

Garden City Elementary School

8311 Garden City Road, Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2P1

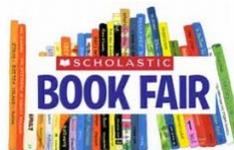
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Early Warning: (604) 668-6277

It has been a great start to third term here at Garden City! Your children are involved in some wonderful learning opportunities such as life cycles, aboriginal education, figurative language and government. We had an amazing "Earth Day" Family Team activity where we cleaned up the garbage on our school grounds.



Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you Mr. Lee for running the book fair.

It was a huge success and we appreciate all our parent support.

Call for Nominations for PAC Executive Positions!

Garden City Elementary Parent Advisory Council

Annual General Meeting, Friday, May 25, 2018 at 9:00 am

As per the Garden City Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Constitution, the 2017-2018 PAC Executive is hereby giving 30 days notice for nominations of Garden City Parents wishing to be elected **to the 2018-2019 PAC Executive.**

Please join us in the library at 9 am to be part of our PAC meeting. A fun way to get to know our community!



Upcoming Events

May 1

Me to We Bake Sale
Krispy Kreme Donut Sale \$2

May 2

Class & Panorama Photos

May 10

Band Performance @ Gateway Theatre @ 7:00 pm

May 17

PAC Movie Night 5:30 pm

May 18

Pro D – No School

May 21

Victoria Day – No School

May 22

Early Dismissal 2 PM
Superintendent's address to Staff

May 24

Track Meet Day at Minoru

May 25

PAC AGM 9am in Library

June 7

Welcome to K at 1:30 pm



Track Attack Has Started!

Over the past week, students in Grades 4-7 had an opportunity to try the various events that they might take part in at the Zone track meet on Thursday, May 24th. Students will practice running, jumping and throwing in a station approach during the school day, and then they will be placed into events roughly 2 weeks before the track meet. Grade 3's will be going through a similar rotation with their teachers and they will also have an opportunity to go to the track meet on the 24th. Our philosophy for this activity is to introduce the events to our students and give them an opportunity to perhaps try something new. Then for the track meet, we want to have as many of our students participate as possible as the day is all about having fun and showing spirit.

D.A.R.E. Program

Drug Abuse Resistance Education Update...

The D.A.R.E. Program is for grade 5 students. This program offered by the RCMP takes place once a week for 10 consecutive weeks.

The program was updated and officers have been trained in the new program. It now includes a session on bullying and more of a focus on Social Responsibility. Please take some time to talk to your children about what they are learning in the D.A.R.E. program.



KM Club

Km Club began on Monday, April 23rd. This is a treasured tradition here at Garden City and the students have been looking forward to participating again this year. Students are invited to run, walk, or jog around the school in the morning, at recess and at lunch. They will receive sticks for each lap completed and these will be tracked by classroom teachers. At a recognition assembly at the end of the year, students will possibly receive a medal or ribbon for meeting specific challenges. We encourage all students to participate, be active, and join the fun! Go Wildcats Go!



Student Placements (Organizing Classes for 2018-2019)

In the spring of each year schools begin their planning for the coming fall. We have preliminary staffing meetings with board office personnel and review possible scenarios for organization in the Fall. The school population fluctuates as students continue to move into the area, and some students transfer out through to the end of the year. The final school organization and class placements occur the first week of school in September.

During this time the professional staff at Garden City school begin to gather and share information in preparation for student placement in September. We are restricted by grades that are assigned to divisions (based on student numbers), and at times there are few options. We do however devote time, care and effort in determining September placement. We include information about student strengths and needs, their social relationships (we try to ensure they have at least one friend), their interests, their learning styles, and previous placements. Sometimes parents are able to provide the school with new information about their child.

Parental Input

Students are placed into classes by the Principal after consultation with teachers. Should parents wish to describe the learning situation they feel best suits their children, or other factors which might influence placement, we ask that a letter be directed to Ms. Schulz by Friday, May 25, 2018. Please do not name particular teachers as teaching assignments for the coming year have not yet been made and are seldom confirmed before September. All letters regarding placement are shared with teaching staff.

Understanding Combined Classes

In both our Neighborhood and Montessori classroom organizations, we support having combined classes. Sometimes the philosophy behind combined classes is misunderstood by parents. Children who are placed in the upper grade of a combined class are not placed there because they struggle in school. In a combined grade 4 and 5 class, for example, we do our very best to ensure that for each grade, we have students who encompass a range of learning styles and abilities. We do not place all of our strongest grade 4 learners into a grade 4/5 class when a grade 3/4 classroom is also available.

Teachers are trained to provide instruction to diverse classes of students, looking at children as individuals, and providing individual education plans where warranted for students who need more support.

Combined classes offer enhanced opportunities for all students to demonstrate confidence, positive self-concept, and a strong sense of belonging. Students may become increasingly thoughtful and helpful as they assist other students. They may form broader and more varied friendships as older students provide role models for younger students. Sometimes the teacher/student relationship can be enhanced if the same teacher teaches a student for more than one year, leading to increased feelings of security for returning students and a smoother transition in September because the teacher already knows their learning styles and needs. Teachers in combined classes and straight grades follow the curriculum requirements defined by the Ministry.

Just as children learn to walk and talk at different ages and just as adults socialize with different aged adults, children learn from and with others of all different ages.