

The GHES Newsletter

August 29, 2018

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! The staff at Golden Horn Elementary School are excited to welcome back students and families as part of our awesome educational community. We welcome new students in kindergarten who are at the beginning of their school adventure, as well as new students and families who have just joined our school community. We have many familiar faces returning as part of our school staff and welcome many new people to our team. There are so many things that make our school awesome: talented teachers, supportive parents, engaged students, high academic expectations and achievement, a beautiful playground that looks out at mountains and forest, outdoor experiential experiences, and diverse learning that connects curriculum with the development of core competencies. At our first school assembly last week, we watched a video and got a pep talk from *Kid President* who challenged teachers and students to be even **more awesome** this school year! Check out the video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwlhUcSGqgs>.

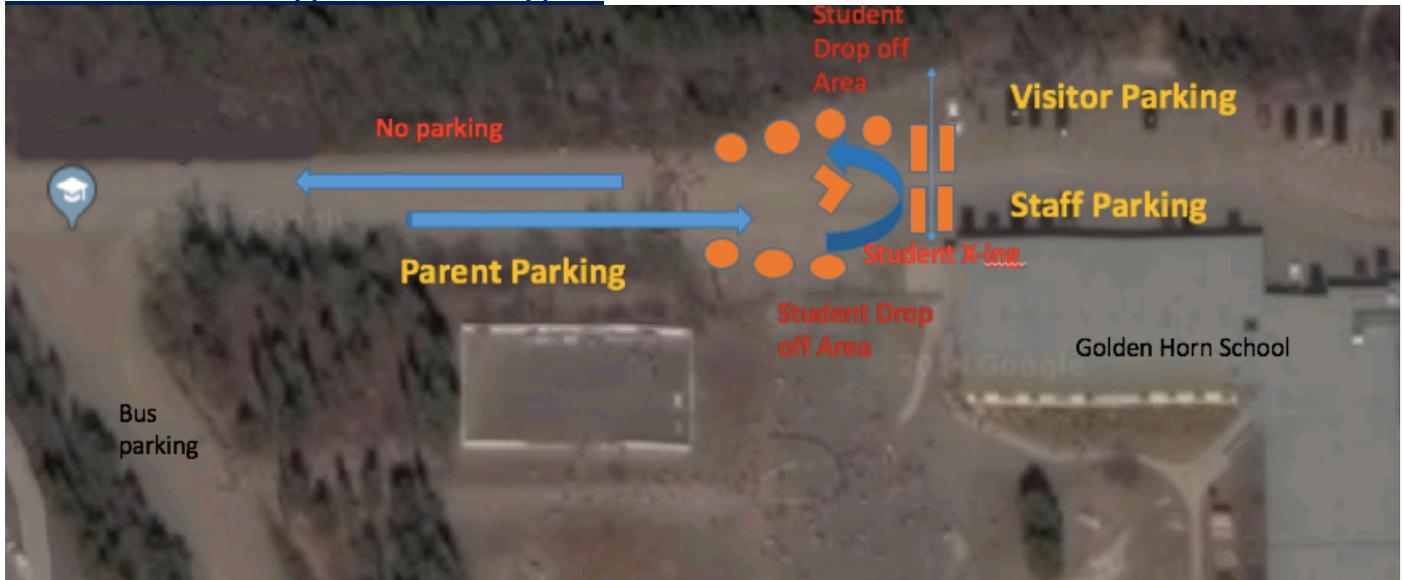
This year our school will embrace changes to teaching, learning, assessment and reporting. We continue with the re-designed curriculum that was implemented last year, and will introduce a different way of communicating student learning to parents that will be at the same time both exciting and challenging. You will have a chance to hear more about these changes at our Community Fall Feast and Open House on Learning on September 6. You can also learn more by visiting our school website under the *Communicating Student Learning* tab: <http://ghe.yukonschools.ca/communicating-student-learning.html>. We are committed to working collaboratively as a staff and with our educational community to be reflective and thoughtful as we move forward with these changes. At the same time, not everything is changing. All of the things that make Golden Horn Elementary School awesome will continue to define us as a school. The amazing sense of community that is at the heart of this school will continue to move us forward together as we evolve and change.

Darcy LeBlanc

Principal

SCHOOL NEWS

School Parking Lot Changes:



The school parking lot has changed - please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the changes to help ensure that students are able to be picked up and dropped off safely.

Student Drop Off Areas: Located on both sides of the round-about. *Please ensure that students are exiting the vehicles on the right side (towards the forest or school).* This area is for drop off only, please use the designated parking areas if you plan to exit your vehicle and stay at the school.

Student Crossing: There is a dedicated area for student crossing between concrete barriers. Please ensure your children know to use the crossing area rather than running across the roundabout into the flow of traffic.

Visitor Parking: Visitor parking is now located past the concrete barriers of the student crossing, on the forest side of the parking lot. We ask that if you plan on staying at the school for an extended period of time to please use the designated visitor parking area past the barriers. *Please watch/yield for students when entering the parking area.*

Parent Parking: Available for vehicles when visitor parking is full.

No Parking: Please refrain from parking on the north side of the driveway (left side as you enter into towards the school) as this can cause unwanted congestion.

GHEs Harvest Cultural Days 2018: Sept 05 - 07

GHEs Harvest Cultural Days 2018 is just around the corner. This is an opportunity for our school to gather in community, strengthen our sense of belonging, and to engage in land-based, experiential activities that also connect students with Yukon First Nations traditional knowledge.

Kindergarten – Grade 3 will be participating in activities at the school on Wednesday, September 5th. Please ensure that your child brings food for a typical school day (snacks and lunch) and that they are dressed properly to be outside all day.

Grades 4 – 6 will be away from the school berry picking and hiking on Wednesday, September 5th (around Golden Horn) and Friday, September 7th (Caribou Mountain). On Thursday, September 6th they will be participating in activities at the school. Please ensure that your child brings food for a typical school day (snacks and lunch) and that they are dressed properly to be outside all day.

Community Harvest Feast

A community feast will take place on Thursday, September 6th in the gym between 5:00 – 5:45 pm.

For the feast you will need to bring the following: bowl, spoon, and water bottle for each person attending and a blanket for your family to sit on during the feast. If the weather is nice (and the blackflies aren't terrible), it may be great to sit/eat outside!

To make our Community Harvest Feast a true community event, we are asking for the involvement of families to make stew or chili, provide bread or dinner rolls, or to make a tray of sweets. **If you are able to contribute, please fill out the form that was sent home and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible or contact the main office at 667-8130.**

Open House on Learning

Golden Horn Elementary is having an **Open House on Learning**. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the gym with some opening remarks and invited guests to welcome and bring our school community together. This will be followed by a short presentation and explanation of the school's reporting and assessment plan for Communicating Student Learning, which replaces the three traditional report cards that you have previously known. Detailed information is available on our school website at: <http://ghe.yukonschools.ca/communicating-student-learning.html>. Families will then be invited to teacher Open House on Learning from 6:45- 7:30 p.m. to meet the teachers and learn more specifically about teaching and learning in each class.

Message from Cynthia in the Main Office

Welcome back! I hope that you enjoyed your summer.

These forms have been sent home for your review to ensure that the office administrative team and teachers have all the information that is needed for a safe start of the school year. **It would be appreciated if you could return the forms to classroom teachers by Sept. 4th.** Thank you!

Student Verification Form (White)

Twice a year (Sept. & Jan.), we send home the *Student Verification Form* to ensure that we have accurate information on file for your child. Please check the form and make any changes to your child's information. Please sign at the bottom of the second page even if there are no changes needed.

Parental Release of Student Images (Green)

Every year we need to ask your permission and signature for the release of student images and school work. Please sign both sides and that you either sign yes or no, but not both.

Alternate Location (Yellow)

As part of our school emergency planning, we realize that sometimes children cannot immediately go home in the event of an emergency. The completed form will identify a second safe location where your child can go when going home is not immediately possible.

The Newsletter is Going Paperless!

The newsletter will no longer be printed and distributed to students. The monthly newsletter will be available on the last Friday of the month at the school website: <http://ghe.yukonschools.ca/school-newsletters.html>

Please contact Cynthia with an email address if you did not receive an email notice with this newsletter but would like to receive one in the future.

From the Ground Up Fundraiser

From the Ground Up is back! Students will be selling boxes of vegetables to fundraise for the school and support local farmers. Forms will be going out soon and students have the month of September to fundraise. Envelopes are due back to the classroom teachers by October 1st. Pick up of vegetables is on October 19th. Please visit the website for more information: <http://www.yukonfromthegroundup.ca/>

Golden Horn Elementary School
Communicating Student Learning 2018-2019: Parent Information

What Parents Can Expect	How It Will Be Communicated
<p style="text-align: center;">Open House on Learning Thursday, September 6, 2018 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>A community feast will bring the school together as part of a new school year to promote a sense of belonging and community. Following supper, there will be communication about the changes to communicating student learning, school-level priorities for teaching, learning, and assessment. Families then move to individual classrooms to meet teachers and learn about teaching, learning and assessment in their children's classes.</p>	<p>Within the first week of school, classroom teachers will communicate with families through email, class newsletters and/or class websites to inform them of the school and class open house date and times. The school will communicate with families through the school newsletter and school website.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Student-Parent-Teacher Conference #1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, October 11, 2018 (3:30 – 7:30 p.m.) Friday, October 12, 2018 (8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) <i>*No regular classes on Friday, October 12.</i></p> <p>The conference is a three-way dialogue with student, parents, and teacher. Parents will have an opportunity to first view evidence of student learning, growth and achievement prior to meeting with the teacher. The meeting with the teacher will focus on literacy, numeracy and an area of core competency. The guiding questions in each area will be: How is your child doing in this area? Where to next for their learning? Parents will have an opportunity to ask questions and to determine how they can support their child's learning. Parents and students should also visit the Music Room and Gym to see practical application of skills in these areas and to discuss progress with teachers.</p>	<p>The classroom teacher and school administrative assistance will communicate with parents to schedule a time for the conference by mid-late September. Parents will receive a copy of the summary of conversation from the meeting (either paper or in a digital portfolio) as part of the Interim Report.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Interim Report #1 Monday, December 03, 2018</p> <p>The report is a snapshot of the student's progress and achievement levels in Literacy, Numeracy, Integrated Studies (other subject areas related to a specific inquiry or project), as well as specialist areas like Physical Education and Music.</p> <p>*Teachers may choose to include a sample of student self-assessment of core competencies.</p>	<p>A paper-based report is issued for each child. Kindergarten to Grade 7 students are assessed on learning standards using the following descriptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Not Yet Meeting Expectations (*not for K)</i> - <i>Approaching Expectations</i> - <i>Meeting Expectations</i> - <i>Exceeding Expectations.</i>

	An example of this report will be shared at our Open House in September and an example will be posted on our school website.
<p>Student-Parent-Teacher Conference #2</p> <p>Thursday, February 28, 2019 (3:30 – 7:30 p.m.) Friday, March 01, 2019 (8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) <i>*No regular classes on Friday, March 01.</i></p>	*See description above.
<p>Interim Report #2 Thursday, March 07, 2019</p>	*See description above.
<p>Wednesday, May 01, 2019 Student-led Portfolios or Celebration of Learning</p> <p>Teachers and students will work together throughout the year to purposefully select meaningful learning samples that demonstrate progress and growth across subject areas. A variety of student and teacher reflection, feedback and assessment is included with learning samples.</p>	Each Kindergarten to Grade 7 learning community will send out their own invitation to parents and families to attend a celebration of student learning.
<p>Friday, June 14, 2019 Final Summative Report Card</p> <p>Kindergarten to Grade 7 students are assessed on learning standards in all curricular areas: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Applied Design, Skills and Technology, Career Education, Arts Education, Physical and Health Education, and Music. Each subject will include a comment that provides rationale for student achievement in that area. A student self-assessment of core competencies will also be included.</p>	<p>A paper-based report is issued for each child. Kindergarten to Grade 7 students are assessed on learning standards using the following descriptors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Not Yet Meeting Expectations (*not for K)</i> - <i>Approaching Expectations</i> - <i>Meeting Expectations</i> - <i>Exceeding Expectations.</i>
<p>On-Going Communication</p> <p>Communication between home and school is the cornerstone for student success. Parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers and school staff at any time during the year if they would like to discuss their child's progress.</p>	While we have highlighted the more formal ways that teachers will share information with families, phone calls, e-mails, and other face-to-face interactions will also be used to communicate student learning or to address specific concerns that may occur.

For more information, please visit:

Golden Horn Elementary School: <http://ghe.yukonschools.ca/>

Yukon Education Learning Branch: <http://lss.yukonschools.ca/>

British Columbia's Curriculum Re-Design (the curriculum that is used in Yukon schools):
<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

Golden Horn Elementary School Important Dates 2018-2019
School-Closed Days and Communicating Student Learning
Events

DATE	EVENT
Friday, August 31, 2018	School-Based Professional Development Day SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday, September 03, 2018	Labour Day Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday, September 06, 2018	Community Feast and Open House on Learning 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 27, 2018 & Friday, September 28, 2018	PD Days: Yukon Teacher’s Association Conference SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday, October 08, 2018	Thanksgiving Day Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday, October 11, 2018	Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. <small>*Students and parents attend during a scheduled appointment time.</small>
Friday, October 12, 2018	Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. NO REGULAR CLASSES <small>*Students and parents attend during a scheduled appointment time.</small>
Friday, November 02, 2018	School-Based Professional Development Day SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday, November 12, 2018	Remembrance Day Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday, December 03, 2018	Interim Report #1 Sent Home
Thursday, December 20, 2018	Last Day of School Before Christmas Break Early Dismissal at 2:10 p.m.
Friday, December 21, 2018- Friday, January 04, 2019	Christmas Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday, January 07, 2019	First Day of School After Christmas Break
Friday, January 25, 2019	School-Based Professional Development Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Friday, February 22, 2019	Heritage Day Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday, February 28, 2019	Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. *Students and parents attend during a scheduled appointment time.
Friday, March 01, 2019 *No regular classes; students attend during an appointment time.	Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. NO REGULAR CLASSES *Students and parents attend during a scheduled appointment time.
Thursday, March 07, 2019	Interim Report #2 Sent Home
Monday, March 11, 2019 – Friday, March 22, 2019	Spring Break SCHOOL CLOSED
Friday, April 19, 2019 Monday, April 22, 2019	Good Friday Holiday Easter Monday Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Wednesday, May 01, 2019	Celebration of Learning
Friday, May 17, 2019	School-Based Professional Development Day SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday, May 20, 2019	Victoria Day Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Friday, June 14, 2019	Final Report Card Sent Home Last Day of School for 2018-2019
Monday, June 17, 2019- Friday, August 16, 2019	Summer Break SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday, August 19, 2019	Discovery Day Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday, August 20, 2019	First Day of School for 2019-2020

****Other important dates for school and class events will be communicated via our school newsletter, on the school website, and through communication from classroom teachers***