

The GHES Newsletter

The Golden Horn Elementary School Newsletter

January 8, 2016

VOLUME 5

Principal's Message:



Happy New Year! Welcome back to Golden Horn Elementary School. We were very excited to welcome five (5) new students to our school on January 4th. Our school population now sits at 205!

Our next Professional Development Day is on **Monday, January 25th, 2016**. The school will be closed.

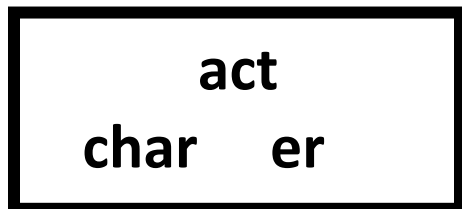
This month we are looking forward to seeing our students participate in cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and sliding. Isn't winter in Yukon wonderful?

In the area of academics, our Grade 4 and 7 students are busy preparing for the Yukon Foundation Skills Assessments that are administered between January 11th and February 19th. The Yukon Foundation Skills Assessment (YSFA) provides a snapshot of how well our students are learning foundation skills in Reading Comprehension, Writing, and Numeracy.

The main purpose of the assessment is to help Yukon Education, schools and school planning councils evaluate how well students are achieving basic skills, and make plans to improve student achievement. The skills assessed are linked to the British Columbia curriculum and provincial performance standards. (http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/perf_stands/).

Wendy Close

PUZZLE OF THE MONTH



CHRISTMAS CONCERT VIDEOS

Your personal copy of the 2015 Golden Horn Elementary School Christmas Concert video will be available in the very near future from the school council! An order form will be sent home soon. As an added bonus we have included images and footage of Santa's visit in a helicopter to Golden Horn Elementary School on December 18th! Thank you to Capital Helicopters, pilot Andy Robertson, Santa, and Santa's helpers for making this event possible.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals."

Melody Beattie

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

Do you have a child who will begin Kindergarten in the fall? Do you have a friend, neighbor, relative, or colleague who has a child beginning Kindergarten in the fall? Well...spread the word because we are hosting our fifth annual KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE on Wednesday, January 13th from 6:30 – 7:30 pm! This is an opportunity to meet the teacher, check out the school, and get answers to those questions that have been keeping some of you up at night. Please remember to bring your children as childcare will be provided. For more information please contact the school at 667 – 8130. Thank you in advance for spreading the word about our open house!



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

On December 11th we held the annual Christmas Bazaar. Thanks to the generous donations from families, community members, and local businesses we raised \$5574.62 for school equipment. We hope everyone enjoyed the bazaar as much as we did!

A special thank you to Air North for the donation to our bazaar of two one way passes.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The annual Christmas Concert on December 17th was a true testimony of the talent of our students and staff. Thank you to Ms. Berg and our amazing Golden Horn Elementary School students for their entertaining performances! Thank you to Ms. Snider for the beautiful slideshow. Thank you to Graham Van Tighem and Mr. Senecal for the outstanding technical support. Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the gym. Thank you to Mr. Berkman for videotaping the performances. We would also like to thank everyone for carefully considering which performance to attend. This certainly made it possible for everyone to comfortably enjoy the Christmas concert. Given the feedback received, we will host two performances of the Christmas Concert in 2016.

LIBRARY COMMONS

What is a Learning Commons?

As I lead our school with our transition from a library to a learning commons, I often think about - and get asked - the question, "What is a Learning Commons?" I like to think of it as 'A Library Plus,' meaning that we will always have physical books and e-books and we will also offer the space and services for other learning/teaching options. Below I have shared portions of an article that will provide more information.

What is a Learning Commons, Anyway?

February 23, 2012

by Kelly Reiersen and Lissa Davies

As we work to build twenty-first learning skills...collaboration, creation and communication we need to look at how we can support this by creating an environment that meets that need. The Learning Commons concept takes libraries that one step further to support digital students and learning.

What is a Learning Commons?

"Keechlin, Rosenfeld and Loertscher define it as "a learning "space" that is both physical and virtual – a place to experiment, practice, celebrate, learn, work and play. Gino Bondi, in his blog post Our Learning Commons: One "How To" for 21st Century Learning says that "It is a transformation that calls for physical, virtual and, pedagogical changes as well as a shift in mindset for all players."

How is it different from the traditional school library?

Traditional school libraries are seen as quiet places full of printed books, people reading and librarians 'shushing'. A Learning Commons takes school libraries into the 21st century. Yes, we still have printed text, and there are still people reading, and there is still a librarian, however the Learning Commons has so much more! There is a hum of activity with students talking, learning, searching for information on a variety of devices, focusing on content creation and synthesizing of information. The Learning Commons becomes the hub and the heart of the school; a place for teachers and teacher-librarians to collaborate to build inquiry learning and critical thinking skills in students; a place for technology integration and experimentation; a place that is 'owned' by students and staff alike.

See more at: <http://aslc.ca/blog/what-is-a-learning-commons-anyway#sthash.a03rbt8R.dpuf>

Grace Snider
Learning Commons Teacher (aka Teacher-Librarian)
Golden Horn Elementary School

OPEN MEDIA EVENTS



During the school year we have many events that are considered 'open media events.' This means that the public is welcome to attend our school events. At open public events it is virtually impossible to control who takes images and what they do with the images.

We ask that all images/videos taken at open school events and at classroom events not be 'shared' in any way (unless you have permission from the parents/guardians) so that we can respect the right of families/guardians to decide who has access to images of their child/children.

SCHOOL GOAL FOR 2015 – 2016

How can we build on our existing successes to move students and staff closer to the realization of their best selves? In order to ensure that we are prepared for a world that will likely be very different from the one we currently live in, how will we help students and staff become adaptive, resilient, confident, and caring?

SCHOOL FEES

If you haven't had a chance to pay the \$60 fee required for students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 please do so at your earliest convenience. If you are paying by cheque, please make the cheque out to Golden Horn Elementary School. Thank you!

LOST AND WAITING TO BE CLAIMED

Our school lost and waiting to be claimed 'trapline' is located just outside the music room. Items waiting to be claimed are hung on the hooks or displayed on a shelf for easy identification and access—no digging around in a smelly lost and found box!

GOLDEN HORN SCIENCE FAIR

Our biannual Golden Horn Science Fair will be held on February 1, 2 & 3. Grade 4 – 7 students are expected to complete a home-based science project, which must follow the scientific method. Students will be working with the scientific method in their science classes this month.

Grade K – 3 students are welcome to participate by sharing either a display or experiment-based project. Primary students' projects will not be judged.

SAFE DRIVING

Our parking lot is a very busy place in the morning and at the end of the school day. Please exercise extreme caution as children are not always paying close attention to vehicle traffic.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Do you have questions, thoughts, ideas that you'd like to share? We'd love to hear them. School Council is a voice for parents and community members.

- Email us at goldenhorncouncil@gmail.com
- Visit our website goldenhorncouncil.weebly.com
- Join us for the first part of our monthly meetings. All meetings are at 6:30 in the school library.
- Next School Council Meeting: January 11, 2016 (5:00 -6:30 pm)

Like us on Facebook at Golden Horn Elementary School Council to receive Council and other school updates. If you missed the volunteer boot camp but would like to lend a hand, please contact the school at 667 – 8130 or email dawna.davey@gov.yk.ca.

Dates to Remember:

- ❖ Jan. 11 School Council Meeting: 5 – 6:30 pm
- ❖ Jan. 12 – 15 Grade 4 Swimming Lessons (pm)
- ❖ Jan. 13 Grade 3 Skiing at Mt. Mac (pm)
- ❖ Jan. 13 Kindergarten Open House: 6:30 pm
- ❖ Jan. 14 Grade 1 Mt. Mac Ski program (am)
- ❖ Jan. 14 Grade 5 Skiing at Mt. Mac (pm)
- ❖ Jan. 15 Grade 6 and 7 at Mt. Sima
- ❖ Jan. 15 Kindergarten – Gr. 3 Swim/Skate (pm)
- ❖ Jan. 18 Ks (Quarton) Mt. Mac Ski (am)
- ❖ Jan. 19 Gr. 2 Skiing at Mt. Mac (pm)
- ❖ Jan. 20 Elementary Ice Hockey (Grades 4 – 7)
- ❖ Jan. 21 Ks (Hirsch) Mt. Mac Ski (am)
- ❖ Jan. 21 Grade 7 Early Bird Basketball Event
- ❖ Jan. 22 Grade 6 and 7 at Mt. Sima
- ❖ Jan. 22 Grade 1 Mt. Mac Ski program (pm)
- ❖ Jan. 25 PD Day—NO SCHOOL
- ❖ Jan. 26 – 29 Grade 6 Swim Patrol (am)
- ❖ Jan. 26 Ks (Quarton) Mt. Mac Ski (am)
- ❖ Jan. 26 Grade 4 Skiing at Mt. Mac (am)
- ❖ Jan. 27 Grade 6 Mt Mac after swimming
- ❖ Jan. 28 Ks (Hirsch) Mt. Mac Ski (am)
- ❖ Jan. 28 Grade 5 Skiing at Mt. Mac (all day)
- ❖ Feb. 2 Science Fair Judging (am)
- ❖ Feb. 2 Science Fair Open House: Evening
- ❖ Feb. 4 – 5 Grade 6 Polar Games
- ❖ Feb. 9 - 12 Grade 5 Swimming Lessons (pm)
- ❖ Feb. 12 Family Dance (6:30 – 8:00 pm)
- ❖ Feb. 16 - 19 Grade 5 Swimming Lessons (pm)
- ❖ Feb. 26 Heritage Day-NO SCHOOL
- ❖ Mar. 7 -18 Spring Break- NO SCHOOL
- ❖ Apr. 25 – 29 Education Week

Did You Know?

There are three general sources of assessment evidence gathered in classrooms: **observations** of learning, **products** students create, and **conversations**—discussing learning with students.

THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Enter to win two movie passes!
This month we have one adult pass and one child pass to the movie theatre.

Congratulations to Lucy (Gr. 4) who correctly guessed the puzzle of the month for December as 'Keep your eyes on the ball.'

In the January newsletter the PUZZLE OF THE MONTH IS:

Student Name/ Grade

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Bring your entry form to the office January 21st, 2016.
One entry per person please!

Please clip and save!



NOTICE OF ALTERNATE SITES IF GOLDEN HORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EVACUATION IS REQUIRED

Kindergarten & Special Needs Students:

Lot 205 Duncan Drive	Susan MacDonald	633-5868
Gr. 1 & 2:		
Lot 206 Duncan Drive	Don/Roberta Kotylak	668-3088
Gr. 2/3 & 3/4:		
Lot 141 Arctic Drive	Dawna Davey	668-7438
Gr. 4 & 5:		
Lot 176 Arctic Drive	Laura Spicer	633-6288
Gr. 6 & 7:		
Lot 207 Duncan Drive	Dan/Kelly Lindsey	633-5545

- Turn on your radio to CKRW (610) on the AM dial or (96.1) on the FM dial; or on the FM dial at CBC (94.5) or CHON (98.1); information and directions will be given over the radio.
- DO NOT call the school; we must have the lines open for emergency calls.
- DO NOT immediately drive to the school following an earthquake or other city-wide emergency; streets and access to our school may be cluttered with debris; the school access routes and street entrance areas must remain clear for emergency vehicles.

The school has a detailed emergency response that been developed to ensure the safety of students and staff in the event of emergencies. The plan is reviewed and updated at least annually. The School Council has been provided with a copy of the plan as part of the Annual School Plan.