



GISCOME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sept 26, 2019

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hard to believe that October is knocking on our door already ... upon reflection, September has been a great start-up for students and staff alike and we look forward to the continued momentum as we enter our second month of this academic year.

As the weather is getting cooler in the mornings and there is a dew on the grass, please remember that students **MUST** have outdoor footwear that they can use outside. When they come inside the school they will need to change into indoor footwear. Shoes and boots must be worn outside (no bare feet).

At this time of the year, we focus on developing school routines. We also focus on establishing emergency procedure protocol through such activities as fire drills (announced and unannounced); lock down practice and following the hold and secure protocol. Our students and staff have had two fire drills to date, and did an awesome job of exiting the building in a timely manner!

Our students in Grade 4 to 7 were very fortunate to be selected to participate in a full day Maker Experience at Two Rivers Art Gallery last Tuesday. This was an opportunity only provided to rural schools. UNBC student teachers volunteered to assist with the event. It was a fantastic day of learning enjoyed by all.

Last week we were fortunate to have Mr. Pearen with us who is a skilled woodworking teacher with the Canfor Elementary Skills Trailer project. He brought his tools and woodworking machines for our students to use in creating a project that has recently been brought home. The students enjoyed the experience of learning this skilled trade and was taught safety protocols while working with the machines and tools. We had a special visitor from the School District office come out to do a report and take pictures of the event last week and you can read more about it at the following website: <https://www.sd57stories.com/elementary-skills-trailer/>

We have some fabulous events coming up! On Thursday, our Grades 4 to 7 class will be on a morning field trip to the Willow River Interpretive Trail as we focus on National Forest Week celebrations. This is a \$0 cost trip for students to actively engage in the trails and forests around us that are part of our home. Also, that afternoon, we are hosting our annual Terry Fox Run beginning at 1:15 p.m. our Annual Open House is also Thursday night from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and we hope that you will be able to join us. If you would like to meet with the teacher privately, please let the teacher know and you can schedule a time.

Friday is a Non-Instructional Day (no school for students). Monday is Orange Shirt Day (a day to think about residential schools and their impact). And, Thursday October 3rd we have School Photos taken in the gymnasium.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sep 26 – Grades 4 to 7 Field Trip: Willow River Interpretive Trail (morning only)
Sep 26 – Terry Fox Run 1:15 pm
Sep 26 – Open House 5:00 – 6:00 pm
Sep 27 – Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
Sep 30 – Orange Shirt Day
Oct 3 – School Photos
Oct 14 – Thanksgiving holiday
Oct 21 – 24 – Early Dismissal for Student led Conferences (1:02 p.m.)

Oct 25 – NID - no school for student

TERRY FOX RUN

Students will take part in a Terry Fox run on Thursday, Sep 26 around 1:15 pm. Students have been listening and engaged in activities about Terry Fox in their classrooms. Students are encouraged to bring a toonie for Terry on Thursday. Donations to the Terry Fox Foundation are used for cancer research.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY-Sep 27th

Friday, Sep 27th 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

ORANGE SHIRT DAY-Sep 30th

Giscome Elementary will be observing Orange Shirt Day on Monday, September 30th. Students are welcome to wear an orange shirt to honour the children who survived the Indian Residential Schools and to remember those that did not. "Every Child Matters".

PICTURE DAY – CHANGED to OCTOBER 3

Lifetouch Photography is our school picture provider this school year. They offer green screen technology, proofs printed and sent home with your child, and an opportunity to order pictures online. Photo day at Giscome will be on Thursday, October 3rd. **THIS IS A NEW DATE TO ASSIST THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S SCHEDULE. SINCERE APOLOGIES FOR THIS CHANGE IN DATE.** It is suggested that students wear bright colours on photo day.

LOCKING SCHOOL DOORS

School doors will be locked when school is in session. The 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.

BUSSING

Please remember that if your child wishes to take another bus for any reason or get off at a different stop a permission note from a parent must be brought to school for Mr. Schwartz to then fill in and sign the appropriate form to give to the bus driver.

REPORTING ABSENCES

Please notify us if your child is going to be absent for any reason. Please call the school at 250-528-2204 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. Students should leave the school grounds after dismissal. 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.

BEAR ALERT



There have been bear sightings in the Giscome area. Please review bear safety measures with your children. Bear sightings that cause concern should be reported to the Conservation Officer Service at 1-800-663-9453.

BELL SCHEDULE

8:05 a.m.	Bell Rings – Enter school
8:10 a.m.	Start school
9:45 a.m.	Recess starts
10:00 a.m.	Recess over
11:30 a.m.	Recess starts
12:00 p.m.	Recess over – Lunch begins
12:15 p.m.	Lunch over
2:02 p.m.	Dismissal

PARKING LOT REMINDERS

The drop off zone is meant for quick drop offs, if you need to chat with your child or assist them in leaving the vehicle we encourage parents to park in a parking spot if possible. **Please do not drive in the bus lane, this is for bus drop off and pickup only.**

NUT ALLERGY ALERT REMINDER

Giscome school currently is **NOT** a nut aware site. However, please consider the following



Please:

- Consider sending your child with nut free products for lunch and snacks.
- Encourage your child to wash their hands before and after they eat.
- Remind your child not to share their food with others.

VERIFICATION SHEETS

Verification sheets have been sent home with your child. Please check these over carefully and make any additions or changes to the form and return it to school as soon as possible. Please sign back page.

SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY

There are several School District Policies that are informative for parents. I encourage parents to go to the link below and pay special attention to the policies:

[http://www.sd57.bc.ca/Board/Policies/Policylisting/Pages/default.aspx#/="](http://www.sd57.bc.ca/Board/Policies/Policylisting/Pages/default.aspx#/=)

In this newsletter, I'd like to refer you to the Financial Hardship Policy below:

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY:

The Board of Education of School District No. 57 (Prince George) is committed to ensuring that no student is denied an opportunity to participate in a course, class or program because of financial hardship.

We are currently working on a clear and transparent process for application for financial hardship at our school. You will see more information come out about this over the next few months.

In the meantime, please contact Sarah Petrisor, Principal or Donna Nicholl, Sr School Secretary, by telephone or e-mail if you need to assistance managing the cost of special events and activities at school. As per the policy, all requests are considered and options include: deferred payment, payment over time, partial waver or full waver.