

The GHES Newsletter

We respectfully acknowledge that we work within the traditional territories of Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Carcross Tagish First Nation.

Principal's Message

January 31, 2020

Happy New Year to our extended Golden Horn Family. It's the time of year when everyone is welcoming the return of light and the feeling of warmth from the sun. It seems like it was just Christmas break, and yet somehow Spring Break is now just around the corner.



Our next communicating student learning event will be the Progress Report, which will be sent home on February 7. The Progress Report communicates student achievement in all areas of learning, as well as a student self-assessment of core competencies. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, please connect with the classroom teacher to set up a meeting.

Darcy LeBlanc
Principal

Kindergarten Pre-registration

Pre-registration for Whitehorse children starts on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 9 a.m. Children must be 5 years old on or before December 31, 2020 to start Kindergarten.

<https://yukon.ca/en/register-child-school#choose-an-educational-program>

Practice of Emergency Procedures

All schools have emergency plans to respond in the unlikely event of something such as fire, earthquake, or other threats. As part of our school's emergency plan, we practice protocols for different emergency scenarios (we all remember practicing Fire Drills at school!). This month (February 17), we will be practicing for a **School Lockdown**, an event that could be initiated by an unsafe presence in the school (e.g., a wild animal, a threatening person etc.). Your child may come home and talk about the experience. During the practice for a lockdown, an announcement is made: *This is a practice of emergency procedures. This is a practice and not a real threat. LOCKDOWN, LOCKDOWN, LOCKDOWN.* Upon the announcement, staff bring any students in hallways, common areas, washrooms etc. into the closest classroom, lock the classroom door and turn off the lights. Staff and students practice sitting silently along a wall away from open sight and/or windows. The front doors to the school are also locked. Once the *All Clear* signal is given, classes resume as normal. If students are outside during GOES, supervising staff would take students to a nearby safe place and report in to the main office.

*Please note that in the event of a real Lockdown, absolutely nobody is permitted to enter or exit the school until under the direction of police or emergency services and communication between the school office is temporarily suspended other than that with emergency and police services.

School Council Family Dance

GHES School Council invites you to the annual Family Dance on **Friday, February 7th**. This is our chance to say thank you to our wonderful school community with a fun and exciting family evening. **Entry is free of charge. Doors open at 6:30 pm.** There will be raffle tickets and canteen items for purchase, lots of great music and lights, door prizes, dance prizes, and a Grand Prize draw at the end of the evening. Hope to see you there!

School Theme Days

Theme Days: House groups help to create a sense of belonging and community within our school. There are four House groups at Golden Horn Elementary School: Salmon, Caribou, Eagle, Lynx. Each student is assigned to a House group in kindergarten (or when they first start at the school) and is part of that House group until they leave in Grade 7. Each House group earns points for school-wide events and gather in their House group during special events.

Pink Shirt Day: Thursday, February 27th, wear a pink shirt to take a stand against bullying.

Upcoming Fundraisers!

On Valentine's Day (Friday, February 14th), Ms. Leigh's Grade 2 class will be hosting a bake sale to fundraise for WIRES - an organization giving support to animals in the Australian bush fires. Bring a toonie or loonie and buy your sweetheart (and yourself) a treat for Valentine's Day, and help save the koalas and kangaroos!

Buy beautifully hand drawn Valentine's cards to support the Australian bush fire animal rescue organization WIRES! Ms. O'Connor's art students have been creating beautiful art featuring Australian animals which have been printed into stunning Valentine's cards. Cards will be sold as variety packs of 10 for \$5.00 and will be available to purchase from Ms. O'Connor or Ms. Leigh from Monday, February 10th to Thursday, February 13th.

Junior Chef Cookbooks: Fundraiser Update

Ms. Leigh's Grade 2 class would like to say a big thank you for supporting the sale of our Junior Chef Cookbooks. Our class raised almost \$300 as a donation to the Whitehorse Foodbank!

I Read Canadian Day: Feb 19th



FEBRUARY 19, 2020 IS
#IREADCANADIAN DAY!



SIGN UP AT IREADCANADIAN.COM/DAY

Grade 7 Support Dog – Grizz



Golden Horn School would like to welcome **Grizz**, an Australian Shepard, to the Grade 7 Portable every Tuesday. Grizz has hiked the Chilkoot twice with Grade 7 classes and proved to be a tremendous emotional support to the kids out on the trail and in camp. He has been verified as canine in good health and suitable to visit our school as a support dog for students by a veterinary in our school community.

Interacting with a friendly pet can help many physical and mental strains. It can help reduce blood pressure and improve overall cardiovascular health. It can also release endorphins that produce a calming effect. This can help alleviate pain, reduce stress, and improve overall psychological state. Other benefits include:

- making you happier, lessening depression, and improving your outlook on life;
- decreasing loneliness and isolation by giving you a companion;
- reducing boredom;
- reducing anxiety because of its calming effects;
- helping children learn empathic and nurturing skills.

Students from all grades are invited to come and spend time with Grizz and Ms. Beaulieu in the portable or on the back field, on Tuesdays, during the day and / or at both recesses. Please let school administration know if you are NOT comfortable with your child spending time with Grizz.

Parents and Guardians

You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of “Y” or “Yes” to our school’s short code number:

For **CANADA-BASED** numbers: **978338**

For **US-BASED** numbers: **61569** (see next page for QR code)

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with “**Stop**”.

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



**if your number is Canada-based.*

**Opt-In from
your mobile
now!**



**Just send “Y” or
“Yes” to
978338.**

(For Canada-based numbers).

*Terms and Conditions – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See schoolmessenger.com/txt for more info.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT SURVEY



FAQ: Student Assessment Survey

Why is the Government of Yukon surveying parents?

In June 2017, we introduced changes to the way schools assess and report to parents on student learning, including how report cards look and how schools informally update parents through phone calls, e-mails and in-person meetings. In March-April 2017, we [surveyed parents](#) and asked what they thought about the changes.

Schools were given the option to implement the changes over the 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years. Some schools started in 2017-18, some in 2018-19 and some in 2019-20. All schools are now following the new requirements.

We are asking for feedback from parents to ensure we continue to provide valuable and timely information about their child's learning progress as this process is implemented at all schools.

When will the survey run?

The survey will run this school year from February 17-March 15, 2020.

How will I get the survey?

If your school is being surveyed, you will be e-mailed a link to the online survey. The survey link may also be shared through your school newsletter or on your school's website. You may also be offered an opportunity to fill out a paper copy of the survey, which should be returned to your school. Your school may send out reminders to you by e-mail and phone.

It is important that all parents fill out the survey to ensure your school is providing you with the most valuable feedback they can about your child's learning.

Why is my school being surveyed?

Parents are being surveyed at schools who started using the new assessment and reporting requirements during the 2018-19 school year. Parents at schools that started in 2017-18 were [surveyed last school year](#). We want to ensure parents have experienced a full school year with the new reporting requirements before we get their feedback. This means they will have experienced each step of the reporting cycle, including all of the informal updates, in-person meetings and final report cards.

VISIBLE LEARNING

Art Class



Special Guests from the Heart of Riverdale during their Art time with Ms. O'Connor.



Ms. John's class preparing for their Pajama Day skit during their Art time with Ms. O'Connor

KINDERGARTEN



Bringing in the New Year in Kindergarten



Kindergarten with their Grade 7 Buddies

GRADE 1



Ms. Churchill's Grade 1

GRADE 2



Ms. Leigh's Class



Ms. Agnew's Class

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Friday, February 07: Family Dance @ 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 18: Science Fair Open House @ 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, February 21: Heritage Day (School Closed)
- Thursday, February 27: Pink Shirt Day for Anti-Bullying
- Friday, February 28: PD day (School Closed)
- March 14 – 29: Spring Break (School Closed)
- Monday, March 30: First Day Back After Spring Break