



GHEC COLD WEATHER OUTDOOR RECESS GUIDELINES

There is no temperature cut-off for school closures in Yukon.

- The Golden Horn school community values time spent outdoors in all weather conditions. Administrators, teachers, parents and students will make best efforts for students to be able to learn play outdoors whenever possible.
- The temperature/wind factors at Golden Horn Elementary School are checked before the buses arrive, before morning recess, before lunch recess, and before students go out for classroom based outdoor activities.
- The school administration and staff will make the decisions based on prevailing weather conditions at that time.
- Reminders will be sent home regularly to ensure students are dressed appropriately. Students who are not appropriately dressed may need to use extra items (mittens, etc.) that are at the school. Cold weather options for recess may include restricted time outdoors or opting for an indoor recess. Students are supervised when they are getting dressed to go outside for recess, classroom based outdoor activities, field trips, and after school bus to ensure they are appropriately dressed for the conditions. If students are not dressed appropriately a reminder may be sent home. Primary students are given particular attention while getting dressed for the outdoors.
- Students may request permission from the teachers on duty to warm up in the boot room if they are cold.
- Students usually go outside for recess up to -30C (including wind chill).
- From -31C to -34C (including wind chill) students will usually go outside for 10 minutes.
- If it is -35C and colder (including wind chill) students stay inside for recess. Students are loaded directly onto busses after school and students are kept inside when waiting for parent pickup.
- Daily announcements are made during extreme cold weather, reminding kids to be fully dressed with winter gear (boots, snow pants, jacket, hat, gloves/mitts, buff etc.) while on busses, arriving to school, at recess times, and after school. This information is also communicated to parents in the school newsletter and individual classroom teacher communication.

GHEB BEAR AWARE GUIDELINES

- Our school community neighbours communicate regularly with the school to notify us when a bear is in the area or is actively headed toward the school property.
- When we are notified of this, we notify Yukon government Conservation Officers, who respond to the school and determine the level of risk and next steps.
- The principal and vice-principal walk around the perimeter of the school with bear spray and bear bangers for a more precise visual of bear activity.
- If a bear is headed toward to the school or is on the school property students are kept inside for recess; afterschool bus loading zones may be changed and the students are loaded directly on to the busses.
- If/when the bear has moved on and information from conservation officers or other community partners determines the risk and threat to be low, recess occurs outside and staff are asked to carry bear spray while outside on supervision.
- Daily announcements are made during bear season to remind students how to react if a bear were to come onto school property:
 - Do not approach the bear or run away from it
 - Stay or gather in a large group and make yourselves look big
 - If/when possible, back away slowly without turning your back to the bear
 - Have someone notify a teacher on duty as soon as possible
- Conservation officers are invited to the school regularly to do bear safety presentations with classes.
- Administrators and teachers are provided bear aware training on a case-by-case basis.
- Attractants on the school property are minimized and students and staff are reminded not to leave garbage or attractants.