winter Break

Jan 6 – First Day Back after Winter Break

Jan 27 – NID – No School for Students (Monday)

Feb 14 – Valentine's Activity Day

Feb 17 – Family Day – School Closed

Feb 24 – Primary CSL Writing Day – No School for Primary Students

Feb 26 – Pink Shirt Day

WINTER CLOTHING REMINDER

With this cold weather upon us, please be sure to send your child to school dressed in warm winter clothes so they can fully participate in recess and outdoor activities: toques, gloves, snow pants, boots, etc.

Also, please consider sending an extra pair of socks with them in case they need to change their wet ones throughout the day. Thank-you!



WINTER WEATHER POLICY 3541.35

1. Schools shall not be closed because of cold or inclement weather.
2. On days when student attendance is reduced substantially because of cold or inclement weather conditions or because travel is considered treacherous, regular scheduled instruction may be modified for those students who attend school. The administrative procedures of this policy provide assistance to the principal and teachers in determining the educational program that will be offered.
3. School bus service will not be cancelled because of cold weather.
4. **Individual bus runs may be cancelled for the day (morning and afternoon runs) because of dangerous road conditions. Cancellations will be announced on local radio as soon as possible after the decision to cancel a run is made.**
5. The decision to keep a student at home for the day because of winter weather conditions shall be made by the parents.
6. **Students shall not be expected to wait for a school bus for more than fifteen minutes past the scheduled pick-up time. If the bus has not arrived by that time, students should return to their homes or to another prearranged place of shelter.**

To view the entire policy please click on the link below:

<http://www.sd57.bc.ca/Board/Policies/Documents/3541.35%20Winter%20Weather.pdf>

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

The following students were recognized at our December 3rd assembly for demonstrating one or more of the following:

- A. School spirit
- B. Improved participation in class
- C. Conscientious student
- D. Courteous, cooperative and mannered to staff and peers
- E. Self-disciplined
- F. Improvement in academics or behaviours
- G. Safety, Ownership, Acceptance and / or Respect

Mr. Maclise's class:

Kiera Castelli – Kindergarten
Wyatt Turner – Grade 2

Mr. Schwartz / Mr. Hooker's class:

Ian Wier – Grade 4
Mya Stewart – Grade 5

NEW!!! SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM – Begins Jan 6

On Monday January 6th we will begin a light breakfast option for the students at Giscome. It is our collective firm belief that children learn best when they have a full stomach from eating nutritious foods.

As you are aware, many of our students travel long distances on the bus in the morning and arrive to school often craving a snack. Rather than students eating part of their lunches from home at the beginning of the day we will offer options for them as they arrive.

Mr. Schwartz will be arriving extra early to ensure that everything is set-up each morning and we will have our students help with the take-down and wash-up of the dishes. Other staff have expressed interest to volunteer their time to support this great initiative before school begins each day!

If you would like to donate any foods for the breakfast program please consider sending the following: Cereals, Granola Bars, Yogurts, Fresh Fruits, Cookies, Muffins etc. If you need more clarification or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Schwartz at Giscome.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY - January 27

Monday, Jan. 27th is a Non-Instructional day, there will be no school for students on this day. Check out the link below from City of Prince George for a variety of activities for students on that day:
www.princegeorge.ca/schoolbreaks

MyEducation BC FAMILY PORTAL

On December 2nd, the Family Portal opened. You would have received a letter last week outlining the details. Please check your email inbox for details on registering for the Family Portal. This new system will allow parents/guardians to access information regarding their children in regards to class attendance, contact information, student demographics, student schedules, published report cards and transcripts.

LOCKING SCHOOL DOORS

School doors will be locked when school is in session. The main front doors will be unlocked before school,

during recess, during lunch and after school for student access. The doors have safety crash bars on the inside and can be opened from the inside even when locked.

SCHOOL VISITS

When visiting the school or dropping off items for your child, **please use the front main doors entrance and check in with a staff member** when you arrive. If you are picking up your child at the end of the school day please wait outside in the hallway or in the parking lot away from the busses arriving and exiting.

REPORTING ABSENCES

Please notify us if your child is going to be absent for any reason. Giscome Elementary has a Safe Start program and you will be called if your child is away without explanation. Please call the school at 250-568-2204 and leave a message on the school answering machine or by sending a note with a sibling.

SUPERVISION

Students are **not supervised** on the playground before 7:45 a.m. or after 2:15 p.m. Students should not be dropped off before this time. Any bus students staying after 2:15 p.m. must have a note of permission from their parent, with the understanding that there is no supervision for their child after 2:15 p.m.

NUT ALLERGY ALERT REMINDER

Giscome is **NOT** a school that is nut aware. Students may bring products that have nuts in them to school (i.e., peanut butter sandwiches)



However, you may consider reminding your children that they should:

- Wash their hands before and after they eat.
- Remind your child not to share their food with others.

Newsletters will be emailed to each family who have an email on file. For those families who do not want an email a paper copy will be sent home with the youngest child in each family. Please let the office know if you want to make any changes to this plan or if your email needs to be updated.

A BUS SAFETY MESSAGE

These frosty and snowy mornings remind us that winter weather is here, and so we want to take this time to send winter weather reminders for bus families. Although schools remain open during winter weather events, bus service may occasionally have to be cancelled for the day if road conditions are considered too dangerous due to snow or icy conditions. Announcements regarding bus delays or cancellations are made via local radio stations on the affected day. Diversified Transportation has a parent messaging service that can be subscribed to on their website: www.diversifiedbus.ca



Please ensure children are dressed for the weather; frostbite of exposed skin can occur in a very short time. **Students are not expected to wait for a bus more than 15 minutes past the scheduled pick-up time. If the bus has not arrived by that time, they should return home or to a prearranged place of shelter.** The decision to keep a student home for the day due to winter weather conditions shall be made by a parent/guardian.