

Garden City Elementary School

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Message from Ms. Schulz

It has been a great start to third term here at Garden City! Your children are involved in some wonderful learning opportunities such as the voting process, observing duck eggs, dissecting salmon, and planning for "Litterless Lunch" Wednesday. We had an amazing "Earth Day" assembly last Friday with wonderful presentations of songs and poetry.

Please join us at our Hip Hop Presentation this Friday, April 28th, in the gym, at 1:30.

PRO D on MONDAY, MAY 1st – No School

We're looking forward to an exciting day of learning together-further developing our understanding of the Musqueam, and positioning ourselves to move forward in including Aboriginal worldviews and content in our teaching, starting with a local context.



Upcoming Events

May 1

Pro D Day – No School

May 2

Class & Panorama Photos

May 5

PAC Movie Night 5:30 pm

May 11

Band Performance at
Gateway Theatre @ 7:00 pm

May 22

Victoria Day – No School

May 23

Early Dismissal 2 PM

May 25

Track Meet Day at Minoru

June 7

Welcome to K at 1:30 pm



Track Attack Has Started!

Over the past weeks, 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 25th. 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 25th. 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. Thank you to Ms. Teixeira for organizing the track stations for us.

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. An RCMP officer will be here on Fridays. The program commenced on Friday, April 21st, 2017.

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 24th. 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 receive a medal or ribbon for meeting specific challenges. We encourage all students to participate, be active, and join the fun! Go Wildcats Go!

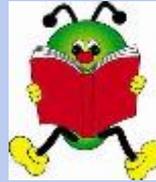


Scholastic Book Fair

Ms. DeBou is looking for parent helpers for the scholastic book fair. No date in June is set for the book fair yet as it depends on the availability of parents.

Hours would be 8:20 to 9:00 am and 2:50 to 3:20 pm as well as help to set up and take down.

Please let Ms. DeBou know if you are able to help her.



Library News

Many of our grade 4-7 students are currently participating in our Reader's Choice Program in the library. Ms. DeBou has selected six different books. Students are reading 6 books in 6 weeks and then commenting on their favourite character. We will be reading the books until the end of May and then students will have a chance to vote on their favourite book making it the Garden City Reader's Choice Book of 2017.

Garden City Students Earth Day Assembly on April 21st, 2017





Student Placements (Organizing Classes for 2017-2018)

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 26th, 2017. 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 in curriculum guides (Integrated Resource Packages, IRPS.)

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.