



GISCOME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 57 (PRINCE GEORGE)

PO Box 40, Willow River, BC V0J3C0

Phone (250) 568-2204

January 24, 2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! Welcome to the 2020's!

I want to thank the staff and students on such a wonderful Christmas concert. If you were in attendance you will know that our gymnasium was full of parents and extended family members with lots of Christmas spirit! A job well done by everyone involved in making it happen!

Also, a HUGE thanks to the Giscome PAC for their generous donation of the free pizza lunch that students enjoyed on the last day of classes before the holidays! Everyone enjoyed!

January is that time where we look ahead and create goals and resolutions. The focus of our staff efforts moving forward will be to continue the hard work of staff that started in the autumn. Our collective focus will be placed on Literacy and Numeracy. Regular reading at home (aloud and silent) is a great way to promote literacy!

Planners are a great way of keeping open lines of communication between home and the school. Please check them often as there are often notes that your children or teacher put in each day as reminders.

There is lots of excitement as we are participating in a pen pal program with an elementary school in Taiwan. You may hear your child talk about this letter writing opportunity that some students at Blackburn are also participating in as well.

Yours truly,
Sarah J. Petrisor, Principal &
Jason Schwartz, Vice Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Jan 28 – Hot Lunch Day

Jan 28 – Online Kindergarten Registration Begins

Jan 31 – PGSS comes to visit Grade 7's

Feb 4 – Student of the Month Assembly

Feb 7 – Space Station Visit – Giscome to Blackburn

Feb 17 – Family Day – School Closed – No School

Feb 24 – Primary CSL Writing Day – No School

Feb 26 – Pink Shirt Day

JANUARY HOT LUNCH

Due to a typo on the hot lunch forms, we will proceed with the hot lunch on Tuesday January 28 to avoid the conflict with the NID scheduled for January 27.

Thank you! ☺

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The Breakfast Program officially started on January 6th and since our first day we have had approximately 70% of students participate each morning.

The food is provided as the students come off the bus. If a student does not want to eat they continue outdoors to enjoy some playtime before the start of the academic portion of the day.

The intention of the program is to help those students who have often long bus rides to get to school and also to avoid having them eat their lunch on arrival due to hunger. We have opened this program to all students and have a rotating light menu each day.

Some examples of what is offered include: dry and hot cereals; granola bars; fruit cocktail; toast with honey, jam, Nutella, peanut butter or cheeze whiz); milk and apple juice. On Friday's we aim to have a hot pancake breakfast available for those wishing to participate.

Over the last few weeks the staff have noticed a calmer start to the school day. Bringing students and staff together first thing in the morning has allowed a sense of community and connectiveness. This allows students to socialize in a positive manner with each other and with staff. Students have been taking an active role with the clean-up as well. Focus and attention from the students during their academic portion has improved overall and it is my belief that we will also see better academic results overall with such a positive start to their school day.

THANK YOU to the parents who have donated products to our breakfast program. This is very helpful as there is a financial commitment to run such a program. The school district initially put up the first \$500; however, we will be reaching out to our community partners to help us continue this program in the foreseeable future. You can still donate to the program at any time by contacting Mr. Schwartz for more details.

HEADPHONES

This is a reminder that the school has a limited number of headphones for students to use with technology. It is suggested that students bring their own earbuds or headphones to keep in their desk and not to share with their peers. This helps with hygiene purposes and keeps the schools cost down when equipment is broken or misplaced.

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>

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

2020–2021 Kindergarten Registration - Children whose 5th birthday falls on or before December 31, 2020 are eligible to enter Kindergarten in September 2020. Kindergarten registration for September 2020 will **open 9:00 am January 28, 2020** and Registration should be completed through the online form at <https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Parents/StudentReg/KindReg>. This site will link to all forms required for registration. Please deliver completed forms to **Blackburn Elementary** school with your child's birth certificate.

ONLINE STUDENT TRANSFER

This application provides a way for parents to request registration for their student at a school other than their catchment school for the next school year. The online student transfer application process will be open from **9:00 am February 5, 2020** and close at **3:00 pm March 5, 2020**. The application link will be provided online shortly:

<https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Parents/StudentReg/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

PINK SHIRT DAY

Pink Shirt day is February 26th. Pink shirts are available at various retail stores around town as well as online.

REPORTING ABSENCES

Please notify us if your child is going to be absent for any reason. Giscome 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 2:20 p.m. Students should not be dropped off before this time. Students should leave the school grounds after dismissal. Any bus students staying after 2:20 p.m. must have a note of permission from their parent, with the understanding that there is no supervision for their child after 2:20 p.m.

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

Winter Weather Reminders and News for Bus Families

As we all settle back into school routines after the break, it's a good time to remind everyone about our winter weather policies. Schools will continue to stay open during winter weather events, but on occasion bus service may have to be cancelled for the day if roads are considered too dangerous to travel due to snow or icy conditions. Announcements regarding bus delays or cancellations are made via local radio stations on the affected day. You can subscribe to **My School Bus Monitor** at www.diversifiedbus.ca to receive notification of delays on your route. Thank you for ensuring children are dressed for the weather and for reminding them not to play on roadside snow piles. We ask that students are at their stops 5 minutes before the scheduled arrival time, but they are not expected to wait more than 15 minutes beyond the regular pick up time. Safety is always our first priority.

Over the next number of months, Diversified will be installing video recording equipment on the bus fleet. This technology will serve as another tool to support the safety and well-being of everyone on board our buses. Bus drivers are especially thankful for students who ride safely by sitting in their seats, by keeping the volume of conversations at a low setting, and by showing respect for others as well as the bus and its equipment. In turn, we are thankful for our drivers who have the important responsibility in our district of safely transporting nearly 4000 students each day!